

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Late News - Wales 19p Variation

The 19p Welsh Country stamp printed on paper supplied by Coated Papers Ltd rather than Henry & Leigh Slater (as 8 November 1988 issue) will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 20 June. First day posting facilities will not be available. The stamp will be printed by Questa; Coated Papers Ltd paper has PVA gum.

The 50p book issued on 25 April is reported with cylinders B1 B17, the £1 book with plate numbers W3 W1 W2 W1. The Scottish 19p on CPL paper, issued the same day, is from plates Q3Q3 and Q4Q4.

This Month

The National Postal Museum has recently said goodbye to John Memmott who has exchanged his duties as Deputy Manager for a life of leisure in sunny Dorset (or so he tells us). John joined the Post Office 25 years ago and has worked in several London offices. In the late 1970s he joined Postal Marketing and became involved with philately - prior to that John says he regarded stamps as "simply small pieces of paper to be stuck on letters". In 1980 he was appointed Editor of the *Bulletin* and, with Assistant Editor Frank Brench, further improved the journal which had become the best-selling British stamp magazine. Three years later he moved to the NPM as Assistant Curator; in 1988 his post was renamed Deputy Manager. John has worked hard on the administrative side of the Museum yet knows far more about stamps and philately than he is prepared to admit. His friendly style will be missed by his colleagues even if his singing will not! We hope he will enjoy his "early retirement".



John Memmott (left) with Bulletin Editor John Holman in the Main Gallery of the National Postal Museum

John's replacement as Deputy Manager is David Paton, who joined the Post Office in 1964 and has undertaken various duties in both local and regional offices, including counter work and training instructor. David says he welcomes the challenge of his new job and is already enjoying life in King Edward Street.

Royal Mail Plans for 1990

Details were announced on 17 May of the Post Office's plans for stamp issues next year to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Penny Postage and to mark the international stamp exhibition "Stamp World London 90" at Alexandra Palace in May.

On 9 January five special definitives will be issued to mark the 150th anniversary; these will be at the basic second and first class inland rates the international postcard rate and the basic rates for airmail letters to zones B and C. The colour of the first class rate stamp will be black; the colours of the other four values will be announced later as will the design of the stamp. These 1990 definitives will be the same size as the present National and Country definitives and will include the Machin portrait of HM The Queen.

The stamps will initially be available at all post offices; after the initial sales period it is intended they will replace the National definitives for the remainder of the year. 1990 definitives will be included in the 1990 Prestige Book to be issued in March.

A presentation pack and a first day cover will be produced as usual and Post Office "First Day of Issue" postmarks provided for the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and the National Postal Museum, London. On 9 January the Museum will issue a 1990 definitive postcard and a facsimile of the 1840 Mulready envelope will follow on 3 May. Full details of the first day cover, presentation pack and NPM products will be published in due course.

Miniature Sheet

On 3 May, opening day of the "Stamp World" exhibition, the Post Office will issue a miniature sheet commemorating both the Penny Black and the exhibition; this will include one of the 1990 definitives. The sheet will be sold at a premium, monies raised going towards guaranteeing the exhibition. Work is progressing on this sheet which will be a major souvenir of what promises to be a fine exhibition. Details of covers and postmarks will be published in the *Bulletin* at the relevant time.

Earlier Commemorations

The Post Office did not issue special (commemorative) stamps in 1890 when the 50th anniversary of Penny Postage was celebrated. However commemorative stamped stationery was produced – a postcard sold at an exhibition at the Guildhall and an attractive envelope (with pictorial correspondence card inside) at the South Kensington exhibition. By 1940 special stamps were permitted, albeit rather rarely, and six stamps depicting Queen Victoria and King George VI were issued on 6 May.



The 1960 international exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall celebrated the 300th anniversary of the General Letter Office, forerunner of The Post Office. Special stamps marking this anniversary were issued two days before the exhibition opened and extensively used on mail posted at the exhibition post office. For the 1970 exhibition at Olympia, The Post Office issued three stamps reproducing the Penny Black, 1s green of 1847 and the 4d carmine of 1855. The 1980 exhibition, at Earl's Court, was marked by a 50p stamp featuring a montage of London buildings and a set of five stamps showing London landmarks went on sale during the exhibition. Three miniature sheets were issued – in 1978, 1979 and 1980 – to raise funds for the exhibition.

The first miniature sheet in support of the 1990 exhibition was issued in September 1988 (Edward Lear); the second sheet will be released on 25 July 1989 (Industrial Archaeology) and the third, mentioned above, on 3 May 1990.



Industrial Archaeology

4 & 25 July 1989

Four stamps showing noted industrial landmarks of Great Britain are to be issued on 4 July; a miniature sheet will follow on 25 July. This will be the second of three such sheets issued in connection with "Stamp World London 90" – the international stamp exhibition to be staged at London's Alexandra Palace next May.



The **19p** stamp (basic inland first class and EEC rate) features Ironbridge in Shropshire; this, the first iron bridge in the world, was cast in 1779 by the ironmaster Abraham Darby III. The bridge is now part of the extremely popular Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Ironbridge is one of the most important sites in the story of Britain's "Industrial Revolution" of the 18th century.

The **27p** stamp (airmail postcard rate) shows a tin mine at St Agnes in Cornwall, one of many that can be seen along the Cornish coast. The ruins of the great beam engines are often impressive; such engines were used to pump the workings dry or to power winding machinery or drive ore-crushing plants.

The **32p** stamp (Airmail Zone B) depicts the Mills at New Lanark in the Scottish region of Strathclyde. A cotton spinning mill was opened at New Lanark by one David Dale (a name not unknown to collectors of modern definitive stamps) in 1786, employing many dispossessed Highland crofters. He housed them in well-designed tenements. In 1799 the business was taken over by Robert Owen who further improved the lives of his workforce.

The **35p** stamp (Airmail Zone C) features the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Llangollen in Clwyd – Telford's 1,000 foot (305 metres) masterpiece of engineering that carries part of the Shropshire Union Canal over the River Dee.

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Ronald Maddox, VPRI, FCSD, FSAI who designed the 1972 Village Churches and 1978 Historic Buildings stamps and, with Trickett & Webb Ltd, the 1984 Urban Renewal set. He is also responsible for the designs of many stamp book covers – the 1971/4 10p Letter box designs, the 1981/2 £1.15 and £1.25 Museum designs and, most relevantly to the Industrial Archaeology stamps, the 1978/9 90p Canals series.

The stamps were printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 15, and have PVA Dextrin gum.



Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards (formerly referred to as PHQ cards), featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 19 June, price 16p each. They are numbered 119A-D.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 200) will cost £1.35. It was designed by Brian Delaney Design Associates with text by Tim Shackleton. It was printed by Litho-Tech Colour Printers. The

pack includes photographs of the sites featured on the stamps with portraits of Thomas Farnolls Pritchard (designer of the Iron Bridge), Richard Trevithick (Cornish engineer), David Dale and Robert Owen (New Lanark) and Thomas Telford (Pontcysyllte Aqueduct).

