

British Philatelic Bulletin

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In this last issue of the *Bulletin* for 1990 we include a listing of the definitive and country stamps issued during the year. Similar lists published at the end of 1988 and 1989 were well received and I hope the 1990 list will also prove useful. As this listing is rather lengthy, the usual Six Month Digest has been dispensed with this month; it will return in January.

Once again we invite you to vote for your favourite set of special stamps issued during the year – the stamps are illustrated on page 85. Some 2,260 of you responded to the 1989 poll; I hope for an even better response this year. As always the results of the poll and a selection of your comments (favourable and otherwise) will be published in the *Bulletin*.



The staff of Royal Mail Stamps – in London and Edinburgh – wish all Bulletin readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

NPM Cards & Exhibition

The first National Postal Museum exhibition of 1991 will open on 14 January – a display about the Post Office at work during the Edwardian period. Four cards, based on contemporary photographs, will be available, price 20p each. Orders should be sent to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Handling charge: 22p on orders up to £22; £1.97 over £22 (sent registered); minimum order 80p. A special handstamp will be used on 14 January; cards/covers to receive this cancel should be sent to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City & International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

A second printing has become necessary of the Museum's Penny Black card (reference 89/7, issued 5 May 1989). This second print, bearing the inscription "Reprinted October 1990", will go on sale on 17 December 1990, price 10p.



One of four National Postal Museum cards issued on 13 November, reproducing Christmas posters in Post Office Archives.

Stampway to the World

The popular Stampway to the World exhibition is now on show at Glasgow's Museum of Transport, until 13 January. In addition visitors can see a fine display entitled "The Post in Scotland" which is a photographic display of over £1 million worth of Scottish stamps and postal history material. The Transport Museum is situated in Kelvin Hall, Bunhouse Road, Glasgow G3 8DP, Tel. 041-357 3929. Admission free, Monday-Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 10pm, Sunday Noon to 6pm. The exhibition is organised in conjunction with the Stamp Publicity Board. A report on the exhibition will be published here next month.

Dogs

8 January 1991



Five stamps reproducing paintings of dogs by George Stubbs (1724-1806) will be issued on 8 January 1991 – the bicentenary year of the Royal Veterinary College and the centenary year of Cruft's Dog Show and the National Canine Defence League.

The **22p** stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate) features a King Charles Spaniel; the



26p value (Europe, non-EEC countries) shows a Pointer; the **31p** (airmail postcards) depicts two hounds in a landscape; the **33p** (inland first class, second rate step) features "A Rough Dog" and the **37p** (basic weight airmail) "Fino and Tiny".

Stubbs combined a meticulous understanding of anatomy with an ability to depict the grace and dignity of animals without sentimentality. Although better known for his paintings of horses, he executed many portraits for dog-owners. The Vyner family of Lincolnshire commissioned him to paint the hounds shown on the 31p stamp; the painting of Fino, a black and white spitz dog, and Tiny, a small chestnut spaniel, was undertaken for the Prince of Wales (later King George IV) in 1791. The portrait entitled "A Rough Dog" showed that Stubbs considered even a humble mongrel equally worthy of his canvas.

During the late 18th century people became aware of the poor state of animal welfare. In 1788 the Odiham Agricultural Society in

Hampshire highlighted the lack of veterinary education in Britain and three years later the Veterinary College of London was established; now the Royal Veterinary College and part of the University of London. Over a quarter of Britain's 11,000 veterinary surgeons are graduates of the RVC.

During Victorian times dog shows were introduced; the first taking place at Newcastle upon Tyne in 1859. In 1873 the Kennel Club was founded to regulate shows and to publish *The Stud Book*. In 1880 a system of universal registration to avoid name duplication was introduced – some 180,000 dogs are now registered with the Kennel Club each year.

The best-known dog show remains Cruft's, the brainchild of Charles Cruft (1852-1938). He was invited to organise the canine section of the Paris Exhibition in 1878 and in 1885 the Allied Terrier Club Show in London. In 1891 he organised, at the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington, his own dog show which celebrates its centenary in 1991. Since 1948 the show has been under the jurisdiction of the Kennel Club; it was held at Olympia from 1948 to 1978, at Earl's Court from 1979 to 1990 and in 1991 will, for



Photographs of Charles Cruft courtesy of the Kennel Club Library

the first time, be staged at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

At the first Cruft's show, Lady Gertrude Stock organised the National Canine Defence League – to fight the oppressive measures then in force against dogs and to eradicate cruelty. The NCDL's efforts were rewarded when magistrates were empowered to deprive cruel owners of their dogs and a law was passed making the constant chaining of dogs an offence. Today the League has 13 rescue centres and runs campaigns to educate owners about dog care and to discourage the casual purchase of dogs, especially puppies for Christmas presents.



Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell Limited and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of "near square" format, 37 x 35mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 215) will cost £1.80; it was designed by Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell with text by Mike Barden. It was printed by Raithby, Lawrence.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 132A-E.

Correction: Christmas stamp cards are numbered 131A-E, not 130A-E as stated in the October Digest. Apologies for any confusion.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available

from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 8 January, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Birmingham (the 1991 Cruft's Show will be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham).

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 8 January.

Customers requiring only the pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Midlands Special Handstamp Centre, Birmingham LDO, Royal Mail Street, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA (Birmingham postmark).

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.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 8 January – details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" centres and philatelic counters from 9 January, price 19p. This will be on sale for one year.

Obituary – Lord Reilly

Lord Reilly who died on 11 October, aged 78, was a leading authority on design matters, joining the Council of Industrial Design in 1947. The Council was involved in stamp design and Paul Reilly was a founder member of the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee when it was set up in 1967, remaining a member until his death. He took a keen interest in its work. He sat on similar design committees for British Rail, British Telecom, the BBC and the National Theatre. He was knighted in 1967 and given a life peerage in 1978 following his retirement from the Design Council.



presented at the
Veterinary College
of London

7 Centre, middle
Lancaster House
photograph
the lack of a
water, but



8 Engraving
showing the
Veterinary College
of London in the
early 1900

into animal reproduction
prevention, control and therapy.
During Victorian times, pride in
dog ownership had grown to such
an extent that shows were introduced
for owners to exhibit their dogs. The first dog show, at
Newcastle upon Tyne in 1859, was quickly followed by
others throughout Britain. In 1875, the Kennel
Club was founded to regulate dog shows and to

ineffective and to eradicate the cruelty with
which so many dogs were treated.
By campaigning for legislation affecting
animal welfare, the NCAD's efforts were soon rewarded
when magistrates were empowered to deprive cruel owners
of their dogs and a law was passed making
the constant chaining of dogs an offence.
Today, the organisation runs thirteen
refuges where dogs are taken into



12 Centre, bottom
Two stars of
the screen
Elizabeth Taylor
and Liane

13 A 1900 portrait
of a dog in a
collar and



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Stamp Books, August 1989–August 1990

Part 1

L F NEWBERY

Reports of new stamp books are published in the *Bulletin* as they are issued. However readers may like a summary of the interesting issues from August 1989 to August 1990 — books mostly containing 15p and 20p stamps (or 2nd or 1st class NVI equivalents).

22 August 1989

Mark III NVI stamp books were introduced; these have red and yellow covers, illustration of a stamp on front and bar code on back. A rates notice replaced the postage panel on the inside. They were produced by both Walsall Security Printers Ltd and Harrison and Sons Ltd. Originally the books were sold at 56p and 76p (panes of four 2nd and 1st class) and £1.40 and £1.90 (panes of 10); prices were revised to 60p, 80p, £1.50 and £2 from 2 October when the new postal rates came into effect.



