

Philatelic Bulletin

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The Kingfisher shown on the cover is one of the designs featured on the new philatelic gift voucher, the details of which were given in the November Bulletin.

Withdrawal from Sale of Postal Items

The 12p and 13p definitive stamps together with the 12p 'Country' definitive stamps were withdrawn from sale at the close of business on 30 October 1981.

These items are still available from the Philatelic Bureau, and all philatelic counters until 30 October 1982.

After twelve months of price stability, the effects of inflation, the curse of the modern British economy, has caused the Post Office to raise its postal charges with effect from 1 February 1982; details of the changes to philatelic charges are on page 51. In a period of general inflation the postal service, being labour intensive and a big user of high cost energy, is particularly vulnerable; overall the increases amount to 9.3 per cent during a period when the rate of inflation is forecast at 10.4 per cent. It is the Post Office aim to keep price rises below the general rate of inflation, a target that can only be reached by a constant vigilance of costs and productivity.

The increase in printing and illustration production costs of the *Bulletin* have been particularly savage; this is reflected in the necessity of raising the annual subscription to £3 with effect from 1 February 1982.

Can it really be December already? Are there still twelve months in a year or have we gone metric?

1981 was a busy year for philately with eight commemorative issues including the Royal Wedding. 'Folklore', 'Butterflies', 'National Trust' and 'Fishing' issues were particularly well received by collectors, the 'Royal' issues were as usual in great demand and the 'International Year of Disabled People' issue surprised some collectors by its popularity. The Christmas stamps (through the eyes of children) have already created a lot of interest even at the time of writing these notes. Despite concern about the possible effects of the depressed economy both 'Super' Stampex and the 16th British Philatelic Exhibition created interest and enthusiasm. At the junior level, The Melville awards had one of their best entries for some years and the Stamp Bug Club continues to thrive with nearly 70,000 members.

An interesting year for philately but I suspect for philatelists and non-philatelists alike the lasting memory of 1981 will be the year we lost the lovely Lady Diana and gained the beautiful Princess of Wales.

Finally from Frank and myself a merry Christmas and a happy and successful 1982.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Season's Greetings

The Story and Origin of the Christmas Card

Many of the best-loved customs and traditions that conjure up the spirit of Christmas are of surprisingly recent origin. In 1652 the ancient ceremonies and festivities were suppressed when the Puritan Parliament, with its hatred of lingering traces of superstition and paganism, abolished the public observance of Christmas in any form. For the next two centuries Christmas celebrations were in sad decline until in the mid-nineteenth century colour and ritual returned to enliven the industrial drabness of Victorian England. Carol singing was revived, the custom of Christmas trees introduced from Germany and gifts were exchanged on Christmas Day instead of the traditional time of New Year. Dickens' picture of Mr. Pickwick's Christmas at Dingley Dell in 1836 and of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843 did much to establish the season of good cheer in the form in which it is still enjoyed today and 1843 also produced a new tradition that seems likely to last as long as Christmas itself: the Christmas Card.

It was an English invention and tempting as it is to imagine that it was an idea that lodged in several peoples' heads simultaneously, the story of the first Christmas card is well documented. In 1843 the artist, John Calcott Horsley RA, produced a design at the instigation of Henry Cole, later Sir Henry and first director of the Victorian and Albert Museum. In association with Joseph Cundall, Cole had an interest in Felix Summerly's Home Treasury, a shop in Old Bond Street which specialised in improving children's books and toys, along with reproductions of Old Masters. Horsley's design was then lithographed by Jobbins of Warwick Court, Holborn; hand-coloured by a professional colourer named Mason and put on sale at the Home Treasury for 1 shilling a copy. Records show that nearly one thousand cards were sold of which only twenty or so known copies still exist in collections today.

The card is roughly the size of a modern postcard of 5½ by 3¼ inches, printed on one side in dark sepia ink. The central section of a vine-trellis frame shows a typical Victorian family enjoying their Christmas dinner. Two side panels depict Christmas charity: feeding and clothing the poor and destitute and the legend reads: 'A Merry

Christmas and Happy New Year to You.' The Horsley/Cole card was soon followed by others. One of the most attractive was designed by W Egle. With a charming Christmas Pantomime Harlequin and Columbine in its centre, this too presented scenes of Victorian conviviality in a trellis framework. For a long time the indistinct date after the artist's signature led many to believe that Egle had designed his card in 1842 before the Horsley venture but later evidence makes it clear that he was aware of the other card as the very first of its kind and that the correct reading of the date should be 1848.

There is no doubt that the creators of the first Christmas cards were encouraged by the success of commercial Valentines and by the introduction of the penny post on 10 January 1840 – just one of many postal reforms supported by Henry Cole himself.

Until the 1860's commercially produced cards remained few and far between. Yet the idea appealed to the British public and many cards from this period were made and painted by hand, often very complicated creations using several layers of cut-out colour printed scraps, perforated paper, lace and ribbons.

Eventually the advent of cheap colour printing processes and then of die-stamping and embossing in the 1850's led firms to undertake the commercial production of cards on a large scale to satisfy an ever-growing public demand. The first of these firms was C Goodall and Sons who began production around 1862, followed in 1867 by Marcus Ward who began to commission leading artists to produce designs. Early Ward cards are small masterpieces featuring such artists as Kate Greenaway and Walter Crane. Ward eventually ceased production in face of competition from Raphael Tuck, the king of Christmas card manufacturers, who aroused great public interest with design competitions offering large prizes and important exhibitions of the winning pictures. Other manufacturers followed fast: De La Rue, Hildesheimer and Messrs Eyre and Spottiswoode were the classic names of the early Christmas cards. In the 1870's a German immigrant, Louis Prang, introduced his own beautifully printed cards to the

United States and by the end of the century the custom had been adopted worldwide.

