

British Philatelic Bulletin

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New Definitive Variations

New 50p and £1 machine books will be issued on 25 April. The 50p book – No. 3 in the Gilbert & Sullivan series will contain stamps as in the two earlier books printed in photogravure by Harrisons issued on 5 September 1988 and 24 January 1989. The £1 book will be No. 4 in the Charles Dickens series and will contain stamps printed in lithography by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. The pane will be of the same composition as that in the £1 books by Harrisons issued in September 1988 and January 1989 and will have straight edges on the left and right sides. The stamps will be perforated 14½ instead of 15 x 14 as the Harrison stamps. The 14p stamps have side band right, the 19p stamps two phosphor bands.

The stamps have been printed in deep and pale shades of blue and orange respectively to produce the designated colours – 14p dark blue and 19p flame. The plates used were W2 (deep) W1 (pale) for both values; plate numbers appear in one in five books. The stamps and book covers were printed on Roland “Favorit” four and two-colour presses respectively.

Printing of the stamps began on 20 January with the Managing Director of Royal Mail Stamps, Mr Bill Cockburn, starting the presses rolling – an event recorded by Central Television, the local and philatelic press.

Also to be issued on 25 April will be the 19p Scottish Country stamp printed by Questa on paper supplied by Coated Papers Ltd (CPL). The paper used for the 19p stamp issued on 8 November 1988 was supplied by Henry & Leigh Slater. CPL paper was first used for the 13p Country stamps issued on 14 April 1987 and has subsequently been used for the mixed value pane and pane of 6 x 13p stamps in the “Financial Times” book (9 February 1988), the 14p stamps in the Questa £1.40 window books (11 October 1988), the 14p Country stamps (8 November 1988) and two of the panes in the forthcoming £5 “Scots Connection” book (21 March).

National Postal Museum News

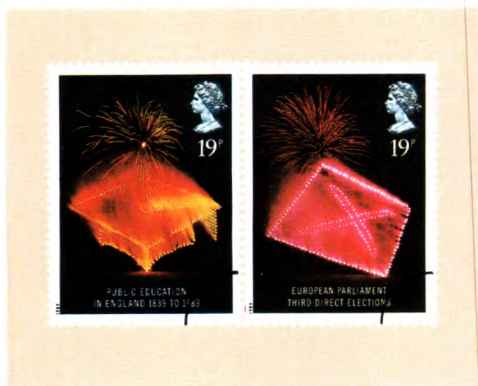
A main gallery display entitled “The Ottoman Empire” will be staged during March and April and will feature part of the award-winning collection of Otto Hornung, well-known philatelic writer and until recently Secretary of the Philatelic Traders Society.

Anniversaries

11 April 1989

Four stamps marking worthwhile, if unrelated, anniversaries will be issued on 11 April. The designs are unusual in that they are based on firework displays, ideal for a thematic collection of philatelic pyrotechnics! They comprise two se-tenant pairs, of 19p (inland first class and EEC basic rate) and 35p (Airmail Zone C) stamps.

The first of the **19p** stamps shows a mortar board and marks the 150th anniversary of public education in England and Wales; the second stamp depicts a cross on a ballot paper and marks the 3rd Direct Elections to the European Parliament (stamps commemorated both previous elections, in 1979 and 1984). The first **35p** stamp shows a posthorn, marking the Postal Telegraph & Telephone International World Congress in Brighton in September; the second stamp depicts a globe and commemorates the centenary conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in London, also in September.



Today we tend to take education for granted, forgetting that only 150 years ago it was mostly only the more wealthy members of society in England & Wales who received any more than the most basic of education. The fee-paying public schools were well-established but for the children of the working class schooling was largely confined to "Dame Schools" or Sunday Schools established by the British & Foreign Schools Society and the National Society for the Education of the Poor.



During the Industrial Revolution, it became clear that basic literacy was essential for sustained economic growth, quite apart from social development, and Parliament took an interest. A select committee investigated in 1837 and in 1839 official inspectors of schools were appointed to supervise standards and a committee of the Privy Council was established to administer the grant voted by the Commons for the building of schools. By 1850 two-thirds of the population could read and write their name and count their pay; further improvements in basic standards of education resulted from the 1870 Education Act.

As long ago as 1951 the Treaty of Paris declared that the assembly of the European Coal & Steel Community (forerunner of the EEC), should consist of delegates either proposed by members of the respective parliaments or "elected by direct universal suffrage". A similar provision was embodied in the Treaties of Rome in 1957. The European Parliament meets in the Palais de L'Europe in Strasbourg; its 518 members represent some 320 million people. Britain sends 81 elected members to the Parliament. The 1989 elections will be the last before the remaining vestiges of trade barriers between member countries are removed in 1992. Although political differences remain between the member countries, the recent enlargement of the Community and the regular summit meetings have made Sir Winston Churchill's dream of a "United States of Europe" less remote.

All the various trade unions in the British Post Office are affiliated to the Postal, Telegraph & Telephone International – an organisation which acts as a forum for similar bodies from throughout the world. The International was founded in Vienna in 1920 and a World Congress is held every four years. The 26th Congress will be held in Brighton from 18-23 September; about 800 delegates are expected to attend. In recent times the PTTI has played an active role in developing trade union activities in Third World countries and in instigating practical training courses for trade union organisers.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union was founded

as a private venture by William Randal Cremer, MP and French deputy Frédéric Passy, both of whom received the Nobel Prize for Peace. They felt that international peace could only be achieved through arbitration and that the bringing together of individual MPs would promote international understanding and collaboration.



The British Group of the IPU is active in promoting such understanding, for example in re-establishing contact with Argentina after the Falklands conflict and in inviting Mr Gorbachev to London as head of a IPU delegation in 1984. The first IPU conference took place in Paris in 1889 and the centenary conference will be held in London this September, attended by representatives of 110 countries.