Walsall Books

NVI stamps printed in lithography on a Roland Favorit press. Primary sheets have eight columns of nine book panes of four stamps. The plate numbers used were: 2nd class — W1W1; 1st class — W1W1, W1W2, W1W3 and W2W4. On the primary sheet (sheet as printed, later made up into individual books for sale) — the numbers are positioned opposite panes 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 in both columns 1 and 8 and in column 4 they are opposite book panes 4, 5 and 6. Opposite book pane 7 at the extreme edge of the binding



Plate number pane with marker bar in margin (detail)

margin in column 1 of the primary sheets is a short coloured marker bar. This can, of course, be found in issued books and is worth looking for. Much of this information will only be of interest to specialist collectors, some of whom try to obtain books with plate numbers from each position by “plating” the books from information derived from a study of the primary (registration) sheet in the National Postal Museum. Most collectors will be satisfied with just one plate number book to add to their collection.

The vertical perforations extend into the top margin but not the lower margin of the primary sheets. The book panes from the upper eight rows of the sheet thus have extension holes in both the upper and lower edges of the book panes whilst those from the ninth row have extension holes on the upper edge with the lower edge completely imperforate. Apart from the extension holes the remainder of the upper and lower edges of the book panes are imperforate. There are no extension holes in the right hand edge of the book pane which is completely imperforate.

There are three collectable types of plate number pane — (1) pane with plate numbers; (2) pane with plate numbers and bar; (3) pane with plate numbers and with lower edge completely imperforate. Most books have one perforation hole in the lower margin between the binding margin and first stamp and first and second stamps.

These two books were gradually replaced at post offices and retail outlets as the Harrison-Walsall books (November/December 1989) and Penny Black Anniversary stamps books (January 1990) went on sale. They were withdrawn from sale at the Bureau, "Collections" centres and philatelic counters on 21 August 1990.

Harrison Books

Two books containing 10 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps were printed in photogravure on the Jumelle press. The primary sheets contained four columns of panes. There were two cylinder numbers in each column opposite book pane 5. The numbers used: 1st class — B3; 2nd class — B1.

The books were gradually replaced by Questa books (September 1989), Harrison books with postal rate details (October 1989) and Penny Black Anniversary stamp books (January 1990). They were withdrawn from philatelic sale on 21 August 1990.

19 September 1989

Books containing 10 1st and 2nd class stamps printed by The House of Questa went on sale at the Bureau and philatelic counters on 19 September 1989 and at post offices and retail outlets as stocks of the earlier books became exhausted. The books were sold at £1.40 and £1.90 until 2 October when, in line with new postal rates, they were increased by 10p per book. The stamps were printed in lithography on a Heidelberg press and were perforated on all sides. The primary sheets have four columns of four book panes of 10 stamps. Plate numbers were not printed on the primary sheets, hence none appear in the issued books.

A small part of the printing had an imperfect binding margin, normally perforated through (see February *Bulletin*, page 144). Books from this printing were distributed in normal supplies to some post offices and retail outlets but were not available from the Bureau. The perforation of the stamps themselves were not affected, thus this variation is really only of interest to specialist collectors.

The card used for the cover is Queen of Arts 250gsm board, replacing Phoenix Imperial Art 250gsm board used for previous issues.

These books were gradually replaced by Harrison issues (October 1989) or Penny Black Anniversary stamp books (January 1990) and were taken off philatelic sale on 14 September 1990.

October 1989

New printings of the Harrison books had fuller postal rate details on the inside covers, replacing the notice in the August books. The rates were effective from 2 October 1989. The initial printings of the covers of the 1st class book were on Invercote 1/s 240gsm board; later printings

These stamps are valid for
second class items up to 60g.

For full information on postage rates
send your name and address to:

Postage Rates Leaflets
FREEPOST
Newcastle upon Tyne X
NE85 2BR

UK letters and cards					Airmail - Europe letters and cards	
	60g	100g	150g	200g	up to 20g	
1st class	20p	30p	37p	45p	EEC countries	20p
2nd class	15p	24p	28p	34p	Non-EEC countries	24p
Worldwide Postcards					29p	
Aerogramme					30p	
Airmail - Rest of the World					up to 10g	Each extra 10g
Zone A (N Africa, Middle East)					32p	14p
Zone B (Americas, Africa, India, SE Asia)					34p	16p
Zone C (Australasia, Japan, China)					37p	18p

Inside back covers of August and October Harrison books

were on Montrose Supermatt Bd 250gsm. The latter feels thinner and smoother. The covers for the 2nd class book were all Montrose. The cylinder numbers used for the stamps were: 1st class — B3; 2nd class — B1.

2 October 1989

A Mark III book containing four 29p stamps, covering the Worldwide postcard rate went on philatelic sale and on general sale where there was a demand for this denomination (Mainly tourist areas) on 2 October 1989. The stamps and covers were produced by Walsall. The stamp was litho-printed on the Roland Favorit press; sheet layout as for the NVI stamps issued in August. The stamps had two phosphor bands

and the pane of four had straight edges at top, right and bottom, thus making each stamp different. The plate numbers were W1W1. The book was gradually replaced by a version with the stamps printed on Phosphor Coated Paper (see below) and was withdrawn from philatelic sale on 1 October 1990.



Two machine books, 50p and £1, containing 15p and 20p stamps went on philatelic and general sale on 2 October 1989. The 50p books were dispensed from the F, H and J mechanical vending machines and the K and L electrical machines; the £1 book was sold only through the electrical machines. To prevent errors in loading the machines, the wrapper around the bundles of the £1 book bears the added wording **ELECTRIC VEND ONLY**.

Both books were produced by Harrisons. The 50p book contains a pane of four — two 15p stamps with phosphor band left and one 20p with two bands plus a Postcode label in the colour of the 15p stamp. The cylinders used were B1 B3. The cover design, No. 1 in an *Aeroplanes* series, was by Peter Hutton. The book was replaced in vending machines by the Penny Black Anniversary stamps book issued in January 1990 and withdrawn from philatelic sale on 1 October 1990.

The £1 book contained a pane of six — five 20p stamps and a Postcode label. The stamps were on ACP and the pane had straight edges at left and right. Printing was by cylinders B8 and B9. The cover design, No. 1 in a “Mills” series was by Jeremy Sancha. The book was replaced and withdrawn at the same time as the 50p book (see above).

28 November 1989

Books containing four 2nd class stamps printed by Harrisons in covers produced by Walsall went into distribution in late November; the earliest reported date of sale was 28 November. There was no specific “first day”; supplies were distributed to philatelic counters in the first week of December. The pane has straight edges at top, right and bottom, yielding two new stamps — straight edge at top and right and straight edge at right and bottom. The stamps were printed on a Chambon press, sideways laydown of one column with six rows of three book panes. Printing was from cylinder B2; the number was trimmed off before the books were made up, hence cylinder numbers do not appear in the issued books.

5 December 1989

The 1st class book with stamps printed by Harrisons in covers by Walsall went into distribution early in December, 5 December being the earliest reported date. Printing details are as above. The cylinder used, trimmed off in manufacture of the issued books, was B2.

30 January 1990

Seven new books, all containing Penny Black Anniversary stamps went on philatelic sale on 30 January. They were sold at post offices, retail outlets and from stamp vending machines as stocks of earlier issues became exhausted. The contents remained the same as previously except of course, the stamps were the Penny Black (“double head”) versions of the 15p and 20p definitives. Two of the three machine books had new cover designs.

Machine Books

The 50p machine book contained stamps from cylinders B3 B2A B2B. The cover design, second in the *Aeroplanes* series, was by Peter Hutton.

Two £1 books were issued — one by Harrison with photogravure-printed stamps within cover design No. 2 (Click Mill, Dounby, Orkney) and one by Walsall with litho-printed stamps in cover with the No. 1 (Wicken Fen) “Mills” design. The Harrison book was from cylinders B3A B3B.

