

British Philatelic Bulletin

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New Definitive Variations

Two new variations will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters from 21 January. The 3p stamp will be available with redrawn numerals by Jeffery Matthews which have been progressively used on definitives since 1983. This change brings the 3p stamp into line with other current definitives. The 3p stamp with redrawn numerals was first issued in a mixed value coil in October 1989 (now withdrawn from sale); this will be the first time it has been issued in sheets.



Comparison with the previous sheet stamp will show a much narrower “3” and sleeker “p”.

The 50p stamp will now be available on Advanced Coated Paper; previous printings of this value have been on non phosphor paper.

Although these two stamps are being given first day of availability to collectors; first day facilities are not being provided, i.e. there will be no “First Day of Issue” postmarks. The two stamps will go on sale at post offices as stocks of earlier printings are used up.

Royal Mail Supports Olympics

Royal Mail will be including two Olympic stamps in the 1992 Europa issue. They support Royal Mail’s unique new sponsorship deal which gives financial support to both the associations for able-bodied and disabled Olympic competitors – the British Olympic and Paralympic Associations. The Europa issue will have a Spanish flavour to it; designed by Keith Bassford, the set goes on sale on 7 April 1992.

Mr Bill Cockburn, Royal Mail’s Managing Director, commented: “We are delighted to help and celebrate the UK’s trust for Olympic glory in Spain with financial support and a set of special stamps to mark the occasion. The Royal Mail was independently assessed to be the best postal service in a European survey and it is therefore appropriate that we are linked to the best international sporting events. The Royal Mail is a world leader with its postal service – so we want to help both our able-bodied and disabled Olympic competitors become world winners. Our involvement in sports sponsorship has given British sport a winning chance – and now we are going for gold by backing our top British sportsmen and women.”

Royal Mail stands alone among Olympic sponsors in its commitment to backing disabled as well as able-bodied sport. The Royal Mail Olympic/Paralympics sponsorship deal complements an existing scheme, the Royal Mail Awards, which has been a driving force behind youth development in sport in Great Britain. Over £200,000 has been awarded to clubs, community centres and youth organisations since 1988.

Revised High Values

The date of issue of the revised High Values (see October *Bulletin*) is now confirmed as 24 March 1992.



The first of two 1992 Prestige Stamp Books will be issued on 25 February and will feature Wales. The book, subtitled “Llyr o stampiau 'r Post Brenhinol” (Book of Royal Mail Stamps), contains nearly 40 fine colour pictures of the Principality. An attractive view of Snowdonia is featured on the front cover.

The illustrations are the work of Graham Evernden, designer of the 1988 Armada stamps and of four “Botanical Gardens” designs for 50p stamp book covers (1986/7). The text, including picture research, was the work of John Gibbs, designer of the 1990 Thomas Hardy stamp and, with John Harwood, of the 1990 Gallantry issue. The book contains a mixture of definitive, NVI, Welsh country and special (Wintertime) stamps, as detailed below. The Wintertime stamp (39p value), was issued in sheet format on 14 January 1992. It was designed by Keith Bowen, designer of the 1988 Welsh Bible stamps and 1988 “Year of the Bible” Scottish aerogramme. The book, except the pane containing Wintertime stamps, was printed by The House of Questa; the Wintertime pane was produced by Harrison and Sons Limited.

Stamp Panes

There are four panes as follows:

1. 4 x 39p Wintertime stamp (Sheep) on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP).
2. 6 x 18p Welsh Country stamp with right phosphor band. Stamps from sheets of 100 have the band right of centre.
3. Mixed pane containing 2 x 18p Welsh stamps with right phosphor band; 1 x 2nd class NVI stamp with right band; 2 x 24p Welsh stamps with 2 phosphor bands; 2 x 33p definitives with 2 bands and 1 x 1st NVI stamp with 2 bands. The pane is completed with a central label showing the Welsh dragon – similar to the Lion label in the mixed value pane in the 1989 “Scots Connection” prestige book.
4. 6 x 24p Welsh Country stamp on phosphor coated paper, as sheet stamps.

The panes containing definitive, Welsh and NVI stamps were printed by Questa; the pane of Wintertime stamps by Harrison.

All stamps cover basic postal rates – 18p basic inland second class rate; 24p basic inland first class and EEC rate; 33p worldwide postcard rate, and 39p basic airmail letter rate.

All panes have selvedge, giving a miniature sheet effect, and also have a vertical column of rouletting near the binding margin for ease of removing the complete stamp pages from the book if desired.



Stamp Variations

The book will yield five new stamps:

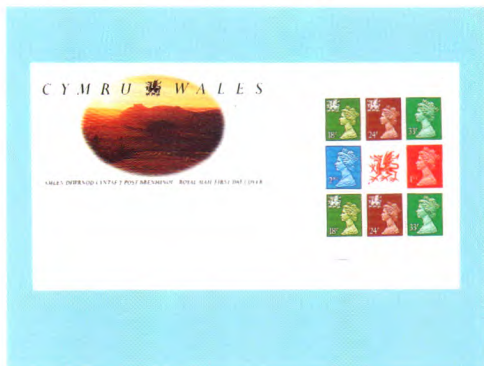
- 18p Welsh band right
- 24p Welsh 2 bands
- 33p Litho, 2 bands
- 1st NVI Litho 2 bands
- 2nd NVI Litho, band right

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 25 February, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau,

the other for Cardiff. The Bureau postmark features the daffodil – the national floral emblem of Wales; the bilingual Cardiff postmark shows a Welsh leek.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the mixed value pane cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 25 February.



Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Wales and The West Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Cardiff, Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA (Cardiff postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

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

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

The Cardiff Philatelic Counter handstamp is also appropriate for first day covers. This handstamp shows the Clock Tower of Cardiff Castle. Covers to receive this handstamp should be sent to the Wales and The West Special Handstamp Centre (address above). The outer cover should be endorsed "2109 - Cardiff Phil. Counter 25 Feb 92".

Details of any special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others will be published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on annual subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £9.35 UK, £11.25 Europe; £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Wales

The many illustrations in this book reflect the best of Welsh scenery, industry, farming, tourism, history, and culture. Powis Castle, home of the Earls of Powis, is a fine National Trust property, near Welshpool. Dating from the 13th century, the castle has been significantly altered over the years by the Clive and Herbert families. It is noted for its terraces and hanging gardens. The Welsh border area is often neglected by tourists, yet it contains many delightful villages and much attractive scenery. The Menai Bridge, linking the Isle of Anglesey (Mona) to the mainland, was built in the 1820s to the design of Thomas Telford; it featured on the 1s 6d stamp in the 1968 Bridges set.

Portmeirion, a well-known Italianate village near Porthmadog, north Wales, was designed by the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (1883-1978) who described it as "my own conception of the ideal village on my own ideal site". It is visited by thousands of tourists every year.

Nearby runs the famous Festiniog narrow

Snowdon – Wales's highest peak

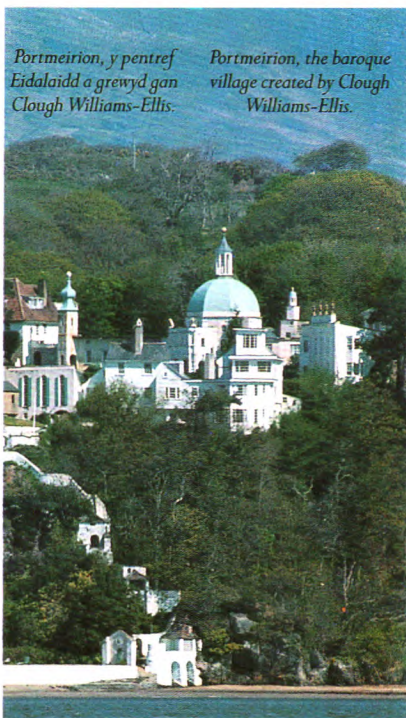


gauge (1 ft 11½ in) railway which dates from the 1830s. Its strange Fairlie-design “double” steam locomotives attract railway enthusiasts from all over the world. A unique rack and pinion railway, built in the 1890s to a Swiss design, takes visitors to the summit of Snowdon (3,560 feet) – the highest peak in Wales. Those who make it to the top – by foot or by train – can post cards to receive a “Snowdon Summit-Copa a'r Wyddfa” cachet.