In 1870 the new regulations allowing for the transmission of postcards and printed matter at the reduced rate of a half-penny had increased the flow of cards still further and by 1880 the Postmaster General was forced to issue his first plea of 'Post Early for Christmas'.

He could hardly have foreseen that in 1980 the Post Office would have to cope with 458 million of the one thousand and forty million cards that were given during the Christmas period.

Early cards were often far more complicated than the simple folded cards of today. The 1870's were the heyday of animated pull-out and trick cards of superb craftsmanship. The very first mechanical card opened to show a full-rigged ship tossing on the waves and was such a success that its German inventor was able to buy a real ship and sail to America. Cards were made of every imaginable material and in 1878 appeared the first 'voiced' cards with flat suction whistles hidden inside birds which gave out a chirp when pressed. Tabs could transform cards into elaborate bouquets or theatrical scenes and mechanical ingenuity was only equalled by topicality; early cards containing far more allusions to current affairs, political events and inventions than the almost exclusively decorative cards of our time. Comic cards are no modern invention as the Victorians loved them and in 1884 Raphael Tuck began to feature reproductions of Old Masters, a fashion which still produces some of the loveliest cards today. The early 20th century saw a vogue for photographic cards and the military and patriotic cards of the two World Wars are now prized collectors' items.

More attention was paid in the past to cards as artistic creations: the major newspapers and art journals would give extensive reviews of the year's new designs and great interest was always shown in the cards chosen by the Royal Family who had bestowed the Royal Warrant on Raphael Tuck in 1893. Families tended to treasure their cards and to collect them in albums and scrapbooks to be admired long after Christmas had gone by. The late Queen Mary was a great collector and her magnificent albums, now at the British Museum, contain cards from all over the world, all perfectly preserved from her childhood in the 1870's.

Another famous Victorian collector was Jonathan King who began his collection in 1870 in an attempt to assemble at least one sample of every card ever printed. By the time he died in 1911 his collection filled two complete houses in Islington,

weighed 6-7 tons and housed over a million and a quarter different types of card. King had intended that after his death his treasures should pass to the British Museum to form the basis of a national collection. Sadly in 1918 most of the stored albums were destroyed by fire and the surviving items dispersed among London dealers from where the finest examples have since found their way to the United States.

Cards will always provide a fascinating picture of the tastes and fashions of the age in microcosm but today with Christmas cards produced by so many companies all over the world an individual collector would be hard-pressed to follow King's example. Yet even if today's cards have a more transitory life the pleasures of giving and receiving have not changed over the years. Modern cards may lack some of the romantic charm of their Victorian predecessors and offer a bewildering choice of subject and sentiment but their timeless purpose and message remains the same as that expressed by the anonymous verse inside a little card dating from 1910:

'It's an old, old wish,
On a tiny little card,
It's simply "Merry Christmas"
But I wish it awfully hard.'

National Postal Museum Notes

As mentioned in an earlier edition of the *Philatelic Bulletin*, the National Postal Museum is currently featuring a special exhibition on a postcard theme. There is a revival in collecting postcards, and the various types issued by the Post Office have provided a useful adjunct to the field of philately. These have included the cards issued by the Museum to commemorate special exhibitions and to feature unusual philatelic items.

The exhibition covers a wide field and is broken down into three distinct sections. The main one deals with the official Post Office cards and postage rates of the Victorian era. It was not in fact until 1899 that the Post Office gave up its monopoly and British firms were allowed to produce commercial postcards. This leads into the second section in which postcards featuring the Isle of Wight are shown, reflecting the different styles and tastes during the twentieth century. Because of limited display space this section has unfortunately to be restricted to one topographical area. The final section of the exhibition features many of the recent postbus and other Regional

postcards, also Museum postcards, with which collectors will be familiar.

The exhibition will be on show until April 1982 and is proving very popular with visitors. The National Postal Museum is open Mondays-Fridays from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm daily (4.00 pm Fridays), admission free.

Charles Darwin Stamps Issue 10 February 1982

It is 100 years since the eminent British naturalist and author died after a long and distinguished career. To commemorate this centenary the Post Office will issue four special stamps, each bearing a portrait of Darwin in old age, together with illustrations of subjects about which he wrote. The subjects and denominations are as follows. Giant Tortoises 15½p; Iguanas 19½p; Finches 26p; Prehistoric Skulls 29p.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for the first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and 'Shrewsbury'.

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover — price 14p — addressed to the correct address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or 'Shrewsbury' as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested, and despatched. The following charges will apply:

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
Service 'A'	£1.30½	£1.13½
Deposit account customers	£1.25½	£1.09
Service 'B'	£1.16½	£1.01½

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 1 February 1982.

New Definitives Introduced

Six new definitive stamps are to be made available from 27 January 1982. The new values have been introduced by the Post Office to be in line with the new postal charges are, 5p (new colour), 12½p, 16½p, 19½p, 26p, 29p.

First Day Cover Services

SERVICE 'A'. This consists of the official Post Office cover-price 13p — addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all six stamps. The cover will be cancelled: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or 'Windsor, Berks', as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'. Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 18 January 1982.

The following charges will apply:

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
SERVICE 'A'	£1.50	£1.30½
Deposit account customers	£1.45	£1.26
SERVICE 'B'	£1.37	£1.19

Technical Details

PRINTERS: Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd (all denominations except 5p).

The House of Questa (5p only).

PROCESS: Photogravure — Jumelle.

Offset litho (5p).

Perforation: 15 x 14

14 x 13½ (5p)

Denominations and Colours

5p — Reddish brown (new colour — changed from pale violet)

12½p — light green (single centre band)

16½p — light brown

19½p — grey-green

26p — red

29p — sepia

All denominations are printed on phosphor coated paper, except the 12½p value which has a single central phosphor bar.