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Lewis Moberly based on photographs taken of special firework displays on Dartford Marshes, Kent by David Amaballino. They were printed in offset-lithography by The House of Questa in sheets of 100. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 14½, have PVA Dextrin gum and were printed on phosphor coated paper supplied by Henry & Leigh Slater Ltd, the first time paper supplied by this company has been used for special issues.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards (formerly referred to as PHQ cards) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 28 March, price 16p each. They are numbered 117A-D.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 198) will cost £1.35. It was designed by Lewis Moberly, text by Tim

Shackleton and photography by Richard Foster and printed by Litho-Tech Colour Printers. The pack will be available from main post offices until 2 June (unless previously sold out) and from the Bureau and philatelic counters for one year from 11 April.

The pack will contain four postcards (not sold separately), reproducing paintings submitted in a Royal Mail "My School" national painting competition for primary schools to mark the 150th anniversary of public education in England & Wales. The paintings are by Matthew Clarke, age 5, of Burley-in-Wharfedale; Samuel Gough, 5, of Bristol; Raymond Mo, 7, of Portsmouth and Ben McBride, 7, of Saltdean. Further details of the competition can be found in the November 1987 and August 1988 issues of the *Bulletin*, pages 53 and 277 respectively.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices from 28 March, price 17p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one at the Bureau and one at London SW.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 11 April.

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

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street
	EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

London SW	Philatelic Duty
	SWDO
	53 Nine Elms Lane
	LONDON SW8 5BB

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

addition pictorial First Day handstamps will be available at the London Chief Office (arms of the City of London) and Durham (Cathedral). Covers to receive these handstamps should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (marking outer envelope "City of London Pictorial Handstamp") and Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 11 April – full details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

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

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 12 April, price 17p. This can be used to obtain relevant Anniversary postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Related Issues

Perhaps surprisingly this set includes the first British stamp to directly commemorate education. The Modern University Buildings set of September 1971 was issued to reflect British architectural rather than educational achievements.

There have been sets for both the 1979 and 1984 European Parliament elections and a set of three in January 1983 marked Britain's entry to the EEC. "Europa" (CEPT) stamps were issued in 1960, 1961 and 1969 and each year from 1980. The 1989 set, featuring Games & Toys, will be issued on 16 May.

There have been several issues connected with postal conferences and organisations – 1929 Postal Union Congress, 1949 Universal Postal Union 75th anniversary, 1963 Paris Postal Conference centenary, 1965 International Telecommunications Union centenary and 1974 UPU centenary. The posthorn emblem has appeared on most of the Europa/CEPT issues mentioned above. The only previous trade union related stamp was issued in 1968 to commemorate the

centenary of the Trades Union Congress.

Issues were made for the 46th and 62nd conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1957 and 1975 respectively. A commemorative aerogramme was also issued for the 1957 meeting. Stamps marked the 7th, 19th and 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences in 1961, 1973 and 1986.

This is the fifth set of British stamps commemorating mixed anniversaries, previous sets were issued annually from 1968 to 1971.

First Day Facilities in Northern Ireland

In response to many customer queries, the Northern Ireland Letter District Office wish to inform collectors in the province that First Day of Issue cancellation facilities are available at the following offices:

Special Services
Customer Care Unit
Northern Ireland LDO
20-22 Donegall Quay
BELFAST BT1 1AA

Area Mails Manager
Special Postmark Duty
51-53 Wellington Street
BALYMENA
Co Antrim BT43 6AA

Area Mails Manager
Special Postmark Duty
Mill Avenue
Portadown
CRAIGAVON
Co Armagh BT62 1AA

Area Mails Manager
Special Postmark Duty
3 Custom House Street
LONDONDERRY BT48 6AA

The Coleraine and Newry "First Day" handstamps are no longer in use; first day covers posted at these two offices are forwarded to Ballymena and Portadown respectively.

Correction

The British Special Issues article in the December *Bulletin* should have been numbered 150, *not* 151. Article No. 151, on the Darwin stamps, was published last month.

A Festival of Food

BARBARA LAST



The production of food and drink is the world's oldest and most essential industry, without which we would die. The recent Food & Farming Year stamps commemorate food in all its aspects as well as the 150th anniversary of the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) and the centenary of the Board of Agriculture (now the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food). It also happens to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and the formation of the Women's Land Army.

The first Board of Agriculture was established by Royal Charter in 1793 as the Board for the Encouragement of Agriculture and Internal Improvements, with a grant of £3,000. It was dissolved in 1822, but many of its functions were taken over by the RASE which held the first of its many agricultural shows in 1839, with the aim of improving agriculture, then in a state of acute depression because of the Industrial Revolution and low-cost imports. The Veterinary Department was set up to fight a virulent cattle plague and other animal diseases. This was transferred to the new Board of Agriculture in 1889, together with all later departments relating to food, agriculture, its research and education, animal welfare including the National Stud (see

grants. The new Food & Farming stamps illustrate the different types of food and drink grown and produced on British soil. Each type is shown against an appropriate ceramic tile whose counterparts used to be a common decoration in butchers' and grocers' shops some 50 years ago.



Food & Farming Year

During the year more than 750 commemorative events will take place nationwide. The most ambitious show will be the exhibition in London's Hyde Park on 5-7 May – sprawling over 130 acres from Hyde Park Corner to Marble Arch. The major sponsor will be ASDA, the supermarket giant. Agricultural displays are not new to Hyde Park, having featured in the Great Exhibition of 1851. The 1989 "Festival of Food & Farming" will be vast, intending to present farming, the growing and marketing of food and all its satellite industries to us for our entertainment and understanding. It will be an outside food and agricultural bonanza, a showcase displaying everything from the rural craftsman to the latest British hi-tech farm equipment. Many other exhibitions will be aimed particularly at children who will be encouraged to make guided tours of processing and marketing plants, and to inspect working farms in action.

