

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Gilbert & Sullivan 18p Stamp

Collectors are advised that it will be in order to affix just the 18p Gilbert & Sullivan stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of Issue", sponsored, and philatelic counter) in use on 21 July. The minimum 1st class rate rule is suspended on this day as the Gilbert & Sullivan set includes a 2nd class rate stamp to increase awareness of special issues. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 18p Gilbert & Sullivan stamp; covers bearing other than Gilbert & Sullivan stamps must bear at least 24p postage.

Please note that the 18p stamp features *The Yeomen of the Guard*, the 24p stamp *The Gondoliers*, and not as described in the June Bulletin (page 219). The illustrations were correct.

Student "British Summer" Stamp Designs

Each year the Royal Society of Arts organises a Design Competition for students at colleges of art. The competition is sponsored by leading companies and organisations, including Royal Mail and stamp printers Harrison & Sons Ltd and The House of Questa. Established in 1924, the competition aims to identify young designers of outstanding promise and to bring their talents to the attention of industry. Some 2,440 students from 105 colleges entered the 1991/92 competition. The Postage Stamp section attracted 466 entries (339 in 1990/91); the brief was to design stamps on the theme of "British Summer". The stamp entries were judged by: Dennis Baily (chairman); Derrick Howlett and John Orford of Harrisons; stamp designer Ronald Maddox; Barry Robinson, Design Director of Royal Mail; and W F Rodgers of Questa.



Designs by Emma Brownjohn and Thomas Walker

The following received travel awards, ranging from £500 to £1,250: Emma Brownjohn (Camberwell College of Arts) – designs included images of the traditional British summer holiday at the seaside; Thomas Walker (Derbyshire College of Higher Education) – seaside activities, inspired by the cartoons of Donald McGill; Roger Hardy (Kingston Polytechnic) – seaside holiday symbols, using the stamp itself to create the images; Camilla Sopwith (Middlesex Polytechnic) – stamps based on a mono-printing and paper stencil technique; Sine Sorensen (Epsom School of Art & Design) – school children's ideas of summer; and Kirsteen Wright (Nottingham Polytechnic) – hand-tinted photographs reminiscent of Edwardian seaside scenes. The designs were shown at an exhibition at the RSA's London headquarters from 29 April–20 May 1992.

The Green Issue

15 September 1992



In recent years conservation of our environment has become a major social and political matter, often referred to as “the green issue”. Royal Mail is committed to minimising the impact of its operations on the environment by means of a programme of continuous improvement.

As part of the Royal Mail’s interest in green matters, four stamps will go on sale on 15 September. The designs are based on the winning entries in a design competition held jointly with the BBC’s *Blue Peter* programme.

The **24p** stamp (inland 1st class and EC basic rate) shows the harm that can be caused by acid rain. The designer is Christopher Hall, age nine. The design of the **28p** value (Europe, non-EC countries rate) which highlights the danger to the Ozone Layer is by Lewis Fowler, age six. The **33p** denomination (worldwide postcard rate) features the problems of the so-called “Greenhouse Effect”, the work of seven-year old Sarah Jo Warren. The fourth stamp, **39p** (basic airmail letter rate) depicts a “Bird of Hope” designed by Alice Newton-Mold, age 12. The four winning ideas were adapted with minimal changes for the final stamp designs by Trickett & Webb Limited.

Stamp Design Competition

The idea of a design competition is not new. Back in 1966 the then Postmaster-General, Anthony Wedgwood-Benn, invited school children to design Britain’s first Christmas stamps. No fewer than 4500 entries were received. Designs by children were also used for the 1981 Christmas issue; the result of a *Blue Peter* competition.

The competition to design the Green Issue stamps was launched last September and was open to youngsters under 15 years of age. Entrants were invited to sketch out their view of the world bearing the environment in mind. Any medium could be used, the designs to be prepared on A4 size paper. In launching the competition, the Managing Director of Royal Mail, Mr Bill Cockburn, said: “Green issues are becoming increasingly important and Royal Mail will be ‘going green’ with a new set of



stamps dedicated to conservation in 1992. We want to involve children in this project. Youngsters have uninhibited imaginations and their views on the environment will shape our future world. This competition will gather their views and give them an international audience in the form of stamps." The competition was organised in four age groups: 7 and under; 8-9; 10-11; and 12-15. Judges included Barry Robinson, Head of Design at Royal Mail National, Dr Jean Alexander of the Stamp Advisory Committee and representatives from *Blue Peter*. The competition closed on 9 October 1991 and judging took place shortly thereafter. Twelve winners – three from each of the four age groups – received JVC camcorders; 1,000 runners-up received special presentation packs of the Dinosaur stamps (August 1991) stamped with Blue Peter/Royal Mail Stamps Green issue stickers. The *Blue Peter* programme on 17 February featured the winning designs, showed the children discussing their designs with Trickett & Webb Limited, and the Stamp Advisory Committee at work.

Printing Details

The stamps, printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited, are of "almost square" format (37 x 35mm), printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 230) will cost £1.55. It was designed by Trickett & Webb Limited with text by Neil Mattingley. Printing was by Raithby, Lawrence & Company Limited of Leicester. The pack has been created using words, ideas and pictures from 14 children who entered the design competition; their ages range from five to 13.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 146A-D.

First Day Cover and Postmarks

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 15 September, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service – one for the Bureau,

the other for Torridon, Scotland – an area of outstanding beauty.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 15 September.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Scotland & N Ireland Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Glasgow, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA (Torridon postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

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

In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (one showing City coat of arms, another the European Community Stars emblem), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: Special Handstamp Duty, Royal Mail City of London, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA (City of London handstamps); and Northern England SHC, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Durham). Please state clearly which postmark is required.

Details of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £9.35 UK, £11.25 Europe; £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters for one year from 16 September, price 21p.

Royal Mail's Green Commitment

Amongst Royal Mail's green initiatives is a pioneering new vehicle, launched in August

the green issue

Royal Mail Mini Stamps

The earth is

and despoll

Do the feathers look better
on the bird or on the hat?
Sambhav Sriskandarejan (13)

dolphins, enough parrots to fill a rain forest, pandas, tigers,



of the animal kingdom. One idea that comes up again

and again involves contrasting before and after pictures.

RECYCLE FOR THE FUTURE.
Claire Marr (8)

Include hourglasses and bicycles.



rhinos in tears and elephant jokes - if a joke is

NEVER FORGET AN ELEPHANT.
Eleanor Whitley (12)

the word -



'Please don't make the world a big white elephant ...'



United Kingdom share



SAVE MY WORLD
SAVE ME.



the green issue

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

1991, which could be the blueprint for the next generation of cleaner, greener transport fleets. The 17-tonne diesel truck has been designed as a "concept vehicle" to test a range of ideas and equipment which will be safer and less damaging to the environment. It uses less fuel, has special equipment to cut out black exhaust fumes, makes minimal noise and carries the latest computer technology. Other "green" vehicles are being planned by Royal Mail. In 1985 Royal Mail began a rolling programme to convert its fleet to unleaded fuel. A programme to convert all suitable petrol vehicles is now in its final stages. The Post Office Corporation backed a lead-free campaign, publicised by the issue of "We Love Lead-Free" stickers to the fleet and applied the same message on millions



of letters in a slogan postmark campaign in 1989. The postmark was, of course, applied in green ink! Royal Mail has jointly sponsored the Institute of Logistics and Distribution Management's new guide on best environmental practice for distribution management throughout the industry.

The Royal Mail's Young Letter-Writers' Competition is the most popular educational contest in Britain; in 1991 attracting some 238,000 entries. The 1992 competition asked youngsters to write on "green" matters.

The importance of conservation is promoted in the book *The Nature of Scotland*, published jointly by the Scottish Post Office Board and Canongate Press (reviewed here in February, page 136), and on the "Nature of Scotland" aerogramme issued on 14 April (illustrated in March, page 151).

The new High Value stamps, issued 24 March, are printed on paper produced without the use of an optical brightening agent, which is a pollutant chemical. In order to cut wastage, it is proposed to reduce the quantity of varnish used on the covers of "window" stamp books.