For those who prefer to explore below rather than above ground, the Llechwedd Slate Caverns, at Blaenau Ffestiniog, are a major attraction. Visitors are taken down by a funic-

legends; it is said that Merlin descended there with the thirteen treasures of Britain. Allegedly, Bardsey is the burial place of some 20,000 saints.

Welshmen are famed for their singing and rugby-playing and so it is appropriate that the National Eisteddfod of Wales and Cardiff Arms Park are both illustrated. Welsh Opera and “The Princess and the Goblin” – the first full-length animated film made in Wales – are featured, as is Laugharne, near Carmarthen, home of the noted Welsh poet Dylan Thomas (1914-53). *Under Milk Wood* a day in the life of an imaginary Welsh village, achieved great success as a radio and stage play and as a film.



*Portmeirion, y pentref
Eidaloidd a grewyd gan
Clough Williams-Ellis.*

*Portmeirion, the baroque
village created by Clough
Williams-Ellis.*

*Daw lluo ymwelwyr i
chwareli Llechwedd a
Gloddfa Ganol 25,
Amgueddfa Werin Cymru
yn Sain Ffagan 26 a
Chanolfan y Dechnoleg
Amgen ym Machynlleth
27. Mae Gŵyl Gerddi
Cymru Glynwby '92 28,
ar agor o fis Mai hyd fis
Hydref.*



*Popular with visitors are
the slate quarries of
Llechwedd and Gloddfa
Ganol 25, the Welsh Folk
Museum at St Fagans 26
and the Centre for
Alternative Technology at
Machynlleth 27. The
Garden Festival Wales
Ebbw Vale '92 28, is open
from May to October.*



ular railway to see how men hewed the famous Welsh slates. As old industries have declined, so others have taken their place and the modern Sony factory is shown as an example of the diversification of the Welsh economy in recent years.

Those who cross the sea to Bardsey Island, off the Llyn Peninsula, can visit the bird observatory and the remains of an Augustinian abbey which in medieval times attracted so many pilgrims that Bardsey was referred to as “the Rome of Britain”. The island is rich in

The fourth National Garden Festival is being held at Ebbw Vale in 1992, following previous successful festivals at Stoke on Trent (1986), Glasgow (1988) and Gateshead (1990). The Festival logo is illustrated, as are some of the attractive buildings at the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagan's near Cardiff.

The Prestige Stamp Book will be appreciated by all, like the *Bulletin* Editor, who enjoy the beauty of the Welsh countryside, its fascinating history, its unique narrow-gauge railways, and the friendliness of its people.

A Visit to Enschedé

DOUGLAS N MUIR

Curator, Philately, National Postal Museum

Any visit to a print works is interesting, but a visit to a high security stamp print works is also a privilege. Recently, a group of stamp journalists and Royal Mail personnel travelled to the Dutch firm of Enschedé (pronounced Enskeley) to see the presses roll on the new 18p definitives issued on 19 November, and have a tour of the rest of the print works. These were modern, extensive and very impressive.

Royal Mail have recently signed a five-year contract with Joh. Enschedé en Zonen of Haarlem to supply basic value definitives as a back-up to the main supplier, Harrison & Sons Ltd. The arrangement was made in order to guarantee large volume supply of photogravure-printed stamps should a major accident befall Harrisons rendering them incapable of production for a lengthy period. This is the first long-term contract placed with an overseas company to print British stamps, though of course Enschedé did print an 8p stamp in 1979.

Enschedé's print works are now situated in an industrial estate on the outskirts of Haarlem, not far from Amsterdam. They are an old-established family firm whose printing activities date from 1703. Security printing developed from the use of movable type for music and Enschedé began printing banknotes for the Netherlands Bank in 1814. In 1991, they celebrated 125 years of printing stamps for the Dutch postal authorities. Over the period letterpress printing has given way to offset litho and photogravure, the last method dating from 1924. The Enschedé Foundation has a museum in the basement of the print works where portraits, books, artefacts, type, old printing machines and samples illustrating their printing history have been preserved.

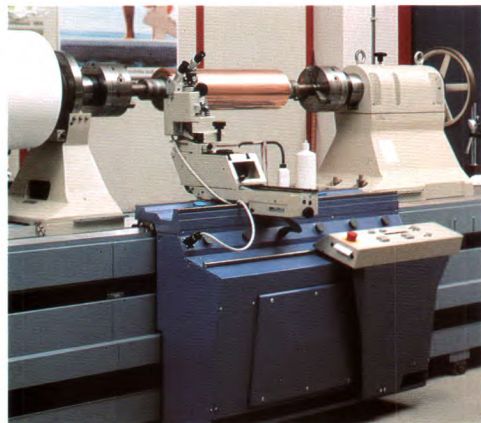
In the modern, spacious building of seemingly endless corridors items are taken from one part of the building complex to another by workers on bicycles. Nevertheless, what struck me most, perhaps, was the remarkable cleanliness everywhere, and it had clearly not just been swept because of visitors. Everyone was very friendly and open and fluent enough in English to shame us. Currently, there are some 700 staff,

though the works were so large that one seldom came across very many.

All aspects of security printing can be done on the premises, from designing and engraving through to the final printing. There are three main divisions: Security Printing; Cards and Documents (credit cards, driving licences, etc); and Commercial Printing (high quality brochures, annual reports, calendars).

Printing the 18p Machin

It was decided by Royal Mail chemists that various developments could be tried out with the new manufacturers. Firstly, it was essential that an alternative source of supply of paper and inks be established. Coated Papers Ltd of Bollington were chosen to supply the paper and various tests took place at Enschedé.



Computer-controlled etching by Helio Klischograph machine

Environmental concerns and security features were also considered and as a result the optical brightener content was reduced to approximately half of its normal value. At the same time a commercial fluor, in the first instance that marketed as 'Cartax', was added to the phosphor ink. This appeared yellow under long wave ultra-violet (UV) light and not only allowed a better production control of the overprinted phosphor but also shone much more brightly when activated by the sorting machines. Gumming took place just prior to going to press and so there should be no problem of ageing of materials in storage.

A major change has taken place in the method of manufacture of the gravure cylinder. Formerly, the images were produced photographically on a step-and-repeat camera and chemically etched on to the cylinder. This did

not happen at Enschedé. There, a positive film of one image (i.e. stamp design) twice the size of the stamp was put on to a Helio Klischograph machine, manufactured by Hell and installed by Enschedé in 1990, and illustrated here. On the Klischograph machine the image was scanned and the variations in density were translated into a digital image. The next stage was the computer-generated and controlled engraving of a copper-skinned cylinder, omitting the step-and-repeat camera stage. Some 117 lines per centimetre were engraved, with vacuum removal of the waste copper.

After this the cylinder was hardened and the stamps were printed on a five-colour Goebel press and perforated by an APS perforator attached to the press.

Distinguishing the Stamp

The issued stamp, at first glance, is the same as that produced by Harrisons but the changes in production methods and materials are reflected in the final product. Sheet markings unsurprisingly vary: bottom left is the Enschedé imprint; the cylinder number (1) is the same for both panes with only the no dot variety; however, two coloured guidebars used for controlling colour and perforation registration cross both panes and can indicate which is the left and which the right hand pane; perforations have double extension holes at both the left and right hand margins; and the Jubilee line in the bottom margin is significantly thinner.

However, single stamps can be distinguished quite easily as well. Firstly, the gum is white (with a slightly bluish rather than greenish tinge).

Under UV light the difference is even more startling. The printed phosphor band glows a



Phosphor bar under UV light

completely different colour. It has a very bright yellow reaction as a result of the addition of the commercial long wave fluor. Perhaps the best name for it might be "C phosphor". Also under long wave UV light the results of the changes in paper and coating can be observed. The ink appears coarser and the paper gives off a reaction that is, naturally, not so bright.

