

Philatelic Bulletin

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Contents

- 31 Editorial
 - British Motor Cars Stamps:
 - Postcard Reproductions
- 32 Postage Due Part 5:
 - The 'To Pay' labels
- 34 1982 Collectors Pack (Number 141)
 - 'Golden Hinde' Postcard
 - Datapost Aircraft Postcard
- 35 Gems from the R M Phillips CV:
 - Army Telegraph Stamps
 - New Philatelic Sales Counter
- 36 ABC of Postcard Themes:
 - 23. W for Watermills and Windmills
- 37 Christmas Stamps Issue
- 39 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Stamps
 - Technical Details (contd).
- 40 British Special Stamps:
 - 93. British Trees, 1974
- 41 Posting Boxes
- Book Reviews
- 43 Christmas Stamp Book:
 - Discount Price
 - Collect British Stamps
 - Forthcoming Events
 - Forces Cover
- 44 Commemorative Covers
- 45 Poppy Day Appeal

Editorial

In this edition we illustrate the Christmas stamps to be issued on 17 November. This year's chosen subject is carols, and designer Barbara Brown has beautifully created picturesque impressions of five much loved carols: 'While shepherds watched', 'I saw three ships', 'We three kings', 'Good King Wenceslas' and 'The holly and the ivy'. Stamps that will grace any collection. Barbara, of course, also designed the 1975 'Jane Austen' and the 1980 'Famous People' stamps.

This is the second time that the carol 'Good King Wenceslas' has been depicted on a G.B. Christmas stamp, the first time was on the se-tenant threepenny stamp of 1973 designed by David Gentleman.

The Christmas stamp book for 1982, price £2.80, to be issued on 10 November, will be offered for sale at the discount price of £2.50 from the issue date until 24 December 1982. Available from all post offices, sales will be limited to two stamp books per customer. To facilitate stock control the reverse of each stamp will bear an enlarged print (non toxic) of the star featured on the stamp book cover. This will be the first time that the reverse of a G.B. stamp has borne such a print mark and will no doubt cause a certain amount of philatelic interest.

JOHN MEMMOTT

British Motor Cars Stamps Postcard Reproductions

We would like to offer our apologies to Stanley Paine, the designer of the British Motor Cars stamps, for the error which has occurred on the reverse side of the postcard reproductions. The designs of the stamps were attributed, incorrectly, to Tayburn Design & Marketing.

The 'To Pay' Labels

The collection of fairly large sums, although only important in a few of the major offices, was a recurring situation which the introduction of the 1s. label in 1915 only partly resolved. Whilst there was the purely postal matter of returned parcels from abroad which often attracted charges of several shillings, it was the fact that the Post Office was required to act as an agent in the collection of Customs charges on items entering the country by post which accounted for many of these larger amounts. From the outset, the Postage Due labels introduced in 1914 were used to denote the Customs dues collected on 'Sample Packets' – a postal category at a concessionary rate for the sending of bona fide trade samples between firms – but for *parcels*, which formed the bulk of the items attracting Customs charges, the existing systems was not changed. This involved a 'C-docket' which accompanied the parcel to the office of delivery and to which, after the delivery postman had collected the sum due, were affixed ordinary postage stamps for this amount before its despatch to the Accountant General's Department of the Post Office.

Dealing with numbers of individual parcels in this way when the sums due were not very large was obviously uneconomic, particularly when compared with the simplicity of the system used for Samples where all that was required was a half-yearly total of the amount in the Postage Due account which represented Customs dues. Hence, on 2 December 1918, the Postage Due label systems was extended to the collection of Customs Charges up to 2s.6d. on parcels from abroad, with the Post Office adding a fee of 2d. to the Customs charge to cover the cost of its work in connection with the clearance of parcel through Customs. The amount of the Customs charge to be collected in this way was increased to 5s.0d. on 1 June 1921 and then to 10s.0d. from 1 May 1927, where it remained, until in mid 1963 it became £1.10s.0d. Raised to 6d. on 1 October 1921, the Post Office Clearance Fee was constant until 1 June 1957 when it became 1s.0; it has since steadily risen to its present level of 80p.

The suggestion that higher value labels would eventually be necessary had been made even

TO PAY 2/6 HALF CROWN

TO PAY 2/6 HALF CROWN

TO PAY 2/6 HALF CROWN

CHARGE Date Stamp

The charges shown below are to be levied on the delivery of this packet. All such charges, except a Trade Charge (C.O.D.), must be denoted by Postage Labels affixed to Packet.