The Green Issue – First Day of Issue Postmarks

For The Green Issue of stamps (15 September 1992), it is proposed to apply the British Philatelic Bureau, Torridon and standard (non-pictorial) First Day of Issue handstamps in green ink. We would welcome collectors' views on this. Would you prefer all such postmarks to be applied in green, or would you prefer they were used in black as usual, or available in both colours so collectors have a choice? If you have an opinion on this, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please send your comments, by 17 July, to: K Menon, Postmark Manager, Royal Mail National, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.



New Stamp Books

Three new stamp books go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters on 28 July. The 50p and £1 machine books are the last in the current series featuring Archaeology (50p) and *Punch* cartoons (£1). The 78p book contains two 39p stamps (for use on airmail letters) printed by Walsall Security Printers; the book is being issued in connection with a promotion with Kellogg's.

These new 50p and £1 machine books will go into vending machines as stocks of earlier issues are used up.

National Postal Museum News

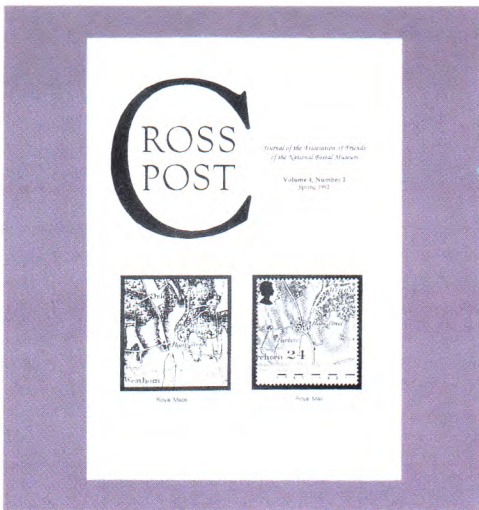
"The Queen's Stamps" exhibition, featuring artwork, essays and issued stamps of the present reign, commemorating the 40th anniversary of The Queen's accession, will end on 10 July. A new exhibition entitled "Symphony of Stamps" opens on 21 July, day of issue of the Gilbert & Sullivan stamps. This exhibition has been arranged with the Philatelic Music Circle, an article on which is published in this *Bulletin*. Amongst the material shown will be artworks for British music stamps. A special "Symphony of Stamps" handstamp will be used at the Museum on 21 July. Cards and covers to receive this handstamp can be handed in at the Museum's Sales Counter or sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City of London, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA stating that "NPM Special/21 July" is required. Covers must bear at least the current 1st class postal rate (24p).

The Museum will issue five new postcards on 15 September, day of issue of the Green Issue stamps; four cards will feature postal artefacts, the fifth will reproduce the Machin head. The cards will cost 25p each and can be ordered, nearer the time, from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), KEB, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order £1; handling charge of 24p on orders up to £24, £2.14 over £24 (sent by registered post).

Friends of the NPM

The Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum are staging an exhibition of stamps and postal history material from members' private collections at Autumn Stampex-BPE, 13-18 October 1992. The displays include local postal history of north Wales and north west Kent; franks, impressions and mechanisation; postal stationery; Royal Events, British Empire Exhibition and Olympics; and early GB stamps. A feature on the displays will be published in the exhibition catalogue.

The Association organises several interesting meetings and visits each year. Friends receive NPM postcards, the Museum's *Philatelic Year* annual report, a well-produced magazine *Cross Post*, and regular newsletters. The annual subscription is just £10 (add £2 for Post Office Archives postcards); membership runs from 1 April to 31 March. Subscriptions for 1992/3 should be sent to: Friends of the NPM, c/o National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.



The Spring 1992 issue of *Cross Post*, the journal of the Friends of the NPM, has recently been published. Edited by Allan Daniell, it includes interesting features on Hamstreet and the Map stamps (by David Rutt), on the Museum's display "Victorian Revenues & Other Fiscals", on the Replica Pearson Hill Cancelling Machine (Tony Gammons), Waywisers in the NPM (Douglas N Muir), the 'Peover Papers' (early postal records, by J W M Stone), an article on the postal museum at Riquewihr, France, book reviews and a report of the Friends' AGM last November. The magazine contains articles of interest, and reference value, to both philatelists and postal historians. *Cross Post* is free to members; annual subscription £10. Non-members can buy copies of the magazine for £2 each. All orders/enquiries to: Ray Pottle, Secretary, Friends of the NPM, address above.

Raflet Stamp Club

The Club has announced the appointment of Air Vice-Marshal Ian D Macfadyen as President in succession to Group Captain W S O Randle who has retired from office after serving the Club magnificently for 15 years.

The Raflet Stamp Club is one of the largest in the UK and caters widely for the general collector with perhaps a slight bias towards aerophilately. The age of members ranges from seven to 98! Potential members can obtain details and a free *Bulletin* from: E N Cowley, Swiss Cottage, Sutton Road, Huttoft, ALFORD, Lincs, LN13 9RG.

Symphony of Stamps

IRENE LAWFORD

Thematic collecting has gained significantly in popularity, and thus in recognition and respect, since I first started collecting "Music" stamps some 24 years ago. Then, I was viewed as somewhat of an eccentric (which I still am!). Now, I am invited by the National Postal Museum to organise a Philatelic Music Circle exhibition in their prestigious premises. Then, stamp dealers barely knew what a "music" stamp was. Last year I was invited by the Philatelic Traders' Society to organise an 88-frame Philatelic Music Circle exhibition at "Spring Stampex".

Somebody once said that they thought that The Philatelic Music Circle (affectionately known as PMC) comprised a bunch of people who sat around in a circle, occasionally leaping up to break into a song and dance routine; he was an ignoramus who didn't even know the meaning of the word "philately"! He was intrigued when I told him that we were a large international society of people who collect the theme of Music on stamps; and that there are at least 10,000 Music stamps in existence. Of course then I had to go on to explain that there was much more to it than "just stamps".

Actually, the PMC was one of the earliest thematic societies in Great Britain, being founded in 1969. It started when the late Sylvester Peat and I became pen-friends through an advert in *Stamp Magazine*. With a world-wide membership of over 500, it is one of the largest societies in the world devoted to a single theme. We have members from all walks of life - music lovers, musicians, advanced and beginners in philately, with an age range from 10 to 95. Our magazine *The Baton* has won many prizes for philatelic literature and the PMC offers many benefits and opportunities to its members.

In 1990 the PMC celebrated its 21st birthday. We marked the occasion at our Annual Convention - with a birthday cake, iced with our logo. We also issued a unique commemorative souvenir sheet honouring our Hon. Patron, the world-famous violinist, Sir Yehudi Menuhin. Designed by Jennifer Toombs, it features a portrait of Sir Yehudi by the Canadian artist



Myfanwy Pavelic - similar to her portrait in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Whilst this was our first venture into the realms of souvenir sheets, we have produced special covers on two occasions and have sponsored several one-day handstamps. The first handstamp was in 1980, to mark the first award of the Robert Stolz Trophy for Music Philately. Sponsored by the composer's widow, Einzi Stolz, this trophy is awarded annually by the PMC, to the designer of the 'best' Music stamp of the previous year. Whilst no British stamp has yet won the award, there have been two 'placements' - Sir Hugh Casson's Royal Opera House, Covent Garden of 1980, and John Gorman and Andrew Davidson's 26p Carol Singers Christmas stamp of 1990.

Anniversaries are generally the occasion for stamp issuing authorities to celebrate. 1991

marked the bicentenary of the death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; at the time of going to press, I have already received about 40 different Mozart stamps from around the world and there are over 100 special cancellations! To commemorate the tri-centenaries of Bach and Händel, 1985 was designated "European Year of Music". CEPT decreed that all member countries should issue "Music" stamps that year. The whole world joined the bandwagon and over 300 "Music" stamps were issued.

Great Britain's contribution took the form of an overdue celebration of British music - one year late. Three of our greatest 20th century composers who died in 1934 - Sir Edward Elgar, Frederick Delius and Gustav Holst, were commemorated along with the naturalised British George Frideric Händel. The designer of the stamps, Wilson McLean told me that he had been invited by The Post Office to design the stamps following a lecture he had given on Dada Art. (Dada was the anti-art movement of the 1920s and 30s which elevated rubbish into an art-form). This was McLean's first commission to design stamps and gave him the opportunity to express his fascination with surrealism in this manner. In wanting to get away from the customary approach of portrait representation, he aimed to interpret the music in abstract form. The stamps are surreal, dream-like impressions of water and sky themes - they are reflections and when viewed together as a set, offer interesting balances. A fifth stamp, Henry Purcell, was commissioned and designed, but rejected.