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices from 19 June, price 17p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service – one for the Bureau (cog wheel design) and one for Telford (Iron Bridge).

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 4 July.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to:

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
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Telford	Special Postmark Duty Customer Services LDO Castle Foregate SHREWSBURY SY1 1AA
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First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition pictorial First Day handstamps will be available at the London Chief Office (arms of the City of London) and Durham (Cathedral). Covers to receive these handstamps should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (marking outer envelope "City of London Pictorial Handstamp") and Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, 33 Silver St, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored

by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 4 July – full details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards may be given any of the First Day of Issue and sponsored special handstamps. Collectors wishing to have their first day covers/cards returned under cover should enclose a large self-addressed envelope when sending covers/cards in to the relevant Special Postmark Duty for handstamping.



Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 5 July, price 17p. This can be used to obtain relevant Industrial Archaeology postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.

Miniature Sheet

A miniature sheet containing four stamps, values 19p, 27p, 32p and 35p, will go on sale on 25 July, price £1.40. The price includes a premium which will be used to guarantee the "Stamp World London 90" exhibition, the exhibition logo appears in the bottom margin of the sheet.

The sheet measures 122 x 90mm and contains four horizontal (landscape) format stamps which have an expanded view of the four sites shown on the vertical (portrait) format stamps issued in sheets of 100. The design of these horizontal stamps is continued into the borders of the miniature sheet. The sheet was designed by Ronald Maddox and printed by Harrisons.

£1.40

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY



A first day cover will be available, price 17p and a first day cover service provided with special pictorial handstamps for the Bureau and New Lanark (not Telford as previously announced). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned by 25 July.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue an addressed envelope bearing the miniature sheet under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue Postmark" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

New Lanark Special Postmark Duty
Customer Care Unit
1-5 George Square
GLASGOW G2 1AA

day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 26 July, price 17p.

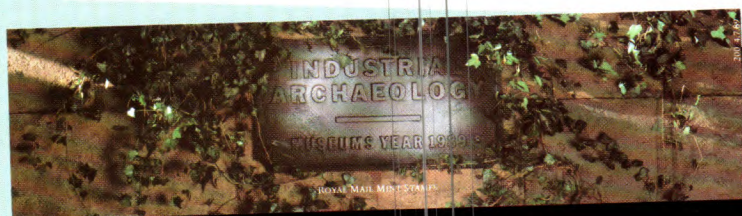
Earlier Related Issues

There have been a number of stamps featuring our industrial past. The Forth Rail Bridge, celebrating its centenary next year, was featured on the 6d stamp in the 1964 Forth Road Bridge issue and Telford's famous Menai Bridge was shown on the 1s 6d stamp in the 1968 Bridges set. The four Social Reformers stamps of 1976 remind us of the hardships of life during the "Industrial Revolution"; the 10p stamp in that set features cotton mill machinery and is dedicated to Robert Owen. The Railway stamps of 1980 recall the early days of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway; the final stamp in the seven-part strip showing smoking chimneys - as does the 17½p stamp in the Famous People (Authoresses) set of the same year.

Six stamp books issued between October 1979 and March 1981 had Industrial Archaeology as the subject for their cover designs. The first in the series featured the Iron Bridge and the third depicted Cornish tin mines.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first



Conditions for many workers, such as the tin miner (Fig. xv), were appalling. Skilled textile hands became more machine-minded, and mechanized spinning equipment (Fig. xv) came in.



Polar Postmasters – The Antarctic

Part 2

TONY GAMMONS

Shackleton-Rowett Expedition, 1921-2

On 5 September 1921 Sir Ernest Shackleton called on the Postmaster-General, F G Kellaway, requesting permission to “have a Post Office on his ship” when he sailed to the Antarctic later in the month. He wished to take with him a supply of British stamps overprinted “Antarctic” or “Antarctic Expedition” and produced examples of New Zealand stamps overprinted “King Edward VII Land” which he had used during his expedition in 1909. After a lengthy discussion, Kellaway said that he was anxious to meet Sir Ernest’s wishes so far as might be possible but pointed out that there would be objections to overprinting. However the Post Office was prepared to issue a £50 credit stock of stamps and a set of rubber datestamps which he could use for cancelling the stamps “according to the uninhabited places at which he might touch.” Shackleton was asked to liaise with the assistant Secretary, F H Williamson, to

which the letters would be posted; he also asked for the stamp stock to be increased from £50 to £100. Arrangements were also made to supply a stock of small mail bags stencilled “R.Y.S. Quest to London”, string, lead seals and letter bills. A “sealing press” with the word “Quest” was also issued. As the expedition was expected to last three years, the datestamps would be provided for the years 1921-24. The rough designs for the rubber stamps were supplied on 7 September (Fig. 1). The Post Office objected

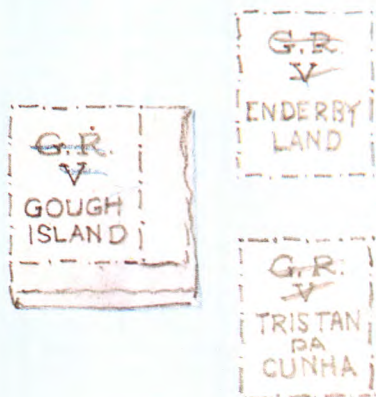


Fig. 1 Rough designs for rubber stamps, September 1921

work out the details. Shackleton called the following day suggesting that his ship the *Quest* be supplied with an ordinary metal datestamp and in addition a number of small square rubber stamps showing the names of the territories in

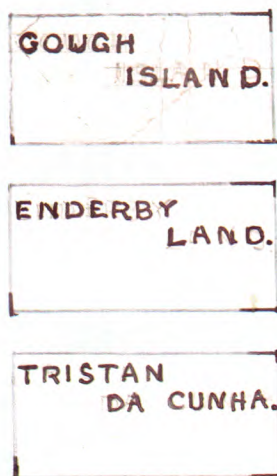


Fig. 2 Post Office alternative designs

to the design on two counts. Firstly, it was not thought appropriate to use the letters “G.R.V” and secondly the stamp was of a size that would give the appearance of “overprinting”. The Post Office produced an alternative design (Fig. 2) and suggested that if two stamps were used Shackleton would get the effect he was seeking (Fig. 3). It was also decided to produce the stamps in metal as it was felt that stamps produced in rubber could be affected by the

50th ANNIVERSARY of the SHACKLETON-ROWETT EXPEDITION



Fig. 3 Tristan da Cunha stamp showing the hand-stamp used

extremely low temperatures in the Antarctic. Artwork was produced for the circular datestamp (Fig. 4), the stamps were issued on 9 September 1921.



Fig. 4 Artwork for circular datestamp

The postage stamps were supplied from the London Chief Office in the following denominations: ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 1s; the bulk of the supply being of the lower values. At Shackleton's request, one sheet each of the 2s 6d, 5s and 10s values were also supplied together with books of certificates of posting and registration labels.