L.D.S. No.	£	s.	d.
British Customs Charges. (if total of charges over 10/-, form OE105 must be used)			
(i) Customs Duty (other than Purchase Tax)			
(ii) Purchase Tax		7	
Post Office Fee for Customs Clearance			6
Charges for Redirection, Return, etc.			
Postal Surcharge			
C.O.D. Delivery Fee			
Trade Charge (C.O.D.) (if See note above)			
TOTAL			
Un. Tob. Emp./Non Emp.		lbs.	ozs.

GIBRALTAR No 2177

BY AIR MAIL

Fig. 1. Fiscal Use of the 2s. 6d. 'To Pay' Label. Part of a package from Gibraltar in December 1950 containing Nylon stockings, the total charge of 7s.6d. comprising 3s. Customs Duty, 4s. Purchase Tax and the Post Office Clearance Fee of 6d.

before the first four labels appeared (see Part 1) and periodic surveys were carried out to assess demand, but no action took place until prompted by a report, in December 1922, by the Postmaster of Bristol. In this he observed that, with the collection of Customs charges up to 5s.0d. and a considerable number of unclaimed and undeliverable parcels bearing charges amounting to several shillings received daily in his office, there was 'with the highest value at present only 1s., frequently difficulty in affixing a number of labels to the parcels' and he advocated the introduction of two new labels of 2s. and 3s. In response to this report two investigations were carried out. An analysis of the total number of parcels throughout the country which had been surcharged during 1922 showed that 40 per cent of these attracted a charge of 2s.6d. or more and,

when the nine principal post offices in the country were asked to assess how many 2s.6d. Postage Due labels they would use annually, were one to be available, the answer – approximately 70,000 – was $3\frac{1}{2}$ times their previous estimate given in January 1921. It was thus decided that the production of a 2s.6d. label was justified and, on 24 August 1923, the Controller of Post Office Stores was requested to arrange for the preparation of dies and plates for the value with, in view of its dual postal and fiscal role, the inscription 'TO PAY' replacing the words 'POSTAGE DUE'; following the established pattern of matching the labels to the corresponding definitive stamps (except for the 2d. and 1s. values), colour essays in brown were also requested.

For the colour trials of the 3d. label issued in 1918, the Mint produced a small advance plate comprising a block of four of the labels and this same 3d. block was used to print the colour trials of the 4d. value. For the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. value in 1922, a similar block of four, this time of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. label, was used and it was from this block that colour trials for the proposed 2s.6d. value in five different shades of brown were submitted on 12 September and, as before, forwarded to the Controller of the London Postal Service for his selection. There was then a departure from the previous pattern in that the opinion of the Secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers was sought, the chosen essay (PD 54) together with specimens of the existing labels at present in use being forwarded for his observations on 10th October. His reply raised two objections to brown, observing that it was not sufficiently distinctive either when compared with the existing 2d. label or when 'remembering that it will be used in a number of cases on parcels with brown paper covers' and he suggested that an alternative colour should be sought. A further selection of essays was therefore requested, this time with an emphasis on pale pink or reddish purple, but when these were received on 7 December many were felt to be too close to the colour of the existing 1d. label, especially in artificial light. In the subsequent discussion, one of the purple shades was strongly favoured but, to ensure no possible confusion with the existing labels, it was seriously considered that the colour of the 2d. value should, at the same time, be changed to orange in line with that of the 2d. definitive stamp. As an alternative to this somewhat drastic measure, since by this time no fewer than 24 shades had been considered and rejected,



Fig. 2. High Value labels used in the Bulk Payment of Postage Due.

Many large firms have arrangements whereby a single payment (often weekly) is made for all the underpaid items they have received. This slip of paper was the receipt for one such company and lists the various surcharge numbers and amounts.

it was suggested that a distinctive arrangement, creating a label which would be clearly visible on a brown paper background, would be to print the favoured purple on yellow paper, any extra cost of coloured paper being justified by the high value of the label. Six further essays in purple on different shades of yellow paper were produced and from these it was decided that the one labelled SD5 was the most distinctive, it being declared 'quite satisfactory' by the Secretary of the Union of P.O. Workers on 19 February 1924. It was still some months before the new label finally appeared however.

The printing plate was not received until 23 June and the first proofs from the printers, received on 9 August, were rejected as unsatisfactory but finally, on 8 October, the Post Office Circular announced that the 2s.6d. 'TO PAY' labels were ready for distribution.

2s.6d. remained the highest value for over 30 years until a 5s.0d. label 'in red on lemon-tinted paper' made its appearance on 23 November 1955. The two higher value pre-decimal 'TO PAY' labels for 10s.0d. and £1 printed, like their definitive counterparts, in blue and black respectively but, of course, on the distinctive yellow paper, were issued concurrently on 2 September 1963.