The Walsall £1 book was a trial issue. There had been many dispensing problems with the K and L machines, chiefly that the card cover was not responding satisfactorily with the ejector mechanism. In an effort to find a suitable cover

card, trials were made in 1989 using dummy books with unprinted covers made up from differing board and containing a pane of six plain, gummed and perforated labels. The following board was used for the initial trials: Ikonorex, Ensocoat, Gemini 220gsm and Gemini 260gsm, the latter being chosen for the field trials. Twenty offices were selected for this trial: London — Houndsditch, Seething Lane, Southampton Row, Broadway, Eccleston Street and Trafalgar Square; Kirkby; Liverpool Corn Exchange; Nantwich; Crewe, Dursley; Gloucester King's Square; Whittlesey; Peterborough Church Street; Hungerford; Reading Friar Street; Ballymena; Lurgan; Aberdeen Union Street and George Street.

The printing of the cover was clearer than the October issue, with more contrast between light and dark. It also has the Walsall credit on the back cover. The wrapper for the bundles of



books bears the additional information TRIAL BOOKS RESTRICTED USE. These books should be used only as part of vending trials.

Whilst the trials were successful it was found the uneven fold of a pane of six stamps did not allow the books to lay flat in the machines and still caused some problems with ejection. It was

decided that to solve this problem, pane size would be increased to eight stamps and/or labels.

The stamps in the book were from plates W1W1W1. Some books had perforations at the foot of the pane, others were trimmed straight.

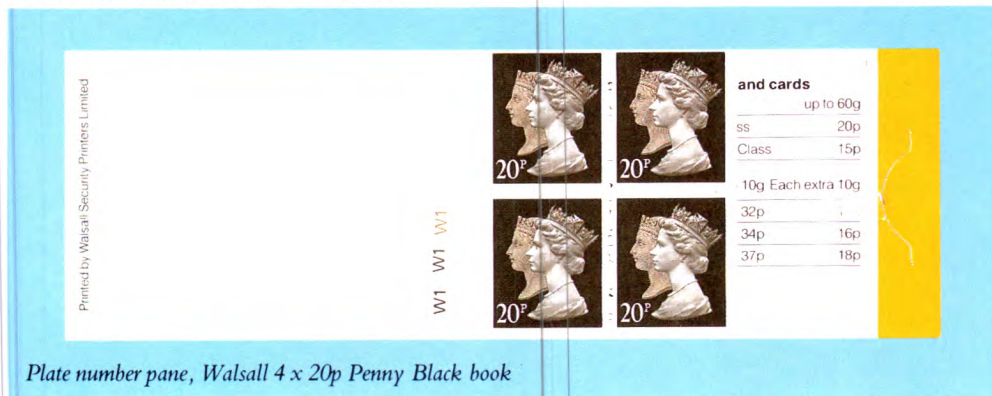
Window Books

Books containing four 15p and 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps were printed by Walsall; books of 10 by Harrison's. The plate numbers for the 15p Walsall stamps were W1W1W1; W2W1 and W2W2. The 20p stamps were from plates W1W1W1. The cylinders for the Harrison issues were: 15p — B6, 20p — B1A B1B. These books gradually replaced the NVI books and were themselves replaced from 7 August 1990 onwards by books containing NVI stamps in new colours — flame (1st class) and dark blue (2nd).

Notes:

1. Some of the books mentioned here have now been withdrawn from sale; collectors should check the latest British Philatelic Bureau stocklist to see which issues are still available.
2. As window books are supplied sealed, the Bureau cannot supply books with cylinder or plate numbers.
3. The dates of issue given here mostly refer to the dates the books went on philatelic sale at the Bureau, "Collections" and philatelic counters; they went on sale at post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier issues became exhausted. This explains why some retail outlets were still selling the 22 August 1989 booklets almost a year after issue.

To be continued



Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

180. Wyon's Embossed Stamp

Rowland Hill envisaged some four forms of prepayment of postage in his report on the 1839 Treasury Competition entries. These were: Covers and Envelopes (later the letter-sheets and envelopes with Mulready's designs); Appliqués or Labels (later to be the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue); and Stamped Paper. All were described as "stamps".

Stamped paper was not introduced until 1855 but a great deal of work was done by William Wyon and Charles Whiting trying to perfect a die which could stamp paper sent in by the public.

The origin of the design is probably to be seen in the Cole papers in the Victoria & Albert Museum. In the Phillips Collection is a proof of Wyon's first die. Wyon was entrusted with the task of engraving the Queen's head and this die with the Queen facing left and no pendent curl in the hair was supplied to Whiting for an engine-turned

background to be added.

On 25 January 1840 proofs were submitted, Whiting noting it as "Mr Wyon's head and legend" but "our notion of the engine turned pattern to look well". The wording was too long and was to be simplified to "Postage One Penny". Arguments raged as to who was responsible for poor proofing and many types were produced — all to no avail. The die was not ready for May. Hill was disappointed and noted in his diary "I am sorry to give up Wyon's stamp for it is a beautiful thing."

It was not lost, however. With the outcry against the Mulready design a replacement was necessary and Wyon's final die was used on the envelopes first issued in 1841. With variations the embossed design was then used on postal stationery right through to the end of Queen Victoria's reign.

Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately, NPM



*Experimental
die - but the
Head will be
kept.
The wording will
be "Postage One Penny"*

British Army Uniforms

British Special Issues: No.162

FRANCIS KENNEDY

In 1965 the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Britain was commemorated with stamps paying tribute to the RAF. In 1968 a single stamp, in the mixed anniversaries series, commemorated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Flying Corps in 1918, since developed into the Royal Air Force.

Not until 6 July 1983 was the backbone of Britain's armed forces, the British Army, honoured by the release of a set of five (rather than the usual four) stamps picturing a few of the uniforms used in the British Army from 1633 onwards. Although the designs make no special reference to the fact, this issue also marked the 75th anniversary of the Territorial Army, the trained volunteers always ready to back up the "regulars" whenever and wherever they are needed.

The designer was Eric Stemp, a fashion illustrator whose usual field was work for *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*. His previous success with stamps was the Rowland Hill death centenary issue of 1979 when his flair for fashion of any age was evident. Army "fashions" were a different proposition but Stemp coped admirably.

The five stamps were: **16p – The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)**, the oldest infantry "regiment of the line" in the British (not just English) army history. Founded in 1633 by Sir John Hepburn, its early service was largely in France because of that country's close alliance with Scotland. When the regiment consisted of pikemen and musketeers, it was the former who protected the latter while they went through the slow process of re-loading after firing. (Note the St Andrew's Cross in the background.)

20½p – The Royal Welch Fusileers mustered in 1689 as the first Welsh infantry regiment but the title "Fusileers" did not apply to them until 1702 when they were recognised as special troops armed with a "fusil" to guard artillery convoys and ammunition depots. The fusil was a light flintlock musket, smaller in bore than the normal matchlock musket of the time. The distinctive feature of the modern fusileers' uniform is the black ribbon on the collar of the tunic, a relic of the ribbons used to tie up the

plaited hair of the old-time fusileers.

26p – The Royal Green Jackets (otherwise known as *The Rifle Brigade* were created as an Experimental Corps of Riflemen in 1800, the Green Jackets being among the first of Britain's forces to adopt the close fitting green uniforms as a form of camouflage, especially useful when



preparing for ambushes or other surprise attacks. The uniform on the stamps was first used in the early 1800s. The soldiers on the stamp are from the 95th Rifles and are preparing to fire their Baker rifles.