The 1884 Stamp Committee

The introduction of the Unified Series of issues on 1 April 1884 (1 August 1883 for the 9d value) aroused a storm of protest from both the public and from Post Office employees because of their unimaginative design. The result was that a Stamp Committee was set up, with two of the De La Rue Board members as advisers, in order to produce a new set of stamps to replace the Unified Series.

Volume XXXVIII of the Reginald M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum chronicles the actions of the Stamp Committee which eventually led to the adoption of the 1887 Jubilee Issue. As well as the proposed schemes and essays, many of the original documents on the work of the Stamp Committee can also be seen.

The hand-painted essays illustrated were sub-

mitted to the Committee by De La Rue and Co on 17 October 1884. They include the very distinctive hexagonal essays for the 4d, 5d and 9d values. Despite the 'progressive' thinking behind these essays, it is interesting to observe that the 1½d, 2d and 2½d values are 'as issued' only in different colours, while the 1d and 1/- values are literally issued stamps. This reflects a curious mixture of both innovative and conservative thinking by the firm in their approach to this project. It is also interesting to note that the Committee as a whole did not consider that the 1d lilac value needed changing at all.

These very attractive hand-painted essays can be found in volume XXXVIII/II of the Reginald M Phillips Collection.



New Philatelic Charges

Subject to discussion with POUNC the following increases in philatelic charges will come into force from 1 February 1982.

POSTAGE RATES—

INLAND

First Class Base rate	15½p
Second Class Base rate	12½p

OVERSEAS

Surface Basic rate	19½p
Airmail Zone A Basic rate	24p
Zone B	26p
Zone C	29p
First Day Envelopes	14p
Presentation Pack	
(In addition to face value of stamps)	20p
Collector's Pack	
(In addition to face value of stamps)	55p
PHQ Cards	13p

PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Inland Per Annum	£3.00
Airmail Per Annum	£5.00
Single Copy	25p
Postmark Bulletin Per Annum	£5.50
Bulletin Binder	£2.50

BUREAU SERVICES

Deposit A/C FDC 'A' Service	8p
Non-deposit A/C 'A' and 'B'	13p

FIRST DAY COVER ALBUM

Large	£8.00
Small	£5.50
Postcard Album	£8.00

SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS

Fixed Date	£150
Interchangeable Date	£160
Handstamping Charge	2½p

POSTMARK SLOGANS

Local	£82.50
National	£130
First Die	£55
Additional Dies Each	£50
Time Charge	£7.50

New Illustrated Stamp Books

Number 3 in the third series of stamp books with illustrated covers will be available from 1 February 1982, the contents of which will be in line with the new postal rates.

The 50p book with cover designed by Richard Downer, illustrating Paxton's Tower, Llanarthney, Dyfed, contains 1 x ½p, 4 x 3p and 3 x 12½p stamps. The £1.25 book contains 10 x 12½p stamps — the new second class rate, with cover designed by Ronald Maddox showing the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. 'Period Costumes' (1830-1850) appear on the £1.55 book designed by Eric Stemp. The contents are 10 x 15½p stamps — the new first class rate.

Number 3 of the 'Postal History' series, price £1.43 — devoted to James Chalmers — will contain 6 x 15½p and 4 x 12½p stamps.

All four books will be on sale at philatelic counters, and from the Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The £1.25, £1.43 and £1.55 books will generally be on sale from post offices, and the 50p book from vending machines as current stocks become exhausted.

Technical Details

The stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd on the Chambon press, and the covers on the Libra book-making machine.

The stamps in the 50p book are printed se-tenant: the 3p and ½p stamps have two side phosphor bars while the 12½p stamps have a single side phosphor bar.

The 15½p stamps in the £1.55 book are printed on phosphor coated paper while the 12½p stamps in the £1.25 book bear a single side phosphor bar. The 15½p stamps in 'Postal History' book will have two phosphor bars, while the 12½p stamps will have a single side phosphor bar. The lay-out will be 5 x 15½p stamps above 1 x 15½p and 4 x 12½p stamps.

Wales and The Marches Postal Board

The reference numbers of the new Shrewsbury to York Travelling Post Office postcards are W&TMPB 16 and 17 and not as stated in the October Bulletin.

83. Royal Silver Wedding, 1972

Through 1971 and most of 1972 the Post Office was actively engaged in the selection, preparation and production of commemorative stamps for the Silver Wedding of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, which was due to be celebrated on 20 November 1972, also the proposed date of issue of the stamps. The nature of the event – a traditional family anniversary – suggested ‘homely’ personal portraits combined with the dignity of royalty, a blend of the formal and the informal presentation, and these were the criteria for the stamp designs originally conceived by Broome Lynne and Jeffery Matthews, which included various arrangements of the Royal portraits, Royal Family groups, formal calligraphic and inscriptional designs, interior and exterior views of Westminster Abbey, and photographs of the wedding.

Eventually four of Jeffery Matthews’ designs were selected for further development, and, as these were based on the premise that contemporary photographs of the Royal couple could be obtained, preferably under Jeffery’s own supervision, Her Majesty graciously gave permission for new photographs to be taken especially for reproduction on the stamps, by the well-known photographer, Norman Parkinson. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were photographed separately in profile and three-quarter face, and the designer selected the most suitable prints and prepared layouts in a number of variations, combining both portraits in vertical and horizontal formats, with and without background motifs such as the architectural details of Westminster Abbey. He applied his own stylish lettering for the titling – ‘SILVER WEDDING’ – and denomination – ‘3’ or ‘20’ (pence), appropriately rendered in silver on the issued stamps.

The printers, Harrison & Sons, once in possession of the finished artwork, produced essays of each design in a variety of different colours, which were submitted to the Stamp Advisory Committee. Following numerous consultations and meetings, the alternatives were reduced to three basic designs – the twin profile portraits in vertical format, these and the three-quarter face portraits in horizontal format. The



colours were restricted to those ‘operationally and aesthetically acceptable’ – brown-purple for the heads with indigo or deep blue (3p) or reddish purple (20p) for the plain backgrounds. Finally, the essays of these short-listed designs were mounted on dummy first day covers and ordinary envelopes so that they could be approved in their natural setting – the vertical-format designs were subsequently approved by the Queen.

