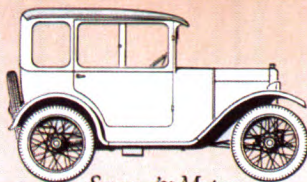


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Philatelic Bulletin

15^{LP}



Seven & Metro



Austin

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Editorial

Once again the Melville Seminar, sponsored by the Post Office, took place in the National Postal Museum during August under the Chairmanship of Mrs Franceska Rapkin ably assisted by Barbara Glassborow the new Secretary. Kay Goodman has now retired and we wish her good health and a long and happy retirement.

To Franceska and Barbara we wish all possible success in spreading the gospel of philately to young people throughout the United Kingdom. The number of entrants and the standard of work submitted for the Melville Competition improves annually. However, more entrants would be welcomed to take part in this worth while event. Further information may be obtained from Mrs Barbara Glassborow, The Pump House, Martock Rd, Long Sutton, LANGPORT, Somerset, TA10 9HU.
FRANK BRENCH

New Philatelic Counter

On 25 October 1982 a philatelic counter will be opened at the Branch Office, 10 High Street, CROYDON CR9 1HT. The hours of business will be 9.00 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday and 9.00 am to 12.30 pm Saturdays. A special pictorial handstamp bearing the words 'OPENING OF CROYDON PHILATELIC COUNTER 25 OCTOBER 1982' will be applied to mail posted in the philatelic posting box situated in the office.

Customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to call at the office on that day, should send their covers to: The Head Postmaster, 1-5 Addiscombe Road, CROYDON, CR9 6AB from whom normal reposting facilities will be supplied.

Christmas Pictorial Aerogramme

The 1982 aerogramme illustrating angels and carol singers has been designed by Lynda Grey. It will be issued on 17 November, price 27½p of which 24p is for the postage. Printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd it has two phosphor bars.

Further Values

The four values originally chosen for Postage Due Labels were each required for a specific purpose. $\frac{1}{2}$ p., unlike the other three, was not a 'double deficiency' charge but was the 'return to sender' fee for undeliverable items sent by the Halfpenny Packet Post (later known as Printed Paper Rate). 1d. was the charge to be raised on either an unpaid Halfpenny Packet or an unpaid Post Card, and 2d. and 5d. represented double the Inland and Foreign Letter Rates respectively and thus applied to unpaid letters in these categories. Although at the time that the introduction of labels was first mooted, it had been observed that a higher value label could be required (see Part 1), this suggestion had not been acted upon. By the middle of May 1914, however, the absence of such a label was causing comment, particularly from the Postmasters of Liverpool and Manchester which, as Offices of Exchange, received considerable numbers of parcels returned from abroad on which charges of 2s. and more had to be raised. It was the Head Postmaster of Manchester who also introduced the idea of bundling batches of 'return to sender' items for the same address, observing that a single 1s. label was all that would be required for every 24 of these.

His suggestions bore fruit, and, by the beginning of October, collection of the aggregate postage due on returned items had been sanctioned (see Part 3) and moves were afoot to produce a 1s. label. On 9 October 1914 the Board of Inland Revenue was asked to arrange for the preparation of dies and plates for such a label with the request that 'essays can perhaps be furnished in various colours, including several shades of blue and purple'. The proof from the die was approved

on 5 November and, on 9 March 1915, colour essays in blocks of four on Royal Cipher water-marked paper and marked 'Cancelled' were submitted in fourteen different colours – two green, five purple, four blue and one each orange, red-brown and grey. As with the earlier values, the opinion of the Controller of the London Postal Service was sought and he suggested that PD 28 – Royal Blue was 'a suitable colour and will be distinct from other Postage Due Labels'; this choice was confirmed as 'pleasing and distinctive in appearance' in a Minute of 24 March. The Warrant to print the initial supply was issued to the Inspector of Stamping on 17 May and, on 22 June 1915, the Post Office Circular carried the announcement that the 1s. label was 'now ready for distribution', requesting that each Head Postmaster should requisition a suitable initial supply, the minimum number to be ordered being 60 (a quarter sheet).

The next three denominations to appear (3d., 4d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.) were all made necessary by the economic consequences of the First World War. On 1 November 1915 inland letter rate changed from 4oz. for 1d. to 1oz. – 1d., 1 to 2oz. – 2d. and 2 to 4oz. – $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and a considerable number of items in its 2 to 4oz. range were observed still prepaid at the old 1d. rate and thus liable to a surcharge of 3d. Within a fortnight of the rate change a suggestion was made by an Overseer at Glasgow that a 3d. label should be introduced for the collection of this surcharge and this led to a survey in the major offices of the number of items requiring it (e.g. 500+ daily in London E.C., 300 in Manchester). It was felt, however, that this was probably a temporary situation until the public became familiar with the new rates and the decision was taken to re-assess the demand in a further six months. By this time, the need was not considered sufficient and it was some two years later that the 3d. label actually appeared when, with the final ending of Uniform Penny Post on



'SPECIMEN' copies of the labels

3 June 1918, minimum inland letter rate became 1½d. and so an unpaid letter attracted a 3d. charge.

The need for a 3d. label for the collection of this charge was anticipated early in the planning stage for the rate increase and, by 24 April a die had been produced and blocks of four colour essays in orange, violet and grey had been submitted. The suggestion by the Controller of Stores of the adoption of violet (PD 35) 'as being the most distinctive, especially in artificial light, from the existing labels' was quickly accepted and supplies of the 3d. label were thus available in time for the introduction of the new rate.