Under very strong magnification a change in the dot or cell structure can be seen. The screen normally associated with gravure printing is in the form of square cells, the deeper the cell the darker the tone. Here, resulting from computer engraving on the Klischograph machine, the engraved image is composed of dots as in litho - i.e. small to large, the larger the dot the darker the tone. But the dots also have variations in depth, as in the traditional gravure cells. The difference between a traditional gravure printing from Harrisons and the Enschedé printing can be seen in the illustrations. It is particularly obvious in the detail of the diadem and in the shading of The Queen's neck. This gives it a gentler appearance overall.

Illustrations are courtesy of Enschedé and the Post Office Materials Laboratory at Swindon

Harrison printing



Enschedé printing



London Economic Summit 1984

British Special Issues: No. 170

FRANCIS KENNEDY

Although the Economic Summit Conference (nowadays referred to as "G7") had met in Great Britain previously, it was not until the 1984 meeting in London, that a special stamp was produced to commemorate the event. The 31p stamp, issued on 5 June 1984, was one of the few exceptions to the general rule that commemorative, or special, issues should consist of more than a single stamp.

Eight issues had already been scheduled for the year when political pressure to mark the G7 Summit of 1984 was exerted on The Post Office. This periodic meeting of the leading western industrial nations, together with Japan and Australia reviews aid to Third World countries either in cash or by development support. (This year 1991 the G7 Summit was more concerned with the astonishing turn of events in the Soviet Union.)

The 1984 choice of a 31p stamp (the top value of other special issues of the period) ensured that the stamp would be used on overseas mail beyond Europe, thus being seen in the right places. It also helped the crowded printing time table by requiring a shorter print run thus cutting costs while, at the same time, collectors would feel obliged to buy it in order to maintain completeness and in doing so would help produce revenue for stamps which, in very many cases were never put to postal use.

The stamp's designer, Paul Hogarth, RA, decided on a simple, but effective treatment of the front of Lancaster House used as a background to the flags of the nations concerned. There was the customary PHQ card issued and numbered just "76"; 165,000 cards were produced. The usual presentation pack was not included on this occasion, due to the fact that the late inclusion of the stamp in the programme made it impossible to design and produce the pack by the date of issue of the stamp.

The stamp was printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Ltd on phosphor coated paper; seven colours were used – silver, bistre-yellow, brown-ochre, black, rosin, bright blue, and reddish lilac. No major constant varieties are recorded and only four minor flaws used to be

listed in the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue*. All were from the no stop cylinders: row 4, stamp 5 – a black speck at the foot of the pillar next to the Union Jack (Thirkell Philatelic Position Finder reading, I3); row 9, stamp 1 – patch of yellow below the Japanese flag (Thirkell, J7); row 10, stamps 5 – the left hand side of the second "o" of "London" and the "T" of "SUMMIT", show weakness in impression; row 10, stamp 7 – a yellow flaw at the top of the second pillar from right (Thirkell, F7).



Two special cancellations were used for Post Office first day covers. The British Philatelic Bureau postmark incorporated the symbol of the Summit; that used at London SW featured the front balcony of Lancaster House, the venue of the meetings.

Sales by the withdrawal date (4 June 1985) were 8,145,000.

Editor's Note: The Thirkell Philatelic Position Finder, mentioned by Mr Chapman, is a useful accessory for locating the exact position of varieties on stamps. It is produced by Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd.

Six Month Digest

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

2 Jul	Roses stamp cards (AQ167)
16 Jul	Roses stamps (AS462)
16 Jul	Roses pack (AP097)
23 Jul	Gaidhealach Aerogramme (QS028)
30 Jul	DL stamped env. 1st class (RX001)
30 Jul	DL stamped env. 2nd class (RX002)
30 Jul	C4 stamped env. 1st class (RZ001)
30 Jul	C4 stamped env. 2nd class (RZ002)
30 Jul	C5 stamped env. 1st class (RY001)
30 Jul	C5 stamped env. 2nd class (RY002)
6 Aug	Dinosaur stamp cards (AQ173)
6 Aug	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB035)
6 Aug	4 x 1st class book/W (UB036)
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB037)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/W (UB038)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/H (UB039)
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UN040)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/Q (UB041)
20 Aug	Dinosaurs stamps (AS468)
20 Aug	Dinosaurs pack (AP098)
3 Sep	Maps stamp cards (AQ179)
10 Sep	6p Def. — lime green (DS060)
10 Sep	18p Def. — light green (DS182)
10 Sep	24p Def. — rust (DS242)
10 Sep	28p Def. — slate blue (DS283)
10 Sep	34p Def. — purple (DS344)
10 Sep	35p Def. — old gold (DS351)
10 Sep	39p Def. — rhododendron (DS390)
10 Sep	50p book — Archaeology (TB009)
10 Sep	£1 book — Punch 1 (TB010)
10 Sep	New Defs. Pack (DP014)
16 Sep	£1.32 book (33p stamps) (UB043)
16 Sep	£1.56 book (39p stamps) (UB044)
16 Sep	18p Coil (XL-500) (DC851/DC051)
16 Sep	24p Coil (YL-500) (DC852/DC052)
17 Sep	Maps stamps (AS474)
17 Sep	Maps pack (AP099)
17 Sep	NPM Maps cards (NQ909)
2 Oct	Mixed Value Coil (DC855/DC055)
8 Oct	Christmas aerogramme (QX013)
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ184)
Oct	“Our World” Vol. 3
12 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS479)
12 Nov	Christmas pack (AT100)
12 Nov	Christmas stamp book (UB045)
12 Nov	1991 Collectors’ Pack (DS183)
12 Nov	1991 Yearbook (AR023)
12 Nov	NPM “Old Christmas” cards

19 Nov
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
3 Dec
31 Dec

Enschede 18p (DS183)
N Ireland 18p (IS181)
N Ireland 24p (IS241)
N Ireland 28p (IS282)
N Ireland 39p (IS390)
Scotland 18p (SS182)
Scotland 24p (SS241)
Scotland 28p (SS282)
Scotland 39p (SS390)
Wales 18p (WS182)
Wales 24p (WS241)
Wales 28p (WS282)
Wales 39p (WS390)
Country Stamp Pack (CP010)
Wintertime stamp cards

Forthcoming

14 Jan Wintertime stamps and pack
14 Jan Snowdon Shepherd book
21 Jan 3p Def. Redrawn numerals
21 Jan 50p Def. ACP
21 Jan 50p book — Archaeology 2
21 Jan £1 book — Punch 2
21 Jan 4 x 2nd class book/W
21 Jan 4 x 1st class book/W
21 Jan 10 x 2nd class book/W
21 Jan 10 x 1st class book/W
21 Jan 10 x 1st class book/H
22 Jan Happy and Glorious stamp cards
28 Jan Greetings stamp book
28 Jan Greetings stamp pack
6 Feb Happy and Glorious stamps and pack
6 Feb NPM Queen’s Accession cards (4)
6 Feb NPM King Edward Building card (1)
25 Feb Prestige Stamp Book (Wales)
Feb Tennyson stamp cards
10 Mar Tennyson stamps and pack
24 Mar Revised High Values
Mar Europa stamp cards
7 Apr Europa stamps and pack
14 Apr Scottish aerogramme
6 May NPM People in the Post cards
16 Jan Civil War stamps and pack

The NVI stamp books of 21 January have the British Olympic and Paralympic logos on the outer cover and revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail inside. The stamps are as those in the August 1991 books.

Correction

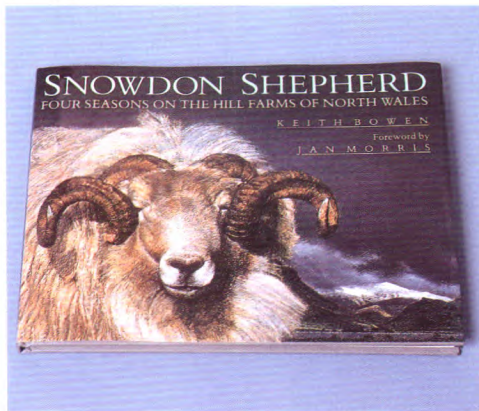
The Wintertime 28p and 39p stamps feature the Fox and Sheep, not as stated on pages 75–6 in December. The wrong pieces of printing film were used in error. We apologise for the confusion.