Shackleton sailed in the *Quest* on 17 September 1921 arriving at Grytviken in South Georgia on 4 January 1922. That night he wrote in his diary "At last, we came to anchor in Grytviken. A wonderful evening. In the darkening twilight I saw a lone star hover gem-like above the bay." It was to be his last entry; he died that night of a heart attack. With his passing Britain lost a truly great leader and explorer.



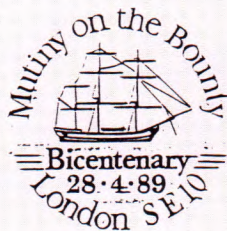
Fig. 5 The Expedition handstamps, now in the National Postal Museum

Commander Frank Wild brought the *Quest* back to Portsmouth, arriving in September 1922. Despite repeated requests it was not until February 1923 that the handstamps and the remaining stamp stock, to the value of £52 3s 8d, were returned to the Post Office. This unique set of handstamps (Fig. 5) can be seen in the "Atlantic" Exhibition at the National Postal Museum until the end of April 1990.

Mutiny on the Bounty

The Mutiny on the *Bounty* is one of the best known of stories in British naval history and has been the subject of at least two major films. To mark the bicentenary, territories directly connected, such as Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands, have issued commemorative stamps and the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich is staging a major exhibition which will run until October. Courtesy of CAPHCO Limited, we are pleased to publish in this *Bulletin* a coupon allowing one person free entry to the exhibition if accompanied by an adult paying the standard entry fee (£3).

In December 1787 the *Bounty* sailed from England under the command of Lieutenant William Bligh. The vessel was bound for the Pacific to collect breadfruit plants in Tahiti and transplant them to the West Indies as a cheap food supply for slaves in the sugar plantations. Bligh was an experienced and generally humane commander but was given to outbursts of irascible temper and foul language.



A special one-day handstamp was used at London SE10 on 28 April 1989 to mark the bicentenary of the mutiny and the opening of the National Maritime Museum exhibition.

After a hard voyage, involving a vain attempt to round Cape Horn, the *Bounty* eventually reached Tahiti in October 1788 and sailed for the West Indies the following April. After the relaxation of Tahiti, Bligh faced the difficult task of restoring discipline to his crew; on 28 April the situation deteriorated and the mate, Fletcher Christian, led a mutiny. Bligh and 18 loyal crew were cast adrift off Tonga; Christian and the *Bounty* continued to Timor, East Indies.

On Bligh's return to England, HMS *Pandora* was sent to search for the mutineers. Eventually three were hanged but most, including Christian, escaped capture by settling with their Tahitian women on Pitcairn Island. When the community was discovered by chance in 1808, only one of the original mutineers remained alive.

Tourist Postmarks

ALAN G FINCH

Most readers will be familiar with the special pictorial handstamps in use at philatelic sales counters throughout the United Kingdom. These carry an illustration of a local landmark or symbol and the postmarks are available every day throughout the year, whenever the philatelic counters are open for business.

A good proportion of these handstamps are in use in towns and cities that attract a large number of visitors and could justifiably be termed "tourist" postmarks. However, the purpose of this article is to point out several additional postmarks that have been used and others that are still in regular use at centres of tourist interest and which may not be as well known.

The first permanent handstamp of this type was introduced on 19 February 1969 at the National Postal Museum, London, with its circular design incorporating a Maltese Cross canceller as used from 1840 on the world's first adhesive postage stamps, the Penny Black and Twopence Blue (Fig. 1). A revised Maltese Cross design, applied in brownish-red ink, was used from 2 October 1972 (Fig. 2), and this in turn was replaced on 1 July 1980 by the postmark currently in use – a duplex design also incorporating a Maltese Cross and struck in bright red (Fig. 3).

Rowland Hill and Nelson

As forerunners to the later philatelic counter handstamps, the busy offices at Trafalgar Square, London WC2 and the London Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1 introduced permanent pictorial postmarks for tourist use on 14 August 1972. The rectangular designs included, respectively, the statues of Admiral Lord Nelson (Fig. 4) and Sir Rowland Hill. The use of these postmarks coincided with the introduction of the first of the Post Office "souvenir" covers, using the design of the "Village Churches" first day cover. They had first been placed on sale at the Belgica International Stamp Exhibition at Brussels on 29 June 1972.

Most Northerly Post Office

A very little-known handstamp has been in use

at "Britain's Northermost Post Office" since 1 July 1972 (Fig. 5). This may be found at Haroldswick Post Office situated on the island of Unst in the Shetlands. The plain rectangular postmark has been used since 1972, with only minor modifications to size and layout (Fig. 6), including a slight change in wording to "North-ermmost", from 1976. Most impressions are made during the summer months when several thousand cards are posted by visiting tourists whose buses make a regular stop at the post office.

A special pictorial handstamp was used at Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, from 15 July 1974 until 14 July 1975 with the wording "The Oldest Post Office in Britain 1763". It included an illustration of the window of the post office.

There has always been a demand for a special "Windsor" cancellation, particularly on definitive stamp new issue days, and a permanent circular postmark was introduced largely for this purpose from 8 October 1973 (Fig. 7). This was superseded on 2 May 1975 and again on 11 July 1977 (Fig. 8) by rectangular pictorial handstamps showing Windsor Castle in their designs. The latter was replaced on 21 February 1983 by the current Windsor Philatelic Counter postmark.

Heathrow - Gateway to Britain

One of the busiest places for tourists must be London's Heathrow Airport where a permanent postmark was brought into use on 1 October 1974 (Fig. 9). This large circular design, after some slight modification, was replaced on 22 November 1979 by a much smaller circular postmark (Fig. 10) incorporating a stylised Concorde aircraft which with minor changes remains in use to date. However, the posting boxes for this postmark have now been removed from the airport terminal post offices and the cancellation is only obtainable under the reposting facility from Twickenham Post Office.

In 1976 it was decided to introduce pictorial postmarks at the three national capitals in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These were



1



2



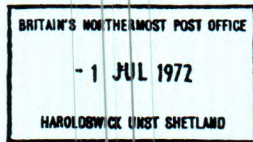
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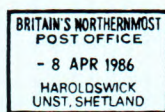
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4



5



7



8



9



10



11



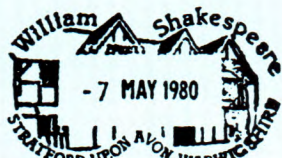
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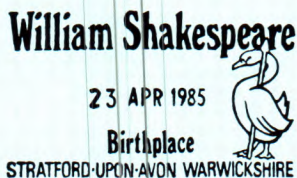
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14



15



16



17



18



19



20

first used on 1 March 1976 in Edinburgh (Fig. 11), Cardiff and Belfast and included local scenes in their designs – Edinburgh and Cardiff Castles and, at Belfast, the famous Harland and Wolf Shipyard crane. These rectangular handstamps continued in use until they were replaced on 23 September 1981 by the current philatelic counter postmarks.

Ancient and Modern

Caernarfon Castle in North Wales is a very popular tourist attraction and from 2 March until 30 September 1978 a handstamp showing a view of the castle was in use. In the same year, the Brighton Centre, the south coast modern venue for large conferences, exhibitions and indoor sporting events was provided with its own circular handstamp. From 6 June 1978 it was used on items posted at the Centre's own Post Office although it was only brought into use during the times when a conference, etc. was in progress. It is understood that the postmark has not been used since late 1983 and is no longer available for cancellation of ordinary mail although a specially inscribed counter datestamp is in use on registered mail, etc.