Farming Calendar

Food and farming touches every aspect of our lives; it influences music, art and literature. Our very year is divided into a farming calendar where even the ancient names of the seasons and festivals come from the Anglo-Saxon, Norse or Latin, and pagan and Christian customs intertwine. Plough Sunday is past; so too is the January "Wassailing of the Apple Trees" when pagan rites in Somerset thank good spirits and



Thoroughbred horse on 1978 stamp, SG 1006), fisheries, as well as the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (50p stamp book, 1988, SG FB46) under the directorships of Sir William Hooker FRS and his son Sir Joseph (shown on British Antarctic Territory stamp, SG 144). The Thames Flood Barrier (1983 20½p stamp, SG 1216), usually considered an urban defence against the sea, was largely financed by Ministry of Agriculture

drive away evil from the apple orchards. On Rogation Days, which lead up to Ascension, intercessions are made for seed-time and the future harvest. Lammas, (Anglo-Saxon *loaf mass* or bread-feast), which greets the first fruits of the harvest has been commemorated on the 22p stamp of the 1981 Folklore set (SG 1145).



Harvest (Anglo-Saxon *Hoerfest*) Festival itself is for the reaping and gathering of grain, and this year a major national service of Harvest Thanksgiving will be held in St Paul's Cathedral which will be attended by all the leaders of the food and farming organisations.

Development of Agriculture

For centuries methods of farming hardly changed. Medieval peasants (shown on the 17p stamp in the 1986 Domesday set, SG 1324),



toiled as serfs bound to the land, but their free descendants cultivated it in the same traditional fashion. Until recently malt and hops dried in oast kilns (1978 10p book, SG FA4), and apples pressed in cider-crushers (Jersey, SG 120) produced beer and cider. Fish were caught, smoked and salted in the old manner. Shepherds still watched their flocks (1969 5d Christmas stamp, SG 813). Some of our greatest churches resulted from rich wool profits; the historic economic importance of wool is perpetuated, as a symbol, by the Lord Chancellor himself who sits on the Woolsack in the House of Lords. Apart from stamps a surprising variety of rural activities have been depicted on stamp book covers.

The selective breeding of domestic cattle began in c.1770. The Wild Chillingham herd of Northumberland (shown on 20½p stamp of

1984 Cattle set, SG 1241), was enclosed by walls in c.1260; since then it has been totally inbred, uncrossed by any domesticated strain, and hence truly wild for 700 years. This Cattle set celebrated the centenary of the Highland Cattle Society, and illustrated the more familiar black and white Hereford and Welsh Black stock. But probably the most famous breed of all is the milky-brown Jersey with her rich milk yield – depicted on a Jersey stamp of 1979 (SG 203). By the 19th-century, medieval oxen had been replaced by horses, and “Starlight” at Cotswold Farm Park (1978 9p Horse stamp, SG 1063)



represents the centenary of the Shire Horse Society. A certain amount of mechanisation was now used – such as six-horse plough and potatoes could be lifted by digger, shown on two Jersey stamps (SG 121, 119). Constable's Suffolk *Haywain* (1968 1s 9d Paintings stamp,



SG 774) painted c.1821 illustrates ancient ways, and contrasts with the wide tractor-turned fields of modern East Anglia (1986 34p Industry Year stamp, SG 1311).

Shopping in a more leisurely age

Food packaging too has undergone a revolution. Up to the Second World War, it was commonplace to hand-milk cows, and a well-scrubbed

and scalded jug collected fresh milk from the churn on the milkman's float in the street. I still have a copper 1 pint Jersey milk can for this purpose (as shown on Guernsey, SG 139) that has been handed down in the family from those not so distant days. Bottled milk came in about the late 1920s when, in order to counteract poverty and the Depression, school-children were issued with free milk in ½ pint bottles. Now



delivered to the door, milk also comes in waxed and plastic cartons. Butter in 28lb blocks sat on long cold marble-topped counters in grocers' shops. While I sat and watched entranced, a shop assistant would cut off the required amount, weigh it on gleaming scales, shape it with aid of long wooden butter pats, impress it with a butter print, and wrap it swiftly in greaseproof paper. I do not know which I found more enchanting, the embossed butter print, or the dexterity of the girl with her whirling wooden instruments. Each cremery had its own individual motif, perhaps a cow or clover leaf, which would be stamped thus onto the butter; David Greig's, I remember, had a thistle. Gone now are the chairs, the marble tops and wonderful instruments. All these leisurely ways were swept away in the name of progress by pre-cut, heat-shrunk and foil-wrapped packages ready waiting for my snatching hand on the supermarket shelf, and itemised by the wonder of barcode computers.

Since the war, there has been a tremendous revival in the art of cooking. Previously fresh fruit and vegetables were only available in season. Now freezers and new methods of preservation present unlimited choice which has led to the appreciation of the variety, flavour and quality of regional food and drink promoted by manufacturers, and by the distribution and retail sections of the trade.

The Women's Land Army was raised in 1917 to help on farms devoid of labour, until disbanded after the Armistice the following year. Women's normal education was quite inadequate; there were few girls of sufficient education to take advantage of the very limited training facilities, and it was difficult to recruit

girls of high enough character to enable them to be sent out unchaperoned to isolated farms. Horses were hired from military camps; the Army released men in spring and autumn to plough and reap, and prisoners of war worked on the land. In 1833 farm wages had been reduced to 7s. (35p) per week, but in 1917 an Act guaranteed fixed farm prices, and for the first time specified a minimum wage of 25s. (£1.25) per week.

Dig for Victory

The Second World War opened with Britain importing over 60% of her essential food. Land Army girls were immediately recruited, and small groups of housewives formed pig clubs and fed their animals on boiled peelings and kitchen scraps. The Ministry of Food controlled and rationed all foods, and was responsible for quality and a balanced diet. It distributed ration-books and vitamins. It saved cargo space by importing eggs and milk dried by the new dehydration process, and originated boneless meat from the Argentine, folded and compressed. It organised 21 Queen's Messenger Convoys of 12 vehicles each – self-contained units with their own water supplies which could set up and produce hot emergency snacks during the blitz within the hour. It established the British Restaurants that provided on canteen lines a wholesome, if unexciting, meal for roughly 4p, and distributed fuel tips and cookery recipes for whalemeat and piquant South African snock fish hash. It initiated the "Dig for Victory" campaign, and exhorted the public to "Grow Your Own Food" and "Use Spades not Ships".