Snowdon Shepherd

A Review

J R HOLMAN

I am a late convert to the idea of presentation packs, Yearbooks, and special books containing stamps. For many years I would not give such ideas "collection space", favouring stamps themselves, mint or used, or used on commercial cover at the correct rates of postage. Maybe I was in the minority (I usually am) as many collectors like packs and books for the useful philatelic and background information they provide about the issue. They are sure to like the latest offering from Royal Mail – **Snowdon Shepherd: Four Seasons on the Hill Farms of North Wales** by Keith Bowen, designer of the forthcoming Wintertime stamps (14 January). The book was published by Pavilion Books early in 1991 and is now available in a special edition, each signed and numbered by Mr Bowen, and containing a set of his fine stamps.



In her Foreword, Jan Morris of *Pax Britannica* fame, describes the book as "... of several kinds. On one level, of course, it is a collection of exquisite pictures by one of the most distinguished of contemporary Welsh artists. On another it can be consulted almost as a primer of Welsh sheep-farming techniques, illustrating month by month how the flocks are bred, grazed, sheared and sold." Ms Morris sums up the book as representing "...between its lines and lovely colours: the steadfastness of a community, the unchanging strength of a country-

side, the power of a tradition and the character of a people."

Essentially the book provides a calendar of the working year in Snowdonia, with over 100 delightful illustrations. The farming cycle begins in October with the selection of the new flock – crucial as the sheep selected will be in the flock for the next four years. The illustrations include a fine view of Snowdon, an impressive Welsh ram and vignettes entitled "Moving Sheep" and "Moving Water". In November the sheep are gathered from the mountain and brought down to the lower pasture so that the ram "can be put to them". This gathering takes two days; about six men and their dogs are needed to clear Snowdon of its sheep; their work captured by the full page illustration "Early Morning Light on Bwlch y Saethau: The Start of Gathering". With the onset of the winter storms in December, any ewes that missed the gathering will be forced down by bad weather. They need shearing; usually done by hand – the subject of a fine Bowen illustration. One can feel the cold in his picture "Moel Hebog: First Snow".

On to January and the need to find extra feed for the sheep when conditions are severe. We are shown sheep feeding around a hayrack and views of snow-covered Snowdonia. Scenes of Winter feeding also feature in the section on February when, we are told, hunger will sometimes drive the sheep to eat bracken and rhododendrons which will kill them unless shepherd gets to them in time to administer treatment. In March, when the weather is still unpredictable, the ewes need to be injected for diseases and dosed for worms.

April is the busiest time of the year when the shepherds go short on sleep and walk long distances. The yearlings are put back on the hill. There are moving sketches and colour illustrations of young lambs and shepherds at work. Lambing continues into May but at a less frantic pace; the lambs being dosed to prevent worms and the ewes' tails docked to prevent maggots and blow-fly. The practice of ear-marking each lamb is explained. In June shepherds undertake regular check of the flocks; this keeps the

mortality on hill farms to around 10 per cent.

In July the task of shearing gets under way – the biggest communal working and social event in the hill-farming year. Neighbours join together to shear up to 800 head of sheep in a day. Mr Bowen's shearing studies show all aspects of the work, including marking, wrap-



ping the fleece, and the essential lunch time break. In August the lambs are weaned off the ewes so they have time to come into season by next year. The ewes are sent up to the higher poorer pastures; the lambs fattened on the better pastures before being sent to market. Prizewinners at an annual sheep show are amongst the illustrations. Finally to September, when work continues with dipping against scab, dosing ewes against fluke and checking for footrot. The illustrations concentrate on the sales of ewes – commercial events, also important social occasions as meeting places for old friends. Mr Bowen's text and illustrations reveal a hard life, but one essential to the economy of Snowdonia.

The book concludes with a study of evening sunlight over Snowdon and the quotation "Live life as if you would die tomorrow, Farm as if you will live forever." The book will appeal to all who love the country life, north Wales, and admirers of Mr Bowen's Wintertime stamps.

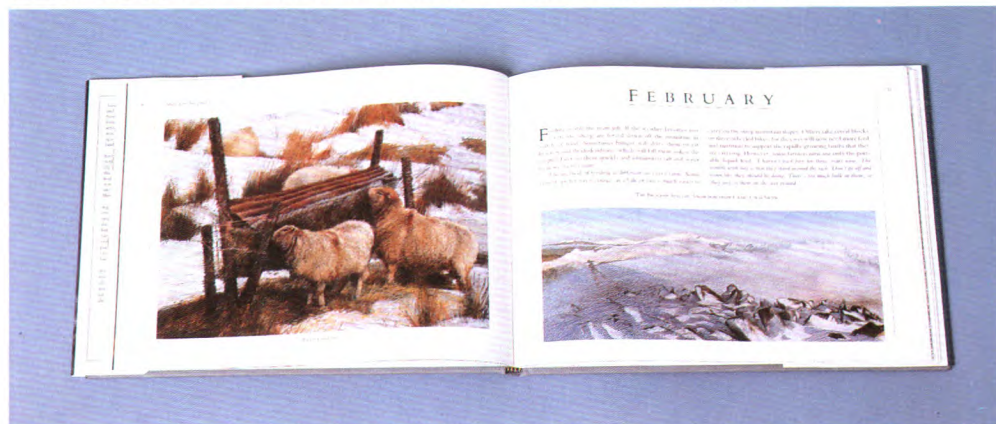
Keith Bowen was born in 1950 in north



Keith Bowen

Wales where he now lives and works. He studied at Manchester Polytechnic before working in London for various design consultancies. He has exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and at the National Portrait Gallery. In 1987 he was awarded the Gold Medal for Fine Art at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales; his popular Welsh Bible stamps were issued the following year.

Snowdon Shepherd is available, from 14 January, from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters, price £15.99. Early ordering is advised.



Happy & Glorious

6 February 1992



Five stamps under the title "Happy & Glorious" will be issued on 6 February; they mark the 40th anniversary of The Queen's accession to the throne. The stamps – all at 24p (first class inland and EEC basic rate) – portray Her Majesty in her various roles as Head of State, of the Church of England, of the Royal Family, of the Armed Forces, and of the Commonwealth. The portraits show The Queen in state robes, Garter robes, with baby Prince Andrew (now Duke of York), in military uniform, and on one of Her many Commonwealth tours. All stamps include the dates "1952 1992" and the inscription FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCESSION.

Her Majesty was born, as Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, on 21 April 1926, first child of TRH The Duke and Duchess of York. At the time few would have expected that the baby

Her father's reign was largely one of wartime austerity and post-war reconstruction. The Princess's marriage, in 1947, to Prince Philip (son of Prince Andrew of Greece) brought joy to a Britain still suffering from shortages and rationing. Their first child, Prince Charles, was born in November 1948. In January 1952 the Princess and the Duke of Edinburgh set off on a tour of Africa, deputising for the King who was in poor health. However it is unlikely that when she took leave of her father, the Princess expected to return as Queen. Early on 6 February, George VI died in his sleep at Sandringham. His daughter was at that time staying at the Treetops Hotel in Kenya; the sad news was broken to her by Prince Philip. After the necessary diplomatic messages had been despatched, The Queen and the Duke set off for London. The Queen was



princess would ever reign as Queen. The then heir to the throne, the Prince of Wales, was single, but expected to marry and produce an heir. Nor would anyone have predicted that a decade later the Prince of Wales, then Edward VIII, would abdicate in favour of his brother, the Duke of York. In December 1936 the Duke became King George VI and Princess Elizabeth automatically became heir presumptive.

From her father, and her grandfather (George V, whom she called "Grandpapa England"), the young princess learned devotion to duty and the dignified way she has carried out the responsibilities of monarchy since 1952 has earned The Queen worldwide respect.

met on arrival by her uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, her Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, and Leader of the Opposition, Clement Attlee.