In conjunction with this set, The Post Office and Chandos Records collaborated to produce a musical tribute. Händel's *Water Music* was especially recorded. The design of the record sleeve shows a sheet of the *Water Music* stamps. Could this be the consummate answer to the question: What is a Music stamp?

The first British composer ever to have been honoured on a British stamp, was Ralph Vaughan Williams. A 9p stamp was issued to commemorate the centenary of his birth, in 1972. He was shown conducting, whilst the background comprised facsimile notation of the Prelude to his *Sea Symphony*. The designer, Clive Abbott, was given a bare 12 days in which to research and submit his design. His research led him to libraries and to the Royal College of Music, the Keystone and COI photo libraries, as well as to Oxford University Press, the British Museum Manuscript department, the Royal



Academy and the London Symphony Orchestra.

1979 saw the centenary of the birth of that towering and major British conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham. It was left to the PMC to commemorate the occasion, along with our tenth anniversary, with a special cover. However, 1980 saw the issue of a stamp in his honour,



together with three other major conductors: "Tommy", "Timber", "Flash" and "J.B." - Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Henry Wood, Sir Malcolm Sargent (known as a flashy dresser) and Sir John Barbirolli. They were shown as bland, head-and-shoulders portraits, without any indication that they were conductors or musicians.

There have been a few other music related British stamps - Christmas carols, musical angels and minuscule musical instruments, but only one more noteworthy one. In 1984 a set of

four stamps was issued to celebrate the British Council. One of the stamps showed a violinist; in the background was musical notation from Sir Michael Tippett's opera *A Midsummer Marriage*.

1992 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Sullivan, composer and organist, son of an Irish bandmaster. He composed symphonies and oratorios, but is best known for his collaboration with the playwright W.S. Gilbert, whom he met in 1871. It is from this collaboration that we have the famous Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. In celebration of Sir Arthur Sullivan's anniversary, the Royal Mail is issuing a set of five stamps, illustrating five of these operettas, on 21 July.

To celebrate this event, the National Postal Museum has invited the PMC to mount an exhibition of Music philately. It will run from the first day of issue of the stamps, until 4 September. Five members are showing entirely different aspects of music philately, each representing their own particular approach.

From David Rye we have Spanish Dancing and folklore; Jack Yardley shows the Great Composers who have visited Birmingham; Geoffrey Datson, our Chairman, displays his special interest in Viennese Operetta and Wagner; the well-known stamp designer Jennifer Toombs exhibits some of her designs for Christmas and Carnival stamps; and I will be showing the Winners of the Robert Stolz Trophy for Music Philately, Sergeij Prokofiev and Italian Opera. All these exhibits will be enhanced by photographs, cigarette cards, original letters and autographs. The National Postal Museum will present an exhibit of British Music stamps, and there will be an interesting array of musical instruments and items in show cases. All this, and of course the regular Museum collections as well, await your enjoyment. You don't have to be a music philatelist to appreciate the exhibition; it is fun, it is colourful and above all it displays a varied approach to collecting the theme of Music.

Robert Stolz Trophy

The Robert Stolz Trophy for Music Philately is sponsored by Einzi Stolz, in memory of her late husband the Austrian composer of operettas, songs and film music, Robert Stolz (1880-1975). It is promoted by the PMC; members vote annually to select the "best" Music stamp, or set, or miniature sheet, of the previous year, which they judge on personal artistic criteria. It

was initiated in 1980, and is awarded to the designer of the stamp. The winning stamps have been: 1980 – St Vincent Christmas miniature sheet (S.G. MS627); 1981 – France "Hommage a Bach" stamp (2339); 1982 – Monaco Mozart birth anniversary se-tenant strip (1485/7); 1983 – Austria Haydn birth anniversary (1931); 1984 – Sweden Music in Sweden miniature sheet (MS1170); 1985 – East Germany Mendelssohn birth anniversary miniature sheet (MSE2564); 1986 – Monaco Bach and Handel 300th anniversary stamp (1760); 1987 – New Zealand Music in New Zealand set (1407/10); 1988 – Monaco Mozart bicentenary of "Don Giovanni" (1849); 1989 – Switzerland Swiss Minnesingers set (1145/8); 1990 – Austria Strauss 40th death anniversary (2201); 1991 Belgium Beethoven Egmont stamp (3050).



If you are interested in Music philately and would like to find out more about the PMC, please write to the Secretary, who will be happy to send you full details: Arnold Mahon, 11 Aberdeen Grove, Armley, LEEDS LS12 3QY.

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Irene Lawford is President of the Philatelic Music Circle and Editor of "The Baton". She is a linguist, speaker and writer. She spreads the news of philately far and wide by organising personal exhibitions of Music philately in Music Festival venues.

Events

until Dec 92. "40 Years of Elizabeth II" display of the workings of the Post Office since 1952, including letter boxes, stamp machines, philatelic items, etc. Manchester Transport Museum, Boyle Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester. Open Wed, Sat, Sun 10.00-17.00. Enquiries: David Harrop, 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT SK4 3DQ Tel. 061-442 1089.

until Feb 93. "Victorian Revenues & Other Fiscals" exhibition of material from the Phillips Collection at NPM, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 9.30-16.30.

until May 93. "People in the Post" exhibition at NPM.

21 Apr-10 Jul 92. "The Queen's Stamps" exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the accession of HM The Queen at NPM.

11 Jul. 92. Philatelic Music Circle regional music at Bath. Enquiries: A Mahon, 11 Aberdeen Grove, Armley, LEEDS LS12 3QY.

12 Jul. 92. Postal Memorabilia display at Scottish Transport Extravaganza, Glamis Castle, 9.00-18.00. Enquiries: D Harrop, address above.

18 Jul. 92. Plymouth Phil Soc Exhibition & Fair at Plymouth Guildhall. Enquiries: Muriel Griffiths, 17 Berry Park Road, Plymstock, PLYMOUTH PL9 9AG.

18 Jul 92. Telford Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, 190 Holyhead Road, Wellington, TELFORD, Tel. 0952-223926.

21 Jul-4 Sep 92. "Symphony of Stamps" exhibition, in conjunction with Philatelic Music Circle, at NPM.

Philatelists Honoured

The British Philatelic Federation announces the award of its 1992 Congress Medal to Commander George Gibson, RN Ret. The following receive Awards of Merit: Alex Greer, Clifford Hopes, Raymond How, Pat Rothnie, Hugh Sharp, E V Toeg, and Ivan Trinder. Congratulations to all on this recognition of their efforts in support of the hobby.

Royal Mail Stamp Album

The 1991 Continuation Pages for the *Royal Mail Stamp Album* are now available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £9.50 (order code PA122). The album, with spaces for decimal definitive, special, country, and To Pay stamps from 1970 to 1990 costs £55.95 (PA123). Album binders are available at £23.95 (PA049). This luxury album provides for all Machin definitives and country stamps as listed in Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps*, i.e. stamps with different phosphor arrangements and perforations. The album and slip-case are hand-made, covered in navy blue "leatherette" finish Kivar. The binder is padded with the Post Office crest blocked on the front cover and spine. The high quality cartridge paper pages bear hand-mounted crystal clear mounts for each stamp. An order form listing over 20 "Albums and Publications" on sale is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Eur-Apex '93

The British Aerophilatelic Federation is planning a full scale competitive exhibition for 1993 thus continuing the 10 year cycle of aerophilatelic exhibitions, starting with "Apex '73". Following negotiations with the Philatelic Traders Society and the STAMPEX organisation, agreement has been reached to stage the exhibition in conjunction with SPRING STAMPEX 1993, at the Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1, 2-7 March 1993.

"Eur-Apex '93" as it has now been named will comprise a full national exhibition with international participation with over 400 frames available. Accreditation has been granted by the British Philatelic Federation; patronage of FISA (International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies) and FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations) is being sought.

The competitive exhibits will be split into five classes: international, national, airmail stamps, astrophilately, and literature. Special souvenirs and associated attractions are under consideration. Further details will be published here nearer the time; meanwhile enquiries should be addressed to: The Secretary, Eur-Apex '93, 21 Lynton Close, Hurstpierpoint, HASSOCKS, W Sussex, BN6 9AN.