London, of course, is the most popular tourist centre in the United Kingdom and

additional tourist postmarks have been provided at two further places. The first was used from 17 January 1984 at London SW1 (Fig. 12) and depicted part of Buckingham Palace and two guards on sentry duty. The rectangular design was replaced by a new circular one, also showing the Palace, on 6 May 1986 (Fig. 13) and which is still in use. The other postmark shows the Tower of London (Fig. 14) with the wording "Tower Hill London EC3" and has been in permanent use since 21 April 1986.

Seasonal Use

There are several other handstamps which, although available on a daily basis, are only brought into use during the tourist season. Perhaps the best known of these was first used at Stratford-Upon-Avon from 7 May 1980 (Fig. 15) commemorating Britain's most famous playwright William Shakespeare, showing a view of his birthplace. This postmark and two further rectangular designs introduced in 1982 and 1985 (Fig. 16) respectively, was used from April until September each year. Sadly this was not the case in 1988 when, due to little demand, the service was withdrawn, although it was used on two separate dates, the first of which was 23 April, Shakespeare's birthday. For the 1989



Britain's Most Northerly Post Office, Haroldswick, Shetland

PN5444

season, the handstamp, of a new, more circular, design, has been restored to daily use (23 April - 30 September).

A similar seasonal handstamp has been in use since 1983 at Holmfirth near Huddersfield - the location for the filming of the "Last of the Summer Wine" TV comedy series. Since 21 March 1987 another handstamp has been in use on a permanent basis at the Postcard Museum at Holmfirth - home of the famous Bamforth postcard manufacturers. From 1983 to 1987 an attractive handstamp was used on mail posted at Broadlands, Romsey, Hants - the mansion home of the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma, a very popular tourist attraction.

In the same style as the philatelic counter postmarks, a number of pictorial handstamps have been introduced at offices where there is not a full philatelic counter service but where a demand was perceived for a tourist postmark. On 22 January 1985 three were brought into use, respectively at Dorchester, Salisbury and Taunton (Fig. 17) and on 6 January 1986 three more at Hastings (Fig. 18), Battle and Rye.

Lastly, although perhaps not strictly to be considered as tourist postmarks, there are three handstamps in permanent use at post offices where parties of visitors are regularly received. In 1979 code sorting of mail was introduced at Manchester, in April, and Liverpool, in June. Since that time a regular postmark has been in use at each office reading "Codesort Comes to Manchester" and "...Liverpool". There has been some change in the design of the postmarks during this period but the wording has remained the same (Fig. 19). The North East Parcel Centre of Royal Mail Parcels at Washington, Tyne and Wear, has had a pictorial handstamp in use since 30 May 1984 (Fig. 20), the design of which shows a fast moving parcel delivery truck.

Apart from the use of these many different postmarks by local tourists, collectors can make use of them at any time, under the reposting facility, particularly when the design or location is appropriate to a new issue of stamps on first day covers. The addresses for sending covers/cards to receive these postmarks are given below. Mail must bear stamps to the value of the appropriate postage rate plus 4p handstamping fee, thus for UK addresses 18p (second class) or 23p (first class).

Readers interested in learning more about these postmarks are recommended to obtain a copy of *Special Event Postmarks of the United*

Kingdom which includes a special section with complete details of their use. This can be purchased directly from the publishers - British Postmark Society, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH, price £8 plus £1 for postage & packing. The book is also available from the Sales Counter at the National Postal Museum, London. Details of new permanent and seasonal tourist handstamps are given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* published fortnightly by The Post Office. Subscriptions should be sent to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT; the rates are £7.50 UK, £9.50 Europe and £17 Rest of World (Airmail).

Reposting addresses

National Postal Museum
Special Postmark Duty
City of London LDO
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA

Haroldswick
Sub Postmaster
Haroldswick PO
Unst
SHETLAND ZE2 9ED

Heathrow Airport
Special Postmark Duty
Twickenham LDO
109 London Road
TWICKENHAM TW1 1AA

London SW1 (Buckingham Palace)
Special Postmark Duty
SWDO
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

Stratford (Shakespeare)
Special Postmark Duty
Stratford Post Office
24 Bridge Street
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
Warwickshire
CV37 6AA

Tower Hill
Special Postmark Duty
City of London LDO
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA

Holmfirth Summer Wine & Postcard Museum
Special Postmark Duty
Holmfirth Post Office
Holmfirth
HUDDERSFIELD
HD7 1AA

Taunton Philatelic Sales
Special Postmark Duty
Royal Mail Letters
TAUNTON
Somerset
TA1 1AA

Salisbury Philatelic Sales
Special Postmark Duty
Royal Mail Letters
SALISBURY
Wilts
SP1 1AA

Dorchester Philatelic Sales
Special Postmark Duty
Royal Mail Letters
DORCHESTER
Dorset
DT1 1AA

Hastings
Special Postmark Duty
Royal Mail Letters
HASTINGS
East Sussex
TN34 1AA

Battle
Special Postmark Duty
Royal Mail Letters
BATTLE
East Sussex
TN33 0AA

Rye
Special Postmark Duty
Royal Mail Letters
RYE
East Sussex
TN31 7AA

Manchester Codesort
Special Postmark Duty
Manchester LDO
63 Newton Street
MANCHESTER M1 1AA

Liverpool Codesort
Special Postmark Duty
Liverpool LDO
Copperas Hill
LIVERPOOL L3 1AA

North East Parcel Centre
Special Postmark Duty
North East Parcel Centre
WASHINGTON
Tyne & Wear
NE37 1EQ

Yes Prime Minister



On 16 January the Prime Minister named a new British Rail locomotive "Avocet" in honour of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Mrs Thatcher was presented with a sheet of the 19p Puffin stamp by Sir Bryan Nicholson, Chairman of The Post Office. Also in the photograph are Sir Robert Reid, Chairman of British Rail, and Magnus Magnusson, President of the RSPB.

British Theatre

British Special Issues: No.153

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The "Europa" theme for 1982 was "Historical Events" and the British Post Office chanced its arm by issuing four stamps concerned with the history of the British theatre from Elizabethan times, two 250th anniversaries being involved (see below). The event which the stamps really commemorate was the opening, in 1982, of the Barbican Centre in the City of London as a permanent home for the Royal Shakespeare Company and a fine centre for the arts generally.

Possibly as a "sweetener" for the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications, the CEPT logo and the word EUROPA appeared on all four stamps for the first time. Up to 1981 the logo had been confined to the two stamps covering the basic British inland first class and European letter rates; in 1982 this would have been 15½p and 19½p stamps.