Matters were less well organised when letter rate was further increased to 2d. for 3oz. on 1 June 1920. By 18 May colour essays had been submitted from which the grey-green of the 4d. definitive stamp was selected with the suggestion that it be printed 'in a rather lighter shade in order that the cancellation marks should show up more distinctly'; a fresh colour essay in this lighter shade was approved on 12 June, but it was not until 21 December that the Post Office Circular carried the announcement that supplies were ready for distribution.

The 4d. label was in quite heavy demand for

about 18 months and then, on 29 May 1922, letter rate was reduced to 1½d. for 1oz. though the 1 to 3oz. range still cost 2d. (A further change, on 14 May 1923, made the rate 1½d. for 2oz. and then ½d. each additional 2oz. and this lasted until 1 May 1940.) From 1923, therefore, there were very few situations in which a 4d. charge would be raised and, indeed, some years later in 1935, a suggestion was made that both the 4d. and 5d. values which 'are held in stock month after month without any demand being made for them' should be withdrawn, although this was not acted upon. In fact, the numbers of sheets of each value issued were regularly monitored and it is interesting to note that whilst there was a consistently high usage of ½d., 2d. and, in particular, 1d. labels – presumably often used in multiples to collect higher sums – most other values, especially the 5d. and 1s., were only issued in fairly small numbers; the original 2,500 sheets of the 1s. value lasted from June 1915 to December 1919, whilst the 1914 printing (7,500) sheets of 5d. labels did not need replenishing until 1930.

With this background that several values were of very limited use, it is not surprising that there was considerable investigation before a decision



Minimum 1½d. Surcharge, 1921 – 25.

This card was posted on board a British ship at Gibraltar and hence was liable to foreign post card rate of 1½d. It was thus ½d. underpaid but, instead of collecting double the deficiency (i.e. 1d.), the surcharge raised was the minimum figure of 1½d.

was taken to produce a 1½d. label. Apart from the 1s. label, each value was introduced because of a specific charge of that amount and the 1½d. is no exception to this pattern as, for the period 13 June 1921 to 1 October 1925, 1½d. was the minimum surcharge to be paid on any underpaid item from abroad.

For the 40 years between the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 and the outbreak of War, there was parity of the major world currencies but, by 1918, many were much devalued so that, not only was the agreed international letter rate of 25 French centimes not economic but, in some situations, the charge of double rate to be paid on delivery in a country with a 'weak' currency was equivalent to *less* than the single rate to be prepaid in a country with a 'strong' currency. The 1920 Madrid Congress of the U.P.U. was thus faced with the task of resolving these anomalies. Its solution was to abandon the use of the French franc and, instead, create an 'international' currency of the 'Gold Franc', to adopt a *range* (up to a maximum of 50 gold centimes) within which individual countries could fix their foreign letter rates and, in an attempt to make the penalty for underpayment punitive, to introduce a *minimum* surcharge on underpaid items of 30 gold centimes. This figure was converted by the British Post Office to 1½d. and was introduced on 13 June 1921.

That the collection of this sum required each item 'to be gone over twice by the officer in charge of unpaid correspondence, once with a 1d. label and again with a ½d. label' was firmly pointed out by an Assistant Inspector in Dundee who, in a memorandum dated 24 October, suggested the introduction of a 1½d. label. His suggestion was supported in a Report by the Controller of the London Postal Service which estimated that 'about 5,000 surcharges of 1½d. are raised weekly in the Foreign Section alone', but it was only after replies to a questionnaire sent to 16 major Post Towns had been analysed that, on 1 July 1922, the decision was finally taken to produce this new label at an estimated cost of £15 for the plate and £20 for paper and printing. From six colour essays, Chestnut (PD 48) was selected and approval for printing was given on 26 September although, due to pressure of work on the printers to produce sufficient postage stamps to meet the Christmas demands, it was not until 10 January 1923 that the Post Office Circular announced that the new label was ready for distribution.

E. KEITH PARKER

London Postal Region Postcards

LPR 1

First Day of Sale 11 October 1982

The London Postal Region is to produce its first regional postcard illustrating the Royal Albert Hall with one of the new style posting boxes in the foreground.

Mint cards, price 13p each, can be obtained by personal application at most philatelic counters. Bulk orders for mint cards only are obtainable from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges will apply.

A special pictorial handstamp, depicting the Albert Memorial, will be applied to all mail posted in a special posting box situated at the South Kensington Branch Office, 25 Exhibition Road, LONDON, SW7 2DA. Serviced cards will be available, price 41p each, to cover the cost of the card, postage, handstamping and servicing. Orders should be sent to: The Philatelic Duty, District Postmaster, SWDO, 9 Howick Place, LONDON SW1P 1AA. Remittances should be sent if possible by postal order or Giro transfer (account number 518 1003).

LPR 2

First Day of Sale 25 October 1982

London Postal Region will issue its second postcard, illustrating Croydon datestamps through the ages, commemorating the opening of Croydon Philatelic Counter, Branch Office, 10 High Street, CROYDON, CR9 6AB on 25 October 1982.

Mint cards, price 13p each, can be obtained by personal application from most philatelic counters. Bulk orders for mint cards only are obtainable from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges will apply.