Whilst historically it is easy to understand the reason for the existence of the two different wordings 'POSTAGE DUE' and 'TO PAY', there were times when this proved an embarrassment to the Post Office. Customs Officials, never very popular with the recipient of a parcel on which duty had been charged, were, on occasions, castigated for collecting it with labels stating *Postage Due* and when these complaints were passed on to the Post Office some consideration was given to altering this inscription. In 1931 a suggestion was made to change it to 'Charges Due' but this was not favoured; whilst in 1935 the question as to whether to make all the labels 'TO PAY' was seriously discussed. When the actual number of complaints was considered however, it did not seem to justify the enormous effort and expense required to produce new dies and plates for each value and to alter the reference to 'Postage Due' labels in all the relative regulations and forms. So no change actually occurred until the major upheaval of decimalisation in 1971, which made alteration inevitable and this provided the opportunity to resolve the problem for ever.

E. KEITH PARKER

1982 Collectors' Pack (Number 141)



Designed by Trickett & Webb Ltd, this attractively illustrated pack in full colour, containing all eight 1982 commemorative stamps issues complete with background notes, will be available from 17 November, price £7.63. Obtainable from most post offices, all philatelic counters, and the British Philatelic Bureau.

'Golden Hinde' Postcard

Three picture postcards illustrating the 'Golden Hinde' replica at sea, and in the Pool of London, are currently available as a set, or singly at 13p each. The postcards are available to personal callers only at the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London, or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges will apply.

Datapost Aircraft Postcard

A picture postcard – price 13p – illustrating an Air Escosse 'Bandairante' 110 P2 aircraft, used by Datapost, is currently available to personal callers only at the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London. It can also be obtained by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges will apply.

Army Telegraph Stamps

As well as the Telegraph Stamps issued by the British Post Office in the nineteenth century for use in this country, there are also some examples on show in the Reginald M Phillips collection which have been used abroad. This month's "Gem" looks briefly at the Army and Military Telegraph stamps which can be found in volume XLIV 23/4 of the collection. These somewhat unusual items do not have a great deal of documentation, and do not appear in many of the specialist stamp catalogues currently available on the Victorian period.

The stamps illustrated were in fact first used by the Army during the Ashanti War (December 1895-July 1896) by the expedition which was commanded by Sir Francis Scott. They were also used in England during the autumn manoeuvres of 1896 and finally from 1899-1902 during the Boer War proper in South Africa. As well as being used for their intended purpose as telegraph stamps, they were also used provisionally for postage during the Boer War. One of the values was in fact the ½d. postage stamp of the (Queen Victoria) 'Jubilee' issue overprinted Army Telegraphs (illustrated). In addition to a selection of unused stamps, as well as the ten shillings value used, there is a set of 'SPECIMEN' overprints up to the one pound value in the Phillips collection.

Besides the Army Telegraphs, the collection also includes a few examples of the Military/Field Telegraph Stamps. These pre-date the Army Telegraph Stamps and were used in Bechuanaland by the expeditionary force in 1884. They were



also subsequently used in Egypt from 1884-87 and also in the Sudan by the military expedition which was sent in 1885 to relieve General Gordon at Khartoum. Visitors to the National Postal Museum can see these and other interesting items in the Reginald M Phillips collection which are permanently on display.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

A new philatelic sales counter will open at the Harrogate Branch Office, 11 Cambridge Road, HARROGATE, N. Yorkshire, HG1 1AA on Monday 15 November 1982. The office opening is at 11.30 am by the Mayor of Harrogate, Councillor Frank Pickles.

All mail posted in a special posting box situated in the office will receive a one-day

commemorative cancellation. For customers who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply; covers should be sent to The Head Postmaster, Harrogate at the above address.

Hours of business are 9.30 am-5 pm. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10.15 am-1 pm and 2 pm-5 pm Thursday: 9.30 am-12.30 pm Saturday.

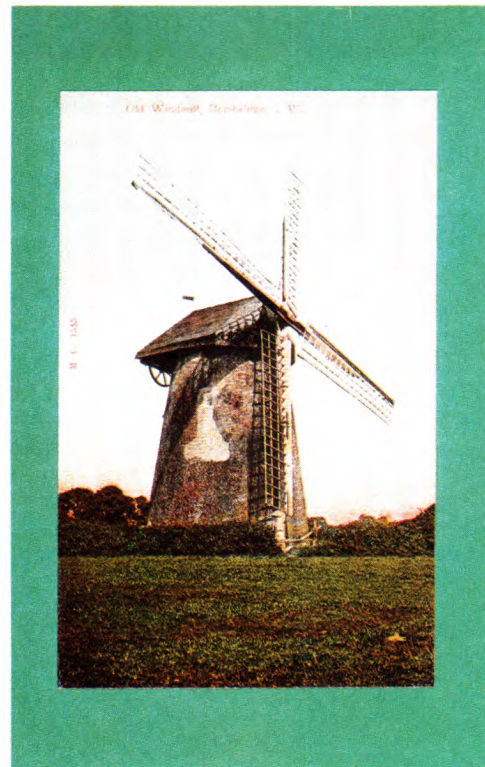
23. W for 'Watermills' and 'Windmills'