The term "theatre" was interpreted broadly. It was in 1576 that James Burbage founded London's first public playhouse, a building called "The Theatre". Others, such as the famous Globe (with its Shakespearean associations), followed but all were suppressed by the Puritan government under Cromwell, only to be restored under the Royal Patents of Charles II, granted solely to the King's and Duke's theatre companies. In 1674, the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, replaced "King's" (which had been destroyed by fire in 1671) and became London's only official theatre until 1695. Even then, only "Patented" theatres were licensed to produce drama. This was a limiting factor on theatre development until the Queen's Theatre, Haymarket (built 1705) became the home of Italian opera. In 1732, the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, was opened as a playhouse. Elsewhere, minor theatres around the country were confined to programmes of music and dancing, marionettes and puppets. The Patent Theatre's monopoly was finally abolished in 1843 from which date drama was available to small companies all over the country and pantomime, together with other forms of stage entertainment began to flourish.

The stamps delicately designed by Adrian

George and issued on 28 April 1982, illustrate various facets of stagecraft:

15½p – this features a ballerina and marks the 250th anniversary of the first Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

19½p – Harlequin, reminiscent of pantomime, first staged in 1723 at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre.

26p – the inevitable Hamlet with "poor Yorick's" skull – a tribute to drama.

29p – a *prima donna* (un-named) singer in *The Beggar's Opera* by John Gay whose 250th death anniversary occurred in 1982.



The printing was by Harrisons, in photogravure on a phosphor-coated paper, perf. 14 x 15, in sheets of 100 with Dextrin gum. No major constant flaws are recorded although several minor flaws occur on each value. As usual, the set was withdrawn from sale, on 28 April 1983, one year after its issue and the sales were announced as follows: 15½p – 41,492,200; 19½p – 9,222,900; 26p – 8,740,000 and 29p – 7,811,800.

The usual PHQ cards were issued (235,000 sets produced) and The Post Office provided pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps at the British Philatelic Bureau (stage spotlight apparatus) and Stratford-Upon-Avon (a drawing of a swan, paying tribute to the Swan of Avon).

Last Orders for Definitive Variations

The two 50p, £1, £1.30 and £1.80 stamp books issued on 5 July 1988 will be withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters on 4 July. The 50p and £1 books contain a number of definitive variations not available now from other sources and collectors requiring copies for their collectors are advised to order as soon as possible. The earlier issues of books containing these stamps have now been withdrawn. The stamps concerned are:

50p first class book (Bureau code DB200)

1p side band left
13p side band right
18p two phosphor bands

50p second class book (Bureau code DB201)

1p centre phosphor band, straight edge left
5p light reddish-brown, centre phosphor band, straight edge left
13p centre phosphor band, straight edge right



£1 book (Bureau code DB202)

13p side band left, straight edge left
18p two phosphor bands, straight edge left
18p two phosphor bands, straight edge right
18p two phosphor bands (narrow band at left), straight edge right

Notes: 1. The stamps in the 50p first class book are perforated on all sides. 2. All stamps have "New Phosphor Ink" phosphor bands. 3. The 5p stamps in the 50p second class book are printed photogravure; sheet stamps in the light reddish-brown colour were litho-printed and were withdrawn from sale on 11 April. The current 5p stamp, issued 26 July 1988, is ash-pink in colour.

Withdrawal of Edward Lear Miniature Sheet

The Edward Lear miniature sheet is to be withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters on 24 July, the day before issue of the Industrial Archaeology miniature sheet. The Lear stamps (from sheets of 100) will remain on sale until 5 September.



Thematica 89

So successful were the Thematica exhibitions held in 1987 and 1988 that the 1989 exhibition has been expanded into a two-day event with an additional hall being added. This has enabled space to be available for the main thematic dealers in Britain as well as the thematic societies. The additional hall will be used for the thematic stamp competition which together with invited thematic displays will, no doubt, include some of the most attractive exhibits ever to be seen in Britain. The exhibition will be staged at the Carisbrook Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday and Sunday 24-25 June. Opening hours: 10.30am to 5.30pm Saturday, 10.30 to 5.00 Sunday; admission free. Enquiries to: The Secretary, Thematica Exhibitions, PO Box 255, 6 Buckingham Street, LONDON WC2N 6JR, Tel. 01-836 0997 or 01-930 2099.

Cylinder News

Reader B K Davies of Folkestone reports that the January 50p machine book (Pirates of Penzance) exists with cylinders B1 B16 as well as B1 B17 reported in the March *Bulletin*.

The 14p Scotland and Wales "Country" stamps have recently been printed from plates Q5Q5 and Q6Q6.

Philatelic Counters

The first philatelic sales counter was opened at the London Chief Office in King Edward Street in 1966 following the removal of the Philatelic Bureau from London to Edinburgh. Since then over 60 further counters have opened at main post offices throughout the United Kingdom.

In recent months discussions have been held between Royal Mail Stamps & Philately (RMSP) and Post Office Counters Ltd (POCL) on how best to improve the philatelic sales service for collectors and the general public. It is intended to make philatelic products available to a wider market. In particular they have been looking at how customers are served by the philatelic counters.

The results of these discussions have recently been announced:

1. A number of key philatelic counters are to undergo major refurbishment, including the "flagship" office at London's Trafalgar Square Post Office. Work is to commence on up to five offices in the Autumn. This refurbishment will be jointly funded by RMSP and POCL.

2. A major re-design is to be carried out of philatelic counters and philatelic merchandising units. It is hoped to provide a more shop-like environment that will have a strong appeal to

the general public and will attract more people to the hobby.

3. The presentation of philatelic products at POCL branch offices has been reviewed and will be improved.

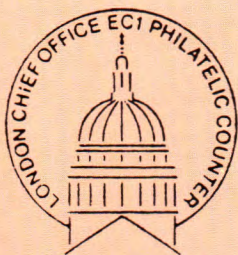
4. A programme of general refurbishment at main post offices is being planned and where such work takes place at offices with philatelic counters, the opportunity will be taken to replace the old style counter. To minimise disruption to collectors whilst rebuilding work is going on, one of the general counters, sign-posted "Philatelic", will provide as full a philatelic service as possible.

5. A wider range of philatelic products are to be offered in the Postshops now to be found at 47 main offices. Postshops are to be upgraded and extended and their increased philatelic involvement will add to the number of specialist outlets for collectors.

More detailed information will be made available during the summer and published in the *Bulletin*. Both Royal Mail Stamps & Philately and Post Office Counters Ltd are determined to make concerted efforts to support philately, improve the service for existing customers and make a wider number of people aware of the philatelic products on offer.

New Pictorial Aerogrammes

On 1 August packs of six pictorial aerogrammes will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. The six aerogrammes feature "Landscapes of Britain" – one each showing Coastline, Gardens, Lakes, Landmarks, Mountains, and Rivers. Each aerogramme shows three designs by Ronald Maddox; for example the Coastline aerogramme features Porthgain, Dyfed, Wales; White Rocks, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland and Durdle Door, Lulworth, Dorset, England. Details of the designs will be given in next month's *Bulletin*. No first day of issue facilities will be offered.