Jeffery Matthews, a graphic designer, illustrator and calligrapher of exceptional ability and talent, was already noted for his previous GB stamp designs – the UN and International Co-operation Year (1965), British Bridges 4d. and 1s.9d. (1968) and the Regional decimal definitives (1971), while he has since become a ‘designer royal’ with his successful stamps for the 25th anniversary of the Coronation (1978) and for the Queen Mother’s 80th Birthday (1980). He also designed the miniature sheet for the ‘Historic Buildings’ issue of 1978, the ‘London 1980’ 50p stamp, the Christmas 1980 ‘holly and mistletoe’ stamps and the current postage due stamps. Married to Chris (the writer, Charity Boxall), they both celebrated their own silver wedding in 1978.

The Silver Wedding stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison & Sons (partly on their new ‘Jumelle’ press) in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) or in two panes, each 5 x 10 (‘Jumelle’), on unwatermarked paper, the 3p on ‘all-over’ phosphor paper. Quantities sold were: 3p 59,147,800; 20p 7,241,500; packs, 140,060; souvenir packs, 65,425.

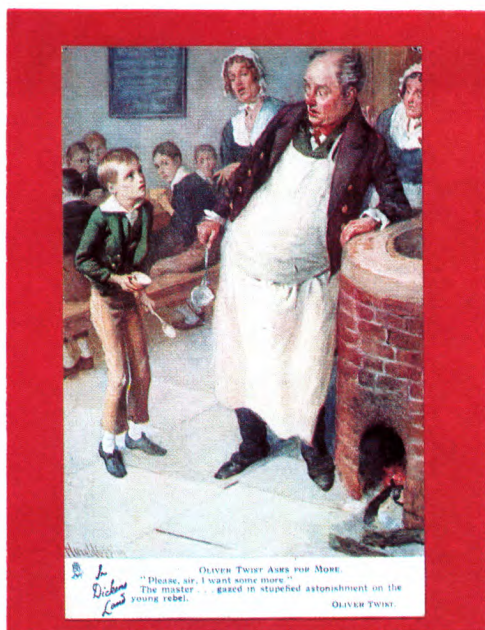
JAMES WATSON

12. L for Literary

As in the stamp-collecting world ('Thematics'), adjectives tend to become nouns to the collector of picture postcards, hence 'Literary', 'Patriotic' and 'Political' etc. The literary theme was always a popular one with the postcard publishers who brought to life not only the authors and their homes and birthplaces, but also the principal characters and scenes from their works. Thus you may find Shylock sharpening his knife prior to claiming his (or rather Antonio's) 'pound of flesh'; Juliet adorning a dozen or more balconies, or Mr Micawber offering David Copperfield a glass of punch.

The old-time publishers, Blum & Degen, issued a postcard series of 'Eminent Writers' in the late 1890s – these pictured Dickens, Longfellow, Scott, Shakespeare, Tennyson, Thackeray and others with vignettes of their birthplaces or principal residences. Raphael Tuck produced a very similar series – 'Homes of Literary Men' – which again included Dickens, Thackeray, Tennyson and other noted writers of contemporary times, also a portrait series of four sets – 'Men of Letters'. But the characters and scenes created by two of the most famous and prolific writers – Dickens and Shakespeare – were featured on hundreds of picture postcards of the early 1900s.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was born, the son of a navy clerk, in Portsmouth. Brought up amid hardships, he was sent to a solicitor's office as a clerk, learned shorthand, and became a reporter, whence he learned the craft of writing novels. He owed much of his success to his illustrators who skilfully captured the 'look' of his characters in dress and style, and who faithfully reproduced the dramatic, humorous and often romantic situations which Dickens' fertile mind created. George Cruikshank illustrated his earliest work, 'Sketches by Boz', and 'Oliver Twist', while 'Phiz' (Hablot K Browne) contributed to the 'Pickwick Papers', all first published in serial form in monthly magazines. Some of these illustrations appear on postcards published by Raphael Tuck, notably in the series of Oilettes titled 'In Dickens Land', comprising more than a dozen sets of six. Tuck and other publishers also published sets of 'Characters from Dickens' by 'Kyd' (Joseph Clayton Clark), and Stewart & Woolf produced three sets of 'Dickens



Characters' signed 'A C' (Alfred Crowquill), which include Dolly Varden, 'All smiles and dimples and pleasant looks'.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) needs no introduction. Born in Stratford-on-Avon, his birthplace and the cottage of Anne Hathaway (his wife) are ubiquitous subjects on postcards, and we have to look around for the notable, picturesquely costumed characters from his plays. Sets of 12 cards featuring scenes from 'Hamlet', 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' and other works were issued by Raphael Tuck, while Romeo and Juliet, Rosalind and Celia, and Jessica and Lorenzo were among the characters pictured by Faulkner & Co. – sets 13 and 45. 'Shakespeare's Heroes and Heroines' is another colourful Tuck series, and 'Shakespeare's Country' is pictured by both Faulkner and Tuck.

'Alice in Wonderland' is a keenly sought postcard subject, so also are Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott. Victor Hugo's Esmeralda and Quasimodo will be found on French cards, Goethe's Faust on German and Longfellow's Hiawatha on American cards. Literature is international! My card illustrated this month pictures Oliver Twist asking for more – "'Please, sir, I want some more': The master... gazed in stupefied astonishment on the young rebel", sketched by Harold Copping for card No.9852 in the Tuck 'In Dickens Land' series of Character Sketches from Charles Dickens.

MALCOLM JAMES

The Royal Mail Postbus Service – part 4

The stamp affixed tickets and their cancellation

Len Newbery

Wales and the Marches Postal Board.