The watermill preceded the windmill by about a thousand years (a 'millinary', in fact!), and probably more of them exist today – tucked away down country lanes and straddling rivers and streams – than the more spectacular winged giants of the rural scene. Both types were used originally to grind corn and both are featured extensively on old picture postcards – the theme is a popular one with collectors.

The main element of the watermill is the great wheel which requires a constant supply of water to turn it – the overshot wheel, in which the weight of the water is directed over the top of the wheel, or the breast-wheel (or undershot) where the water is delivered to the wheel at about half its height, utilizing the kinetic energy (or flow) of the river or stream. The revolving wheel turns another wheel within the pit or cavity of the mill building which in turn is geared to the pairs of grinding millstones. Sometimes, to ensure a regular flow of water through the millrace, the streams are penned or dammed to form the proverbially smooth millponds. The same principle applies to modern hydro-electric power stations where the water is harnessed by a dam and, when released, turns the vanes of turbines – the enormous power thus generated provides electricity for domestic and industrial use.

Attempts to harness the power of the tides have generally failed, but there are still two or three tide mills in operation – there were more than a hundred in the 19th century. One such is the Eling tide mill at Totton, near Southampton, which stands on a causeway and has two sets of waterwheels, each with its own set of machinery, one in operation producing stone-ground flour, the other for display. The rising tide fills an adjoining reservoir.

While the watermill had numerous uses other than grinding corn, such as powering furnaces in the iron industry and in the manufacture of paper and cloth, it is only in recent times that the windmill has been adapted to pumping water and generating electricity. The windmill is essentially a tall building to gain the maximum exposure to the wind and to ensure the ground clearance of its four massive sails or vanes. Within the mill are



several floors or lofts: on a high loft the mechanism – similar to that of the watermill – feeds the grain between the millstones, the flour falling down shoots into the waiting bins or sacks. Below this are the storage lofts and, traditionally, the living-rooms of the miller and his family, who are thus self-contained in their 'tower' windmill.

Another type of mill, the 'post' windmill, literally rotates on a post – a structure of brick and cross-beams supporting a heavy, vertical timber axle-shaft. The entire mill is rotated to face the wind – the miller turns the mill by its tail, a heavy projecting beam at the rear, whereas in ordinary mills, the cap of the mill and its sails are turned. Most common in Holland, 'the land of windmills', is the 'sleeve' or 'smock' mill, known locally as the 'wip', which rotates on a pyramid base. Many Dutch mills are used for drainage and reclamation – the sails are linked to scoop-wheels by a driving-shaft. Some of the most picturesque windmills – British and Dutch – can be found on early postcards. My example shows the fine old windmill at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight.

MALCOLM JAMES

Christmas Stamps Issue

17 November 1982



Christmas carols are the theme for this year's issue of five Christmas stamps. Established favourites – 'While Shepherds Watched' (12½p): 'The Holly and the Ivy' (15½p): 'I saw Three Ships' (19½p): 'We Three Kings' (26p): 'Good King Wenceslas' (29p), are all beautifully depicted by Barbara Brown, who designed the 'Famous People' stamps of July 1980. The result – five interpretations of subjects generally accepted as typifying the Christmas story of simple faith.

The stamps, printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd are in sheets of 100. Horizontal in format, they measure 41mm x 30mm with 15 x 14 perforations. The paper is unwatermarked, phosphor coated, except for the 12½p. stamp which has a single printed phosphor bar. The adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

The first day cover, price 14p, and the presentation pack Number 140, price £1.22, are designed by Martin Newton with illustrations by Barbara Brown.

Values and colours:

12½p. – Greenish-yellow, vermillion, steel blue, lake brown, black, gold.

15½p. – Bistre yellow, bright rose red, new blue, bright green, black, gold.

19½p. – Greenish-yellow, bright rose red, new blue, reddish-brown, black, gold.

26p – Greenish-yellow, bright magenta, new blue, lake brown, black, bright orange, gold.

29p – Greenish-yellow, magenta, new blue, lake brown, black, mauve, gold.

Cylinders used:

12½p – 2A, 1B, 2C, 1D, 1E, 1F.

15½p – 1A, 1B, 1C, 1DS, 1E, 1F.

19½p – 1A, 1B, 2C, 1D, 1E, 1F.