Environmental Awareness

There have been tragic and often unforeseen side-effects which have become issues of the day, for example the grubbing-up of hedgerows and copes to form giant expanses of grain have created dust-bowls and soil erosion. Wildlife awareness of these dangers grows as a balance is sought between farm production, conservation of the environment and areas of natural beauty, and the increase of countryside leisure pursuits.

The majority of our people live in urban or industrial complexes quite divorced from the land. Food and Farming Year (and the new stamps) seeks to link us to our rural roots, inherent in every corner of our culture, and to strengthen our understanding of the contribution made to our present way of life by the skills and dedication of the farming community.

New Scottish Postcards

Shown here are some of the new Scottish Post Office Board postcards issued on 22 February, entitled "Communicating Genius – Scottish Inventors". The cards, numbered SPOB 27-32, feature: John Logie Baird (1888-1946), inventor of television; James Watt (1736-1819), inventor of the steam engine; Thomas Telford (1757-1834), builder of roads and canals; James Clerk



Maxwell (1831-79), who published field equations on electricity and magnetism; Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), inventor of the telephone and Sir Robert Watson-Watt (1892-1973), pioneer of radar. The cards were designed by Glasgow artist Stephen Conroy and are sold in a presentation wallet giving details of the six men featured. The front cover of the wallet shows John Logie Baird and the symbol of the Edinburgh Science Festival, 3-12 April 1989.



The cards are available from main post offices in Scotland and the National Postal Museum in London, price £2 a set. Orders by post should be sent to the Museum or to Scottish Post Office Board Postcard Offer, PO Box 148, EDINBURGH EH3 9HR, price £2.30 to include post & packing.

Scottish Aerogramme

The 29th in the series of Scottish aerogrammes will be issued on 4 April and will feature famous Scots. The aerogramme will be available at all post offices in Scotland, from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, price 32p. It will remain on sale at post offices for about six months and will be on philatelic sale for one year. A further Scottish aerogramme will be issued in August – details will be given here nearer the time.

The new aerogramme, which commemorates the centenary of the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland, features Bonnie Prince Charlie; Robert Louis Stevenson; Mary, Queen of Scots; Sir Walter Scott; Flora Macdonald; Robert Burns; Robert Adam; David Hume; Sir Harry Lauder; Sir Compton Mackenzie and Hugh McDermid (pen-name of Christopher Murray Grieve).

New Railway Letter Stamps

NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY



RAILWAY LETTER

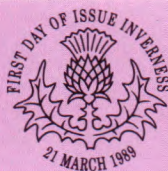
20p

Mention was made last month of the new North Yorkshire Moors Railway 20p stamp issued on 2 February, depicting locomotive "Mirvale". The stamp commemorates the 20th anniversary of the first engine movement on the preserved line. A further commemorative 20p stamp will be issued on 22 April, marking the naming of the NYMR's two class 25 locomotives and Diesel Day 1989; the stamp features a line drawing of a class 25 locomotive. The railway's fourth definitive stamp will be released on 6 June, this shows Lambton Tank No. 5 climbing Goathland Bank with a train at sunset. All three stamps are printed in sheets of six; first day covers will be available. Orders/enquiries to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

The Scots Connection

£5 Prestige Stamp Book

21 March 1989



The 1989 £5 Prestige Stamp Book will be issued on 21 March. For the first time this will contain Country stamps – 14p, 19p and 23p Scottish issues – and will be entitled *The Scots Connection*. The book has been printed by The House of Questa in lithography and will contain four new booklet panes and three new stamps – 14p phosphor side band left, 19p two bands and 23p two bands.

Stamp panes

There are four panes of stamps each with an illustrated stub: (1) 9 x 19p on Advanced Coated Paper, (2) 6 x 14p with right of centre band, (3) 5 x 14p left band, 2 x 19p two band, 1 x 23p two bands and a label showing the Scottish lion (printed in red and blue) and (4) 6 x 19p ACP.



All the stamps were printed from two plates to give added depth of tone.

Panes 1 and 4 (19p stamps) were printed on paper supplied by Henry & Leigh Slater Ltd; panes 2 and 3 (14p and mixed values) on paper produced by Coated Papers Ltd.

No plate numbers were printed on the sheets. The necessary marginal markings occur-

ing on sheets, interleaves and covers were all trimmed off in production and do not appear in the issued books. These were colour bars, traffic lights and various cutting lines and trimming instructions.

First Day Cover

The first day cover features the Forth Bridge as on the book cover. It costs 17p each and the usual first day of issue facilities will be provided on 21 March at offices with philatelic posting boxes.

The British Philatelic Bureau will provide its usual first day cover service and there will be two pictorial handstamps, one for the Bureau and the other for Inverness. The official Royal Mail cover, addressed to the destination required bearing the mixed value pane cancelled with the pictorial postmark required will be serviced by the Bureau. Charges will be £1.82 (UK, includes VAT) and £1.59 (overseas, no VAT). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 21 March.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on 21 March covers bearing the new stamps under an outer cover endorsed "Special Handstamp Scots Book" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Inverness Special Postmark Duty
Inverness LDO
Queensgate
INVERNESS IV1 1AA

The Scots

Unlike previous prestige books, this has not been sponsored by a particular organisation. It serves to tell the story of the Scots and to review their influence in the world – past and present. The cover of the book features the famous Forth railway bridge – a vast, solid creation of tubular steel, more than 5,000 feet in length. Opened in 1890, it cost £3½ million to build, involved the labour of 5,000 men for seven years and con-



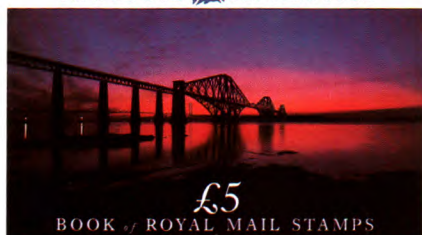
sumed 51,000 tons of steel and no fewer than 5 million rivets! The bridge was depicted on the 6d stamp issued in 1964 to mark the opening of the companion road bridge.