Before settling down to a standard ticket and cancellation the region's tickets and cancellations had an interesting development.

WM 1 Llanidloes – Llangurig, 20 February 1967.

This was the first Postbus Service to be introduced in the United Kingdom and until 23 February 1979 use was made of second-hand ticket machines. On 26 February 1979 the service changed over to the standard pre-printed ticket incorporating the use of postage stamps that was introduced when the second Welsh service WM 2 Llandovery – Myddfai was inaugurated on 12 July 1977.



Between 20 February 1967 and 12 February 1971 a Mycalex machine was used. The ticket of thin white paper measured $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and was printed on one side only in English, giving detail of date, fare paid, stage boarded, a four digit serial number and the logo "Issued subject to the Published Rules and Regulations" and "Post Office". It was struck in violet.

Between 15 February 1979 and 23 February 1979 use was made of an Almex machine showing the decimal charges. The ticket of thin cream paper measured 40mm x 45mm and whilst bearing the same logo as its predecessor also states "Not Transferable". This ticket is printed in English only on one side with information relating to date, fare paid, three digit serial number and machine number (0004).

A special preprinted card ticket with English

only text in red, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2" with fare of 10p was used between 23 – 26 May 1972 on the reserve postbus in connection with the 54th Philatelic Congress at Llandudno.

The value of Postbus tickets to collectors was not appreciated hence the use of second hand ticket machines acquired from the National Bus Companies. However, with the introduction of further postbuses in Wales and an awareness that people study and collect tickets, opportunity was taken to provide collectors with a new source of material.

The Wales and the Marches Postal Board under the Chairmanship of Mr Gerry McMorran, decided that all postbus tickets in Wales will have postage stamps affixed to relate to the value of the fare and will be cancelled with a route personalised undated rubber stamp at the time of issue.

The basic ticket is white, measuring 96mm x 39mm. On the face in red BWS Y POST BRENHINOL – ROYAL MAIL BUS appears in 3mm block lettering whilst to the left are a pair of crossed Posthorns and to the right of these are cornered vertical rectangles to locate three postage stamps (definitive size). On the reverse again in 3mm red block lettering appears the bilingual notice with Welsh taking precedence

RHOIR YN UNOL Â RHEOLANA
GYNHWYSIR

MEWN HYSBYSIADAU SYDDOGOL
ISSUED SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS
CONTAINED IN OFFICIAL NOTICES



The tickets are printed by the Estate Printers Limited, Treforest Industrial Estate, PONTYPRYDD, Mid Glamorgan CF37 5NF eight up 1 x 4 fronts and 1 x 4 reverse on each side.

The cancellations are of two types, the first a dated commemorative and the other an undated daily version both having bi-lingual text with the Welsh taking precedence over the English.

The cancellation stamps are made by means of a Printy self-inking machine manufactured by Trodat.

The tickets are issued from a ticket holder – nicknamed a “mousetrap” – which has several spring clips to hold the various values of tickets. The holders are made in Cardiff by a small general contractor to suit the number of fares for each service.

WM 2 Llandovery – Myddfai, 18 July 1977.

The second Welsh Postbus service was part of the Welsh Office Rural transport experiment. It was the first Welsh service to use the special tickets incorporating postage stamps and the first in the UK to use the bi-lingual text.

The cancellations are all struck in black. Definitive stamps are used and when possible the Welsh Regionals take precedence.

The commemorative cancellation was only used on the first day of the service both on the postbus tickets and on mail collected along the route. It reads

GWASANAETH BWS Y POST BRENHINOL
TAITH GYNTAF
LLANDOVERY-CILYCWYN-
RHANDIRMWYN-MYDDFAI
18.7.1977

FIRST JOURNEY
ROYAL MAIL BUS SERVICE

From 19 July to 26 November 1977 a two line undated daily cancellation was in use –

BWS Y POST BRENHINOL
ROYAL MAIL BUS

The third Welsh Postbus service Rhyl – Meriadog went into operation on the 31 October 1977 and this necessitated the personalising of the Llandovery daily cancellation. The new cancellation went into use on 28 November 1977 –

BWS Y POST BRENHINOL
ROYAL MAIL BUS
LLANDOVERY – CILYCWYN,
RHANDIRMWYN – MYDDFAI

A further one day only commemorative cancellation was used on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Llandovery Postbus reading –

PEN-BLWYDD CYNTAF
18 GORFFENNAF 1978
BWS Y POST BRENHINOL
ROYAL MAIL BUS
LLANDOVERY – CILYCWYN –
RHANDIRMWYN – MYDDFAI
18 JULY 1978

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

This was used on the postbus tickets and mail collected along the route on 18 July 1978 only. The following day reverted to the use of the undated route personalised cancellation.

Book Reviews

Wakefield's Postal History

This most interesting little book written by Brian Clayton, the Head Postmaster of Wakefield, is published to commemorate the opening of Wakefield's new Head Post Office. In spite of its size the book is packed with the history of the Post Office in the City and its environs. Postal historians in general, and the Wakefield historians in particular, will welcome this publication. It is undoubtedly 'a must' for the bookshelf.

Brian Clayton's book reflects his considerable knowledge of the subject which isn't surprising — local history and genealogy are among his leisure-time interests. Published by the Yorkshire Communications Group, the cost is £1 including postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to 'D R Brockbank' should be sent to: Mr D R Brockbank, Royal Mail House, 2 Denby Dale Road, WAKEFIELD, West Yorkshire WF1 1AA.

The Whole World Stamp Catalogue

Published by Pan Books Ltd,
Cavaye Place, LONDON SW10 9GP
From Booksellers price £4.95

This large-format (11½ x 8½ inches) volume is described as a 'catalogue' which will come as something of a surprise to collectors whose previous contact with catalogues leads them to expect a priced listing of everybody's stamps since the year dot. In a note on the rear cover it calls itself an 'encyclopedia' which is more accurate. All the material shown is current.