28p – Irish Guards. Foot guards and line infantry from Ireland so distinguished them-

selves during the Second Boer War in 1899 that Queen Victoria ordered the formation of a regiment of Irish Guards with a cap badge based on the Star of the Order of St Patrick. The full dress uniform included bearskin plumes in St Patrick's blue. Active service uniform, first used when the new regiment returned to South Africa in 1901, was the Khaki shown on the stamp, the slouch hat (with blue plume) and ammunition bandoliers being especially distinctive.

31p *The Parachute Regiment* was the outcome of Winston Churchill's order in June 1940 for a No 2 Commando Unit of 5,000 parachute troops to be available for quick deployment when and where required. The famous red beret (as worn by the paratrooper in the background) has become a familiar sight. The foreground figure shows the fully-armed and equipped paratrooper in Disruptive Pattern Material uniform. Today's Parachute Regiment consists of three battalions of regular soldiers based at Aldershot and ready for instant world-wide service, and three battalions of Territorial Volunteers. Paratroopers are armed with either a General Purpose Machine Gun or Self-Loading Rifle. The designs of this issue deliberately trace the evolution of the foot soldier from pikeman to parachutist.

Printing was in photogravure by Harrisons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50). Although 22 minor constant flaws are listed by Stanley Gibbons, there were no major flaws justifying illustration in the *GB Specialised Catalogue*.

The two Post Office "First Day of Issue" postmarks were for the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and Aldershot. The Bureau cancel depicted the Scottish lion rampant; that for Aldershot the Army crest of crossed swords and a deer's head set in a shield. Special sponsored handstamps included ones for the 75th anniversary of the TA in Wales, Regimental Stamp Display at the Glasgow Philatelic Counter and for the Soldier Print Society Exhibition of Paintings of Military Uniforms at Worthing. Details were announced in the *Postmark Bulletin* at the time and can be found in *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom* published by the British Postmark Society.

The PHQ cards were numbered 68a to 68e; 195,000 sets of cards were produced. Stocks of the stamps became exhausted at the Bureau in May 1984. The sales figures amounted to: 16p – 41,007,000; 20½p – 8,251,200; 26p – 10,235,400; 28p – 7,615,300 and 31p – 7,323,700.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £50 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers to some will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: December Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 January.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will each be invited to order £50 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Dogs stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the *March Bulletin*.

1. Where will Cruft's Dog Show be held in 1991?
2. What was a "fusil"?
3. What is the colour of the 50p definitive issued on 13 March 1990?
4. The Phillips Collection is in which London museum?
5. Stubbs painted "Fino and Tiny" for which royal person?
6. Who is the author of *History of the Post in Derby 1635-1941*?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, the National Postal Museum, their agents and their families. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the September competition were:

W Inskster of Moray, Capt of R Butcher of BFPO 655, C Mullone of Co Cork and Mrs E Mason of Kent (stamps jigsaw and Castles pack) and I Stuart of Guernsey, Mrs E Rothschild of New Zealand, J Phillips of Liverpool and D Granville of Cumbria (Gallantry pack).

The answers were: 1. Cardiff; 2. Rosalind Dease; 3. Bristol; 4. 25 July 1989; 5. Armagh.

Our thanks to all who entered the competition.

1990 Special Stamps Poll

Again we are asking readers to vote for their favourite stamps. Shown here are all the special stamps issued by Royal Mail Stamps during 1990. Let us know your top three sets on the enclosed voting form, plus the reason why you like your favourite set best, and we will award 1990 Yearbooks to the five readers whose comments are the most original and interesting.

The closing date for votes is 31 January 1991 and the results will be published in the *Bulletin*. We look forward to receiving your vote.



2. Europa



3. Queen's Awards

4. Kew Gardens



6. Queen Mother's 90th Birthday



8. Astronomy



9. Christmas



1. RSPCA



5. Thomas Hardy



7. Gallantry



1990 Definitives & Country Stamps

Last December we published a listing of definitives and country stamps issued during 1989. A considerable number of letters were received asking for such a listing to be continued. We hope this 1990 list will prove helpful to collectors in completing their collections. Please read the introductory notes carefully.

Notes

Definitive stamps are printed by three companies:

(1) Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, perf. 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum, on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands, Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) or Non-phosphor paper.

(2) The House of Questa Ltd, offset-lithography, perf. 15 x 14, PVA or PVA Dextrin gum on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands or Phosphor Coated Paper (PCP).

(3) Walsall Security Printers Ltd, offset-lithography, perf. 14, PVA gum on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands or PCP. These printers are indicated in the listing by H, Q and W respectively.

Country stamps - all printed by Questa in offset-litho; perf. 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum, on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands or PCP.

Some of the single stamps are issued only in books and can only be bought from the Post Office in complete books. To help collectors we quote the relevant British Philatelic Bureau order number (prefixed DB, DC, IS, etc). These numbers are given on the Bureau stock list.

ACP = Advanced Coated Paper

PCP = Phosphor Coated Paper

H = Harrison & Sons Ltd

Q = The House of Questa Ltd

W = Walsall Security Printers Ltd

PBAD = Penny Black Anniversary Definitive

10 January

15p PBAD, bright blue, H, centre band (DS151)

20p PBAD, black, H, ACP (DS206)

29p PBAD, purple, H, ACP (DS291)

34p PBAD, slate, H, ACP (DS343)

37p PBAD, red, H, ACP (DS371)

PBAD Pack (No. 21) (£1.60) (DP012)

30 January

15p PBAD bright blue, H, left band (ex 50p book) (TB001)

15p PBAD bright blue, H, centre band, straight edge top (ex £1.50 book) (UB004)

15p PBAD, bright blue, H, centre band, straight edge bottom (ex £1.50 book) (UB004)

15p PBAD bright blue, W, centre band, straight edge top (ex 60p book) (UB002)

15p PBAD bright blue, W, centre band, straight edge top and right (ex 60p book) (UB002)

15p PBAD bright blue, W, centre band, straight edge bottom and right (ex 60p book) (UB002)

15p PBAD bright blue, W, centre band, straight edge bottom (ex 60p book) (UB002)

20p PBAD black, H, 2 bands (ex 50p book) (TB001)

20p PBAD black, H, ACP, straight edge left (ex £1 book) (TB002)

20p PBAD black, H, ACP, straight edge right (ex £1 book) (TB002)

20p PBAD black, H, ACP, straight edge top (ex £2 book) (UB005)

20p PBAD black, H, ACP, straight edge bottom (ex £2 book) (UB005)

20p PBAD black, W, PCP, straight edge top (ex 80p book) (UB003)

20p PBAD black, W, PCP, straight edge top and right (ex 80p book) (UB003)

20p PBAD black, W, PCP, straight edge bottom and right (ex 80p book) (UB003)

20p PBAD black, W, PCP, straight edge bottom (ex 80p book) (UB003)

20p PBAD black, W, PCP, straight edge left (ex £1 book) (TB003)

20p PBAD black, W, PCP, straight edge right (ex £1 book) (TB003)

2 x 15p, 1 x 20p PBAD, H, pane of 3 plus label (ex 50p machine book) (TB001)

20p PBAD, H, pane of 5 plus label (ex £1 machine book) (TB002)

20p PBAD, W, pane of 5 plus label (ex £1 machine book) (TB003)

15p PBAD, W, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex 60p book) (UB002)

15p PBAD, H, pane of 10 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £1.50 book) (UB004)

20p PBAD, W, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex 80p book) (UB003)

- 20p PBAD, W, pane of 10 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £2 book) (UB005)
 50p machine-vended book: Aeroplanes 2 (Vickers Viscount) (TB001)
 £1 machine-vended book: Mills 2 (Click Mill, Orkney) (TB002)



- £1 machine-vended book: Mills 1 (Wicken Fen) Trial Cover Material (TB003)
 60p book, W, (4 x 15p PBAD) (UB002)
 80p book, W, (4 x 20p PBAD) (UB003)
 £1.50 book, H, (10 x 15p PBAD) (UB004)
 £2 book, H, (10 x 20p PBAD) (UB005)