The text begins by asking "Who are the Scots?" giving brief details of the early history of the Picts and their kings and church. Illustrated are the standing stones of Callanish, Lewis.

The 12th and 13th centuries might be described as "The Golden Age" with the consolidation of the power of the Scottish king, the founding of many of the powerful families and clans and the building of some fine abbeys.

This period of glory was followed by "The Wars of Independence" with resistance to English attack led by William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. The victory of Bannockburn in 1314 was followed by the declaration of allegiance to Robert I by the Scottish nobles in 1315.

THE SCOTS CONNECTION



After the death of King Robert, successive rulers struggled to control both the great Norman/Scottish families in the south and the clans in the Highlands. Following the defeat of the 1745 Rebellion the clan system was weakened and the wearing of tartan and anything associated with the old Highland way of life was made illegal.

As their political power waned the Highland chiefs looked to increasing their economic status and many evicted tenants from their land to

make way for sheep farming – the so-called "Highland Clearances". Many thousands of crofters emigrated overseas; the section "Scotland Farewell" reminds us of this sad period of Scottish history.

But all was not gloom and despondency as many of the exiled Scots and their descendants made good in their new homes overseas, for example Peter Fraser (1884-1950) who became Prime Minister of New Zealand, Sir John Alexander Macdonald (1815-91), the first Prem-

SCOTS INFLUENCE

IN LITERATURE, IN SCIENCE, IN THE ARTS, IN THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE, the Scots set about building a new future for themselves, creating all their traditional values of hard work, thrift and honesty. It is fascinating to note the global spread of Scottish place names: Houston and Dallas in the USA, Lochaber, Inverness and New Glasgow in Canada, Hamilton and Perth in Australia, Dunedin and Otago in New Zealand.



Lord of the Isles: Peter Fraser (1884-1950), Prime Minister of New Zealand.
 Lord of the Isles: Sir John Alexander Macdonald (1815-1891), first Prime Minister of Canada.
 Lord of the Isles: Sir Robert Watson-Watt (1892-1973), inventor of radar.
 Lord of the Isles: James Watt (1736-1819), inventor of the steam engine.



ier of the Dominion of Canada and Sir Robert Menzies (1894-1978), one of the best-known Prime Ministers of Australia. The Scots are famed for their inquisitiveness of mind and amongst those noted as explorers and inventors are Sir Alexander Fleming, Alexander Graham Bell, Sir Robert Watson-Watt, James Watt, David Livingstone and John Logie Baird, arguably the man who has most influenced domestic life in the present century.

Equally well-known and acclaimed are Scots whose talents lay in the fields of literature and scholarship – Robert Burns, the national poet, Sir Walter Scott and Adam Smith.

In recent years the Scottish economy has been transformed with the discovery of North Sea oil and the replacement of the old "heavy" industries by new technology. Traditional goods such as woollens and whisky remain important factors in the economy as does tourism. Rejuvenation of the old towns and cities is under way, especially in Glasgow which next year will become "European City of Culture". The clans are still important socially and international gatherings are held every four years; Inverness will act as host in 1989.

"The Scots Connection" book will be of interest not only to those living in Scotland but to Scots the world over and to those *Sassenachs* who appreciate the country and its people.

Polar Postmasters – The Arctic

Part 1

TONY GAMMONS

In 1875 the last big Arctic expedition undertaken by the Royal Navy set out in HMS *Alert* and HMS *Discovery*. To lead the expedition the Admiralty recalled Captain George (later Sir George) Nares from his world oceanographic voyage in HMS *Challenger*. Nares was no stranger to the polar regions, he had served under Sir Henry Kellett in the “Resolute” from 1852–4 during one of the unsuccessful attempts to find the remains of the “Franklin” expedition. He had also spent some time inside the Antarctic Circle with “Challenger”.

Alert, commanded by Nares and *Discovery*, commanded by George Stephenson, left England in May 1875 with the aim of reaching the North Pole. After calling in at Upernivik, on the western coast of Greenland, the ships skirted the often hazardous Melville Bay before crossing the great basin called by the Greenlanders the Utlak Soak. Up to this point the pack ice had been conspicuous by its absence but on entering the mouth of Smith Sound the fine weather gave way to fog and the smooth water to “floating fields of ice”. On 28 July 1875 Nares landed on Littleton Island and left a record of the voyage, to date, and a few letters in a stone cairn. The two ships then crossed the mouth of the sound to Cape Isabella on the coast of Ellesmere Land. It was here, on the summit of the promontory, that the crew built a large cairn to act as “the Arctic Post Office”. Nares had requested that any dispatches or letters intended for the crews of the *Alert* and *Discovery* should be left at Cape Isabella in case the relief ship, due to sail from England early in 1876, could go no further north. The expedition then battled its way up Smith Sound through Kennedy Channel reaching the mouth of Lady Franklin Bay on 27 August 1875. Here, in a sheltered harbour, surrounded by lofty hills,

Nares left Stephenson and the *Discovery* to take up winter quarters, while he continued along the western shore of Robeson Channel. On 1 September *Alert* hoisted her colours in honour of having attained the highest latitude of any ship to date, latitude 82 deg. 27 min and longitude 61 deg. 22 min. The crew made the ship fast to some grounded icebergs within a hundred yards of tolerably level beach and prepared for winter. Lieutenant Rawson, of the *Discovery*, with his sledge crew had gone with the *Alert* with the object of returning to his ship with news of *Alert*’s progress. Deep snow and shifting ice meant that he was not able to make the trip until the spring of 1876. The officers and crew of the *Alert* spent most of September laying out depots northwards ready for the spring journeys. Meanwhile the temperature rapidly decreased and the sun sank lower and lower until on 12 October it finally disappeared below the horizon leaving the *Alert* in darkness for a period of 142 days.