Themes of British Special Stamps

8. Ships and Boats: Part 1

G E DRABBLE

As a tribute to our maritime history, there have appeared to date, 29 issues with connections with ships or boats, some of them admittedly tenuous, and of these, seven can be said to be exclusively dedicated to a sailing or seafaring topic. These seven comprise a total of 31 stamps, and the circumstance that one of these does not include any illustration of a ship or a boat is left as a puzzle for the thematic collector to solve. Of the remaining 22 issues, I shall somewhat arbitrarily dismiss three, as having too fragile a link with matters maritime to merit inclusion; again it is a matter for the collector to decide. These are: the issue of June 1946: Symbols of Peace and Reconstruction, the 2½d stamp having an outline sketch of a liner; the issue marking the bicentenary of Turner in 1975, which includes two of his sea pictures; and Games and Toys, 1989, which includes a very stylised toy yacht.

Space in the *Bulletin* is limited, so I shall confine this present survey to the seven complete issues. The remaining stamps will be the subject of a later article. Three stamps appeared in 1963 commemorating the ninth International Lifeboat Conference; 1969 saw the issue of "British Ships"; the sport of sailing was celebrated in 1975; Fishing appeared in 1981; "Maritime Heritage" comprising a set of five in 1982; a set of four in 1985 was titled "Safety at Sea", and finally, a se-tenant strip of five in 1988 marked the 400th anniversary of the defeat of the Spanish Armada.



The ninth International Lifeboat Conference was held in Edinburgh on 3-5 June 1963, and the issue of three stamps to mark this appeared on 31 May. They were designed by David Gentleman, and were based on woodcuts engraved by him. The technique was unusual, and probably

unique in British stamp design history. The two lower values were a matching pair, with a plain white background, the 2½d illustrating a modern scene - a helicopter winching a man from a 37-foot "Oakley" motor lifeboat, (incidentally the first issue of a stamp bearing an aircraft, as mentioned in the first article in this series, September 1990). The 4d took a dip into history, with a view of a sailing lifeboat of the 19th century, used at Aldeburgh, Suffolk in 1900. The pictures have an effective, if somewhat stark poster-like simplicity of line, and it is perhaps surprising to learn that five colours were used in the printing of the 4d. The 1s 6d was a contrast, with a grey-blue ground, and three crew members, kitted up with oilskins and sou'westers, with lifebelt in the foreground. This is the one stamp in the series which does not include a vessel. A "Wilding" three-quarter profile of The Queen's head took up a generous third of the space.



Unique Arrangement

January 1969 saw the appearance of a set of six stamps under the heading "British Ships". The designer was again David Gentleman. The arrangement was unique; a single contrasting stamp 61 x 24mm, three times the definitive width, denomination 5d, the standard first class letter-rate of the time; a se-tenant strip of three 9d stamps, 41 x 24 mm, twice the definitive width, and a se-tenant strip of two, again three times definitive, completing the set. The 5d presented a broadside view of *RMS Queen Elizabeth 2* in black, white and light grey, with two touches of red, one being the word CUNARD, on a plain blue background. There was no white margin; the blue background extended to the perforate edges of the stamp - a

feature appearing for the first time in British commemorative stamps. A black left-facing silhouette of The Queen's head, the denomination and a plain title completed the very simple design. The remaining stamps were in powerful contrast; the three 9d displaying views of three sailing vessels on a white ground, and the double 1s showing two steam vessels, the SS *Great Britain* and RMS *Mauretania*, all in exquisite colouring. The constraint of a horizontal format required that the pictures did not include the tops of the masts and rigging, this did not detract from the beauty of a very fine set of stamps.



Four stamps dedicated to Sailing appeared in June 1975, designed by Andrew Restall. This set was included in the article in this series on Sport (January 1991). The issue marked the bi-centenary of the founding of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, and also the centenary of the Royal Yachting Association. The design illustrated dinghies, racing keel boats, cruising yachts and multi-hulls, using a poster-like presentation with bright cheerful colours, and a combination of photogravure and recess printing. The set is interesting in that the only lettering consists of the values, if we except a registration number on the sail on the 7p stamp.



Fishermen's Year

1981 was "Fishermen's Year" and Brian Sanders produced an action-filled set of four, also to commemorate the centenary of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. This is another set with no inscriptions except values. Four aspects of deep-sea and inshore fishing are illustrated: cockle dredging, trawling, lobster

potting and seine net fishing. The set is very correctly "matched", with The Queen's head, in grey silhouette, facing alternately right and left. Five to seven colours were used, giving a broad spectrum to the four scenes. The overall tone of blue perhaps suggests an atmosphere of fine weather which a fisherman might accuse of being too cosy, but the pictures nevertheless do convey an impression of work under conditions that most landmen would abhor.



The issue titled "British Maritime Heritage", issued in June 1982 may qualify as the definitive set for this theme. 1982 was designated "Maritime England Year" by the English Tourist Board, and was also the bi-centenary of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights. This was appropriately the year chosen for the raising of the hull of the *Mary Rose*, off Portsmouth. Each of the five stamps consists of a bold head-and-shoulders portrait in colour of a naval personage occupying about half the space, on a plain white ground, with the remaining space taken by a line-drawing of the vessel appropriate to the subject. The design was the combined work of Marjorie Saynor, who produced the portraits, and Czeslaw Slania, who did the engravings for the ship drawings. The printing was a combination of photogravure and recess printing. This combination of two techniques resulted in a very pleasing set, marred slightly by the rather commercial style of the titling, with the subject and the name of the ship separated by a stroke. The subjects span naval history, starting with Henry VIII, the founder of the Navy, with the *Mary Rose*, and coming to the present century with Admiral Cunningham, a commander of the Second World War, with his flagship in the Mediterranean fleet, the battleship HMS *Warspite*.

Safety at Sea

1985 was an anniversary, both for the lifeboat, and for Radar, and these were marked by the issue "Safety at Sea" in June. The designers, Newell and Sorrell, produced a set of four stamps, original in several respects. The dom-

inant subject of each stamp is set against a background of three panels; the upper left portion "railed off", so to speak, and containing a sea scene with a vessel. The lower panel extends across the width and contains relevant supplementary matter. The remaining upper right panel is reserved for The Queen's head, and the value. A lifeboat descends a steep slipway to the rescue of a vessel which has fired a distress rocket. The base panel contains the device RNLI 1985 (the initials of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution) in naval signal flags. A lighthouse dominates a heavy sea, and the base panel shows part of a marine chart, on which Beachy Head Light is marked. A satellite receives a signal from another ship, the signal being picked up by a series of radar aeriels shown on the base panel. And finally a large buoy overshadows a small sailing yacht, with a range of various buoys shown in miniature below. The colours are bold and exciting, including vermilion, chrome-yellow, bright blue, emerald, and generous use of black, and the printing was by the rather infrequent litho process. Perhaps there was an attempt to display too much in a small space, but the overall effect is good.

Railway Letter Stamps

On 21 July the North Yorkshire Moors Railway will issue a new stamp (No. 47) to commemorate the return to traffic, after restoration, of Black 5 steam locomotive No. 44767 "George Stephenson". The stamp, featuring "George" steaming under Darnholm Bridge, is printed in sheets of six. Price 25p single, £1.50 sheet, £1.95 first day cover, plus postage 25p on orders up to £1, 40p over £1 (airmail add 50p). Stamp No. 48 will be issued on 31 October to celebrate the NYMR holding a special Wartime Weekend; this comprises the "Dame Vera Lynn" definitive (6 February 1992) with special overprint. Prices as for July issue. Orders/enquiries: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

The Talylyn Railway has announced that it is to issue two 25p stamps. No date is given for the first, in deep green, featuring loco No. 7 "Tom Rolt". The second, in Wedgewood blue, will be available at an annual Victorian Week on 26 July-1 August. This stamp will be used on a commemorative cover marking Queen Victoria's first railway journey in 1842. Orders/enquiries: Sara Eade, Talylyn Railway, Wharf Station, TYWYN, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY.