6 February

- 10 x 20p Greetings stamps, H, 2 bands (ex £2 Greetings pack) (JB001)
 £2 Greetings pack (JB001)

13 March

- 50p sand (Jeffery Matthews colour standard), H, Non-phosphor paper (DS502)

20 March

- 15p bright blue, H, band right (ex £5 London Life prestige book) (YB001)
 15p PBAD bright blue, H, band right (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)
 2nd Class (15p) NVI bright blue, H, band right (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)
 1st Class (20p) NVI black, H, 2 band (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)
 29p PBAD purple, H, 2 bands (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)
 50p sand, H, 2 bands (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)
 20p PBAD, H, ACP pane of 6 with surrounding selvage showing London signs (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)

- 20p PBAD, H, ACP pane of 6 with surrounding selvage showing Eros (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)

- 15p, 15p PBAD, 2nd NVI, 20p, 20p PBAD, 1st NVI, 29p and 50p, H, Mixed pane of nine (ex £5 prestige book) (YB001)
 £5 "London Life" prestige book (YB001)

17 April

- 15p PBAD bright blue, Q, centre band, PVA gum (ex £1.50 book) (UB013)
 20p PBAD black, Q, PCP, PVA gum (ex £2 book) (UB014)
 20p PBAD black, H, ACP, straight edge top and right (ex 80p book) (UB011)
 20p PBAD black, H, ACP, straight edge bottom and right (ex 80p book) (UB011)
 29p purple, W, PCP, straight edge top (ex £1.16 book) (UB012)
 29p purple, W, PCP, straight edge top and right (ex £1.16 book) (UB012)
 29p purple, W, PCP, straight edge right and bottom (ex £1.16 book) (UB012)
 29p purple, W, PCP, straight edge bottom (ex £1.16 book) (UB012)
 15p PBAD, Q, pane of 10 (ex £1.50 book) (UB013)
 20p PBAD, H, pane of 4 with straight edges top, right and bottom (ex 80p book) (UB011)
 20p PBAD, Q, pane of 10 (ex £2 book) (UB014)
 29p W, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex £1.16 book) (UB012)
 80p book (4 x 20p PBAD) stamps printed by Harrison, covers by Walsall (UB011)
 £1.16 book, W, (4 x 29p PCP) (UB012)
 £1.50 book, Q, (10 x 15p PBAD) (UB013)
 £2 book, Q, (10 x 20p PBAD) (UB014)

3 May

- Penny Black Miniature sheet containing 1 x 20p PBAD, H, ACP (price £1) (MZ003)
 Penny Black Anniversary Book — souvenir book containing set of PBAD stamps, miniature sheet and unique reproduction Mulready lettersheet (price £6.95) (AW053)

12 June

- 15p PBAD W, pane of 10 with straight edges at top, right and bottom and bottom (ex £1.50 book) (UB016)
 20p PBAD W, pane of 10 with straight edges at top, right and bottom (ex £2 book) (UB017)
 £1.50 book, W, (10 x 15p PBAD) (UB016)
 £2 book, W, (10 x 20p PBAD) (UB017)

7 August

- 2nd Class (15p) NVI dark blue, H, centre band, straight edge top (ex £1.50 stamp book) (UB025)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI dark blue, H, centre band, straight edge bottom (ex £1.50 stamp book) (UB025)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI dark blue, W, centre band, straight edge top (ex 60p and £1.50 stamp books) (UB021, UB023)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI dark blue, W, centre band, straight edge bottom (ex 60p and £1.50 stamp books) (UB021, UB023)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI dark blue, Q, centre band, PVA gum, (ex £1.50 stamp book) (UB027)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI flame, H, ACP, straight edge top (ex £2 stamp book) (UB026)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI flame, H, ACP, straight edge bottom (ex £2 stamp book) (UB026)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI flame, W, PCP, straight edge top (ex 80p and £2 stamp book) (UB022, UB024)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI flame, W, PCP, straight edge bottom (ex 80p and £2 stamp book) (UB022, UB024)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI flame, Q, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (ex £2 stamp book) (UB028)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI, H, pane of 10 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £1.50 stamp book) (UB025)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI, W, pane of 4 with straight edges top and bottom (ex 60p stamp book) (UB021)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI, W, pane of 10 with straight edge top and bottom (ex £1.50 stamp book) (UB023)
- 2nd Class (15p) NVI, Q, pane of 10 (ex £1.50 stamp book) (UB027)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI, H, pane of 10 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £2 stamp book) (UB026)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI, W, pane of 4 with straight edges top and bottom (ex 80p stamp book) (UB022)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI, W, pane of 10 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £2 stamp book) (UB024)
- 1st Class (20p) NVI, Q, pane of 10 (ex £2 stamp book) (UB028)
- NVI Stamp Book, W, (4 x 2nd Class – 60p) (UB021)
- NVI Stamp Book, W, (10 x 2nd Class – £1.50) (UB023)
- NVI Stamp Book, Q, (10 x 2nd Class – £1.50) (UB027)

- NVI Stamp Book, H, (10 x 2nd Class – £1.50) (UB025)
- NVI Stamp Book, W, (4 x 1st Class – 80p) (UB022)
- NVI Stamp Book, W, (10 x 1st Class – £2) (UB024)
- NVI Stamp Book, Q, (10 x 1st Class – £2) (UB028)
- NVI Stamp Book, H, (10 x 1st Class – £2) (UB026)

Note: Prices for 7 August NVI stamps and books refer to the original selling price; the books were revalued from 17 September when postal rates were increased to 17p second class and 22p first class. The books of four first and second class stamps now sell at 68p and 88p respectively; books of ten at £1.70 and £2.20 respectively.

4 September

- 10p light tan, H, ACP (DS103)
- 17p dark blue, H, centre band (ex sheets) (DS170)
- 22p flame, H, ACP (ex sheets) (DS222)
- 26p stone, H, ACP (DS262)
- 27p mauve, H, ACP (DS271)
- 31p ultramarine, H, ACP (DS312)
- 33p emerald, H, ACP (DS330)
- Definitive New Issue Pack (No. 22) (£1.95) (DP013)
- 17p dark blue, H, left band (ex 50p book) (TB005)
- 17p dark blue, H, right band (ex 50p book) (TB005)
- 17p dark blue, H, right band, straight edge left (ex £1 book) (TB006)
- 22p flame, H, 2 bands, straight edge right (ex £1 book) (TB006)
- Pane 17p x 3 plus label, H, (ex 50p book) (TB005)
- Pane 17p x 2, 22p x 3 plus 3 labels, H, (ex £1 book) (TB006)
- 50p machine book (Aeroplanes 3) (TB005)
- £1 machine book (Mills 3) (TB006)

17 September

- 31p ultramarine, W, PCP, straight edge top (ex £1.24 stamp book) (UB029)
- 31p ultramarine, W, PCP, straight edge bottom (ex £1.24 stamp book) (UB029)
- 31p W, pane of 4 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £1.24 stamp book) (UB029)
- £1.24 Stamp Book, W, (4 x 31p) (UB029)

17p vertical roll, H, (Code UL500) (DC043)
 17p vertical roll, H, (Code UL1000) (DC045)
 22p vertical roll, H, (Code WL500) (DC044)
 22p vertical roll, H, (Code WL1000) (DC046)

27 November

17p Mixed Value Roll, H, 3 x 4p, 1 x 5p, ACP
 (DC049)

4 December

N. Ireland 17p dark blue, single band, PVA gum (IS170)

N. Ireland 22p flame, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (IS220)

N. Ireland 26p stone, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (IS260)

N. Ireland 37p red, PCP, PVA Dextrin (IS370)

Scotland 17p dark blue, single band, PVA gum (SS170)

Scotland 22p flame, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (SS220)

Scotland 26p stone, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (SS260)

Scotland 37p red, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (SS370)

Wales 17p dark blue, single band, PVA gum (WS170)

Wales 22p flame, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (WS220)

Wales 26p stone, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (WS260)

Wales 37p red, PCP, PVA Dextrin gum (WS370)

Country Stamp Pack (No. 23) (£3.35) (CP009)

This listing includes all items issued or notified to the Editor by the end of October. Any subsequent issues will be listed later.