It is an excellent example of the new generation of illustrated textbooks made possible by modern

printing technology and is a happy development in philatelic literature. Its accurate and plentiful use of colour will not only aid the collector but also attract the eye of the potential newcomer to stamp collecting.

If anyone is contemplating the purchase of a Christmas present for a youngster who is starting to display an interest in stamps, Pan Books has solved his problem. For just under five pounds he will get a handsomely designed reference book which is brimful of interest. Its geographical references and source of supply information will be found invaluable.

One little piece of good advice. Once this book is opened it will be closed only with marked reluctance. Buy it now and give it a good going over for yourself. That way you'll be more likely to give the lucky recipient a chance to enjoy it in peace.

Stanley Gibbons Stamps of the World Catalogue

47th Edition 1982

Publication date: 18 September 1981

Retail price: £17.95 (plus £1 postage if ordered direct from the Publisher)

This catalogue was first published — as the *Simplified Catalogue* — in 1934 and still has a large following by those collectors whose collecting interests range more widely than most of their fellow collectors. It remains the 'Bible' for all who like to enjoy a cross-section of stamp issues rather than concentrating on a more limited range of issues studied in varying degrees of depth. This catalogue then is of great value to the young collector and to the increasing number of thematic collectors. Although still viewed somewhat sceptically by the philatelic establishment, thematic collecting is clearly here to stay and it is abundantly clear that a very large number of collectors derive an enormous amount of pleasure from collecting in this way — perhaps more so than those who constantly worry over the intricacies of PCP1, PCP2 and all the rest! In this catalogue one finds a straightforward listing of all stamps issued since 1840 — by all countries making it the only comprehensive guide to the stamps of the whole world in one volume. Since the last edition a further 6000 new stamps have been added bringing the total to 216,000 and the catalogue contains no fewer than 47,900 illustrations (2000 more than last time). In addition to the listings — and pricings for nearly every stamp — the reader will find much useful matter in the preliminary information section and the detailed index is invaluable for

tracing the listing of stamps from that obscure Indian state or Chinese province.

Although now somewhat weighty this volume is still the best single quick reference guide to the World's stamps and given today's book prices, good value at £17.95.

Isle of Man Stamps & Postal History

by Dr J T Whitney, MA, PhD, LCP.

Available from the author at 75 Church Road, Hadleigh, BENFLEET, Essex, SS7 2DR.

Price £20.00 (plus £1.00 p&p).

Many a dispute between learned authorities has been brought to an abrupt halt when someone has produced a 'Whitney' for the Doctor's name is one to conjure with in the realms of IoM philately. This is the 4th edition of his combined postal history and priced catalogue. From the outset it became something of a bible to the specialists and has remained so ever since.

To say it is comprehensive is to do it much less than justice. If there is any work which enjoys a higher reputation in this particular field it has yet to see the light of day in print. To question its authority is to invite scorn and to dissent from its pricings risks the incredulous look. That is the measure of its standing.

Between its hard covers lie over 300 pages of clearly printed and well illustrated text which encompasses more than two centuries of Manx postal history. It includes such esoteric items as PoW and Internment Camp markings, Strike posts, Revenue stamps, Registration etiquettes, Parcel Post labels and a great deal more to boot.

If anything has been missed out then it must take a very great deal of finding and to anyone who comments upon the book's price one can only remark that it represents £2 per year for the time it took to research it. At that price very few IoM devotees will prefer to manage without it.

Confidently recommended to the specialist as being certain to save its price before too long.

Telegraph Codes of the British Isles 1870-1924

Price £5.00 (UK); £5.85 (O'seas)

British Post Office Numbers 1924-1969

Price £3.36 (UK); £4.00 (O'seas)

by James A Mackay.

Both available from the author at

11 Newall Terrace,

DUMFRIES DS1 1LN

For many years collectors of postmarks, particularly those from parcels and bulk post items, have

come across cancellations which are extremely difficult to identify. Their difficulties are now greatly reduced.

Mr Mackay has produced two volumes of data relating firstly to the use of telegraph codes for postal purposes, and secondly to the numerical coding which was introduced to replace it soon after the First World War.

Shortly after the Post Office telegraph service began in 1870 it was found convenient to adopt a code of two or three letters to identify towns and cities. These 'shorthand' codes were soon adapted for use on the postal side, particularly for parcel and bulk post items.

By 1924 they had become largely obsolete and were replaced by a numerical series — a reversion to the methods of a century earlier — and these lists of numbers were regularly updated until 1962. Most of the entries made since 1962 have simply tidied up the old system although a few new entries can be found well into the 1970s.

Collectors who have hitherto been exasperated by their own fruitless attempts to unravel the system and its complexities need worry no further. Mr Mackay has now done all the spadework for them and done it with commendable thoroughness.

A very necessary purchase for the enthusiast in this particular area of study.

'Collect Post Office Cards'

This is the first edition of a new catalogue which is intended to supplement the publisher's 'First Day Cover' catalogue. It has been introduced in order to improve the listing of Post Office picture post cards and The Post Office Regional postcards especially for the specialist collector. It also allows space to be devoted to Post Office air letters, presentation packs and special event covers. This most useful little book which is well presented will be published annually in September. It is available from most stamp shops and booksellers, price £1.50, or, direct from B. B. Philatelic Publications Ltd, Ashton-under-Hill, EVESHAM, Worcestershire WR11 6TB at £1.70 including postage and packing.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

On 16 December 1981 a new philatelic sales counter will open in the High Street Post Office, NEWPORT, Gwent NPT 1AZ. To commemorate the event a special cover will be available illustrating a sketch of the 16th century Murenger's House, Newport.