New Lundy Stamps

In May (page 210) we reported the issue on 19 May of a new set of Lundy stamps ("local carriage labels") to promote tourism on this island in the Bristol Channel. One of the five stamps is featured here – showing the Landing Beach. The 29p value covers the cost of sending a 1st class letter from Lundy, including the 24p British postage. All enquiries regarding Lundy stamps should be sent to: Wendy Puddy, Lundy, BIDEFORD, Devon, EX39 2LY.



The final set in this theme is a se-tenant strip of five, issued exactly 400 years to the day after the Armada was sighted off The Lizard, and Sir Francis Drake insisted on finishing his legendary game of bowls. The five stamps represented five locations of the famous Armada during 14 days. The stamps, designed by Graham Evernden, are remarkable for the wealth of detail, although historic verisimilitude is eschewed, the scenes being shown in the style of contemporary paintings. The tone darkens along the strip, the buoyant light blues, reds and yellows giving way to darker colours, as the vaunted Armada is finally routed. This was a popular issue, and was accorded the second place in the *Bulletin* Stamp Poll of the year.

Ships or boats appear in 19 other issues on single stamps; these will be discussed in Part 2 of this article.



Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

199. Inland Revenue Fiscals

The stamps shown below are similar to the 1d "Draft & Payable on Demand" stamp of 1855 featured here in May (Gems 197) but overprinted INLAND REVENUE. As overprinted stamps they were issued on 3 April 1860 and are sometimes referred to as a "provisional issue". The stamps have Cable Anchor (single stock) watermark and were valid for postage from 1 June 1881. These stamps can be seen on the same album page as the block of four previously featured here – Phillips Collection Vol. XLIII page 11.



An exhibition entitled "Victorian Revenues and Other Fiscals" is currently on show in the open display panels in the main gallery of the National Postal Museum. The material shown, all in the Phillips Collection, has been newly researched and written up based on the most authoritative published and unpublished sources.

The NPM in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, London EC1, is open Monday-Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm. Admission free.

Lionel Jones, Philatelic Officer

Correction: We are obliged to Mr R Eden of Wirral for pointing out a typesetting error in Gems 195 (March 1992). The strip of five 2d blues on the lower cover are from plate 5, not plate 8 as stated.

Obituaries

Tony Evans, who died in April, was an accomplished self-taught photographer who will be remembered by philatelists for his fine photographs used on the 1987 Studio Pottery and 1990 RSPCA stamps. Sadly he will not see his photographs of Victorian stained glass windows used on the 1992 Christmas stamps.

Tony began his photographic career in 1963 taking portraits of young painters about to leave the Royal College of Arts, one of whom was none other than David Hockney. One of the Hockney portraits was sold to *Vogue* and within a few years Tony's work was appearing regularly in *The Sunday Times Magazine* and *Radio Times*. A book of photographs on the theme of the British sunset proved a best-seller and enhanced Tony's reputation as one of your best photographers.

He enjoyed enormously working with Royal Mail on stamp issues and the *Royal Mail Stamps Yearbook*, for which he took portraits of the stamp designers. He will be greatly missed by the Design team. Tony's gentle and pleasant personality made him easy to get on with; his enthusiasm for his work came out clearly in his article "Photographing Studio Pottery" published here in October 1987. We will remember him when the Christmas stamps are issued in November, a fitting tribute to a fine photographer and a good man.

Ian Wilkinson who died on 21 May will be best-remembered for his sterling efforts on behalf of the Letter Box Study Group; Ian edited the Group's *Newsletter* for many years. He built up an impressive collection of miniature letter boxes, stamps, postmarks, covers, postcards and photographs of letter boxes – possibly the largest such collection in the UK. This is now housed at the National Postal Museum, with selected items on show in the main gallery. Ian wrote several features on letter boxes for this *Bulletin*; further articles await publication.

A keen collector of Post Office greetings telegrams, Ian published a useful guide to these shortly before his death. His other interests included Recorded Delivery labels and local stamps of Herm and Lundy; he had a fine Lundy collection and regularly visited the island.

Ian was a true gentleman; his kindness, courtesy, and good companionship will be missed by many who will join in sending sympathy to his wife Daphne. Ian's name will live on in his writings.

John Holman

The British Council, 1984

British Special Issues: No 173

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The British Council is among the longest-lived quangos, being a quasi-governmental body set up in 1934 when it was realised that other countries, from the 1920s, had been promoting their own languages, cultures and forms of education in an attempt to foster international relations.

The British Committee for Relations with other countries was Britain's belated response in 1934. In 1935, under the more convenient, but less explicit, title "The British Council", the organisation was officially inaugurated by the then Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor). Further recognition came in 1940 when King George VI granted The British Council its royal charter.

By 1984 when the British Council celebrated its golden jubilee, its Director-General and administrative and specialist staff of 4,000 were working in 80 countries world-wide. Despite economic difficulties since then, the Council's work has been extended. It now has 155 offices in 90 countries, maintains 115 British libraries overseas and is responsible for 55 English-language schools around the world. The Council hosts many thousands of students and researchers every year in Great Britain (in 1984 it was 30,000) who attend training courses and cultural and scientific seminars. The current Director-General is Sir Richard Francis, KCMG, who is paid a respectable £77,500 per annum (Ref: *Whitaker's Almanac* 1992).

The Council's turnover in 1991-92 will be £395 million which includes grants from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Overseas Development Administration. In 1991, the Council generated an income exceeding £90 million.

Issued on 25 September 1984, the four stamps commemorating the golden jubilee of the British Council were designed in the studios of Newell and Sorrell Design Ltd whose artists provided cameos of the British Council at work overseas. The 17p stamp features a Nigerian child clinic, symbolising education for development. The 22p value depicts a young British violinist against a background of the Acropolis

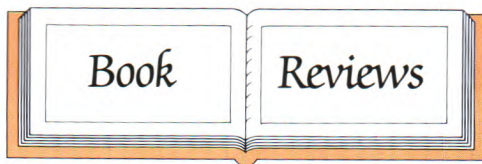
and music from Sir Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*, performed by a British orchestra in Athens, the whole concept being the promotion of the Arts. The 31p denomination illustrates on-the-spot technical training provided by the Overseas Development Administrations Technical Co-operation Training programme, the actual example pictured being a construction project under discussion in Sri Lanka. Finally the 34p stamp features a scene in one of the British Council's libraries in the Middle East with students at work with English reference books, the vignette being framed by an extract from the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*.

Printing was by Harrisons in photogravure in sheets of 100 (two panes 10 x 5). One major flaw is illustrated by Gibbons in the *GB Specialised Catalogue* on the 22p, dot cylinders, row 3 stamp 5 – the omission of black screening on the violinists' chin-rest. Five minor flaws are known: 22p, dot cyls, R9/7 – grey hairline behind the violinist; 22p, no dot cyls, R10/4 –, white spot below figures of value; 22p, dot cyls, R5/4 –, white patch at far left vertical line in background; 22p, dot cyls, R7/2 – red speck on bow tie of violinist; 31p, no dot cyls, R4/2 – black line missing from plan below engineer's hand. The 17p stamp is known with a pre-release London cancellation dated 7 September.



During the year to 24 September 1985, post office counters sales were: 17p – 36,543,700; 22p – 7,882,400; 31p – 7,339,800; 34p – 7,036,500. The PHQ postcards for this issue were numbered 79a-79d, 161,000 sets were produced.

The pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks were provided at the British Philatelic Bureau and London SW. The Bureau cancel depicted a Globe; that for London SW featured the British Council logo.



The 1992 (7th) edition of the Stanley Gibbons **Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue** is now available. Based on the GB listings in Part 1 of the standard S.G. catalogue, but with additional information, the *Concise* includes missing colour, embossing and phosphor errors, inverted and reversed watermarks, stamp books, UPU "Specimens", first day covers, stamp cards (PHQs), gutter pairs, gift packs and Royal Mail year books. Of particular use are the quick reference diagrams for the Machin decimal booklet panes, and the design index for special (commemorative) stamps. Prices have been revised since the publication of *Collect British Stamps* in November 1991. There are many increases in the prices of Victorian stamps, especially in used condition. Edward VII and George V issues are now printed unmounted and mounted mint as well as used; there are some good price increases for watermark varieties. Notable amongst George VI and Elizabeth II increases are the 1951 "Festival" high values, and the 1p Machin with side band right (X847Ea) from the 1987 P&O prestige stamp book – up from 75p to £2.75 mint! Many 1970s traffic light gutter pairs are increased in price, as are decimal Country stamps (regionals), early postage dues and booklets. No fewer than 31 previously unlisted errors and varieties are now included. All issues listed from the Penny Black to the recent Tennyson set. 264 pages, card covers. ISBN 085259-319-8. Price £9.95 from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop, or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH, postage £2.75 UK, £5 overseas.