The first stamps of the new reign were issued on 5 December 1952 – 1½d and 2½d definitives, covering the basic inland postal rates. The background story of the "Wilding" definitives was published here in April 1986.

The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, heralding the start of the "new Elizabethan Age", took place at Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953. A set of four special (commemorative) stamps and a Coronation aerogramme went on sale the following day. A slogan

postmark LONG LIVE THE QUEEN was used nationally from 3-30 June. Coronation stamps were issued by Empire countries, mostly in a common design, but with non-standard designs from Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Head of the Commonwealth

The first of many overseas tours was undertaken in 1953-4, commemorated by special stamps from Aden, Australia, Bermuda, Ceylon, Fiji, Gibraltar, Jamaica, Kenya Uganda & Tanganyika, Malta, and New Zealand. Another omnibus series of Royal Visit stamps marked The Queen's tour of the West Indies in 1977. Other Royal Visit stamps have been issued by Australia in 1970, Canada in 1959, 1964, and 1973. Last October The Queen visited Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia) and Namibia (South West Africa). Her last visit to Southern Rhodesia (and other African countries), with her parents and sister, in 1947, was commemorated by special stamps.

Many Commonwealth countries have participated in stamp issues marking the Queen's silver jubilee in 1977, the 25th anniversary of the coronation in 1978 and her

tapestry background. One of the many studies of the Queen taken at her Coronation is being used on one of the "Happy & Glorious" stamps. Numerous Commonwealth stamps have featured scenes from the Coronation; this is the first British stamp to reproduce a portrait from that event.

As head of state The Queen plays host to visiting fellow heads of state - monarchs and presidents - and undertakes state visits overseas. She has visited the USA on several occasions, and has entertained US presidents at Buckingham Palace and Windsor. Amongst many memorable overseas tours was that to China in 1986. State duties include the opening of each session of Parliament, meetings of the Privy Council, receiving ambassadors and high commissioners, and giving a regular audience to the Prime Minister. Since 1952 Her Majesty has been served by nine British premiers (Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, Harold Macmillan, Alec Douglas Home, Harold Wilson, Edward Heath, James Callaghan, Margaret Thatcher, and John Major) as well as numerous Commonwealth Prime Ministers, such as Robert Menzies, John Diefenbaker, and Keith Holyoake.



60th and 65th birthdays in 1986 and 1991.

The Queen takes a great interest in Commonwealth matters, witness her visits to the Commonwealth Games. At the 1958 Empire & Commonwealth Games, in Cardiff, she announced the creation of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. Britain issued three stamps commemorating the Cardiff Games, with sets for the Edinburgh Games in 1970 and 1986.

Head of State

The Coronation stamps of 1953 show the trappings of Royalty, particularly fine is the 1s3d stamp, by Edmund Dulac, portraying The Queen, crowned and robed, against a Tudor

Head of the Family

The portrait on the third "Happy & Glorious" stamp shows The Queen with Prince Andrew, from a series of photographs by Cecil Beaton, one of which was used on a magnificent £1 definitive stamp from St Helena in 1961. The first British stamps, of the present reign, to show a member of the Royal Family other than The Queen herself, were issued in 1972 - 3p and 20p stamps showing The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary. Stamps commemorating the marriages of Princess Anne, The Prince of Wales, and Prince Andrew (Duke of York) were issued in 1973, 1981 and 1986. Stamps honouring The



Queen Mother on her 80th and 90th birthdays were issued in 1980 and 1990. An informal, family album, portrait of The Queen, wearing a headscarf, taken at the Badminton Horse Trials in 1973, featured on 60th birthday stamps in 1986. Since 1980 Australia has issued an annual single Queen's Birthday stamp, making a delightful series.

Head of the Armed Forces

The Queen's long association with the armed services is recalled by another of the six studies used on the 60th Birthday stamps. She is shown aged 16, shortly after becoming Colonel of the Grenadier Guards. As Princess, she carried out her first public engagement when she inspected the regiment on her sixteenth birthday. Another portrait on the 60th Birthday stamps shows The Queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace after the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony to mark her official birthday. A similar portrait, in military dress, is used on one of the "Happy & Glorious" stamps.

Head of the Church

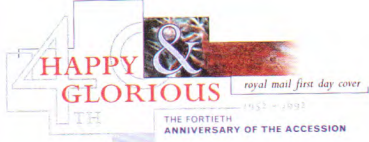
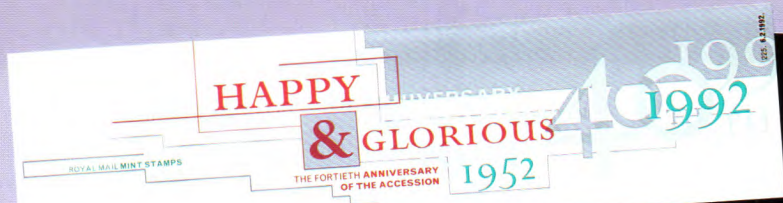
The Queen takes seriously her role as Head of the Church of England and the vows taken at her Coronation. On the second stamp in the "Happy & Glorious" strip, she is shown in the robes of the Order of the Garter at the annual Garter ceremony in St George's Chapel, Windsor. Each year, at a cathedral, The Queen distributes Royal Maundy money; the number of recipients matching the sovereign's age. Her Majesty's faith is expressed in her annual Christmas broadcast to the Commonwealth; extracts from some of her messages are given in the "Happy & Glorious" presentation pack. Since her accession, The Queen has been served by five Archbishops of Canterbury: Dr Fisher, Dr Ramsey, Dr Coggan, Dr Runcie and currently Dr Carey. Dr Fisher and Dr Ramsey (as Bishop of Durham) officiated at the Coronation. Indicative of the age of greater Christian unity, The Queen greeted Pope John Paul II at Buckingham Palace during the Papal Visit to Britain in 1982.

The Designers

The stamps were designed by Why Not Associates and feature photographs by Cecil Beaton, Camera Press (stamps 1 and 3); Tim Graham, London (stamp 2); and Anwar Hussein (stamps 4 and 5).

Printing Details

The stamps, printed in offset-lithography by



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

The House of Questa Limited, are of horizontal format (41 x 30mm), printed in horizontal seven-tenant strips of five, in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 15 x 14. The stamps bear two phosphor bands.

Presentation Pack

The pack – No. 225 – was designed by Why Not Associates with text by Mike Barden. The pack includes extracts from The Queen's Christmas broadcasts and speeches. Printing was by Raithby, Lawrence & Company Limited of Leicester.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 141A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 6 February, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for London SW1.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 6 February.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or London South Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail London South West, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB (London SW1 postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

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

In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue"

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

A pictorial "tourist handstamp" showing Buckingham Palace is in regular use at the London South Special Handstamp Centre (address above) and is appropriate for first day covers of this issue. Collectors submitting covers for this handstamp should endorse the outer cover "Buckingham Palace Pictorial Tourist Handstamp 6 Feb 92". The Windsor Philatelic Counter handstamp, depicting Windsor Castle, is also apt. Covers for this handstamp should be sent to: South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, 38 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks, SL4 1AA. Please endorse outer cover "2133 Windsor Phil. Counter Handstamp 6 Feb 92". These two handstamps were introduced on 6 May 1986 and 21 February 1983 respectively.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 6 February – details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on annual subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £9.35 UK, £11.25 Europe; £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 7 February, price 21p. This will be on sale for one year.



Official sponsor of the
1992 British Olympic Team

Maps and The Post Office

This exhibition, at the National Postal Museum until March, shows how the Post Office has used and created maps for its own purposes from the 18th century to the present, with the maps illustrated and explained by postal and other items. It celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Ordnance Survey and explains the issue of stamps on 17 September 1991 featuring maps of Hamstreet, Kent. Many of the maps are on loan from Post Office Archives and have been specially cleaned and conserved for this exhibition.

A map is a representation of all or part of the Earth's surface at a size which is convenient for use. On a map much more can be seen than on the ground and so it is very useful.

Without maps the Post Office could not exist. Letters cannot be transported, nor delivered, nor (in the past) charges evaluated without distances being known together with the exact location of the addressee. For all these maps are essential.