We regret we cannot engage in correspondence about the contents of this listing.

NPM Handstamp

The current National Postal Museum Maltese Cross handstamp will be last used on 31 December; a new Maltese Cross handstamp (without the dates 1840 1990) will be introduced on 2 January. Covers to receive the old and new handstamps should be sent to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City & International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Please state clearly which handstamp is required.

Successful International in Auckland

The international stamp exhibition in Auckland, New Zealand (24 August-2 September 1990) attracted some 35,000 visitors. It was by all accounts a great success - both in terms of the philatelic exhibits and the organisation and layout of the exhibition. The Court of Honour included material from the National Postal Museum, London - registration sheets of the Penny Black, VR Penny Black, Penny Red and the second Twopenny Blue. These attracted considerable media interest. The exhibition was



Photo by John Selkirk, courtesy of "The Dominion", Wellington, New Zealand

opened by the Governor-General of New Zealand, Sir Paul Reeves, who is shown here with Stan Goron (left), Manager of the NPM looking at the registration sheets. The Deputy Chairman of the British Post Office, Mr Ken Young, hosted a well-attended reception at the exhibition for leading exhibitors and postal officials.

Mr Young presented to New Zealand Post a framed sheet of George V £1 "Seahorse" stamps with CANCELLED overprint.

Stamp Publicity Board Appointment

On 1 September Simon Coombe was appointed as the SPB's Publicity Manager replacing Sandra Scase, Public Relations Officer for nearly a year until last May. Mr Coombe, a keen collector and postal historian, has worked for the Guernsey and Gibraltar postal authorities and the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau. Until taking up his new appointment, he was Controller of Philately in charge of the Guernsey Philatelic Bureau.

Details of the SPB's activities can be obtained from Mr Coombe at: Stamp Publicity Board, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, Tel. 071-253 1231.

Global Tribute to the Penny Black

Part 1

JAMES MACKAY

No postage stamp in the history of philately has ever captured the imagination, or earned respect to the same extent as the Penny Black. Even its no less illustrious sibling, the Twopenny Blue, has never enjoyed the same charisma. Contrary to popular belief (shared, surprisingly, by many postal administrations) the Penny Black is *not* the world's first postage stamp. Amid the welter of philatelic celebrations this year only one country put the matter in its proper perspective – and that was by political accident rather than historical design.

Handstruck Postage Stamps

As one of the countries which actually used adhesive postage stamps in 1840, Ireland might have been expected to have issued commemoratives which alluded to that fact. Indeed, this was originally the intention of An Post, the Irish postal administration, but this was vetoed in the Dail by hardline republicans who felt that the image of Queen Victoria on the stamps of the Republic would be out of place. Instead, the Irish Post Office was forced to adopt an ingenious expedient. A 30p stamp was issued reproducing a handstruck postage stamp – the red “Paid” diamond – with the date 5 May 1840.

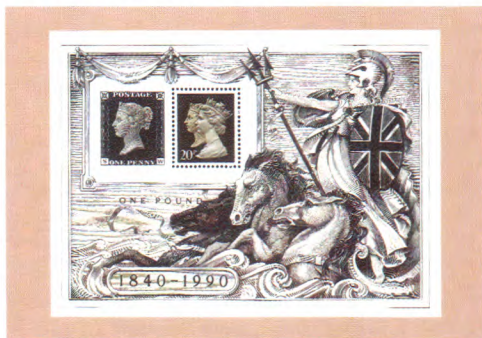


Such handstruck stamps continued in use for a further decade, as people had the option of prepaying postage in cash or using the new-fangled labels. So Ireland paid a rather left-handed compliment to the Penny Black by illustrating the rival method which the adhesive stamp eventually superseded.

Other countries with a long republican tradi-

tion were not so sensitive and, in fact, included the USSR, a country in which anything remotely approaching monarchical sentiment has been dormant for over 70 years until now. Sensibly the many countries which have paid tribute to the Penny Black this year have honoured the stamp rather than its subject matter.

Britain's own contribution to the celebration was relatively muted, although it included a novelty in the form of “special definitives” – a set of five bearing the conjoined profiles of Queen Victoria (after William Wyon) and our present sovereign (by Arnold Machin). These stamps, covering the principal inland and international letter rates, were in the standard definitive format and bore no commemorative



inscription. On 3 May 1990, the opening day of the Stamp World London '90 exhibition, there appeared a miniature sheet containing the 20p “doublehead”, alongside a facsimile of the Penny Black. The sheet possessed 20p worth of postal validity but sold for £1 – a ratio which was mitigated by the superb intaglio engraving of the Sea Horses in the sheet margin, echoing the famous high value definitives of 1913-34 designed by Sir Bertram Mackennal. This was hardly relevant to the 150th anniversary of the adhesive stamp, but undoubtedly imparted a touch of class worthy of the occasion.

Penny Post Restored

Of the Crown dependencies, the Isle of Man produced both the most prolific and arguably the most relevant philatelic celebration of the



150th anniversary. A sheet of 25 1p stamps contained reproductions of 25 Penny Blacks lettered, like the originals, from AA to EE. The appearance of the originals was enhanced by the retention of the inscriptions which had appeared in the sheet margins of 1840, with the addition of the cylinder numbers, colour dabs, and details of the designer (Colleen Corlett) and the printer (Enschede of Holland). The Manx triskelion appeared in all four corners of the sheet which was serially numbered. These penny stamps could be used on 6 May 1990 in connection with a special one day Penny Post in the Isle of Man. A second sheet, in multicolour offset lithography like the first, contained a strip of five stamps. The first (19p) reproduced William Wyon's Guildhall medal of 1838 which served as the basis for the profile of the teenage Queen. Incidentally, this gave rise to one of the many errors to be found in the 150th anniversary issues; the date of the medal was incorrectly given as 1837 (the year Victoria came to the throne). Successive stamps featured William Wyon's hand-drawn essay (32p), the Perkins Bacon engraved turned essay with hand-painted inscription (34p), the Penny Black (1p) and the Twopence Blue (37p). A third sheet contained a single £1 stamp which reproduced a block of four Penny Blacks, recess-printed like the originals, with the Wyon medal and Stamp World logo in the sheet margin. In addition a postcard bearing impressed 1p and 37p stamps was issued for the Belgica '90 philatelic exhibition.

Guernsey produced a set of five and matching miniature sheet reproducing stamps which were milestones in the bailiwick's philatelic history. In each case the reproduction was matched by an appropriate background picture. In the case of the 14p showing the Penny Black,

this was a public steamer of 1840. This series bore the caption "Postage stamp anniversary" which avoided the pitfall into which many other postal administrations fell.



Erroneous Captions

Typical of the errors perpetuated in countries which seem to be unaware that postage stamps, albeit handstruck ones, had been in use long before 1840, was the set issued by Gibraltar. Three of the four stamps reproduced the Penny Black, alongside Sir Rowland Hill and a mail-coach among other subjects, with the caption "150th anniversary of the first postage stamp". The same caption appeared on the set of four from Kiribati. These stamps reproduced stamps of the former Gilbert and Ellice Islands as well as Kiribati, alongside classic British stamps. The Penny Black itself appeared on the 50c, alongside the halfpenny "Pandanus" stamp of 1911. Botswana made the same mistake in a set of four which showed the Penny Black on its own, on the 60t.