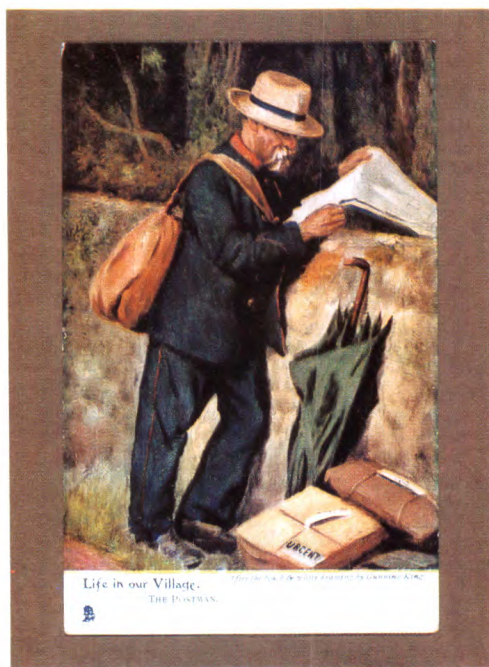
A special pictorial handstamp will be applied to all mail posted in the special posting box at Croydon Philatelic Counter. Serviced cards will be available, price 41p each, to cover the cost of the card, postage, handstamping and servicing. Orders should be sent to: Officer in Charge, Branch Office, 10 High Street, CROYDON, CR9 1HT. Remittances should be sent if possible by postal order or Giro transfer (account number 318 0212).

22.V for 'Village'

To the city dweller the country village is a kind of mirage, a rural Utopia where life would be desirable but impracticable. Throughout Great Britain there must be tens of thousands of villages, and a really good road atlas (such as that published by William Collins of Glasgow) names them all and pinpoints their locations. To the motorist, however, impressions of village life are fleeting – a narrow, winding main street, a few thatched cottages, the church, the pub, the village store cum post office, leafy lanes leading to local farms and perhaps a bridge over a stream, all passing across one's windscreen like a travelogue. Picture postcards, on the other hand, enable one to pause awhile and take time to appreciate the undoubted attractions of rural life.

Village postcards are collected by different people for many different reasons. One of the prime reasons is having been born and brought up in a certain village and one seeks postcard views of the place as known and remembered or perhaps in earlier times, going back to the turn of the century, known as the 'golden age' of the picture postcard. Then there is the social historian who seeks 'real photo' animated views (i.e. with people and horse-traffic, etc.) – to whom almost any village is of interest, as it is to the topographical collector or to the postal historian who is mainly interested in post offices and postmarks. Incidentally many villages have given birth to some of the most famous Britons – Captain Cook was born at Marton in Yorkshire, W G Grace at Downend, near Bristol, and Lord Horatio Nelson at the rectory, Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, just to mention a few. Personal links add interest to the most ordinary village views.

Village crafts and occupations are keenly-sought postcard subjects, especially the village blacksmith – 'And the Muscle of His Brawny Arms are Strong as Iron Bands' – and the dying craft of thatching, the wheel-makers or wheelwrights, lace-making and spinning and weaving. Every village has close associations with surrounding farms and herdsman, labourers and shepherds, as well as cattle, plough-horses and farm machinery are all part of the village scene. Picturesque local subjects include gipsy encamp-



ments, the hop-pickers and the fruit-pickers, sheep-shearing and harvest festivals. Collectors attach great importance to picture cards produced by local photographers and printers whose names are usually imprinted on the cards. The village policeman is almost as popular a figure as the village postman, while village schools and their children provide lively subjects.

Well-known postcard artists such as Wilfred Ball, W H Borrow, Arthur W Bridgeman, C Essenhigh Corke, Charles E Flower, F W Hayes, Sutton Palmer, Harry Payne, A R Quinton and Henry B Wimbush have featured villages on coloured cards published by equally well-known publishers – Raphael Tuck, Beagles, Hartmann, Jarrold, Millar & Lang, Salmon, Valentine and Wrench. Tuck published a series of sketches by Harry Payne – 'Village Life' – and another Oilette series by Gunning King – 'Life in our Village' – which included a charming study, 'Gossips', and another, 'The Saddler'. An example of Gunning King's humour – 'The Postman' – is illustrated here. Those were the days! The best rural photo-based cards were those published by Francis Frith of Reigate, 'L L' (Louis Levy), Photochrom, W H Smith ('W H S'), Judges, J W Welch & Sons of Portsmouth and F G O Stuart of Southampton.

MALCOLM JAMES

Christmas Stamps Issue:

17 November 1982

Five of our favourite carols are the subjects chosen to illustrate the Christmas stamps issue for 1982. The subjects and denominations are:

'While Shepherds Watched' (12½p); 'The Holly and the Ivy' (15½p); 'I saw Three Ships' (19½p); 'We Three Kings' (26p); 'Good King Wenceslas' (29p).

First Day Cover Service

A first day cover will be available, price 14p, and the following services will be provided, including a choice of two handstamps – 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and 'Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed'.

SERVICE 'A'

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and given all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled with either postmark and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched. The following charges will apply.