The exhibition is divided into six parts: 1. Introduction; 2. Circulation of Letters; 3. Circulation of Letters (Local); 4. Modern Maps; 5. Maps on Stamps; 6. The Map Stamps Hamstreet. There are also some maps on the stairway of the Museum especially featuring the division of London into postal districts in 1857.

In the first section are two of the Museum's "Waywisers" or Surveyors' Wheels which were used from about 1720 to measure distances on the ground. There then follow a number of maps and atlases dating from 1790 to 1850 showing the circulation of letters and the methods of transport used.

Before 1840 the main postal routes emanated from London. Letters were charged according to the distance travelled and the number of sheets of paper contained, and the charges, which were high, were normally paid by the recipient. The main postroads were served by mailcoaches, often daily, after 1784 but the minor ones had horse posts or even foot posts. After the mid 1830s mail was transferred more and more to the growing railway network and mailcoaches ceased about 1846.

A number of places had their local penny posts and these were sometimes quite extensive. Here a letter could be transported and delivered within the area for only a penny but a letter coming from outside was charged an extra penny.

Many letters were carried free, to or from

members of Parliament or particular officers of the Crown.

Circulation maps were required to show the methods of transport and the distances for charges to be raised.

In the third section are some maps created to show delivery areas. From 1774 delivery within a post town was free, though certain localities had free delivery before this. The boundaries of the town had to be delineated so that free delivery could be established and thus plans of towns were prepared showing the delivery areas. From time to time this area was extended and new plans or maps were required.

In the modern section are some of the many maps available showing how postcodes are allocated.

The final sections show artwork and essays of British stamps which contained maps as part of their designs and a detailed description of how the Hamstreet stamps were printed with a lot of original material on loan from Harrison & Sons Ltd, the printers.

Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately

NPM Plans for 1992

Staff at the National Postal Museum are working on an interesting programme of exhibitions and postcards for 1992. Brief details are given below; further information will be published in due course.

The main exhibition, opening on 6 May, will be entitled "People in the Post: Then and Now". This tells the story of Post Office medical services; engineering and chemical work; the Post Office in time of war; Postmen (including messengers); and Women in the Post Office, covering the period from Victorian times to date. An exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary of The Queen's Accession will be staged.

The postcard programme kicks off with four cards for the 40th anniversary of The Queen's Accession on 6 February; with further sets for "People in the Post" (6 May); Artefacts (15 September) and Christmas (10 November).

The 40th Anniversary cards will cost 20p each and can be ordered from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. A handling charge of 24p applies to orders under £24, £2.14 on orders over £24 (sent by registered post). A special handstamp will be used on 6 February. Collectors requiring this handstamp should send

cards/covers not later than 6 February to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City & International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Please endorse outer cover "NPM Special Handstamp - 6 Feb 92". Cards/covers to receive this special handstamp must bear at least first class postage (24p) for inland mail, or the appropriate minimum overseas rate.

The NPM, on behalf of Royal Mail City & International, recently produced a card showing the newly cleaned King Edward Building (in which the Museum is housed) as a Christmas gift for staff working in the building. This card is now being made available to collectors, and will go on sale at the Museum Shop on 6 February, price 15p. It will also be available by mail order; please note that the minimum mail order for NPM cards is 80p plus handling charge.

Please note that cards can be ordered and supplied in advance, giving collectors time to stamp and address them and return them for postmarking on 6 February. The Museum cannot undertake to stamp and address cards.

Cover of Quality Awards

Royal Mail Stamps is offering awards for excellence in first day or commemorative cover design. The awards, which will become an annual event, are to encourage and reward high standards in cover design, originality of approach and commercial success.

There will be three categories - Commemorative; Charity/Community; and General. Manufacturers are allowed one entry per category. Each category winner will receive a trophy; and the winner of the charity/community section will receive £1000 for that cause.

Royal Mail Glasgow Philatelic Reception

On 9 October Royal Mail hosted a reception for philatelists of Glasgow and the west of Scotland. Representatives of 10 societies were entertained to a historical survey of the Glasgow Philatelic Section followed by a philatelic slide display topped off by a buffet supper. All who attended voted it a superb evening. Royal Mail Glasgow seems to have the happy knack of making philatelic receptions such an outstanding success to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Bill Colley, Glasgow

Duck Stamps

Last month we reported the £5 conservation stamp (popularly known as "duck stamp") issued by the Wildlife Habitat Trust in August 1991. We have since learned that the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust of Slimbridge, Gloucester issued the UK's first conservation stamp in July. This stamp, value £3, shows a painting of a pair



of European Wigeon by Daniel Smith. The income from stamp sales will be used to promote direct conservation activities, fund scientific study of waterfowl and wetland habitat, educate school children about their environment and to maintain the Trust's nine conservation centres which attract some 800,000 visitors each year. The Trust, founded by the late Sir Peter Scott in 1946, has HM The Queen as Royal Patron and HRH The Prince of Wales as President. Last April, Tony Baldry, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of the Environment, said: "The Government welcomes the principle of conservation stamps to raise funds for wildlife conservation, and is pleased to support the United Kingdom Waterfowl Conservation Stamp programme being undertaken by The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust... this exciting project ...will provide more resources for the future conservation of wildfowl."

The stamp can be obtained from the Trust's centres, its headquarters (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, GLOUCESTER GL2 7BT) or from the Secretary of the Bird Stamp Society: David Cox, Lynmoor, Ampney Crucis, CIRCENCESTER, Glos, GL7 5RY.

Our front cover features the royal cipher as shown on letter boxes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Boxes in Scotland bear the Scottish crown without the E II R (see "Posting Boxes" in August 1984 and March 1991).

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

193. Penny Red Transitional Shades

Experiments in the colour of the ink and the paper were made from 1855 when a grey paper was introduced for some printings. Early in 1856 more red and rose were introduced into the colour of the stamps and, in early 1857 the so-called transitional colours – red-brown, orange-brown, orange-red, light red, and pale rose – appeared on yellowish to cream paper. The Phillips Collection contains some fine blocks of the Penny Red in these transitional colours, two of which are shown this month. The block of 10, in red-brown on greyish-white paper, is



from plate 27 – registered in December 1855 in brick red on blued paper, and later used for transitional and rose-red printings. The plate was withdrawn from use in March 1861. The block of four, in transitional shade of orange-red on cream paper, is from plate 46. This was registered in June 1856 in deep red-brown on greyish toned paper and was subsequently used for transitional and rose-red printings before destruction in December 1865. These blocks can be seen on page 34 of Volume XXII of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. The Museum is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission free.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice – stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: January Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 28 February.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Happy and Glorious stamps.

Answers and winners' names will be published in the April *Bulletin*.

1. In which Welsh town will the 1992 National Garden Festival be held?
2. In which country was Elizabeth II when she learned she had become Queen?
3. In which year was plate 46, used for printing the Penny Red, destroyed?
4. In which London building was the Economic Summit meeting held in 1984?
5. On what date in 1992 are Civil War stamps being issued?

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

The winners of the October competition were: V Whitlock of Morayshire (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); C Paunet of France; Mrs J Hornsby of West Yorkshire; H Sentance of Germany; M McKenzie of Australia; and J Markwick of West Sussex (Christmas presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. David Driver, 2. Railway Sub Office, 3. Ken Young – Rugby, 4. Dundee, 5. Connoisseur Publications.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Events

until March 1992. "Maps and the Post Office" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Thu 9.30-16.30; Fri 9.30-16.00. Admission free.

until April 1992. "Stamping the Mail" exhibition at National Postal Museum. Details above.

25 January 1992. Telford Phil. Soc. Stamp and Postcard Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford. 10.00-16.00. Admission 30p adults, 15p children/ senior citizens. Car parking, refreshments. Enquiries: Phil Morris-Jones, 190 Holyhead Road, Wellington, TELFORD, Tel. 0952-223926.