-- 2 MAR '89

London Chief Office
Philatelic Counter handstamp

Posting Boxes

No.100. This feature began life in July 1978 and it is gratifying that so many readers have taken an interest and sent in photographs/transparencies of interesting boxes they have come across. We have featured Penfold boxes several times as they are perhaps the most popular of Victorian boxes; it is appropriate that they should be the subject of this centenary feature.



Jean Farrugia in her standard book, *The Letter Box* (1969), listed nearly 90 locations of these boxes including six in the Irish Republic. One of these – at Rocky Valley, Kilmacanogue, near Bray in Co. Wicklow is illustrated this month. The box is about ½ mile off the main Dublin-Wexford road and appears to be sinking into the ground. One expert suggests that as the box has probably stood on the same site for over 100 years, the ground has gradually built up around it. It still bears the VR royal cypher but has the Irish Post Office “P & T” (Posts & Telegraphs) cypher painted above it. A similar box is to be seen near the Town Hall in Bray.

Our thanks to Mr W R Kilpatrick of Enniskerry for sending the photograph.

Bulletin Back Issues

We receive a fair number of requests for back numbers of the *Bulletin*. Back issues are kept for one year and are available from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, price 40p each (no handling charge). Copies are also available for one year from the Sales Counter at the National Postal Museum in London. Please note that the August 1988 issue is now out of print.

For some years now Ms E M Parsons of Aberdeen has operated a non-profit making scheme for collectors to acquire and sell back numbers of the *Bulletin*. Ms Parsons has for sale reprints of Vols 1 and 2 bound together between a soft cover at £6 including inland postage. Photocopies can be supplied to order of issues from volumes 3 to 6, price 60p each plus postage. Original copies of many issues from volumes 7 to 20 are available at 25p each, from volume 21 onwards at 35p each – all plus postage.

Ms Parsons is interested in acquiring issues from vols 3-10 but has adequate stocks of later issues. She is not able to undertake the time consuming task of searching and copying specific articles.

She would be pleased to hear from people who would be interested in taking over the service in a year or so; donating her stock of back issues (worth about £800 meantime) to her successor. She wishes to point out that the work, although attracting interesting mail from all over the world and making some collectors very happy, produces no profit and can at irregular intervals take up a lot of time.

All orders or enquiries (with stamped, self-addressed envelope) to: Ms E M Parsons, 31 Redmoss Road, Nigg, ABERDEEN AB1 4JD.

Dawlish Exhibition

In conjunction with the Dawlish Arts Festival, the Dawlish Stamp Club will be hosting the Wessex Federation annual competition and travelling display in an “Exhibition of Postage Stamps” featuring members’ exhibits. To be held in the Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish, Devon on Saturday 17 June from 10am to 4.30pm. A number of dealers are expected to attend and refreshments will be available.

Enquiries to: Club Secretary, Peter Webb, Glebe Cottage, Weech Road, DAWLISH, Devon, EX7 9BW, tel. 0626 862800.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

164. £5 Telegraph Stamp

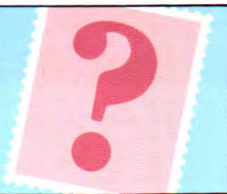
The Post Office Telegraph Service officially started on 1 August 1869 with a charge of 1s for up to a maximum of 20 words, with 3d for every five additional words. Until 1 February 1876 telegraph forms were used with an embossed 1s stamp; further charges being covered by the use of current postage stamps. Special 1d, 3d, 1s and 5s telegraph stamps were brought into use that day with 4d, 6d, 10s, £1 and £5 stamps added to the range on 1 March 1877. A ½d stamp followed on 1 April 1880 and a 3s value on 1 March 1887. These stamps were printed by De La Rue. The £5 stamp was printed in orange in sheets of 56.

The Phillips Collection includes an extensive range of die proofs, plate proofs and colour trials as well as the issued stamps (both mint and used); these can be seen in Bank O in the Museum's main gallery.



Shown here are examples of the colour trials of the £5 stamp in gold and pale ultramarine, to be seen on page 7 of Volume 44. Colour trials also exist in grey-green, dull mauve, dull claret, slate blue and brown-lilac. All are overprinted SPECIMEN; the gold trial is also known without the overprint. The word TELEGRAPHS was later replaced by POSTAGE and the plate used to print the £5 postage stamp issued in 1882.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning blocks of four of the obsolescent Machin Head £1, £1.50, £1.60, £2 and £5 high value stamps to be withdrawn in October. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: June Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 28 July.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be sent the blocks of High Value stamps. The senders of the next three correct entries drawn will receive singles of the stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the September *Bulletin*.

1. Who opened a cotton-spinning mill at New Lanark in 1786?
2. Which famous bridge featured on the 1s 6d stamp in the 1968 Bridges issue?
3. Who brought the *Quest* back to Portsmouth in September 1922?
4. When was the National Postal Museum's first Maltese Cross handstamp introduced?
5. Which is Britain's Most Northerly Post Office?
6. Who is Head of Illustration at the Royal College of Art?

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 March competition were: R Morton of Kent; G Mahoney of Devon; N Dreischer of West Germany; Miss E Phillips of Herts; D Wood of London and L Cooper of Middlesex.

The answers were: 1. Coated Papers Ltd (page 162), 2. Four (164), 3. 11 April 1989 (163), 4. House of Questa (170), 5. King George VI (176), 6. March 1904 (183).

Our thanks to all who entered.

Stamp Advisory Committee Anniversary

On 5 April the Chairman and Chief Executive of The Post Office, Sir Bryan Nicholson, hosted a reception for past and present members of the Stamp Advisory Committee to mark its 21st anniversary. Sir Bryan paid tribute to the work of the members of the Committee, saying: "We are rightfully proud in Britain of leading the world with the quality of our stamp design. The Royal Mail is also very aware of the great responsibility entrusted to it to maintain and develop this reputation. It is the Stamp Advisory Committee which has for 21 years played this key role in protecting Britain's philatelic heritage, and which is central to the flourishing state of British stamp design today." Amongst the guests at the reception was Lord Paul Reilly, a member of the first committee, when he was Director of the Design Council.

The SAC meets monthly to discuss every stage of the stamp design process. It is an exacting and demanding task with at any one time a whole number of different stamp issues underway. The Committee advises on everything from design implications if a particular subject is accepted to drawing up shortlists of designers right for each job. The Post Office Design Adviser then commissions and briefs a selection of designers to produce initial artwork for particular stamp issues. The work of the SAC was explained in Barry Robinson's article in last October's *Bulletin* (pages 52-54), where biographies of the members of the 1984-89 Committee were given.

The members of the SAC for 1989-94 are: Keith Fisher, General Manager Royal Mail Stamps & Philately (Chairman); Barry Robinson; Mrs Enid Jones, representing the Dept of Trade & Industry; Derrick Howlett, representing Harrison & Sons Ltd; Lady Casson; Lord Paul Reilly; Dan Fern; John McConnell; Richard Negus; Prof Herbert Spencer; Dr Jean Alexander; Dr Alan Huggins; M. Jean Varga; Eric Ogden and Christian Petersen. The majority of these served on the previous Committee; details of the three new members, replacing Mr Keith Grant, Mrs Gabrielle Pike and Mr Michael Wolff, are given below.