Foreign countries likewise adopted the erroneous caption, rendered in their own language. Thus Norway issued a miniature sheet containing a pair of 5k stamps featuring the Penny Black and the 4 skilling of 1855, while



Liechtenstein's 1.50fr showed the Penny Black; both referred to the 150th anniversary of the postage stamp, in Norwegian and German respectively. The same error was implied in the inscription on the set of three and miniature sheet released by Russia. The Penny Black appeared on each, alongside a 19th century sailing ship (10k), heraldic flowers (20k) and the logo of Stamp World (30k). A view of the Thames Embankment and the mid-19th century methods of mail transportation graced the margins of the 1r miniature sheet.



USSR 10k stamp on official postcard

Fine Tributes

The countries of what used to be called the Eastern bloc produced some of the finest tributes to the Penny Black. From Czechoslovakia came a charming 7kcs miniature sheet which had a splendid reproduction of the Penny Black flanked by a portrait of the young Rowland Hill and Wyon's stamp essay, with a panoramic view of Westminster by Wenceslas Hollar for good measure. Hungary's 20ft sheet included a Penny Black, recess-printed like the original, with a view of the Danube promenade in Pest about 1840. The German Democratic Republic

issued three stamps respectively featuring the Penny Black, Saxony's *Schwarzer Einser* of 1849 and the GDR's first stamp of 1949, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

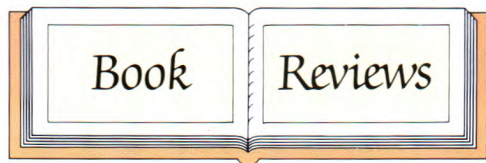
On the matter of terminology Mexico has provided the most interesting memento. This is a serially-numbered sheet which refers to the first *Sello Postal* (literally "postal seal", which is a precise description of the adhesive postage stamp). The 700p stamp itself reproduces the Penny Black with a caption referring to the first *Estampilla* — a word used in Spain for a handstamp but in Latin America denoting an adhesive stamp. The pictorial postmark, which



also reproduces the Penny Black, however, refers to the first *Timbre Postal* which is a curious borrowing from the French!

I must admit to some disappointment that the older established dominions have either ignored the Penny Black or made only an oblique reference to it. New Zealand's superb set, issued to coincide with the international exhibition in Auckland, bore intaglio portraits of the six monarchs from Victoria onwards, but did not reproduce the Penny Black. Australia issued a set of six captioned "rare and unusual stamps of Australia", in fact reproducing one from each state. This was accompanied by a miniature sheet which had a row of Penny Blacks in the margin.

To be continued



The 1991 edition of **Collect First Day Covers** was published in September. This provides a handy guide to covers from 1840 to the Queen Mother's birthday issue in August. Prices are given for official (Post Office) First Day of Issue handstamps, sponsored special handstamps and relevant operational postmarks. Selected postmarks are illustrated. Post Office stamp cards (PHQ cards) used with first day cancels are priced, also covers in various series produced by Benham (BOCS, BLS, BLCS, etc). In addition to the listings, there are several worthwhile introductory articles and useful notes on first day cover prices by Tony Buckingham in his Editorial. 200 pages, card covers. Available from: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD, price £4.50.

The 8th edition of Volume 3 of Gibbons **Great Britain Specialised Catalogue: Queen Elizabeth II Pre-decimal Issues** was published on 14 September. In their Preface, the Editors, David Aggersberg and Robert Oliver, write of the increased interest in the Wilding and £sd Machin stamps; with more dealers offering a specialist service for these issues. New discoveries are still being made and two previously unrecorded Wilding booklet cylinder numbers are now listed and more details given of broad phosphor band varieties. Many illustrations, of both basic stamps and varieties, have been replaced to provide clearer definition. Price changes seem fairly modest although some of the scarce Machin specialist items show quite marked increases — the 3d Head A, PVA gum bluish-violet from sideways coils goes up from £16 to £28 and the 4d gum arabic, 2 bands with head B is marked up £400 to £1800. Booklet prices have been revised — many have survived in limited quantities and the Editors warn "as stocks become absorbed prices must rise still further". 456 pages, card covers. Available from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH, price £15.95, postage £2.50 UK, £5 overseas.

Also published by Gibbons is **Great Britain: Numbers Issued 1840-1910** compiled by Rikki

C. Hyde and first published in 1975. It quickly sold out and it is good to see it again in print. The book provides, where possible, an accurate figure for the number issued of every stamp from the Penny Black to the De La Rue printed stamps of Edward VII. The author has undertaken extensive research to arrive at the figures which are provided for each Penny Black plate as well as those for the 1840 and 1841 2d stamps and the embossed dies. Thereafter each stamp on which the plate number actually appears has a firm or estimated quantity issued given for it. As well as basic stamps, figures are given for Officials, GB stamps overprinted for use in other countries and protective underprints. The "summary of the numbers of adhesive postage stamps issued during the reign of Queen Victoria" makes fascinating reading. In all some 81,397,961,972 stamps were issued; the figures range from 56,644,726,080 1d stamps to just 246,826 of the £5 value. The face value amounted to over £377 million; the stamps would have covered 17 square miles! 32 pages, card covers. Price £3.95, postage £1.50 UK, £2.50 overseas. Available from Gibbons Strand shop or by post from their Ringwood office.

The British Philatelic Trust in conjunction with the Derbyshire Postal History Society have recently published **The History of the Post in Derby 1635-1941** by Harold S. Wilson. Those who know Harold Wilson, or have read his books on the Travelling Post Offices of the British Isles, will not be surprised to find that in writing this book he has produced a model of all that such a work should be. *The History of the Post in Derby* shows what can be done if the "research net is cast widely enough" and should be of interest not only to postal historians but to those whose interests are in the fields of transport, social and local history. Indeed I hope that writers in these fields can be persuaded to read this, and other recent postal history works, as it is surprising how many books and articles are still being written on these matters as if the Post Office did not exist! Putting the more detailed material, eg the extracts from the Derbyshire Red Book, in appendices, makes for a very "readable" book which should appeal to a wider readership than perhaps is normal for a postal history work. Altogether an excellent work from the pen of a respected postal historian. 296 A4 size pages, laminated card cover. Available from H S Wilson, 17 Heath Avenue, Littleover, DERBY DE3 6DJ, price £22, postage £3 UK, £4.50 overseas surface mail.

Tony Gammons

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 Editor.

Astronomy. Benhams produced the official first day cover for Armagh Observatory. The cover bears a "silk" illustration of the Observatory and has the four Astronomy stamps cancelled by a special 16 October handstamp inscribed THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD. Price £4.50. A second cover featured the Old Observatory at Greenwich; this bears an illustration from an 18th century painting of Greenwich. Both covers cost £4.50. The set of four small "silks" show photographs from NASA of a spiral galaxy in sephus; a trifold nebula in Sagittarius; a Horse head nebula in Orion; and the great Orion nebula. Each cover bears a single stamp; price per set £7.99. There is also a set of luxury "silk" postcards, each also bearing NASA pictures of the planets. Each card bears a single stamp; price per set £7.99. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

25th issue of Christmas stamps. This year's Christmas stamps were the 25th such from the Royal Mail. To mark this, A G Bradbury has sponsored a special handstamp at Bethlehem, Dyfed and produced a special cover. The cover bears both the 1966 and 1990 Christmas stamps (only the 1990 stamps are cancelled with the special handstamp, the 1966 stamps are no longer valid for postage). The 1966 stamps were designed by children, a competition was organised by the Post Office. The cover costs £5 or £8.75 signed (overseas add 50p for postage). Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Bell Ringers Centenary. To mark the centenary of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers a special first day cover and pictorial postmark were commissioned to coincide with the 1990 Christmas stamps. The cover features a portrait of Sir Arthur Heywood (who first suggested the Council), together with his parish church of St Alkmund in Duffield, Derbyshire. The cover bears the five Christmas stamps cancelled by the special Bell Ringers handstamp. Limited edition of 500 covers (price £5.75), plus 100 signed by the current President, Christopher Groome (£8.75). Overseas customers add 50p. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

St. Kilda. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the evacuation of the island in August 1930, the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides has produced a cover showing a map of the St Kilda islands. The cover bears the regular St Kilda puffin cachet (in red) and a cachet worded "60th Anniversary of Evacuation 1930-1990 29 AUG 90 St Kilda Western Isles" (in black). The Queen Mother 20p stamp is cancelled by the Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula machine postmark of 29 August. Only 500 covers have been produced, price £5. Orders/enquiries: Range Wing, Royal Artillery Range Hebrides, ISLE OF BENBECULA, Scotland, PA88 5LN.