26p – 1A, 1B, 2C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G.

29p – 3A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2E, 1F, 1G.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 13p each.



Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Stamps

Technical Details (continued)

Value	Cylinders Colour	Phos	Printing Press	Per- forator	Adhesive	Coat- ing	Printing Date	Comments
9p	3A2B	1	Halley 3	Grover	PV AI	OCP	June '70	Bicolour Black & Orange 2 bar
	3A3B	1	Halley 3	Grover	PV AI	FCP	June'70	Reported by Dr A S Law
	3A3B	1	Thrissell	Grover	PV AI	FCP	Mar '71	
	4A4B	1	Thrissell	Grover	PV AI	FCP	Nov '73	
	4A4B	7	Thrissell	Grover	PV AI/DEX	FCP	?	Reported by Dr A S Law
	8A6B	17	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Feb '74	
	8A6B	17	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Sept'75	
	8A6B	17	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Nov '75	
12	17	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Dec '75	Single Colour	
12	17	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Nov '76	(Varnished paper)	
11	21	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Mar/June '71		
16	21	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Aug '77		
11	21	Jumelle	Kampf Pin Rotary	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Sept '77		
16	7	Halley 2	Grover	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Sept '78		
11	7	Halley 2	Grover	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Oct '77		
16	7	Halley 2	Grover	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Jan '78		
16	30	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Jan '78		
11	7	Halley 2	Grover	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Jan '78		
16	30	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Mar '78		
16	21	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI/DEX	FCP	July '78		
16	30	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI/DEX	FCP	July '78		
27	21	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Sept '78		
16	21	Jumelle	Kampf	PV AI/DEX	FCP	Sept '78		

9p value to be continued in a later issue.

93. British Trees, 1974

A 10p. stamp which must have delighted every 'conkering' schoolboy in Britain was issued on 27 February 1974. It was the second (and last) stamp continuing the theme of 'British Trees' which began just a year before – in February 1973 – with the sturdy oak to mark Tree Planting Year. This time it was the 'spreading chestnut tree', the horse-chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, which, again designed by David Gentleman, filled the stamp almost to overflowing its perforated borders.

The horse-chestnut, or buck-eye, is a deciduous tree of the natural order Hippocastanaceae, bearing dark green foliage and, in the late spring, bearing large spikes or 'candles' of white flowers. It is one of the larger forest trees, much esteemed for parks and ornamental grounds, and it takes its name from its fruit, a smooth, brown, bitter seed or nut, perhaps so called from its coarseness contrasted with the edible chestnut. *Aesculus hippocastanum* was introduced into Western Europe from northern Greece, Albania and Turkey in the 16th century, and was reputedly the source of a cough-cure for horses. The nutty fruit, which is enclosed in a soft, prickly shell, is used as food for cows, pigs etc. after the bitterness has been removed by alkaline treatment. It also provides a children's game in which 'conkers' threaded on strings are struck one against another until one is broken, an autumn pastime.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of



50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. No flaws or varieties are recorded. The series appears to have been quietly dropped as no other tree stamps have appeared though of course there are numerous other attractive and well-established British trees. Quantities issued 7,245,200 and 93,680 presentation packs.

JAMES WATSON

Christmas Pictorial Aerogramme



A Christmas aerogramme, costing 27½p. (24p of which is for postage), will also be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and from most post offices from November 17, 1982. It is printed by McCorquordale Printers Ltd from a design by Lynda Grey featuring angels and carol singers.

Posting Boxes



No 41. The wayside posting box illustrated this month can be found at Norham West Mains, Berwick-on-Tweed. The box mounted on a pillar, bears the Edward VII cypher. The photograph was sent to us by Mrs Joyce Swan of Kenilworth, to whom we extend our thanks.

Book Reviews

'Collect First Day Covers' and 'Collect Post Office Cards'

The 11th edition of the 'Collectors' Guide to GB First Day Covers' now called 'Collect First Day Covers' contains a wealth of information concerning covers from 1840 to 1982. This latest edition has illustrations in colour of many of the rare and scarce FDCs and most of the modern covers. In addition, there are over 200 illustrations of examples of the many special postmarks used. Included also is a complete listing of Channel Islands and Isle of Man covers.

The catalogue has now become a very important feature of the collector's bookshelf, and this edition certainly excels its predecessors at the remarkably low price of £1.95.

The companion to the above catalogue is the 2nd edition of 'Collect Post Office Cards' which lists all Post Office PHQ cards and regional cards in a readily understood layout. Almost every card

issued by the Post Office is illustrated. Jersey, Guernsey, and Isle of Man cards, Air Letters and Presentation Packs are also included in this excellent reference book. With many colour illustrations it is again remarkable value at £1.75.