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.45	£1.26
Deposit account customers	£1.40	£1.22
Service 'B'	£1.31	£1.14

Customers who specifically require the Bethlehem postmark, should send their orders to the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Section) LLANELLI, Dyfed, SA15 1AA. (Direct Giro Transfer account number 405 6515.) All orders for cancellations other than Bethlehem only, should be sent to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT to arrive not later than 8 November 1982.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

As my philatelic interests have always centred around the actual stamps, their designs and variations, I have never taken much interest in other aspects of the hobby. However, during a recent visit to Scotland, the sight of a postal bus

brought to mind an experiment which took place in my home area of Yorkshire during my boyhood days. This took the form of a travelling letter box which was carried by a service bus at times later than the collections from the local boxes. The one which I knew of personally was carried on the Halifax Corporation bus which left the centre of Brighouse at 7.00 pm and went via Bonegate, (I believe the service was numbered 69). The box was fitted by simply dropping it over a special bracket fitted to the near-side of the vehicle just in front of the front facing window, so that the box was within the width of the bus, faced forwards and was just over the bonnet. The service operated sometime during the period 1936 to 1939 and I am wondering if any of your readers have any information on the experiment or know if similar experiments were carried out elsewhere?

Yours faithfully,

Jim Hopkinson

SALISBURY

Wilts.

This system of posting letters aboard trams and buses began as an experiment in Huddersfield in 1893 – following successful trials of the idea in America. It soon spread to other town tramway systems; but many services were shortlived because of operating difficulties. Halifax received its first tram letter boxes in 1902. Upon the outbreak of the second world war all such boxes – including those on trains and packet boats – were withdrawn. Today, they would only be found on rural bus services, such as the Post Buses Mr Hopkinson has seen in Scotland. The full story of letter boxes for the travelling public can be found in Jean Farrugia's book 'The Letter Box' (published by the Centaur Press in 1969).

EDITOR

Christmas Stamp Book

The Christmas stamp book for 1982 to be issued on 10 November will be on sale at all post offices. The book contains 10 each of 15½p (first class) definitive stamps and 12½p (second class) definitive stamps. Price £2.80. Printed photo-gravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd, the 15½p stamps will have two phosphor bars, while the 12½p stamps have a single phosphor bar.

The cover, designed by Andrew Davidson, depicts a Christmas fireside scene with illustrations of Father Christmas and 'mummers'.

Peter Shrives retires

The OBE awarded to the Post Office's former Design Adviser, Peter Shrives, is a fitting tribute to the man who played such a distinguished part in promoting design in the Post Office.

The Post Office touches the lives of all citizens and the way it uses design has considerable influence and impact on everyday environment. Mr Shrives's role in reshaping and directing the design of the Post Office's image and much of its familiar equipment has won it fame as a design conscious organisation both in Britain and abroad, especially when it comes to stamp design.

Born in Bicester, Oxfordshire, Mr Shrives was schooled in Buckinghamshire and London.

'I saw clearly from the age of 10 or 11 I wanted to do creative work. But when the war came I became a technical illustrator – a very unhappy time for me,' he says.

'I joined the Post Office as an illustrator after the war, and frankly, it was initially difficult to persuade the Post Office of the great value of good design throughout the business'.

However, his powerful advocacy and lead in design has been recognised by several awards: the 1973 Design Council Award to the Post Office for stamp design and supporting material; his election in 1976 as a Fellow of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers (Senior Category) and as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts who also recognised his eminence with their 1977 award for design management.

Mr Shrives helped found the separate and professionally based design management function at the Post Office and headed it as Design Adviser from 1976 to his retirement in December 1980. Then he became part-time consultant on stamp design until last December.

'The last 20 years were extremely happy ones for me,' he says, 'The country's best painters, illustrators and designers have passed through my office. And I have enormous affection for the business.

'I have done nothing very important to deserve an honour except, perhaps, explaining the need for professionalism. Design is not just making something look pretty. Good design is making sure something can function well, be



economic to produce as well as being good to look at'.

Mr Shrives found solutions for all the problems of design – from stamp design to what a new pillar box should look like. He was personally responsible for the introduction of the Post Office identity in sign-posting, lettering and livery for both staff and vehicles. But it was in stamp design that he made his most notable contribution. He directed the special stamps programme, with between six and nine issues each year. He was personally responsible for controlling Royal Issues including the sets for the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's Accession; the 25th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation and the stamp celebrating the 80th birthday of the Queen Mother. He also introduced into the stamp programme, the idea of a continuing theme on British wildlife, flora and fauna drawing attention to the need to preserve the national heritage and support the efforts of conservationists.

The standard set by Mr Shrives has been reflected in the considerable growth of British stamp sales – in the highly competitive world of philately, the Post Office has been able to provide an excellently designed product.

Mr Shrives has retired completely now from design. He and his wife Joan live in Orpington enjoying a life of 'almost self indulgence'.

92. Christmas, 1973

David Gentleman could not have chosen a more popular theme for his Christmas stamps – one of our best known carols, 'Good King Wenceslas'. The six stamps, 5 x 3p in a horizontal *se-tenant* strip for the second-class rate and a 3½p for first-class letters/greetings, were issued on 28 November 1973.

Wenceslas (Wenceslaus or Wenzel), circa 903-935, was the Duke of Bohemia. He received a Christian education and founded several Christian churches in Bohemia against the wishes of his mother. After the death of his father he placed his duchy under the protection of Germany and provoked opposition by doing homage to the Holy Roman Emperor. While on his way to Mass on 28 September 935, he was murdered by his brother, Boleslaw. Buried in St. Vitus's Cathedral, Prague, he was later canonised and is the patron saint of Czechoslovakia.