25 February-1 March 1992. Spring Stampex. National stamp exhibition at Royal Horticultural Societies Hall, Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, London SW1. Open 25 Feb 12.00-19.00, 26-28 Feb 10.30-19.00, 1 Mar 10.30-18.00. Admission charge. Numerous dealers and postal administrations, Royal Mail philatelic sales counter, National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives stands.

21 March 1992. Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Annual Congress at Falkirk Town Hall.

Obituary – Peter Collins

Peter Collins, who died on 10 November, was a well-known figure in the philatelic world, a prolific writer and a keen supporter of philatelic societies. Peter joined the New Zealand specialist dealers Campbell Paterson in 1965. In 1971 he moved to the auctioneers Robson Lowe, taking on the duties of Associate Editor of the RL journal *The Philatelist*. In September 1974, Peter took over the editorship, occupying the editorial chair for 12 years. He was Associate Editor again from 1986 until his death. His editorial skills were welcomed by the National Philatelic Society in 1986 when Peter took over from the late Arthur Blair as Editor of *Stamp Lover*. Sadly he had to relinquish the post three years later when illness struck. Peter built up a number of collections, most importantly of Thailand. In recent years he derived great pleasure from going back to basics and building up an old-fashioned "All World Used" collection. He was a member of a number of societies; greatly

enjoying local philatelic society meetings. He was frequently called upon to judge society competitions. His writings, cheerful personality, fund of good stories and philatelic jokes will be greatly missed – not least by the Editor of this *Bulletin*. Our sympathies go to his wife Elsie and her family.

John Holman

Posting Boxes

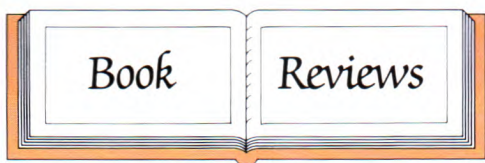
126. Victorian Boxes

Our first photograph, submitted by P Bradley of Birmingham, shows a Type C Penfold hexagonal box at the Spennall Road/Alcester Road junction in the village of Studley on the outskirts of Redditch in Worcestershire. "Unfortunately", Mr Bradley tells us, "the top left part of the Royal Arms on the box is now missing". These boxes were brought into use towards the end of 1866, being manufactured by the ironfounders Cochran & Co.



The second illustration shows one of the anonymous (no Royal Cypher) boxes cast by Andrew Handyside and Company of London during the period 1883-87. Similar boxes, but with a higher posting aperture, were manufactured by this company in 1879-83. The box featured here is located outside Hackney Central British Rail Station, Amhurst Road, London N8. We are obliged to Ken Gay of London N22 for supplying the photograph.

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies sent in by readers for this "Posting Boxes" feature — enough to last for the next few years. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.



The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red – Illustrated Guide and Catalogue by Robert Danzig and David Goldsmith, published to mark the 150th anniversary of this famous stamp, is a well-produced volume intended for collectors rather than postal historians. As such, probably the most valuable part of it is the catalogue at the end which lists the cancellations known and attributes monetary values to them. Users should study this catalogue carefully, however, as letter codes mean different values in different sections, which seems unnecessarily complex to me.

With regard to the text, this is clear and readable, with a large type size. It is in the form of short articles rather than book chapters with some by other contributors. The historical background could have been stronger, however, with more information given as to why certain “stamps” were used as cancellations, or more correctly “obliterations”.

There are numerous illustrations with several maps by Eric Jewell. These are clear and neat, though in most cases they add little information.

As this is the first book to concern itself solely with cancellations on the Penny Red it is likely to stimulate collectors to look at their collections and report new finds or expanded dates of use. The authors recognise this and modestly appeal for information. Despite the fact that they have based their research on the main public collections and their own experience over many years, nevertheless I hope that much more information would be forthcoming, sufficient to warrant a second edition.

In that second edition I would hope that the authors provide an index, clarify the catalogue prices and expand the historical background. They might also drop the rather disconcerting idea of having their names in the reverse order in 50% of the copies. Democratic it may be but it can give rise to unnecessary confusion and reference difficulties.

All collectors of Penny Red cancellations should buy this volume, study their own collections and write to the authors with their findings.

168 pages, hardbound, dust jacket. Available

from: Philatelic Imprint, 12 Holyoake Walk, LONDON N2 0JX, price £27.50, postage £2.45 UK, £3.45 overseas.

Douglas N. Muir

The Postal History Society has recently published **The Domestic Packets between Great Britain and Ireland, 1635 to 1840** by Denis Salt. In his Preface, George Henderson writes of the astonishing complexity of the subject and of Mr Salt's deep knowledge and infectious enthusiasm for it. At various times between 1635 and 1840 the packets used four different routes; the Irish mile and Irish currency differed from those in England, and Scottish currency from both. Charges were payable on letters carried over the Menai Straits and Conway estuary in Wales, both before and after the completion of the bridges; and mails in Ireland were successively the responsibility of the Irish and the British Post Offices. “Small wonder”, says Mr Henderson, “that until now no attempt has been made to explain the rates charged by different routes and at various periods.” Holyhead-Dublin, the oldest and most important of the four main packet services, was in existence even before the British Post Office became a public service in 1635. There is documentary evidence of services between Port Patrick (Scotland) and Donaghadee (near Belfast) and Milford (south Wales) and Waterford during the Commonwealth but they ceased after the Restoration. The service between Liverpool and Dublin started in 1826. The charging system is explained and details given of relevant legislation and transport developments such as the building of harbours and rail links. Ten fine covers are illustrated, with detailed accounts of the relevant charges. The appendices cover: Rates of postage for single letters in England (1635-1839), Scotland (1635-1801) and Ireland (1635-1839); Route and other particulars; and the Post Towns of England & Wales, Scotland, and Ireland (in 1828). The book concludes with a useful Note on Miles. Other helpful and attractive features include postal maps of Scotland (1837) and Ireland (1832), title pages of Acts of Parliament, and views of Dublin, Holyhead and Liverpool in the early 19th century. 56 pages, card covers. Price £12 (\$20) from: George Henderson, c/o CBD Research Ltd, 15 Wickham Road, BECKENHAM, Kent, BR3 2JS.

Our congratulations to *Bulletin* contributor James Negus who received the Albert H. Harris Literature trophy at Autumn Stampex for his book *Philatelic Literature*.

Special Stamp Numbers

Derek Latham of Warley recently wrote concerning the number of stamps in special stamp sets. His enquiry and the reply from Mr A Vesamia, Royal Mail's Manager Special Stamps, is reproduced below as they may be well be of interest to many readers:

Mr Latham wrote:

When did the Post Office decide to return to the policy of issuing five commemorative stamps in a single set? Some years ago, following protests by many collectors at the additional expenditure involved, the Post Office agreed that no commemorative sets (apart from the Christmas issue and possibly any se-tenant strips of the same value) would contain no more than four stamps. However, in 1991 we have had three sets (Dogs, Roses, and Dinosaurs) all containing five stamps. I would welcome a comment on this from "the powers that be".

Mr Vesamia replied:

As you say in your letter, for a number of years we did follow a conservative policy of limiting four stamps to each set, except for Christmas and the occasional issue of a se-tenant strip of five. We decided to depart from this to some extent because we felt that it was starting to look a little dull to have such a long series of four-stamp issues and that we were unnecessarily constraining the designer in illustrating a stamp subject. What we are aiming to do now is to select the appropriate number of stamps for each subject and have more variety in the number of stamps per issue. This will mean that there are likely to be more five-stamp issues than in recent years, but there will also be more issues containing one or two stamps, where the subject can be covered by this number. We are also looking into the possibility of issuing more special stamps at the second class rate, thus hoping by these two measures, to keep the cost of collecting within reasonable limits.

Collectors will note that a second class stamp is included in the Wintertime set which goes on sale on 14 January. The issue was previewed in last month's Bulletin. Editor.

RSO Postmarks

Harold S. Wilson, leading collector of railway postmarks, writes:

"In his article (October *Bulletin*) Kenneth Chapman states that there were at one time 1,700 R.S.O. offices, of which only about 100 used new handstamps. In the book by A. M. Goodbody, *The Railway Sub Offices of Great Britain*, published by the Railway Philatelic Group in 1983, there are listed 2,200 R.S.O.s together with the handstamps used by 600 of these."