These publications are available from most stamp dealers, Post Office philatelic counters, and booksellers throughout the country. Alternatively, they may be obtained direct from BBP Publications Limited, Ashton-Under-Hill, EVESHAM, Worcs WR11 6TB, or 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

Stoneham Catalogue of British Stamps 1983 Edition

Published by
Stoneham Publications Ltd,
Stoneham Park, EASTLEIGH, Hampshire, SO5 3HT.
Price £6.95 in U.K.

The 1983 edition of Stoneham continues its publishers established tradition of giving collectors an independent opinion on stamp values. It is one of the few catalogues which is not a product of 'The Trade' and this, coupled with its accurate reflection of market prices, is probably what attracts its many devotees.

This sixth edition is the first to attempt the task of pricing stamps on cover. Since the value of such material is generally considered to be a matter of personal judgement the publishers have taken something of a chance in putting a firm price on specimens. They are to be heartily congratulated.

Comparison with last year's prices shows that there has been some levelling-off although many of the rarer items continue their slow downward trend. On the other hand there is a brisk demand for fine used material. This is presumably due to the very high cost of its mint equivalent.

Ease of reference and clarity of print again characterise this year's edition and no doubt it will prove every bit as popular as the previous five. It is comprehensive, authoritative and easily carried in a jacket pocket. In short, exactly what a collector needs when he sets out to find a bargain.

The Parcel Post of the British Isles

by James A. Mackay
Available from the Author at
11, Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG1 1LN
Price £8.70 post paid (Inland)
£10.85 post paid (Overseas)

The Parcel Post service celebrates its centenary in 1983 and James Mackay has contributed this 232

page volume as a tribute to mark the occasion. He has done the service proud with a most valuable insight into what has long been the 'cinderella' of Philately.

His text covers the disputes surrounding the origins of the service, its long resisted inauguration and its later development. It also reminds us that Rowland Hill unsuccessfully sought to introduce a Parcel Post 40 years earlier. In the event, Hill had retired 18 years before the Post Office handled its first parcel. Such was the strength of opposition from road and rail.

At first the Post Office charged one shilling for a weight of 7lbs. At the last count that had risen to a hefty £1.90 but to be fair, a country postman of 1882 was paid only 16 shillings a week – and was reckoned to have a pretty good job. In some respects he did. One of my grandparents married that year on twelve and six!

The book also illustrates the extraordinary proliferation of labels and documents which accompanied the growth of the Parcel Post. Many of the items shown here were almost unknown until the great George Brummell Collection came on the market a few years ago. That event stimulated a great deal of interest and philatelists began to dust off some of their half forgotten items.

Today, when more and more collectors are searching out specimens an authoritative textbook is very much needed and Mr Mackay's book will admirably meet the need. An excellent read in its own right and an eye-opener to the uninitiated. A book for beginner and experienced collector alike and a worthy companion to this author's other textbooks on British Postal History.

Irish Postmarks since 1840

by James A Mackay

Available from the author at
11, Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG1 1LN

Price £8.70 post paid (U.K.)

£10.65 post paid (Overseas)

A companion volume to the author's two major books on English & Welsh and Scottish postmarks and just as readable. It can be predicted with confidence that collectors will regard these three books as standard works of reference for many years to come.

Mr Mackay has the enviable ability to get right underneath the surface of his subject and to unearth little facets of postal history which in turn shed a revealing light on social customs and usages far removed from the arena of strictly postal affairs.

His task of enquiring into the postal history of nineteenth century Ireland cannot have been made any easier by the wholesale destruction of records at Dublin Head Post Office when that building became the focal point of the 1916 Easter Uprising.

Despite this handicap the author has performed a most valuable service to students by rediscovering much material that was lost and presenting it to us in this copiously illustrated textbook. I do not know of any other single volume in which the inter-related postal and social history of that troubled land is so comprehensively and clearly displayed.

The book will be eagerly read and frequently consulted by every serious student of Irish postal history. It must certainly be considered a mandatory purchase by those who are already familiar with Mr Mackay's kindred volumes covering the rest of the United Kingdom.

The Postal History Annual 1982

by James A Mackay

Available from the author at
11, Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG1 1LN

Price £3.40 post paid (Inland)

£4.30 post paid (Overseas)

This is the fourth annual up-dating of the author's twin volumes covering English & Welsh and Scottish postmarks. The first Postal History Annual appeared in 1979 and this year's offering will be found to be every bit as useful at its predecessors.

The book's great advantage to students is that it enables them to continuously bring themselves up to date with current events without going to the expense of purchasing a reprinted version of the original, and massive, reference manuals.

It contains an enormous amount of information which has come to light during the last twelve months as a result of Mr Mackay's voluminous correspondence with specialist collectors worldwide.