The theme of the carol – Wenceslas's concern for the poor – is pictured on the five stamps, the first of which appropriately shows good King Wenceslas 'looking out' ('on the feast of Stephen'), while the sixth stamp shows the three main characters – the King, the page and the peasant



woodman. It seems that all are involved in gathering wood and that the peasant eventually benefits from the royal 'meals on wheels' service!

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with centre phosphor band (3p) or 'all-over' phosphor (3½p). All five 3p stamps are known with the rosy mauve colour (the page's costume on the last four) omitted while various colour omissions occurred on the 3½p. Another listed variety is a strong retouch under the '3' of '3p' on the second stamp in the strip. Quantities sold were: 3p 46,088,200 of each design; 3½p 110,558,200; presentation packs, 107,070.

JAMES WATSON



British Motor Cars Wallchart

A philatelic wallchart, illustrating the four 'British Motor Cars' stamps to be issued on 13 October, will shortly go on sale.

Measuring 841mm x 594mm (33" x 23"), it features illustrations of the stamps, and the individual cars with background notes about them, combining to produce a wealth of information.

The wallcharts will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT at £1.50 each (postage and handling charge included) and at all philatelic counters at £1.25 each. Bulk purchases of 50 or more can be made from the Bureau only at £1.25 each (postage and handling charge included).

Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Stamps

Technical Details (continued)

Cylinders			Printing Press	Per- forator	Adhesive	Coat- ing	Printing Date	Comments
Value	Colour	Phos						
8p	3	17	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Sept '73	2 bars
	3	26	Halley 2	Swedish Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Nov '74	2 bars, phosphor under colour
	3	21	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	June '75	2 bars
	3	17	Halley 2	Swedish Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Aug '75	2 bars
	3	30	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	Nov '78	2 bars
	3	20	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	June '79	1 bar
	7	20	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	Aug '79	1 bar
	13	39	Halley 3	Swedish Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Sept '79	1 bar
	7	20	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	Oct '79	1 bar
	14	39	Halley 3	Swedish Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Sept '79	1 bar
	7	20	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	Oct '79	1 bar
	10	18	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	Dec '79	1 bar
	1	1	Palatia	Grover	PV AI DEX	FCP	Dec '79	1 bar Printed by Enschedé Holland
	2	20	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	Jan '80	1 bar
	2	—	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	PCP	Jan '80	20,000 sheets
	7	18	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI DEX	FCP	?	Reported by J Spiteri
8½p	4	21	Jumelle	Kampf Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	July '75	
	4	17	Jumelle	Kampf Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Sept '75	
	6	17	Jumelle	Kampf Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Feb '76	
	6	21	Jumelle	Kampf Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Apr/Aug '76	
	4	21	Jumelle	Kampf Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Jan '77	
	6	21	Jumelle	Kampf Rotary	PV AI DEX	FCP	Jan/Mar '77	
	6	—	Jumelle	Kampf Rotary	PV AI DEX	PCP		

National Postal Museum Notes

In October 1981 the National Postal Museum closed for a month so that essential maintenance and security work could be carried out. In line with the policy of other museums, the N.P.M. will now close regularly every year for one week in October. This will allow maintenance work to be carried out on the collections as well as further accommodation improvements. Post Office Archives will also be closed to the public and researchers for the same period every year.

Both the Museum and the Post Office Archives will close at 4.00 pm on Friday 22 October and re-open to the public at 10.00 am on Monday 1 November. On re-opening, the main Museum exhibition will again be the 'Post Office at War (Part 2 1882 - 1919)' which will continue until 31 December 1982 when it will finally close.

Special Postcards

The latest in the Museum special series of postcards (SS10) is now available coinciding with the second part of 'The Post Office at War' exhibition currently on view.

The card depicts the Post Office Rifles leaving Postal Headquarters in August 1882 for the Egyptian Campaign. A facsimile of the handstamp of the British Army Expeditionary Campaign is inset in the design.

The card will be on sale until 31 December when it will be withdrawn unless previously sold out. The card will cost 20p less a discount of 25% for orders of 100 or more. No first day of issue service was undertaken by the Museum.

Information Technology Exhibition

This exhibition in the National Postal Museum will close on 22 October. The items on display include modern and historical technology equipment and Post Office machinery for handling mails. There are film shows daily at 2 pm. A complementary postcard at 20p is available.

New Postcards Set

This new set of four postcards, price 52p per set, featuring essays and unadopted designs of King Edward VIII definitive stamps will be available from the Museum from 1 November 1982.

QV £5 Orange Stamp

This stamp is depicted on a postcard coinciding with a small exhibition of £5 orange in the Museum's main gallery.

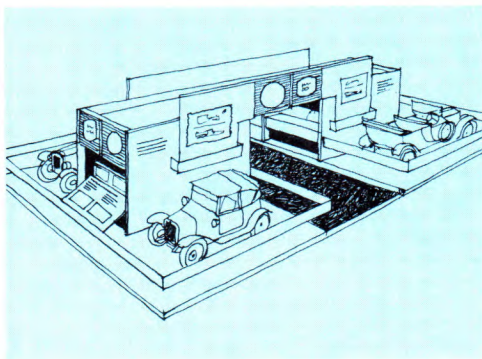
Details of all N.P.M. postcards are available from, The Assistant Curator, National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1LP.