Mr Dan Fern is Head of Illustration at the Royal College of Art. He has won both Gold and Silver Design and Art Direction Awards and designed the Winners Award for the BBC

Design Award of 1987. He recently designed the Games & Toys stamps.

M. Jean Varga is a French national whose family has been at the forefront of philately for almost 100 years. His company is the agent for Royal Mail Stamps in France and he is Chairman of the International Association of Stamp Catalogue Producers.

Mr Christian Petersen is an Exhibitioner of New College, Oxford, reading modern history. He worked in advertising before specialising in sales promotion; co-founded Kingsland Lloyd Petersen Ltd, a leading consultancy in 1974 and was Managing Director of the KLP Group plc from 1983 to 1986. He was the youngest member of the Advertising Association and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, and is a Fellow and Life Member of the Institute of Sales Promotion.

Northeast Philatelic Week-end 1989

A souvenir booklet was produced in connection with the Week-end (19-21 May); this contained 19p Anniversaries stamps. The booklet covers, like the stamps, were printed by the House of Questa. The stamp to commemorate the 150th



anniversary of public education in England & Wales is particularly appropriate to the week-end which aims to promote the hobby. This booklet is in no way connected with The Post Office. All orders/enquiries to: Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 4RY. Price £3.50 per pair of booklets, inclusive of postage.



Displaying Aerogrammes

Sir,

It was pleasing to hear of other collectors of aerogrammes, particularly as far afield as the USA (*Bulletin* April 1988 and February 1989). Displaying and preserving these thin sheets is important as with all philatelic specimens, mint condition is desirable. Even the older used or mint examples survive longer if encased.

I file mine in bound "Rexel" Nyrex Slim-view Display books, foolscap with 24 pockets. The aerogrammes will slide easily into them and show the complete opened sheet with the used folded one on top. The reverse of each blank sheet can be covered exactly by the next issue, in the same sleeve – thereby giving a continuous display on every page. (The larger issues may have one gummed edge folded – perhaps a size A4 book would alleviate this.)

An error or printing change can be shown by inserting a small coloured philatelic arrow pointing towards the detail and without sticking it down it will remain in place inside the sleeve; any notes may also be inserted separately.

It is a pity the British Philatelic Bureau does not provide a first day service for aerogrammes as not many dealers seem too interested in this very necessary branch of philately.

P A ELLIOTT (Mrs), Clevedon, Avon

Writing Up Labels

Sir,

I have produced some classifying labels, which I have mounted alongside the stamps in my collection. I am certain other collectors could do the same, rendering the need for hand written information unnecessary, keeping the album in a pristine condition, and not over-crowded with hand written information.

These labels are printed Letter-press on white art paper, and display at a glance all the information desirable to each individual set of stamps, in an area no larger than that of a commemorative

stamp, and serves quite well as a catalogue regarding information about the stamps. Only one label is required for each set of stamps.

FOLKLORE

Issued 6 Feb. 1981

14p St. Valentine's Day

18p Morris Dancers

22p Lammastide

25p Medieval Mummers

Unwatermarked coated paper, pre-treated phosphor. Size: 41mm x 30mm Perforations: 15 x 14 PVA Dextrin adhesive

I would be pleased to send a sample label to any interested collector on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Complete sets of 210 labels can be supplied, covering all commemorative (special) issues from 1924 to November 1988. Future labels for stamps issued from 1989 will also be available.

ERIC FINLAY, 47 Briar Road, Armthorpe, DONCASTER, South Yorkshire, DN3 2EE.

Stamp Printers

Sir,

In the article on Walsall Security Printers (*April Bulletin*), you state that British stamps of the present reign have been produced by six printers – Harrisons, De La Rue, Waterlow, Bradbury Wilkinson, Waddington and Questa. In 1979 a printing of the 8p definitive was undertaken by the Dutch firm of Enschede – making seven printers.

S STANLEY, Stanmore, Middx

Boys' Brigade

Sir,

I read with interest the article on the Youth Organisations stamps (*April Bulletin*), but felt I had to write and point out an error in the section relating to the Boys' Brigade. The BB badge symbolised by the anchor is inscribed SURE & STEDFAST and not STEADFAST. Steadfast is the dictionary entry and Stedfast the Biblical.

P A DAVIES, Swansea

Thank you Mr Stanley and Mrs Davies for setting the record straight. Ed.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; any enquiries should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin Editor.

Rothwell Methodist Church. Rothwell Methodist Church, Leeds is celebrating its 225th anniversary this year – in 1764 a house and stable in Butcher Lane, Rothwell was sold to the local Methodists for five shillings, to be used as a preaching house. John Wesley visited Rothwell on five occasions between 1772 and 1780 and reputedly preached at Butcher Lane Chapel on at least one occasion. The special cover shows the church of today, built on to the Sunday School in 1900 as an Assembly Hall and converted in 1971 into a dual purpose church after the old church had been demolished. The cover will bear the 19p Industrial Archaeology stamp cancelled on the day of issue (4 July). Price £1; all proceeds for the church building fund. Orders/enquiries to: W Ward, 23 Kings Chase, Rothwell, LEEDS LS26 0HL.

Southend Pier. A commemorative cover is being produced to mark the centenary of Southend's Iron Pier – the longest Pleasure Pier in the World, opened on 8 July 1889. The cover, sponsored by Southend Pier Museum Foundation and the Southend Society, features the Victorian Pier and the filler card gives the history of the Pier and its railway. A special Centenary handstamp will be used. Price £2 with single Victorian Britain stamp, £3.50 with full set; postage 35p UK, 75p overseas. Orders/enquiries to: Southend Pier Museum Foundation, 36 Shaftesbury Avenue, Thorpe Bay, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS1 2YS.

30th Anniversary of RAFLET. A special cover was produced in connection with the special handstamp used on 11 April to mark the 30th anniversary of the RAFLET philatelic society. The cover features RAF Hastings (1959), RAF Tristar (1989), a globe and list of RAFLET countries. The cover, No 72 in the Forces First Day Cover Series, is signed by the President and Hon Secretary of the society and bears a cachet giving details of a Tristar flight to Cyprus. Price £4 including post & packing; proceeds to the RAFLET Groom Memorial Fund for a Monoclonal Analyser for the London Hospital. Remittances payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund"; orders/enquiries to: Gp Capt W S O Randle, 60 Shelves Way, TADWORTH, Surrey, KT20 8QE.

25th Anniversary of Passenger Helicopter Service. To mark the 25th anniversary of scheduled Passenger Helicopter Service, a special cover has been produced showing a SN61 Helicopter on a map of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The cover, No JS (AC) 33 in the Joint Services Coordinated Series, bears a cachet giving flight details. Some covers will be signed by the flight crew and some may be available signed by Lord Wilson (former Prime Minister) and Mr Maxwell. A special 18 April handstamp was used; the covers bear Bird stamps. Price £2.75 unsigned, £3.25 signed; proceeds from sales to Lord Dowding Sheltered Housing Project Appeal. Remittances to "J.S.P.C.F." and orders/enquiries to Gp Capt Randle, address above.