There may be other ways of updating major works of reference but it is difficult to imagine a better one. Certainly much of the new material would never come the way of an average student in the form it does here, complete with illustrations and explanatory text.

Altogether an excellent purchase and one which can be recommended without hesitation to those discerning readers who have already made themselves familiar with the author's standard reference books.

Christmas Stamp Book

Discount Price

The Christmas stamp book for 1982 will be offered for sale at the special discount price of £2.50 at all post offices from 10 November. The book contains 10 x 12½p and 10 x 15½p stamps and will remain on sale while stocks last or until 27 December 1982 when any remaining stock will be withdrawn. Printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd, the 15½p stamps will have two phosphor bars, while the 12½p stamps have a single phosphor bar. The reverse of each stamp will bear an enlarged print (non-toxic) of the star featured on the books cover.

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

Collect British Stamps

The 31st edition of this popular publication will be available at all Post Office philatelic sales counters from 5 November 1982, price £1.80, or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, where normal handling charges will apply.

Forthcoming Events

The Welsh Philatelic Society

'Historical Letters' by Robson Lowe will be the main display at the forthcoming Welsh Philatelic Society meeting to be held in the Hand Hotel, Llangollen, on Saturday 27 November 1982. The meeting will be held from 2.00 pm-5.00 pm.

Further information and particulars of the Society may be obtained from: Peter Brindley, Ceris, Braich, Tregarth, BANGOR, Gwynedd, LL57 4PD.

Croydon Philatelic Society 1907-1982

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, of the Croydon Philatelic Society a Stamp Fair and Exhibition will be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Park Lane, Croydon on Saturday 20 November from 10 am until 4.30 pm. The event will be officially opened by the Mayor of Croydon, and the cost of admission is 25p (including programme).

The Exhibition will consist of over 100 frames displaying the many aspects of members' own collections, together with the entries for the Surrey Federation 'Mason Cup' competition. In addition, at least 25 dealers will be present for the sale of philatelic materials.

Refreshments will be available.

Coventry Philatelic Society

The Coventry Philatelic Society will hold their annual exhibition on Saturday 13 November 1982 in the Sibree Hall, Warwick Row, COVENTRY, CV1 1EX, between 10.00 am and 5.30 pm. The principal display will be the stamps of India. Eighteen dealers will be present and the Post Office will provide a philatelic sales kiosk. Prices of admission are 25p for adults, and 10p for children and senior citizens.

South of England Fairs

The seventh South of England, stamp, coin and postcard fair, will take place at The Assembly Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday 4 December 1982 from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. Prices of admission are 30p for adults and 20p for children.

Forces Cover

Naval Brigade Attack, Lucknow 1857

A philatelic cover will be available from 16 November 1982 commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Naval Brigade attack at Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny. The Naval Brigade disembarked from HMS 'Shannon' a 50 gun steam frigate.

The cover illustrates HMS 'Shannon' with all sails set and funnel showing, sailors from the Brigade, and the ship's badge.

Bearing a 15½p. 'British Motor Cars' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp (BFPS 1971), the cost of the cover is 75p. Alternatively the cover with a 24p 'British Motor Cars' stamp affixed and signed by Rear Admiral E F Gueritz CB, Beachmaster, D-Day 1944; and Brigadier J H A Thompson OBE, Royal Marines, will cost £1.95. Signed by Brigadier Thompson only, the cover bearing a 19½p. 'British Motor Cars' stamp will be available at £1.15.

Orders with remittances made payable to, 'FAA Museum', should be sent to: RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL, accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Commemorative Covers

Rolls-Royce Motors

A commemorative cover issued by Rolls Royce Motors of Crewe is currently available.

The cover features the latest Rolls-Royce motor car, the Silver Spirit, against an English background in full colour with ruled borders foiled in silver. It will bear a cachet stamp depicting 'The Silver Ghost'. A 'Silver Ghost' will be used to take the covers from the Rolls-Royce Motors works to the Head Post Office, Crewe for cancellation.

Serviced covers will bear a 29p British Motor Cars Special stamp only, illustrating the 1907 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost and the 1982 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit. It is one of a set of four British Motor Car series and will be cancelled with a pictorial Post Office first day of issue, Crewe, cancellation. The cost of the cover will be £1.

A specially designed insert card will be provided giving a brief history of the company and its motor cars.