Post Offices open during 1971 Strike

Last February, in an article marking 20 years since decimalisation, I mentioned that a number of post offices accepted and delivered local mail during the 1971 strike. I appended to the article a list of offices known to me to have provided such a service. I have been surprised, and pleased, by the interest generated by this listing and the number of reports of other offices open at that time, sent in by readers. The listing, originally of just 44 offices, has now grown to over 150. Tom Valentine of Montrose adds the following: Auchencblae, Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire; Bothwell, Glasgow; Gourdon, Montrose, Angus; Hillside, Montrose, Angus; Inverbervie, Montrose, Angus; Johnshaven, Montrose, Angus; Strachan, Banchory, Kincardineshire; and Woodhill, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow. Mr Valentine has first day covers of the decimal stamps with the circular datestamps of all these offices; also cover with c.d.s. and machine cancel from Montrose, Angus (recorded earlier).

All letters sent to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in "Postbag" or other sections of the Bulletin. Readers' comments relating to stamp issuing policy are brought to the attention of the relevant Royal Mail Manager. The Editor regrets that he is unable to reply personally to all letters – to do so would seriously delay publication of this, and the Postmark, Bulletin.

Commemorative Covers

Wintertime. The Royal Mail's first stamp issue of 1992 features animals in a winter landscape. A G Bradbury is producing a number of covers for this issue. The first, limited to 250, features "the fable of the Hares and the Frogs" – a print drawn by Randolph Caldecott. The design has been printed on a new "countryside" re-cycled paper which not only brings ecological benefits but unusual and "natural" design advantages. The cover with full set of Wintertime stamps and special Haresfield, Stonehouse, Glos handstamp costs £9.75. The second cover shows a barn owl in a "serigraph" background depicting a winter landscape. This bears the Wintertime stamps cancelled by a special handstamp at Owlsmoor, Camberley. Price £5.75, signed by artist Malcolm Greensmith £9.75, signed by Magnus Magnusson £12.50. The third cover, No. 64 in the Victorian Prints series and limited to 250, features fallow deer. A special New Forest, Lyndhurst, Hants handstamp is being used on this cover. Price £6.75. Orders/enquiries for all three covers: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. Overseas customers please add £1 and remit in sterling.

Tamworth Castle Diesel Locomotive. The North Staffordshire Railway Diesel Group have produced a special cover featuring Class 25 Diesel loco "Tamworth Castle" at Cheddleton Station, Staffordshire. Covers are available with a special cachet for NSR Derby Day, 22 September 1991; the postage stamps are cancelled by a Derby single-ring datestamp. Covers are available (100 each) with the following stamps – Mallard 18p; 22p Astronomy; 22p Scientific Achievements (Faraday); 22p Sport 91 and 22p Dinosaurs. Price £2.20 per cover, £10 per set, postage 40p. Orders/enquiries: D P Cawthorn, 59 Sneyd Avenue, Westlands, NEWCASTLE, Staffs, ST5 2PZ.

Greetings Stamps. The 1992 Greetings stamps, to be issued on 28 January, have the theme of memories, showing items of memorabilia including a theatre ticket, penny red and pocket watch. To coincide with this issue, a special handstamp and cover are being produced by A G Bradbury. Portobello Road, famous for its street market, features on the handstamp with an illustration of a pocket watch. The special cover with full set of ten Greetings stamps costs £7.50 (overseas please add £1 and remit in sterling). Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Happy & Glorious. Five 24p stamps marking the 40th anniversary of The Queen's accession to the throne will be issued on 6 February. One of the stamps shows Her Majesty in her role as Head of the Church of England. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has commissioned a first day cover showing a coronation portrait of The Queen by Cecil Beaton. The covers will bear a special Westminster Abbey/Bell Ringers handstamp. Price £5.75 with full set of stamps, or £12.50 with the Head of the Church stamp and stamps from the following issues: 1953 Coronation, 1966 Westminster Abbey, 1972 Silver Wedding, 1977 Silver Jubilee, and 1978 Coronation Anniversary. Overseas customers please add £1 and remit in sterling. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Ark Royal. A commemorative cover marking the 50th anniversary of the loss of the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* in the Mediterranean on 14 November 1941 is now available. The design shows the ship listing in the sea following a torpedo attack by U81. The destroyer HMS *Legion* is shown alongside, taking off survivors. The special Birkenhead handstamp features the aircraft carrier inside a rope-effect border and the Cammell Laird logo. The filler card gives details of the famous ship and the shipbuilders. Standard covers cost £1.85, single-signed covers £2.40, and double-signed £3.30. The signatories are likely to be senior Cammell Laird and Royal Navy personalities (not confirmed at time of going to press). Orders, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope (minimum size 6½ x 9in.) to: Royal Navy Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, ILCHES-TER, Somerset, BA22 8HT. Remittances should be payable to "Fleet Air Arm Museum".

Freemasonry in Berkshire. Two unusual commemorative covers have been issued to mark the centenary of the Royal Arch Masonic Province of Berkshire. The covers, issued on 24 April 1991, are now released for public sale. The first cover has the motif of the Province printed in red, and the second a colour photograph of the Provincial Masonic banner. The covers bear one or other of the 22p Europe in Space special issues, and the Windsor Philatelic Counter handstamp, depicting Windsor Castle. The covers are available only from: Provincial Scribe E, Berkshire Masonic Centre, Mole Road, SINDLESHAM, Berks, RG11 5DB, price £2.75 each or £4.75 the pair, postage paid.

January Digest

Issued in January/early February

14 January: Wintertime stamps – 18p, 24p, 28p, 33p, 39p.

Designer: Keith Bowen.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 41 x 30mm, perforated 15 x 14, phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100. PVA Dextrin gum.

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

Presentation Pack: No. 224, price £1.75.

14 January: “Snowdon Shepherd: Four Seasons on the Hill Farms of North Wales” book by Keith Bowen. Special edition, each serially numbered, containing the Wintertime stamps, designed by Keith Bowen, and autographed by him. Price £15.99. Available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters.

21 January: 50p and £1 books containing 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p stamps and 2 x 2p, 4 x 24p stamps and 2 labels respectively. Second in Archaeology (50p) and Punch (£1) cover designs.

Printing: Harrisons, photogravure. Both books contain stamps on ACP. The £1 book has straight edges at left and right sides of pane.

21 January: Stamp books containing non-value indicator (NVI) stamps – as books issued August 1991 but with British Olympics and Paralympics logo on cover and revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail inside.

4 x 1st class, printed by Walsall

4 x 2nd class, printed by Walsall

10 x 1st class, printed by Walsall

10 x 2nd class, printed by Walsall

10 x 1st class, printed by Harrison

21 January: 3p Definitive with redrawn numerals; 50p Definitive on Advanced Coated Paper.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Ltd, photogravure, sheets of 200, PVA Dextrin gum.

22 January: Happy & Glorious stamp cards, price 21p each.

28 January: Greetings stamp book containing 10 x 1st class stamps featuring “Memories” (old envelopes, keys, model cars, cigarette cards, etc), and 12 greetings labels, price £2.40.

Designer: Trickett and Webb.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 41 x 30mm, printed on non-phosphor

paper overprinted with 2 phosphor bands. PVA Dextrin gum. Perf. 15 x 14.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Whimsey, Gloucestershire.

Presentation Pack: No. G1, price £2.70.

29 January: Greetings stamps souvenir cover, 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters.

6 February: Happy and Glorious stamps – 5 x 24p in horizontal se-tenant strip; presentation pack.

6 February: National Postal Museum — four postcards marking the 40th Anniversary of The Queen's Accession postcards, 20p each; one postcard showing King Edward Building, 15p.

7 February: Happy and Glorious souvenir cover, 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters.

Withdrawn in January

7 January: Dogs stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and souvenir cover.

13 January: NPM “Post Office in Edwardian Times” cards.

Note: These cards are being withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau; they will remain on sale at the Museum.

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