A special handstamp bearing the words, 'Official Opening, Philatelic Counter, Newport, Gwent' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in the philatelic posting box situated in the office. The cost of mint covers is 13p each. Serviced covers with a 14p 'Christmas' stamp affixed, cancelled with the special handstamp, are available at 39p each. Orders for serviced covers should be sent to:- The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, 22-29 Mill Street, NEWPORT, Gwent NPT 1AA from whom normal reposting facilities are also available. Giro account number is 417 6014.

Mint covers will be on sale at the Head Office address and from crown offices in Newport only. Bulk order services will not be provided for this cover.

Opening times of the philatelic counter will be: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

Posting Boxes

No. 31. 'Father and Daughter'. This pair of pillar boxes with the ciphers of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II can be seen at Market Hill, Cambridge.



Forthcoming Events

Exhibition of Forgeries

An exhibition of the forgeries attributed to the London Gang (1889–1891) will be opened to the public in the Library of the Guildhall, City of London from 11 January 1982 to 12 March 1982. This notorious gang of forgers and fakers comprised three criminals: Benjamin, Sarpy and Jeffries. Most of the forgeries were made by Jeffries and sold by Benjamin and Sarpy. Many highly deceptive fakes found their way into a shop in Cummum Street, in the City. All were arrested on Christmas Eve 1890 to stand trial at the Central Criminal Court where they were duly convicted and committed to prison.

The exhibition, entitled 'The London Gang – a tale of philatelic deception', is being staged in the Whittington room of the Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, LONDON EC2V 7HP. Open from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Monday to Friday; admission is free. A leaflet describing the exhibition will be available on entry. Arrangements for party visits with a guide can be made on prior application. Details from Mr A J Branston FRPS L, 11 Patching Hall lane, CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 4DH enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Seasonal 'Christmas Card' Display in Gibbons' Gallery

The world's first Christmas card of 1843, Christmas Wishes from the Royal family and 19th and 20th century GPO official inter-departmental Christmas cards, are just some of the fascinating items from what is thought to be the largest collection of such cards, formed by Arthur Blair, of London, a part of which will be on show in Stanley Gibbons Gallery, 399 Strand, London WC2, throughout December.

The display illustrates the story of Christmas greetings through the Victorian era; the Edwardian years; the momentous reign of King George V and the 1914–18 war, and that of King George VI and the second World War with its special greetings aerogrammes and airgraphs for the men and women in uniform; the cards of the National Savings Movement and so through to the Elizabethan period.

Arthur Blair also collects stamps, postal history, coins, books, Valentines, Postcards and ephemera. A journalist by profession, he has been a radio script writer-composer, a past editor and contributor to many philatelic and numismatic magazines and is currently the Editor of Stamp Lover.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, a member of the National Philatelic Society, the British Philatelic Federation, the Cinderella Stamp Club, Patron with Yehudi Menuhim of the Philatelic Music Circle, and President of the RAFF International Numismatic Association. As though the above does not demand enough time and energy – his ambition now is to form a Greeting Card Society – with the help of other enthusiasts.

Commemorative Covers

Football Association

To commemorate the World Cup qualifying round football match which took place between England and Hungary on 18 November – the day on which the Christmas stamps were issued – a special cover is now available bearing the 14p 'Christmas' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp.

The motif design on the cover includes an illustration of the River Danube and Wembley Stadium together with the England coat of arms. The cost of the cover is 75p plus 20p for return postage and packing. In addition, a set of five covers are also available, each bearing one of the five 'Christmas' stamps and cancelled as above. The cost is £3.75 post free. All covers are over-printed with the result of this important game.

Orders accompanied with remittances made payable to 'Dawn Cover Productions' should be sent to Mr S H Renshaw, Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT, SK3 8UD.

Sister Dora Fund

On 16 January 1982 a special cover will be available commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Sister Dora. The cover bearing a 14p 'Butterflies' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp will be posted from the General 'Sister Dora' Hospital, Walsall.

The cost is £1 plus 20p postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to 'Sister Dora Fund' should be sent to: Mr A Highfield, Sister Dora Fund, Manor Hospital, Moat Road, WALSALL, West Midlands WS2 9PS.

The Big C Appeal

This appeal was launched in 1980 in aid of The Cancer Research and Development for Norfolk and Norwich Trust Ltd. Its aims are to raise one million pounds for cancer treatment, and detection equipment for Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. To coincide with the issue of this year's Christmas

stamps, a commemorative cover depicting a Christmas scene and bearing all five stamps, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp, is now available price £3 including postage and packing.

Orders with remittances made payable to: 'The Big C Appeal FDC Account', should be sent to: The Big C Appeal Philatelic Agent, 18 Grant Road, Spixworth, NORWICH NR10 3NN.

International Society Manchester

To coincide with the issue on 9 July 1980 of four new stamps commemorating famous 19th century lady novelists, the International Society produced a special philatelic cover.

On the front is an illustration of 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester – once the home of Mrs Gaskell, one of the four novelists – and now the home of the International Society. A cachet was applied, 'Posted in the house where Mrs Gaskell lived'.

The cost of the cover, bearing a 17½p (Mrs Gaskell) stamp is 75p. Alternatively the cover with all four stamps affixed and cancelled is available for £1.50.

Orders should be sent to: Mrs C M Hayes, International Society, 84 Plymouth Grove, MANCHESTER M13 9NL, accompanied by a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope. Remittances should be made payable to: 'International Society'.

Lord Mayor's Commemorative Cover

The reproduction of an envelope illustrating the Lord Mayor's Show of 1860, is a special feature of a commemorative cover issued by the City of London Corporation to mark the installation of London's 654th Lord Mayor, Alderman Christopher Leaver, on Saturday 14 November 1981.

The covers bear a full set of 'Sports' stamps, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp featuring the City of London coat of arms. A limited number are signed by the Lord Mayor and were carried in his coach throughout the procession. They are available at £5 each for the signed cover, and £2 each for the unsigned cover.