25th Anniversary of the Red Arrows. To mark the 25th anniversary of this famous team and the Wyton Air Display a special cover was produced with special handstamp of 13 May. The design features the Red Arrows over Biggin Hill and covers are available signed by one Red Arrow or by all nine Red Arrows and the Team Manager. The cover, No JS (AC) 34 in the Joint Services Coordinated Series, has Scottish Country stamps. Single pilot signed covers cost £2.75, multi-signature covers £5.25. Remittances to "J.S.P.C.F." and orders/enquiries to Gp Capt Randle, address above.

40th Anniversary of First Flight of Canberra. A special cover was produced for the anniversary on 13 May. No JS(AC) 35, the cover shows a prototype, bomber and P.R. versions of the Canberra and bears a cachet giving flight details. The cover will be available unsigned (£2.75), or signed by a pilot (£3.25) or by Wg Cdr Roly Beamont, Chief Test Pilot (£3.75). The covers bear Bird stamps. Proceeds from sales to the Lord Dowding Appeal; remittances and orders/enquiries as above.

75th Anniversary of RNAS. To mark the anniversary of the Royal Naval Air Service, a special cover was produced showing the Armada Chess set against a montage of the recent Armada stamps. A special handstamp was used on 16 May showing the RNAS Wings. The cover bears the full set of Games & Toys stamps and is signed by Robert Olswang, Managing Director of the Danbury Mint. Number RFDC 73 in the Forces First Day Cover Series. Price £4 including post & packing. Proceeds to the Lord Dowding Appeal; remittances and orders/enquiries as above.

No. 72 Squadron. To commemorate the 72nd anniversary of No. 72 Squadron, a special cover will be produced on 4 July with an illustration showing a miniature sheet featuring Bristol Mic, Gladiator, Spitfire and Wessex planes. The cover will bear Northern Ireland "Country" stamps cancelled with a Forces 2201 handstamp showing the Squadron's badge. Standard covers will cost £2.25, pilot signed £2.75 and a "special" signed by a Battle of Britain ace of the 72 Squadron, £3.75. All remittances should be payable to JSPCF and orders/enquiries sent to Gp Capt Randle at the address above.

Hull Civic Society. To mark the Society's Silver Jubilee a special cover will be available bearing the set of Industrial Archaeology stamps cancelled with the Hull Philatelic Counter handstamp (Humber Bridge) of 4 July. The cover will incorporate the design of the Society's membership card and will be in two colours. Price £2.50 plus 25p postage; remittances payable to "Hull Civic Society". Orders, by 20 June, to: I A Cooper (Hon Treasurer, Hull Civic Society), Little Orchard, Ringrose Lane, Anlaby, HULL HU10 7BX.

The Archers. A special cover to commemorate the 10,000th episode of this popular radio programme has been produced by the BBC at Pebble Mill, Birmingham where the programme is made. The cover features a pre-war radio and has a 19p Food & Farming stamp cancelled with a special handstamp of 26 May and a "Posted at Ambridge Post Office" cachet. Price £1, remitt-

ances should be payable to "BBC" and sent to: Archers Cover, BBC, Pebble Mill Road, BIRMINGHAM B5 7SD. A self-adhesive, self-addressed label measuring no larger than 2½" across by 1½" deep must be included with the order. Alternatively a self-addressed 9 x 6" envelope bearing a 27p stamp should be included.

Food & Farming. On 24 May a genuine 19th century mail coach, drawn by four horses, ran from Castle Place PO in Belfast and followed, as far as possible, the old Belfast to Dublin mail route to the show grounds of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society at Balmoral (Belfast). A specially designed envelope was produced bearing the four Food & Farming stamps cancelled by a special handstamp. Only 550 covers were carried on the coach, marked by a special cachet. Price £4.50; applications for these, to be decided by ballot, should be sent to the address below. Ordinary "first day covers" are available, price £2.75 and commemorative covers bearing the special handstamp for 25 or 26 May, price £2.50 each. All orders/enquiries to: Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, Kings Hall, Lisburn Road, BELFAST BT9 6GW; marking envelope "First Day Cover".

D Day Anniversary. On 6 June the Portsmouth D Day Museum are issuing a special cover to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the D Day Landings. The cover will feature wartime newspaper front pages and will bear a 19p stamp cancelled with a special handstamp. Price £1.60 plus 35p for post & packing; orders/enquiries to: R Thorne, Administrative Officer, City Museum & Art Gallery, Museum Road, PORTSMOUTH PO1 2LJ.

1989 Ashes Tour. Stamp Publicity of Worthing are producing a series of covers for the 1989 Ashes Tour. The series began with the Opening Match at Arundel Castle (7 May) and continues with the First Test at Headingley (8 June), Second Test at Lord's (22 June), Third Test at Edgbaston (6 July), Fourth Test at Old Trafford (27 July) and ends with the Sixth Test Match at the Oval on 24 August. Special handstamps are being sponsored for use on the covers. The cover design features the Lion and Kangaroo and give relevant match details. Each cover costs £2.25 with a special price of £14 for all seven covers. Orders/enquiries to: Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd, 28 Windlesham Road, SHOREHAM BY SEA, West Sussex BN4 5AE.

MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

Admit One Free

This coupon admits one free with every adult paying £3.00. Valid to 1 October 1989. Monday-Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday 12 Noon to 6pm. Entry includes Museum and Old Royal Observatory.

**National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, London SE10**

*Coupon published in British Philatelic Bulletin
June 1989*

June Digest

Issued in June

19 June

Industrial Archaeology Stamp Cards (PHQ cards) (Nos 119A-D), 16p each.

Withdrawn in June

6 June

Exhibition Card No. 2 – all 6 exhibitions (Finlandia, Sydrex, Autumn Stampex, Filacept, ASDA, Spring Stampex)

20 June

Australian Bicentenary issue – stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, souvenir book and souvenir cover.



The Penny Black
The world's first adhesive postage stamp
15 May 1840

NPM Postcards

Shown here are two of the five postcards issued by the National Postal Museum on 5 May. The other three feature Post Office uniforms. Details of the cards were given in the April *Bulletin*, page 211.



On 25 July the Museum will issue the first in a series of cards depicting important people in the history of the British postal service. The first three cards feature Sir Brian Tuke, Sir John Coke & Sir Francis Windebank and Henry Bishop; they are designated "NPM/SWL90/1-3". The cards are intended to promote awareness of the "Stamp World London 90" international exhibition at Alexandra Palace from 3-13 May 1990. The initials "SWL90" in the reference numbers of the cards refers to "Stamp World London 90". The cards will cost 20p each and can be ordered from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order 60p plus handling charge – 19p on orders up to £18, £1.59 on orders over £18.

Exhibition Card No. 3

Exhibition Card No. 3 with a Philexfrance handstamp will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau from 7 July, price £1.50 plus handling charge. A cachet will be applied to cards sold at the exhibition and cacheted cards will also be available from the Bureau (£1.50). Orders for cacheted cards must reach the Bureau by 17 July when Philexfrance closes. Orders to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

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