Royal Mail Stamps at the Motor Show

The Post Office will have a joint stand with the National Motor Museum at the 1982 Motor Show to be held at the National Exhibition Centre, BIRMINGHAM, which will be open to the public 22-31 October.

A display will include the four 'British Motor Car' stamps - issued on 13 October - together with the four historic cars they depict.

The full range of philatelic items will be on sale and a special pictorial handstamp - bearing the words 'Motor Show 82 NEC Birmingham' will be applied to all mail posted on the stand, on each day of the show except 24 and 31 October (Sundays). For those unable to attend, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers bearing at least 2½p in addition to normal postage should be sent to - PEB No 1 Counter Services, Head Post Office, Royal Mail Street, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA, stating which dates are required.



The First Post Office Telegraph Stamps

This month's 'Gem' from the Reginald M Phillips collection looks at the first official Post Office Telegraph stamps which were issued in 1876. The telegraph service itself had originally been started and developed by private companies, many of whom had issued their own stamps. Because of the restrictions on the private companies and the need for rationalisation, Acts were passed in Parliament in 1868 and 1869 to give the Postmaster General the monopoly of inland telegraph business. Initially, because of the cost of printing special telegraph stamps, the Post Office used ordinary postage stamps instead. As it soon became obvious that under such a system it was impossible to monitor the telegraph income, the idea of printing special telegraph stamps was reconsidered.

The first issue of Telegraph stamps which appeared in 1876 was printed by De le Rue and Co. At this time the firm was not printing 1d

Postage stamps so they decided to use the same paper (with Shamrock watermark) and layout as they were using for printing Irish Dog licence stamps. Subsequently, the Croix Paté, the Spray of Rose, the Large Garter (four pence only), and the Crown and Large Anchor watermarks were all used. The stamps were all surface-printed in sheets of 240 (halfpenny to three shillings), 80 (five shillings to one pound) and 56 (five pounds).

The examples illustrated are unusual in that they are imperforate, and thought to have come from the imprimatur sheets. They can be found in Volume XLIV/8 of the Reginald M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. As well as the issued telegraph stamps which are on display, visitors to the Museum can see examples of colour trials, imperforate plate proofs in black and 'Specimen' overprints in Volume XLIV of the collection.



Commemorative Covers

The Invention of the Micro-chip

To coincide with the new issue of stamps marking Information Technology Year, a commemorative cover has been produced by Texas Instruments Ltd of Bedford. The cover has a four colour drawing of Jack Kilby, the inventor of the integrated circuit that was the forerunner of the modern Silicon Chip which has made it possible for Information Technology to reach its present advanced state. Kilby's invention was made in Dallas, Texas while working for Texas Instruments, now the world's largest supplier of integrated circuits. The cover will bear both stamps (15½p and 26p) which will be cancelled with a special handstamp dated September 8, the date of issue and showing the Texas Instruments logo. The cost of the cover is £2. If delivery is required under separate cover a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope should accompany orders. Orders with remittances should be sent to Texas Instruments Limited, P.O. Box 50, MARKET HARBOROUGH Leicestershire MK41 7PA, and should be made payable to Texas Instruments Limited.



Robert Burns Souvenir

The 96th Conference of the International Burns Federation held in Dumfries on 11 September, and the local Burns Club issued a souvenir cover to mark the occasion. The 'Information Technology' 15½p stamp affixed is cancelled with pictorial datestamp featuring the town's famous Mid Steeple. The covers illustrate the statue of Robert Burns erected exactly a century ago.

Fully serviced covers are available from James Howitt, Dumfries Burns Club, 18 Averill Crescent, DUMFRIES, DG2 7RY at 75p each.

Opening of Rowley's Museum, Shrewsbury

The 8 October 1982 marks the official opening of Rowley's Museum, Shrewsbury. Rowley's Museum comprises Rowley's Mansion, built in 1618, and Rowley's House which dates from the late 1500's.

To celebrate the event a commemorative cover bearing the 15½p 'Maritime Heritage' stamp will be on sale, priced 80p. The covers feature an embossed colour drawing of Rowley's Museum with the wording 'Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council celebrate the opening of Rowley's Museum, 8th October 1982', and will be cancelled with a special handstamp depicting a lady in 18th Century costume.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'S A B Council' should be sent to: The Information Centre, The Square, SHREWSBURY, SY1 1LH.

Girls' Brigade Golden Jubilee

The 1st Highams Park Company of the Girls' Brigade, attached to the Highams Park Baptist Church, London, will mark their 50th anniversary in November 1982 by producing a commemorative cover.

A limited number of 200 covers – depicting two girls in the uniforms of 1932 and of 1982 against a background of their Church – will bear the 5 Christmas stamps, and will be cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp on the day of issue – 17 November 1982. They will cost £3.20 each (including return postage and packing in UK). An unlimited number of the same covers, bearing the 19½p 'Girls' Brigade' stamp and cancelled with the same pictorial handstamp, will be available at £1.70 each (including postage and packing in UK).

Orders with remittances payable to 'First Highams Park Girls' Brigade Company' should be sent to: Mrs Gwenn Hunn, 5 Crealock Grove, Woodford Green, ROMFORD, Essex IG8 9QZ.