Proceeds from sales will be donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal for the National Playing Fields Association. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'City of London Corporation, Commemorative Cover, should be sent to:— City of London Corporation (Commemorative Cover) c/o Public Relations Office, Guildhall, LONDON EC2P 2EJ.

Please state clearly your requirements, giving

name and address (including postcode) in block letters.

Durham County Spastics Society

To mark the last day of the International Year of Disabled People, the Durham County Spastics Society are issuing a commemorative cover on 31 December 1981 illustrating the Durham Cathedral Sanctuary Knecker. The cover will bear a 22p 'IYDP' stamp cancelled with a special handstamp incorporating the 'IYDP' logo. 1000 covers will be available of which 250 will be signed by Lord Ramsey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and 250 signed by Dr David Bellamy.

In the event of over-subscription, additional unsigned covers will be available bearing the equivalent value of 'Christmas' stamps.

The prices are £2.00 for signed covers, and £1.00 for unsigned covers. Orders with remittances made payable to: 'Durham County Spastics Society', should be sent to: Mr M G Ackroyd, 2 Whitesmocks Avenue, North End, DURHAM DH1 4HP, enclosing a 9" x 6" stamped addressed envelope.

Merseyside Philatelic Society

As a climax to its 75th Anniversary Year, the Merseyside Philatelic Society is producing on 30 December 1981 a special cover commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the closure of the Liverpool Overhead Railway. The cover, illustrating a passenger car, will have a 14p definitive stamp affixed, cancelled with a pictorial hand-stamp. The cost is 50p plus 15p per order for return postage and packing. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Mr A M Goodbody, 79 Forest Road, BIRKENHEAD, Merseyside L43 1UH.

Forces Covers

Royal Navy

The 65th Anniversary of the destruction of Zeppelin L21 by the Royal Naval Air Service occurred on 28 November 1981. To mark the event a philatelic cover is available illustrating the Zeppelin being shot down by RNAS pilots in their BE2C aircraft. An officer's cap badge of the period is also depicted. The cover bears a 14p 'Christmas' 1981 stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPF 1760. The cost is 70p.

Alternatively the cover bearing a 22p 'Christmas' 1981 stamp, cancelled as above and signed by Sqd Ldr L Rochford – who flew BE2C aircraft during the 1914-18 war – and Mr P Cadbury, whose father was Flt Sub Lt E Cadbury, one of the three pilots who shot down the Zeppelin, is priced at £1.95.

In addition the cover with an 18p 'Christmas' 1981 stamp affixed and cancelled, but signed by Sqn Ldr L Rochford only, costs £1.15.

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

Royal Air Force

A limited number of the following commemorative covers is still available.

TP13

Royal Air Force Brawdy Open Day, the cover bears a 12p 'Queen Mother' commemorative stamp which was cancelled on 21 May 1981 by BFPO Stamp No 5343.

The covers depict Flugkapitan Wendelin Trenkle, the Chief Test Pilot responsible for the flight testing of the world's first combat jet aircraft, the Messerschmitt 262, and were flown by Sqn Ldr R Dean, OC No 79 Squadron RAF Brawdy.

They are available from the Project Officer Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL. Unsigned covers cost 75p and pilot signed covers cost £1.05, for overseas orders add 35p postage extra.

TP15

Royal Air Force Lossiemouth Open Day, this cover has a 12p Scottish definitive stamp which was cancelled on 25 July 1981 by BFPO Stamp No 2238.

The cover depicts Flugkapitan Hanna Reitsch, a famous woman test pilot who flew the Focke Achelis Helicopter in the Berliner Halle in 1938. During the war she flew and tested the V1.

The covers were flown in a Sea King helicopter by Flt Lt M J Lakey GM No 202 Squadron on a night training exercise with the Fraserburgh Lifeboat *R Hope Roberts*.

They are available from Flt Lt M Patterson, OC Jaguar Ground School, Royal Air Force, LOSSIEMOUTH, Morayshire IV31 6SD. Unsigned covers cost 75p and pilot signed covers cost £1.05; for overseas orders add 35p postage extra.

TP18

The Biggin Hill Air Fair cover depicts Avro test pilot Jimmy H Orrell OBE who as Chief Test Pilot helped to develop the Lincoln, Ashton and also the Shackleton. It has a 12p Scottish definitive stamp, which was cancelled on 16 May 1981 by BFPO 2938.

The covers were flown on 27/28 March 1981 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Avro Shackleton

by Sqn Ldr J Elias No 8 Squadron, and are available from Flt Lt F W Waters, RAF Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL.

Unsigned covers cost 75p and pilot signed covers cost £1.05; for overseas orders add 35p postage extra.

TP19

The Day of Aerophilately postmark BFPS 1912 on 11 September 1981 cancels the Wing Commander Ken H Wallis Test Pilot cover. Both a designer and a test pilot Wg Cdr Wallis is perhaps best known for his 'James Bond' autogiro. He is the country's only remaining autogiro pioneer still in business.

The covers, each bearing an 11½p definitive stamp, were flown by Flt Lt B A Rowlands No 32 Squadron, RAF Northolt, and are available from the Project Officer Mr M Fopp, Battle of Britain Museum, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL.

Unsigned covers cost 75p and pilot signed covers cost £1.05; for overseas orders add 35p postage extra.

FF33

A cover commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the First Airmail Flight, Hendon to Windsor, was cancelled by BFPO No. 1911 on 9 September 1981.

The cover, bearing a 12p Scottish definitive stamp, depicts a Bleriot flying near to Windsor Castle. It was flown over the 1911 route by Sqn Ldr R M Kerry MVO, AFC in a Westland Whirlwind, and are available from the Project Officer Flt Lt J Morgan, RAF Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL.

Unsigned covers cost 75p and pilot signed covers cost £1.05; for overseas orders add 35p postage extra.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Memmott

Assistant Editor Frank Branch

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