The 10th edition of Volume 1 of the S.G. **Great Britain Specialised Catalogue** covering the issues of Queen Victoria is also now available, price £18.95 limp cover, £25 casebound. It will be reviewed here shortly.

As a young letter-carrier in London in the late 1850s and early 1860s, Edward Harvey kept a diary-cum-memorandum book, one volume of which appeared in a manuscript dealer's catalogue in 1980 and was acquired by the Univer-

sity of Warwick. First published in 1982, and now available again, **A Postman's Round** provides glimpses of Harvey's working, courting and family life. The short, detailed entries, written in a naive manner, supply a surprisingly vivid picture of the small world of work, home and social life in mid-19th century Britain. The book also includes the diary of a voyage from London to New York, 1859, compiled by a friend of Harvey. The extracts are prefaced by an introduction by Dr Tony Mason of the Centre for the Study of Social History. 32 pages, card covers. ISBN 0 903220 12 1. Price £3.50. Available from: Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick Library, COVENTRY CV4 7AL.

British Philatelic Trust

In his article in the *Bulletin* of November 1991, James Negus mentioned the good work done by the Trust in publishing and sponsoring books. The BPT has recently published *The Postal History of Fiji 1911-1952* by J G Rodger, CBE, FRPSL, in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain. The 112 page book, produced in a limited edition of 300, is available from: British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, or Pacific Islands Study Circle, c/o J P Deeny, 32 Malvern Way, Croxley Green, RICKMANSWORTH, Herts, WD3 3QG. Price £27.50, postage £3 UK and overseas surface mail.

Welsh Society Comes of Age

The Welsh Philatelic Society celebrates its 21st birthday in 1992 and as part of the celebrations held a 21st Anniversary meeting recently at Rhyd-y-Felin, near Aberystwyth. Some 46 people attended, including several founder members. A message of congratulations was received from the Post Office Board for Wales and the Marches. Talks on "The History of the Aberystwyth Post Office from 1769 to 1862" and "The Welsh Connection" were given by Ron Cowell and Stuart John. After the celebratory lunch, an auction was conducted by John Cowell. The WPS caters for all collectors of Welsh stamps, postmarks and postal history; an interesting Newsletter is published. Details can be obtained from: Gwynn Morris, 27 Tan y Bryn, Llanbedre DC, RUTHIN, Clwyd, LL15 1AQ.

More Variety Needed?

In April we printed a letter from Martin Allen of Oxford asking for more variety in our stamp-issuing policy, including more miniature sheets, the introduction of imperf stamps and stamps of different shapes. There was a considerable reaction to his letter – over 10 to one against his suggestion of more stamps. B D Cameron of Kent read Mr Allen's views "with concern approaching horror." He continues "You must be aware that there is an ever-increasing tendency for minor countries to enhance their revenues by manufacturing excessive numbers of special stamp issues, souvenir sheets and unnecessarily long issues of known thematic interest to collectors... The British Post Office is already in the top 20 league of stamp issuers (see *Stamp Magazine* March 1992 page 65). Your article in April 92 *Bulletin* about Special Stamp Criteria, particularly f) 'commercial targets' rings loud alarm bells."

Philip Overell of Staffordshire both agrees and disagrees with Mr Allen. He finds it "difficult to understand how anyone can describe our Machin definitives as boring and 'bewilderingly complex' ... I consider that they are satisfying because I can make my own decisions as to the degree of complexity of my collection. In fact that is one of the joys of stamp collecting in general."

I agree strongly with this last comment by Mr Overell, feeling sure that many collectors would get satisfaction by collecting according to their own collecting policy rather than by slavishly collecting everything that is issued and/or given catalogue listing. I refer readers to my editorial here in February 1990 in which I set out my views on the subject of too many stamps and the cost and time collectors need to spend to maintain their collections.

Returning to Mr Overell's comments, he writes: "I violently disagree that imperforate issues are something that should be contemplated for even an instant. Leave them to those islands whose economy depends on stamp sales, the use of the word 'philatelic' in that context is a misnomer. I am neutral in the matter of min-

ature sheets. Obviously their main advantage is that a larger area is given to the designer upon which to express himself, and the stamps are presented in a very neat and concise way. Perhaps one a year might be tried out for a period to determine popularity. As to shapes of stamps (and sets) I thoroughly agree with Mr Allen... A quick check of the catalogue seems to show that from the 1969 British Ships issue to the Gallantry stamps of 1990 there was not one single issue with a mix of stamp shapes. This surely says something? Would there be extra cost and is this an over-riding consideration?

C S Dixon of Norfolk believes Mr Allen is "most certainly in a minority" in wanting more issues; he argues (as did many other readers) that in drawing up stamp programmes, the planners should bear in mind the cost of issues for senior citizens and children.

N Montfort, also of Norfolk, considers the "Greetings stamps offer an ideal way to 'open up' the stamp issuing policy – booklets could be issued featuring Birds, Flowers and National Trust properties – I can see a booklet featuring scenes and/or personalities from the Golden Age of British Cinema." He adds "...varying the amount of stamps per set from one to five is certainly preferable to the regular four of past years...", and concludes his letter "the Tennyson stamps are admirable – I trust you have a Robert Burns bicentenary issue planned for 1996."

The Rev. Ross of Derbyshire writes: "I have to say that if the Post Office went down the road which Mr Allen advocates, then I would give up. I have seen some of the issues Mr Allen so admires, and whilst he is welcome to his own taste and ideas in stamp design, I would be very saddened indeed if multitudes of issues, miniature sheets, etc, etc were to be part of the British scene. I think the PO has it just about right at the present time, although one or two issues less per year might be better. I cannot agree with Mr Allen about the definitives being boring – I find them and their slight variations more interesting than the commemoratives. So please, no 'Banana Republic' stamps for Britain!"

Mr A Barnes of Cleveland would welcome "an increase in variety of sizes and shapes" but not more issues. He suggests that special issues should remain on sale at post offices until the next set is issued, instead of just "for a few days after issue." He also favours putting special issues in standard stamp books instead of definitives to give greater publicity to special stamps.

D R Winter of Gloucestershire would "prefer fewer commemoratives per set" and welcomes the 2nd class stamp in the Wintertime issue, hoping to see more at this rate in future issues (*a 2nd class stamp is included in the Gilbert & Sullivan set, on 21 July. Ed.*) Mr Winter describes the Greetings stamps as "a welcome innovation" and suggests such stamps "in a second class format so there is always an alternative to the boring, albeit classic, definitives."

"God forbid", writes W H Dickinson of Tyne & Wear, "the Martin Allen's suggestions that the British PO should emulate South East Asian countries in their attitude to special issues be accepted." However he agrees with Mr Allen that "not all subjects warrant four or five stamps in a set. Indeed one or two stamps would be ample for some commemorations, especially if the second class inland rate were included. After all, a commemoration should reach as many people as possible, not just collectors." On Mr Allen's view that the definitives are boring, Mr Dickinson comments: "However that may be, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the continuous issuing of new values and changes of colour, together with the differing phosphor treatment in booklets, are not in any way essential to the running of an efficient postal service."

Barry Moorshead of Bath agrees "whole heartedly" with Mr Allen "that the current Machin definitives are very boring. They have been around for far too long and their design is firmly rooted in the era when design had a stark simplicity that gave us concrete tower blocks and offices which are now thankfully being demolished and replaced with far more interesting and softer designs. Do we have to wait for Her Majesty to leave the throne or can we look forward to a new design that will reflect today's thinking?" Mr Moorshead is "not in favour of birds or whatever but a design still using the Sovereign." He continues, "I cannot agree with Mr Allen's view that the PO is too unimaginative in its policy when issuing commemoratives. There are far too many commemoratives already – too many issues a year and too many stamps in a set. Don't most actual users of stamps use NVIs these days? I hardly ever get commemoratives on my post – except at Christmas of course."