Towards the Pole

With the return of daylight Nares sent out five sledge teams from the *Alert*; two teams, in company, headed northwards towards the Pole – one to the North-West to explore the coast of Grant Land. The fourth sledge was employed on the important task of setting up relief depots from the other teams. The fifth sledge, under the command of Lieutenant Egerton, set out for HMS *Discovery* to issue instructions for her part in the spring campaign. Her allotted tasks were the exploration of the coast of Greenland, to ascertain whether Lady Franklin Sound was a bay or a strait and to penetrate, as far as possible, into the deep inlet of Petermann’s Fiord. Egerton’s first attempt to reach *Discovery* ended in tragedy when Petersen, the Danish interpreter, suffered so severely from frost bite that the party had to return to the *Alert*. Despite undergoing surgery, Petersen died on 14 May 1876. The second trip, was more successful and within a week Egerton reached *Discovery* and handed over Nares’s orders, returning to his own ship on 4 April.

From a geographical point of view, Nares’s expedition was eminently successful. Sledge parties from the *Alert* mapped the north and east coasts of Grant Land, this party also mapped the north-east of Greenland. From the *Discovery*, Lieutenant Archer proved that Lady Franklin Sound was a bay and not a strait and Lieutenant Fulford proved that Petermann’s Fiord was

The NPM “Atlantic” exhibition featuring Atlantic and Polar mail is on show until the end of December.



THE NORTH POLE EXPEDITION: MAP SHOWING THE ROUTE OF THE EXPEDITION.

simply what its name implied and not a passage dividing Greenland into two islands. The "North Pole party" had, however, run into some problems in the shape of huge pressure ridges blocking their path. Nevertheless, Nares was determined to advance as far as possible and the party headed by Commander Mackham and

Lieutenant Parr made a most gallant attempt. They were away from the *Alert* for 72 days and on 12 May succeeded in planting the British flag further north than any predecessor, 83 deg. 20 min North. Such was the nature of ground that after travelling for 276 miles the party was still only 73 miles, as the crow flies, from the ship.

The 1948 Olympic Games Issue

Part 2

DOUGLAS N MUIR

Curator Philately, National Postal Museum

At the end of October representatives of the Royal Fine Arts Commission for Scotland and the Council of Industrial Design were invited to view the designs and make their recommendations. Those from the Royal Fine Arts Commission for Scotland (Haswell Miller, Pilkington Jackson and Reginald Fairlie) looked at the designs in Postal Headquarters on 30 October and chose five (in order):

- A. No.21 Armstrong's design with mounted horse
- B. No.14 Dulac's
- C. No.10 Metcalfe's
- D. No.7 Harold Nelson's heraldic design
- E. No.9 Waterlow's (Scott)

No.21 by Armstrong was regarded as distinctly the best design. The others were about equal though that by Scott was placed last.

The following day the representatives of the Council of Industrial Design arrived. They were Sir Kenneth Clark, Sir Francis Meynell and Mrs

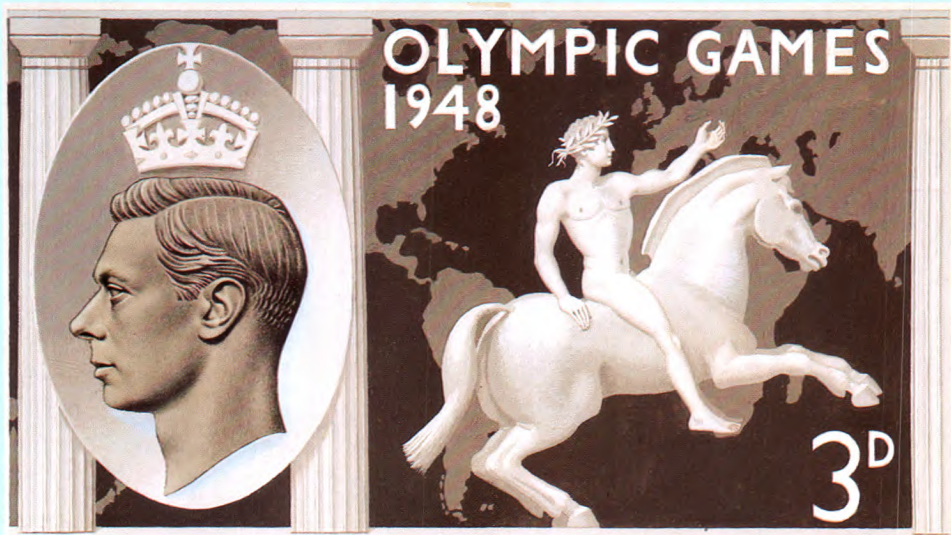
Submitted design by John Armstrong, preferred by the Royal Fine Arts Commission for Scotland

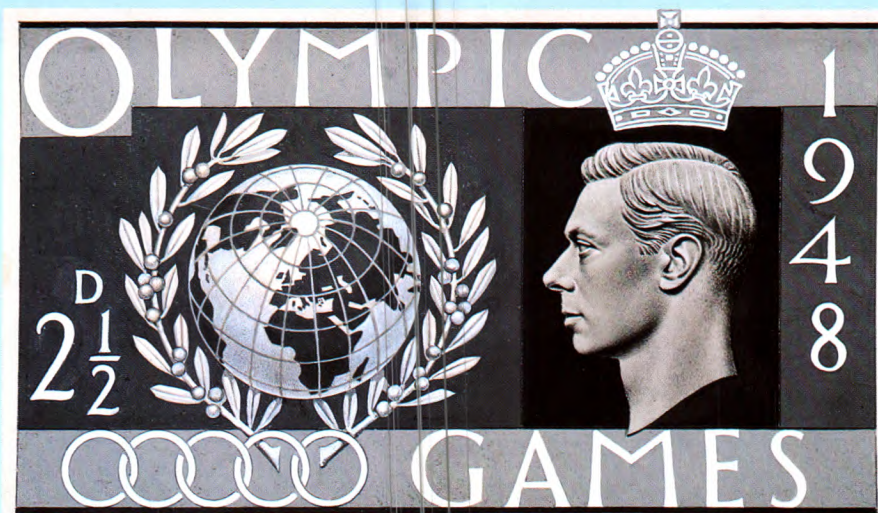
Tomrley, the Secretary. Their choice was similar, but different in detail, and was largely to be followed by the GPO:

- A. No.15 Knife of Harrison's – for 2½d
- B. No.23 Games – for 3d
- C. No.9 Waterlows – for 6d
- D. No.14 Dulac – for 1s
- E. No.10 Metcalfe

At discussions with the Director General of the Post Office and subsequently the Postmaster General on 4 November the designs were chosen for submission to the King. These were: No.15 (Knife) or No.10 (Metcalfe) for the 2½d stamp; No.23 (Games) for the 3d stamp; No.9 (Scott) for the 6d stamp; and No.14 (Dulac) for the 1s stamp.

If No.10 were to be chosen for the 2½d value, as indeed it was, consideration should be given to replacing the crossed hands by the five continents, the letter "M" in both "Olympic" and "Games" to be reshaped. This was, in fact,



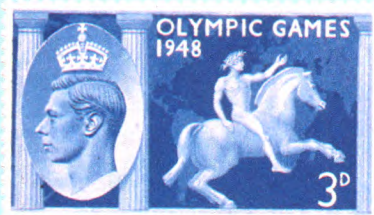


Final amended artwork for the 2½d value by Percy Metcalfe. The original design showed a 3d value and hands instead of the Olympic rings (as in the bromide below)

done on the first essay, the five continents referring to the Olympic rings.

For the Games design used on the 3d value the artist was to be asked to bring out the face and the indications of speed, though this was not ready in time for the first essay. The Scott design (No.9) was particularly chosen for the 6d stamp because it was felt that it should be

Unadopted essays for the 2½d value by Knipe (top) and Armstrong (below)

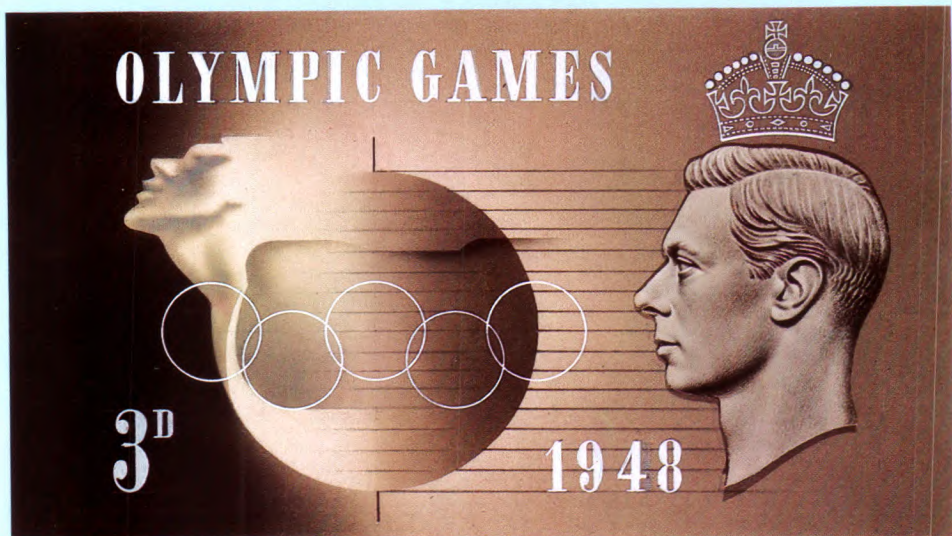


relatively simple to cut a letterpress die for use on the air mail letter form which it was also intended to issue.

The Postmaster General thought that the King's choice would be too restricted with only five designs and he personally liked No.21 – Armstrong's design, also thought highly of by the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland. So these six designs were sent to Harrisons for bromides and essays to be prepared. The printers were told to make sure that the features of the jumper on design No.15 could not be recognised.

All agreed that Harold Nelson's heraldic design (chosen by the Scottish Fine Art Commission) was "not in the running".

There was now a pause in activity (in the files at least) until February 1948. Christmas intervened and Harrisons were also working on the



Final amended artwork for the 3d value by Abram Games

Silver Wedding and Channel Islands Liberation issues. However, essays of the six designs were to hand by 18 February and the Postmaster General (the Rt. Hon. Wilfred Paling MP) asked for an audience with the King to seek his approval. This was granted on 26 February and the essays were shown in the colours of the recommended values – i.e. blue for the 2½d even though the value still read 3d. The essays were numbered A to F with essays E and F (the designs by Armstrong and Knipe) not being recommended but still essayed in the colour of the 2½d.

The recommendations were:

Essay A (Artist P. Metcalfe) is recommended for the 2½d stamp

Essay B (Artist A. Games) is recommended for the 3d stamp

Essay C (Artist Scott (Waterlow's)) is recommended for the 6d stamp

Essay D (Artist E. Dulac) is recommended for the 1s stamp

The King retained the essays for a day or two for proper examination and then returned them, approved but with comments in his own hand. On essay A he wrote "Change the Crown to be same as in B" and on essay B "This is the right Crown". The final essays showed the changes as required.

Contact was now made with the artists for them to carry out the changes required and to insert the correct denominations. Games submitted new artwork strengthening the lines indicating speed but the other artists reworked the original pieces of artwork. If the design by Metcalfe is examined minutely traces of its original denomination (3d) can be seen coming through the background colour but none of the other changes are visible. Final essays were approved in May.