University of Leicester

The Primary Communications Research Centre of the University of Leicester, have sponsored a special cover bearing the set of 'Information Technology' stamps, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp dated 8 September 1982, the first day of issue. Obtainable from A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ, the cost is £2.20 including postage and packing.

60th Anniversary of the Austin Seven

A commemorative cover depicting a 'silk'

photograph of an Austin Seven together with lettering and silver-blocked linear border in the 'twenties' style – the decade in which the Austin Seven was manufactured, will be available from 13 October.

The special postmark, featuring a line drawing of the Austin Seven will be applied at Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey.

The cost of the cover, with the full set of stamps, will be £2.80 including postage. Orders with remittances should be sent to Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

Sealink

Sealink UK Limited, Europe's largest car ferry operator issued a special cover aboard the Sealink Dover/Calais flagship 'St. Christopher' on Sunday 25 July to celebrate St. Christopher's Day. They have a special cachet 'posted aboard' in addition to the Dover Paquebot postmark.

The covers also available for the Topper National Yachting Championships which were held at Holyhead on 23-27 August, are jointly sponsored by Sealink car ferries and B & I Line.

These were stamped 'Posted at sea', and hold the 'Paquebot' postmarks at both Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire.

All covers bear a single 19½p 'Maritime Heritage' stamp and cost 60p each.

Postal applications, should be sent to Promotion Department, Room 106, Sealink UK Ltd., 163-203 Eversholt Street, LONDON, NW1 1BG, with remittances made payable to 'Historic Relics'.

Dagenham Motors

Dagenham Motors announce that they will sponsor a specially designed postmark to be used in Dagenham to coincide with the issue of a set of stamps by the Post Office on 13 October 1982 commemorating British Motor Cars.

A commemorative cover will be available featuring the Model T. This cover has been provided by The Ford Motor Company and overprinted by Dagenham Motors. Only a limited number are available.

Those wishing to obtain these covers should send a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Greenberg and Porter' to: Mr N C Porter, c/o Dagenham Motors (1982) Limited, Ford House, New Road, DAGENHAM, Essex, RM9 6EX.

Prices are as follows: With the full set of stamps affixed – £2.75 plus 25p postage and

packing. With the single 'Ford' stamp affixed – £1.25 plus 25p postage and packing.

Best of Prestel

A cover and special handstamp have been produced by Peter Harland's "Best of Prestel" database to mark its first year as a Prestel Information Provider. The cover, bearing the 'Information Technology' stamps issued on 8 September, shows Sam Fedida, the inventor of Prestel, and bears the inscription: 'A great British invention'.

A limited number of 500 covers bearing the 'Information Technology' stamp is available, personally signed by Sam Fedida, at £5 each. The handstamp, showing the tower of the Martlesham Research Centre where Prestel was developed, reads: 'Best of Prestel: The First Year. Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, 8 September 1982'. A total of 4,500 unsigned covers are available bearing the 15½p stamp (price £1.25 each) or both stamps (price £1.85 each). Orders, with remittances made payable to 'Newsdata', should be sent to Peter Harland, 1 Weedon Lane, AMERSHAM, Bucks, HP6 5QS. Cost includes return postage but please include addressed envelope if possible, size 230mm x 140mm. Overseas customers add 85p. 10% of profits go to charity.

Forthcoming Events

Dorchester and Weymouth Stamp Club

The Dorchester and Weymouth Stamp Club are holding their Fifteenth Annual Exhibition on Saturday, 6 November 1982 in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Exhibition will be formally opened at 11 am by Mr John M Guy, Head Postmaster of the Dorchester area.

In addition to exhibits by Club members, the upper hall will contain several frames of an invited display of material from the Somerset and Dorset Postal History Group.

There will be a Post Office Philatelic Counter, and several dealers will attend. Refreshments will be available all day. Car parking facilities will be found in either of the two town car parks, only two or three minutes walk from the Corn Exchange.

Hampshire Philatelic Federation

The 12th Annual Convention of the Hampshire

Philatelic Foundation will be hosted by Portsmouth and District Philatelic Society.

The event will be held in the Queen's Hotel, Southsea on 23 October 1982 from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm. Seventeen dealers, and the Post Office will be in attendance.

Further information can be obtained by telephone from Mr J Campbell on 03294 45492 or from David Hiscock, 32 Guildford Road, PORTSMOUTH, PO1 5HX.

Chester and District Philatelic Society

The Chester and District Philatelic Society will hold its annual stamp fair and exhibition at the Town Hall, Chester on Saturday 16 October 1982. Times of opening are 10 am to 5 pm, and the prices of admission are 20p for adults and 10p for juniors. Among the attractions will be a 'Penny Black' competition, members' exhibits, dealers' stands and a Post Office philatelic sales counter. Refreshments will also be available.

Heswell and District Philatelic Society

This new society was formed in July 1981 and now has a membership of 40. It meets on the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday from January to June and September to November. During July, August and December the meetings are held on the second Tuesday only. Further details may be obtained from Mr L E C Smith, 27 Breezhill Road, NESTON, South Wirral, L64 9PZ.

Philatelic Federation Seminar

A one day seminar organized by the Wessex, Somerset and Dorset Philatelic Federations will be held at the Cleve Country Hotel, Wellington, Somerset on Saturday 23 October 1982. Full details may be obtained from Mr Gerry Roberts, 5 Barton Lane, DAWLISH, EX7 9QU.