Special Stamp Criteria

There was considerable interest in the current special stamp policy published in April. Dr Paul

Jones, of the British Stamp Design Study Circle, sent me a photocopy of a document he had been studying in Post Office Archives. The memo, in 1956, set out the PO's thinking on stamp issues; it makes fascinating reading. It states:

"Hitherto the Post Office has followed a conservative policy of having a basic issue of postage stamps for a whole reign, the design consisting essentially of the Monarch's head in a suitable framework, supplemented by occasional issues of special stamps to mark events of outstanding national, international or postal significance.

"The reasons for this policy are:

"(1) the use of a design based essentially on the Monarch's head is traditional and it is believed that any departure from it would meet with widespread disapproval;

"(2) if a different style of design were adopted, we should lose the privilege which we (alone) have always enjoyed (without any express agreement) of not having the name of the country on our stamps;

"(3) large stamps, such as would be necessary to accommodate both the Monarch's head and pictorial designs, present difficulties both to the business community and the Post Office;

"(4) frequent changes of issues, and this simultaneous sale of different issues of the same denomination, would create serious manpower and accommodation difficulties at public counters, and with present limitations would worsen the counter service to the public.

"(5) there is a considerable body of philatelic opinion which broadly supports our policy; the International Philatelic Federation in 1952 passed a resolution advocating a radical reduction in special issues of postage stamps."

A later paragraph explains that the policy "need not mean that special issues would be of very great rarity, conceded by a reluctant Post Office against its will only when it is practically impossible to avoid doing so, and at the longest possible intervals. We have in fact had seven special issues of stamps in the last eleven years; and there are at least two arguments for deliberately aiming at a special issue every two years or so."

Whilst many collectors would today throw their hands up in horror at the thought of a special issue only once every two years, some older readers may well view this prospect with nostalgia.

Who would be a Stamp Designer?

Mr Stuart Rose, CBE, PPCSD, former Design Adviser to the Post Office, writes:

"I wonder if I may make a comment or two on Mr Drabble's interesting article on the Paintings issue in the March *Bulletin*, if only to put the record straight on one or two points.

"I had been appointed Typographical Adviser to the Postmaster General in 1962 and therefore it fell to me to act as designer for all these issues. The work that Harrisons did on the technical development of the printing of these stamps was quite remarkable and the quality of their reproductions was outstanding, but it can hardly be said that 'the first venture into the art world in July 1967 was the responsibility of the printers, Harrison & Sons', nor that 'August 1968 saw a third issue of Harrisons & Sons doubling as printer and designer.'

"The question of an issue of stamps devoted to British painting had long been under discussion in the Council of Industrial Design's Stamp Advisory Committee, so when in 1967 the newly appointed PMG, Ted Short, replaced it with a Post Office controlled committee, a memorandum was immediately sent to him from the committee listing 11 paintings thought suitable for reproduction as stamps and from which he could select three for publication. The PMG chose none of the committee's list but made his own selection! Unfortunately no attention was paid to relative size and proportion nor to format. I was not consulted, but only told to make the reproduction fill the whole stamp area!

"The same procedure was followed in the next two issues, Christmas 1967 and British Paintings the following year. Seeing the very poor design results of the earlier issues, I recommended to the PMG that the 1968 set should have the value numerals and The Queen's effigy kept clear of the painting area, a view shared by the Committee. But I'm afraid he wouldn't agree because I don't believe he appreciated that to superimpose alien elements onto the reproduction of a painting creates a visual disturbance which is the antithesis of good design.

"Fortunately by the time we got to the Ulster '71 Paintings I had been made Design Director and was therefore in a stronger position to influence the total design of the stamps and in particular the choice of the paintings to be reproduced. George York of Harrisons and I spent considerable time in the Province trying, with the help of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, to find paintings suitable for reproduct-

ion and small enough to avoid excessive reduction. I was determined too, to ensure that the reproductions of the paintings should remain uncluttered. In the end I felt satisfied that I had found a tolerable design formula which I could adapt to future issues.

I still don't believe that this is the best way to design stamps, but I can think of no better way to commemorate a painter than by reproducing his own work. I must confess to feeling so apologetic about this whole approach to design that I couldn't bring myself to commission another designer to work to such an embarrassing brief. So I designed them all myself!"

Post Offices open in 1971 Strike

William Clarke of Ottawa, Canada writes to report a further office which cancelled first day covers of the decimal definitives on 15 February 1971, sending a photocopy of a cover posted at St Teath, Bodmin, Cornwall. This brings to nearly 170 the number of offices known to have cancelled mail during the 1971 strike period. The original list, published here in February 1991, contained just 44 names.

Another Award for Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook

The *Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook* for 1991 has won the winner of the "European Colour Awards" organised by *Creative Review* magazine. The Yearbook was designed by Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell. Two of the judges described the book as "a remarkable publication for an official institution ... an adventure with colour", and as "an exhausting, extraordinarily precious and rich piece of graphics."

The Yearbook, popular with collectors, has received other prestigious awards. The 1987 edition received top prize in a design competition organised by *Print Buyer* magazine (see January 1989 *Bulletin*), and the 1984 edition was awarded top honours as the "best example of a complete book" by *Design and Art Direction* magazine in 1985.

The 1991 Yearbook, reviewed here in December 1991, is still available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters, price £19.50. The 1992 edition will go on sale on 10 November.

Posting Boxes

132. Victoria and George V Wall Boxes

Our first photograph, submitted by C Jervis of Cheshire, shows a Victorian wall box between the villages of Brockweir and St Briavels in the Wye Valley. This would appear, from Jean Farrugia's book *The Letter Box* (1969) to be a type C (small) cast by Smith and Hawkes (later, by Bernard P Walker and the Eagle Range and Foundry Company) during the period 1871-1881. The box is in a good state of repair.



The second photograph, from M Donaldson of Kent, shows a George V box set in the perimeter wall of the parking ground bounded by Drake and High Streets and Union Road in Deal. The box itself is in Union Road, and bears the maker's name W F Allen & Co London at the base. Martin Robinson in his book *Old Letter Boxes* (1987) tells us that "The wall boxes of George V have a complex history chiefly because, as with the pillar boxes, the contracts passed from one manufacturer to another."

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies awaiting publication in this "Posting Boxes" feature. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Ed.

Readers interested in letter boxes may like to join the Letter Box Study Group – details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BS.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: July Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail National, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 31 August.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Green Issue stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the October *Bulletin*.

1. The design competition for the Green Issue was organised with which famous BBC television programme?
2. What is the title of the National Postal Museum exhibition opening on 21 July?
3. Who engraved the ships on the 1982 Maritime Heritage stamps?
4. Who is President of the Philatelic Music Circle?
5. What was the date of issue of the Tennyson stamps?

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

The winners of the April competition were: K Arthur of Ontario, Canada (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); C Wee of Clwyd; S Fairbairn of Western Australia; G Plumb of London; D Morris of Suffolk; and A Hansen of Denmark (Civil War presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Maps; 2. RMSP *Thames*; 3. Isle of Lewis; 4. £1.50; 5. Optically Variable Ink.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers: requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin office.

Isle of Wight Tennyson Centenary Festival.

A limited edition (450) cover is being produced to commemorate the Festival. Each cover, numbered and signed by Hallam Tennyson, great grandson of the poet, bears the four Tennyson stamps cancelled by a special Isle of Wight handstamp. The cover is available from 4 July from: Tennyson Festival Office, Quay Arts Centre, Sea Street, NEWPORT, Isle of Wight, PO30 5BD. Cheques/postal orders payable to "IW Tennyson Festival"; credit cards not accepted.