Orders with remittances payable to 'Rolls-Royce Motors', should be forwarded to: 'First Day Cover', Rolls-Royce Motors, Pym's Lane, CREWE, CW1 3PL, accompanied by a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

The British Olympic Yachting Appeal

A special commemorative cover, issued on behalf of The British Olympic Yachting Appeal will be available from 6 January 1983. The cover illustrating a Yachting scene will bear a 15½p. 'Maritime Heritage' stamp ('Mary Rose'/Henry VIII) cancelled with a pictorial handstamp at the International Boat Show, Earls Court, London. The handstamp will depict the Olympic Yachting Emblem. The cover costing £1 may be obtained from the Appeal's philatelic agent, Philart Productions Ltd, PO Box 395 Hendon, LONDON NW4 1RA, to whom remittances should be made payable.

A limited series of four covers, each bearing one of the four 'Sailing' stamps of 1975, signed by leading Yachting personalities, will also be available. Full details may be obtained from the agent on provision of a stamped addressed envelope.

I saw three ships Christmas Cover

The Benham Christmas Cover for 1982 features a delicate illustration of 'The Three Ships' taken from a children's story book. The picture is surrounded by a seasonal gold-blocked border of ribbons and holly.

The cover will be cancelled at Hythe, Kent with a special pictorial postmark depicting the Cinque Port's boat and the words, 'I Saw Three Ships Exhibition 17 November 1982 (Cinque Port of) Hythe, Kent' which will be at The Cover Shop, High Street, Hythe throughout November.

The cost of the cover, with all five Christmas stamps affixed, is £3.30 including return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, should be sent to: 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent CT21 5AT.

Centenary of St John Ambulance City of Leicester Area

The St John Ambulance of the City of Leicester commemorates its centenary on 14 November 1982, and plans to issue a philatelic cover coinciding with the Christmas stamps, to be available from 17 November.

The cover and special handstamp will illustrate the badge of St John Ambulance. The costs are as follows: Bearing a 15½p. 'Christmas' stamp the cover is £1.95; with all five 'Christmas' stamps affixed it is £2.95. These prices include return postage and packing. Orders, to arrive no later than 10 November, with remittances made payable to: 'St John Ambulance - City of Leicester Area', should be sent to, Mr G K Shaw, 73 Repton Road, Wigston, LEICESTER LE8 1GD.

Royal Opening of new Lift Testing Tower

On Friday 12 November 1982 HM The Queen will perform the opening ceremony of one of the world's tallest Lift Testing Towers, Northampton, built by the Express Lift Company. It is to be used for the development and testing of lifts at very high speeds.

To mark the occasion a commemorative cover, illustrating the Tower, will be available bearing a 19½p. 'Maritime Heritage' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The cost is £1.75. A limited number signed by the Managing Director of the Company - Mr Michael Dove, will be available, price £3. In addition, the cover signed by the designer - Mr Bill Ellary will cost £2.50. These prices include VAT. Twenty pence

should be added to the above costs if covers are required to be sent in an outer envelope.

Orders with remittances made payable to: 'Special Cover the Express Lift Co. Ltd', should be sent to: Commemorative Cover, The Express Lift Co Ltd, Weedon Road, NORTHAMPTON NN5 5BT.

Tramway Museum Society Chesterfield Transport Centenary

The Tramway Museum Society have combined their cover issue with Chesterfield Transport Department who are celebrating their centenary. The cover, bearing a 15½p. 'British Textiles' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, illustrates a horse drawn tram and a modern omnibus. The cost is 80p plus 20p return postage and packing. Alternatively the cover with all four 'British Motor Cars' stamps affixed cancelled on 13 October – the issue date – with a cachet saying that the cover was carried aboard a centenary vehicle over the original tramway route. The cost £2.95 including postage and packing. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT SK3 8UD.

Association Football New Series

Four new covers are now available:

No 1 Sheffield United – first home game in Division 3.

No 2 Wigan Athletic – first home game in Division 3.

No 3 Manchester United – entry into European Football again.

No 4 Liverpool – league champions into Europe.

All covers bear a 15½p. 'British Textiles' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. Price 80p each plus 20p return postage and packing.

Orders with remittances should be sent to: Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT SK3 8UD.

The new Barmouth Life-boat RNLB 'Princess of Wales'

This new life-boat will be commemorated by the issue of a special philatelic cover and a one-day pictorial handstamp on 25 November 1982. The handstamp incorporates the Welsh language.

It is hoped that HRH The Princess of Wales will officially name the new life-boat and a special cachet will be applied to all covers to this effect.

Covers may be purchased by post from RNLB Philatelic Agents, 33 St George's Place,

CANTERBURY, Kent CT1 2XX at a cost of £1, (standard): £1.60 (carried on the life-boat) and £2.30 (carried on the life-boat and signed by the Barmouth Life-Boat Coxswain).

A stamped addressed envelope minimum size 5" x 8" should be enclosed for despatch of cover after 25 November.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

**Please give generously on Thursday
11 November.**

Philatelic Bulletin

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