Birmingham Cathedral. The Provost of Birmingham has commissioned A G Bradbury to produce their "official In Need Cathedral first day cover". The cathedral church was built in 1715 although did not gain cathedral status until 1905. The cover bears the 1990 Christmas stamps with special 13 November handstamp. Price £5.75 or £9.75 signed by the Provost, overseas customers add 50p postage. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. To coincide with the issue of Dog stamps on 8 January, the PDSA are producing a cover featuring a chalk illustration of domestic pets. The stamp(s) will be cancelled by a special handstamp at Telford, headquarters of the



PDSA. Covers with single stamp cost £2.50; with full set £5 or £9.75 signed by Johnny Morris of "Animal Magic" fame. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

The George Cross. The Victoria Cross and George Cross Association issued on 24 September 1990 the only official commemorative cover for the 50th anniversary of the institution of the George Cross by King George VI in 1940. The

edition, limited to 1,000 numbered covers, depicts the GC and the GC stamp from the Royal Mail's Gallantry series, and datestamped 24 September 1990. Each cover has been personally signed by three holders of the GC – Mr Harry Errington, Mrs Odette Hallows and Lieutenant Commander Horace Taylor. Price £7.50 plus 22p postage; remittances payable to Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund. Orders/enquiries: Gp. Capt. W S O Randle, 60 Shelters Way, TADWORTH, Surrey, KT20 8QF.

Centenary of Underground Railway. The first underground electric railway service was opened to the public on 18 December 1890. A full-colour commemorative cover is being produced by G Eldridge and will bear a special 18 December pictorial postmark. Price £1.90 post-paid UK, overseas add 60p. Orders/enquiries: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.



Christmas Gift Suggestion

Readers wondering what appropriate gift to give a philatelist this Christmas might consider a Gift Package including an Annual Subscription to the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum. The gift-wrapped package will comprise 12 postcards issued by the Museum since April 1990, a copy of the NPM's annual report, *The Philatelic Year 1989*, and the latest issue of the Friends' magazine *Cross Post*. The cards feature famous people in postal history, the Penny Black Anniversary miniature sheet, items from the Postal Reform exhibition, and Post Office Christmas posters (from PO Archives). The *Philatelic Year* gives details of Museum research, publications and other activities and a useful account of conservation work. The *Cross Post* magazine contains a good mix of articles of interest to philatelists and postal historians.

To order one (or more) of these Gift Packs, send a cheque for £10 (each) payable to "Friends of the National Postal Museum" to the Secretary/Treasurer, Ray Pottle, c/o National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Please state clearly the name and address of the person(s) you want the package sent to. A message can be enclosed with the package if you so wish. To ensure delivery by Christmas, please send orders not later than 8 December.

Christmas Stamp Book

Shown here is the Christmas stamp book on sale at post offices in the Central TV area and



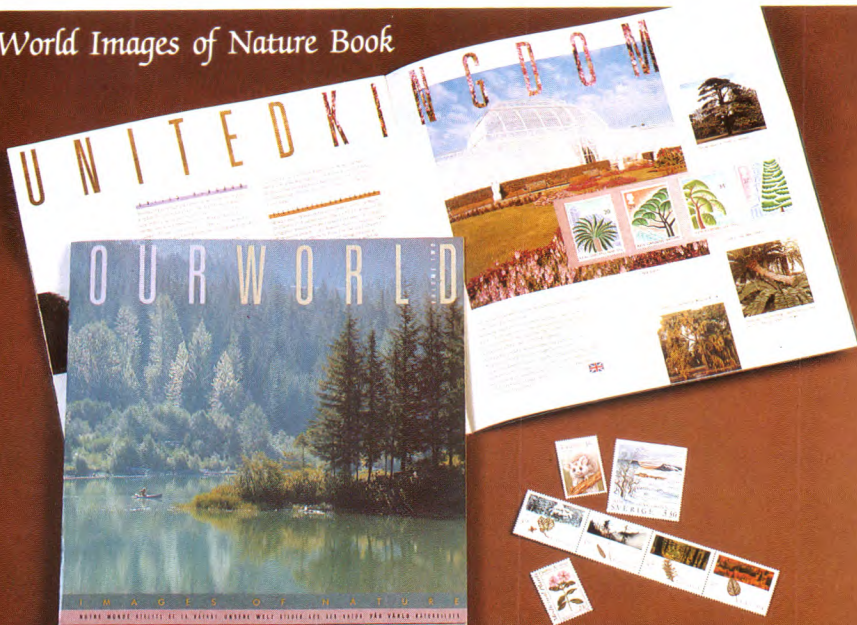
available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres and philatelic counters. Price £3.40, it contains twenty 17p Christmas stamps. The pane of twenty stamps have straight edges at top and bottom, yielding two stamp variations – straight edge top and straight edge bottom. The normal sheet stamp is perforated on all sides. The cylinders used for the book were: B1A (gold) B2B (greenish yellow) B2C (rose) B2D (new blue) B1E (grey-black). The book will remain on sale at post offices in the test area until 22 December unless previously sold out.

Railway Letter Stamps

The Talyllyn Railway issued a new 25p railway letter stamp on 10 October to mark the 40th anniversary of the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society — the first such society in the world. The stamp, designed by Neill Oakley (author of the standard catalogue on modern railway letter stamps) featured locomotive No 1 "Talyllyn". The stamp was printed in sheets of 10. Mint stamps are available at face value, first day covers at £2, postage 30p. Orders/enquiries: Sara Eade, Talyllyn Railway, Wharf Station, TYWYN, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY.

The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway issued a new 25p railway stamp on 27 October; printed in sheets of 10. Stamps are available at face value, first day covers at £2, from: J Whittam, 6 Hill Street, Quakers Bridge, NELSON, Lancs, BB9 5QJ (add 35p postage or send SAE for individual stamps).

Our World Images of Nature Book



Shown here is the second volume in the "Our World" series containing stamps with environmental theme designs from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Sweden, United Nations and the USA. The book, published on 30 October, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres, philatelic counters and post shops, price £7.50. For further details see last month's Bulletin, page 67.

December Digest

Issued in December

4 December: 17p, 22p, 26p and 37p Country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Printing: The House of Questa, offset-lithography; 17p – fluorescent coated paper with one phosphor band, 22p-37p phosphor coated paper. Sheets of 200, PVA gum (17p); PVA Dextrin gum (22p-37p).

Presentation Pack: (No. 23) £3.35.

Bureau f.d. service alternative postmarks: Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh

No items are being withdrawn in December

Christmas/New Year Closures

The British Philatelic Bureau will be closed on 24 December (afternoon), 25-26 December, 31 December (afternoon) and 1-2 January; the National Postal Museum will close 24-26 December and 1 January and the Post Office Archives from 22 December to 1 January inclusive.

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Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

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