Gilbert & Sullivan. A G Bradbury has been commissioned by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, and the Royal Academy of Music to publish official first day covers. The D'Oyly Carte cover (limited to 1,000), reproduces a Sadler's Wells' poster of "The Mikado" in full colour. Price £5.75 or £9.75 signed buy either Freddie Lloyd or John Reed (company stars). The Gilbert & Sullivan Society cover (500), shows a study of Gilbert and Sullivan together with the G&S Logo. Price £7.50 or £12.50 signed by Sir Charles Mackerras (Vice President). The Royal Academy cover (500) features the "Archinto" viola and a special "Yeomen of the Guard" handstamp. Price £7.50 or £12.50 signed by the Academy's Principal, Sir David Lumsden. Overseas add £1 postage. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Sir Arthur Sullivan. Benham are producing a range of covers in connection with the Gilbert & Sullivan issue. The theme of the main cover will be "The Yeomen of the Guard"; this features a "silk" illustration of a "Beefeater". A special Tower of London postmark will be applied. Price £4.99 or £7.99 signed by the Resident Governor of the Tower and the Keeper of the Royal Jewels. A second cover, celebrating "The Pirates of Penzance", reproduces an original painting by Gordon Davies of a pirate ship flying the "Jolly Roger". A special Penzance handstamp will be applied. Price £4.99. Two covers are being produced for the Sir Arthur Sullivan Society, both feature original paintings, one of the Fairy Queen from "Iolanthe", the

other of dancing Gondoliers. Price £4.99 each. Five smaller covers, each bearing one stamp, show music scores of the five operas. Price £12.50 per set. A set of five postcards, featuring paintings of characters in the operas, will cost £12.50. Postage 45p extra. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

British Army. Commencing this year several of our famous Army Regiments are to be amalgamated. A series of 12 commemorative covers is being produced over a two year period. Each cover (limited to 500) features different regimental uniforms (common to each cover) together with colour photographs of the cap badges of the Regiments being amalgamated. All will bear special handstamps used on each amalgamation date. The first cover in the series will be produced on 1 July, marking the amalgamation of the Royal Irish Rangers with the Ulster Defence Regiment to form the Royal Irish Regiment. Price £4.75 each, £49.75 for set of 12. Overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Broad Gauge Railway. The last of the GWR's broad gauge trains ran in May 1892. Some 177 miles of broad gauge lines were converted to standard gauge over a weekend by 4200 workmen. A commemorative cover has been produced by G Eldridge which bears appropriate Great Western train stamp and special 20 May handstamp. Price £2.50, overseas add 80p postage. Orders/enquiries: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

General Election. For the third time, Benham have produced a special General Election cover featuring the winner of the election. This follows two covers marking the 1983 and 1987 general elections. The 1992 cover shows the Prime Minister and Mrs Major on the steps of 10 Downing Street after the election victory. 1000 covers have been produced. Price £4. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham), The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Lord Tennyson. Cambridge Stamp Centre offer a collection of seven first day covers each bearing the full set of Tennyson stamps and each with a different pictorial postmark. Each cover has been signed by a well-known author including Sir Kingsley Amis and Miss Jilly Cooper. Full details available from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA.

Six Month Digest

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

14 Jan	Wintertime stamps (AS485)
14 Jan	Wintertime pack (AP101)
14 Jan	Snowdon Shepherd book (PA127)
21 Jan	3p Def. Redrawn numerals (DS032)
21 Jan	50p Def. ACP (DS503)
21 Jan	50p book – Archaeology 2 (TB013)
21 Jan	£1 book – Punch 2 (TB014)
21 Jan	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB047)
21 Jan	4 x 1st class book/W (UB048)
21 Jan	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB049)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/W (UB050)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/H (UB051)
22 Jan	Happy & Glorious stamp cards (AQ196)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp book (JB004)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp pack (JP001)
6 Feb	Happy & Glorious stamps (AS491)
6 Feb	Happy & Glorious pack (AP102)
6 Feb	NPM Queen's Accession cards (NQ911)
6 Feb	NPM K. Edward Building card (NQ912)
11 Feb	33p Coil (DC857)
11 Feb	39p Coil (DC858)
25 Feb	Prestige Stamp Book (Wales) (YB003)
25 Feb	Tennyson stamp cards (AQ202)
25 Feb	Post Office Archives cards
3 Mar	Smiles Book Reprint (JB005)
10 Mar	Tennyson stamps (AS497)
10 Mar	Tennyson pack (AP103)
24 Mar	Revised £1 Castle (FS012)
24 Mar	Revised £1.50 Castle (FS152)
24 Mar	Revised £2 Castle (FS022)
24 Mar	Revised £5 Castle (FS052)
24 Mar	Revised Castles pack (FP008)
24 Mar	Europa stamp cards (AQ207)
31 Mar	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB052)
7 Apr	Europa stamps (AS498)
7 Apr	Europa pack (AP104)
14 Apr	Scottish aerogramme (QS029)
28 Apr	50p book – Archaeology 3 (TB015)
28 Apr	£1 book – Punch 3 (TB016)
6 May	NPM People in the Post cards (NQ913)
2 Jun	Civil War stamp cards (AQ213)
16 Jun	Civil War stamps (AS505)
16 Jun	Civil War pack (AP105)
23 Jun	Scot Aerogramme/Scots Guards (QS030)

Forthcoming

7 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamp cards
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21 Jul	Gil & Sull stamps and pack
28 Jul	50p book – Archaeology 4
28 Jul	£1 book – Punch 4
28 Jul	78p book – Kellogg's Bran Flakes
1 Sep	Green Issue stamp cards
15 Sep	Green issue stamps and pack
15 Sep	NPM Artefacts postcards
15 Sep	NPM Machin postcard
22 Sep	50p book – Sheriff's Millennium
22 Sep	£1 book – Sheriff's Millennium
22 Sep	4 x 1st class book/W
22 Sep	4 x 2nd class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/H
29 Sep	Single European Market stamp card
6 Oct†	Christmas aerogramme
13 Oct	Single European Market stamp and pack
27 Oct	Tolkien Prestige Stamp Book
27 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
10 Nov	Christmas stamps and pack
10 Nov	1992 Collectors' Pack
10 Nov	1992 Yearbook
10 Nov	NPM Christmas postcards

Notes:

† = provisional date of issue

The NVI stamp books scheduled for 22 September are as the books issued on 21 January 1992 but without the Olympic/Paralympic logos on the front cover.

The Smiles Greetings book reprint (3 March) has revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail; the stamps are as the original issue of March 1991.

The Archives cards (25 February) are available from: Post Office Archives, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant Sorting Office (Phoenix Place Entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB. They are not available from the British Philatelic Bureau.

July Digest

Issued in July

7 July: Gilbert and Sullivan stamp cards, Nos. 145A-E, price 21p each.

21 July: Gilbert and Sullivan stamps – 18p, 24p, 28p, 33p, 39p.

Designer: Lynda Gray.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 35 x 37m, perf. 14½ x 14, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum. 18p has one phosphor band, others on Phosphor Coated Paper.

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

Presentation Pack: No. 229, price £1.75.

22 July: Gilbert and Sullivan souvenir cover. Price 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters.

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

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

28 July: 78p Kellogg's stamp book promotion containing two 39p definitives and four airmail stickers.

Printing: Walsall Security Printers, Phosphor-Coated Paper.

Note: Available from British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters.

Withdrawn in July

15 July: Roses stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and souvenir cover.

22 July: Scottish Aerogramme – An Comunn Gaedhealach.

31 July: £1.24 book containing 4 x 31p stamps. This book has the revised locking tab, issued July 1991.

Setting the Record Right: The 18p Winter-time stamp (January Digest) has one phosphor band; the 24p, 28p, 33p and 39p stamps are on phosphor coated paper. The Happy & Glorious stamps (January *Bulletin*, p.112 and February

Digest) are printed on phosphor coated paper overprinted with two phosphor bands.

Bulletin Back Numbers

Back issues are available for one year from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and the National Postal Museum in London, price 55p a copy for issues to September 1991, 60p per copy thereafter.

Mr Maynard Davies, of Bristol, operates a non-profit making scheme for collectors to acquire and sell back numbers. He has for sale bound reprints of Vols 1 & 2. Photocopies can be supplied to order of issues from Vols 3-6. Original copies of many issues from Vol 7 onwards are available. A limited supply of used binders is also available.

Mr Davies is interested in acquiring issues from Vols 3-6 but has adequate stocks of later issues. He is not able to undertake the time consuming task of searching and copying specific articles. Enquiries, with stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon, to: Maynard Davies, Hall Floor Flat, 4 Cecil Road, Clifton, BRISTOL BS8 3HR.

Front cover: Results of Acid Rain
(Courtesy of Rex Features)

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