Forces Covers

Royal Air Force Covers

The following commemorative covers are currently available in the Royal Air Force Test Pilot Series.

TP21 Roly Falk, the Avro test pilot of the Vulcan; cancelled BFPS 1764 'RAF Cosford Air Display', flown in a Vulcan. Project Officer: Flt Lt D Eastwood, RAF Museum Cosford, WOLVERHAMPTON, West Midlands WV7 3EX

TP22 Ben Gunn of Boulton Paul; cancelled

BFPS 1975 'Biggin Hill International Air Fair', flown in an Andover. Project Officer: Mr A Wood, RAF Boscombe Down, SALISBURY, Wilts SP4 0JE

TP23 Geoffrey Tyson, test pilot of the Sara jet flying boat and the gigantic Princess; cancelled BFPS 1766 'Hendon Pageant'. Project Officer: Captain D J Fulluck, Crossways, Seend, MELKSHAM, Wilts SN12 6NW

TP24 Roy Moxon, Chief Test Pilot of Westlands, cancelled 'Army Air 82', flown in Lynx. Project Officer: Major Noel Thomas, HQ Army Air Corps, Middle Wallop, STOCKBRIDGE, Hants SO20 8DY

The covers can be obtained from the respective project officers or together from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, HENDON, London NW9 5LL at 75p for each standard version; £1.05 for the pilot signed, allowing 18p for postage and packing of up to four covers. A limited Special version of each issue signed by the Test Pilot concerned is available at £2.80, including postage and packing, from Captain D J Fulluck, Crossways, Seend, MELKSHAM, Wilts, SN12 6NW.

The proceeds of these covers all go to Registered Service Charities.

Disbandment of the Infantry Demonstration Battalion

The Infantry Demonstration Battalion which was formed in August 1978 from all Infantry Regiments of the British Army was disbanded on the 7 August 1982.

A commemorative cover is now available illustrating the special heptagon arm flash worn by all members of the Battalion, and the badges of the Divisions of Infantry of the British Army.

The cover bears a 15½p definitive stamp cancelled by BFPS 1770 hand stamp dated 7 August 1982.

The price of the cover is £1.25. A limited edition signed by the two Commanding Officers of the IDB during its existence will cost £2.25. Remittances should be made payable to CENTRAL BANK IDB (LAST DAY COVER) and further information can be obtained from: Philatelic Officer, Infantry Demonstration Battalion, Battlesbury Barracks, WARMINSTER, Wilts BA12 9TD

16 Signal Regiment

A special cover is now available issued by 16

Signal Regiment commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Presentation of the Freedom of Krefeld, West Germany. The covers illustrating the badge of the Royal Corps of Signals, and Krefeld town emblem, will bear a 15½p 'Maritime Heritage' stamp. Four versions of the cover are available as follows:

A 250 Signed by the Signal Officer in Chief, Maj Gen A C Birtwistle CBE at £2.00 each

B 250 Signed by the Oberbürgermeister Krefeld at £1.75 each

C 250 Signed by the Parade Commander Maj D Strong, R Signals at £1.50 each

D Unsigned covers at 80p each

Orders with remittances should be sent to the Philatelic Officer, 16 Sig Regt BFPO 35 together with a 10" x 5" sae with a 15½p stamp affixed.

All covers will be cancelled with BFPS 1785 handstamp.

Royal Military Police

The granting of the Freedom of the City of Xanten (W Germany) to 101 Provost Company Royal Military Police occurred on 11 September 1982, and to mark the occasion a commemorative cover is now available. Bearing a 15½p 'British Textiles' stamp it illustrates the Cathedral of Xanten together with a Royal Military Policeman. The handstamp used to cancel the cover is BFPS 1784 and depicts the RMP badge.

The prices are as follows: Signed by Brigadier J Thomas RMP, Provost Marshal of the Corps of Royal Military Police, £1.75. Signed by Herr Derith the Oberbürgermeister of Stadt Xanten, £1.75. Signed by both signatories, £2.34. Unsigned £1.17.

Orders with remittances made payable to: The PRI, 101 Provost Company Royal Military Police, BFPO 34, should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, The PRI, 101 Provo Coy RMP, BFPO 34 with a 10" x 8" sae.

Devonshire and Dorset Regiment

On 22 May 1982 The 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment were presented with New Colours by HRH The Duke of Kent the Colonel-in-Chief. To mark the occasion a commemorative cover was produced showing the Regimental Cap Badge and an insert describing Colours and badges. The 15½p definitive stamp affixed is cancelled with a special handstamp, 'Colours Crossed, Roman Barracks 22 May 1982 British Forces 113954 Postal Service'.

The numbers 113954 are of special significance to the Regiment, they are the old Foot numbers of Infantry the 11th Foot, later to become the Devonshire Regiment, and the 39th and 54th of Foot respectively later to become 1st and 2nd Dorset Regiment.

The cost of a cover is 80p. The size is 205 mm x 117 mm for those wishing to send large SAE. Remittances should be made payable to 'CBA 1 D and D'.

Two variations are available, one signed by the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel M F R Bullock OBE DL with a commemorative 'Fishing' stamp affixed, the other signed by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J F W Wilsey, with a 'Darwin' commemorative stamp affixed. Both are £1 each.

Orders should be sent to: Philatelic Officer, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Roman Barracks, Roman Way, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 9NT.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Memmott

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

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