First essays of the 6d and 1s values approved by The King



(S)

Change the crown to
be same as in B



A. 2½^d - This Colour.

First essays of the 2½d and 3d values are submitted to The King with his comments in pencil regarding the crown to be used

This is the right
Crown



B. 3^d - This Colour.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No. 28 Used Abroad

The term "used abroad" is applied to any postage stamp which has done legitimate postal duty in a country other than that of its origin and which bears a distinguishing cancellation confirming such use. The casual and/or unauthorised use of any stamp resulting in the inappropriate application of a foreign cancellation does not enjoy "used abroad" status and has no postal history significance.

So far as Great Britain is concerned, the subject was touched on briefly in article No. 10 of this series ("Crowned Circles", March 1987) when the use of British stamps in certain overseas offices – both colonial and foreign – following the withdrawal of the Crowned Circles was explained.

Britain's far-flung Empire of the mid-19th century resulted in a complete postal network, largely based on London, serving that Empire. Some of the larger and more developed dominions and colonies ran their own post offices and issued their own stamps. So far as the smaller colonies were concerned, the General Post Office sent out staff and stamps from London and ran the postal system as a "province" of the GB service. When used on letters, the GB stamps were normally cancelled with a duplex handstamp, the left-hand circular datestamp carrying the place of posting and the right-hand the "killer" numeral, the latter usually falling on the stamp itself.

The ideal way of collecting GB stamps used abroad is on complete covers which not only then bears the entire duplex marking but may also carry interesting transit and arrival marks confirming the route taken; and, there may also be rate markings on these letters from "up-country" which passed through the internal post before reaching the British Post Office for despatch overseas.

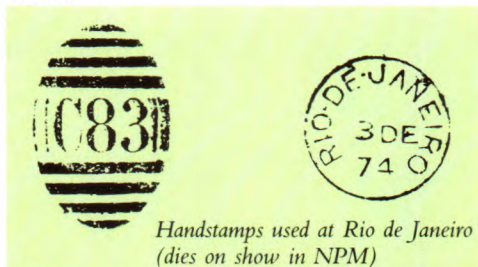
Stamps off cover can usually be identified by the "killer" cancellation consisting of a letter and number, eg A-76 – Spanish Town, Jamaica.

Exceptions to the use of numerals were "C" for Constantinople, "S" for Stamboul, "G" for Gibraltar and "M" for Malta. The first two were

used at GPO agencies operating in the Levant: Gibraltar later used "A26" and Malta, "A25". In Malta's case, from 1857 the use of British stamps was confined to overseas mails. Internal mails were the responsibility of the local administration which, however, did not issue its own stamps until 1860.

In Jamaica, the post office was organised and controlled by the GPO in London until 1860. From 8 May 1858 onwards, GB stamps cancelled "A01" emanated from the capital, Kingston. Other Jamaican offices used the series from A27 to A78, the most extensive use of these cancellations by any one colony.

In the case of Cyprus, it is essential to obtain GB stamps used there on cover because of the six numerals, *without* any letter prefix, namely 942, 969, 974, 975, 981 and 982, all but one (969 Nicosia) were later re-allocated to English provincial offices. It should also be remembered that not all numerals prefixed by a letter are used abroad duplex marks. For instance, A16 was Newcastle and all letters up to L (L04 was Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Lancs), all with *two* numerals, can be found used internally in Great Britain.



*Handstamps used at Rio de Janeiro
(dies on show in NPM)*

Other than in the colonies, GB stamps were used mostly in Latin America where British consular offices accepted letters for forwarding by British packet ships.

The advent of the UPU in 1874 ensured world-wide validation for practically all government-issued stamps in the country of origin. Additional franking became unnecessary and the consular postal services were closed down.

There are recorded overseas uses of GB stamps *without* numeral duplex handstamps, such as in Niger Coast areas, in South Africa (on military mail during the Boer War), Ascension and elsewhere but there are exceptional. Considerable information on the subject in general can be gained by a careful study of Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue in the GB section and those territories which used GB stamps in the early days.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

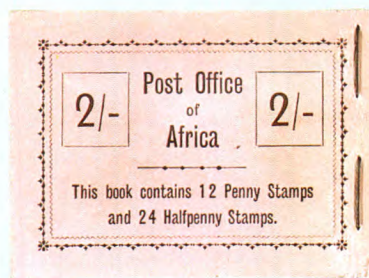
162. De La Rue Dummy Stamps

Although the first British stamp book was not put on sale until March 1904, the Post Office became involved with stamp books in 1880 when essay books were produced containing four panes of six 1d lilac Queen Victoria revenue stamps (SG F22). These were manufactured by De La Rue who prepared further essays, containing blank white stamp-size labels, in 1885.

At some time, prior to 1903, De La Rue produced further essay books containing panes of six dummy stamps bearing the Queen's portrait and the inscription DE LA RUE & CO. LONDON, printed in purple or green. The book covers were blank, in pink or blue, containing respectively four panes of green stamps and nine panes of purple stamps. Examples of both can be seen in the Phillips Collection (see below).

Similar experimental books were made up for the Orange River Colony postal authorities in 1905. These had pink covers inscribed "2/- Post Office of Africa - This book contains 12 Penny Stamps and 24 Halfpenny Stamps. 2/-" and contained four panes of green stamps and two panes of red. An example is mounted with the two blank cover books on page 34 of Vol. 44 of the Phillips Collection. (An imperf pane of six of the green stamps was illustrated in Gems No. 85, February 1981.)

The De La Rue Correspondence Book*



for the period states that the company could produce 30,000 books and proposed packing them in a case measuring 30 x 26 x 23 inches with an estimated weight of 3¼ cwt.

These books can be seen in the Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm Friday.

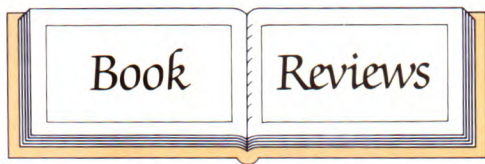
*In NPM, De La Rue Archives, Crown Agents Vol. 45.

British Decimal Stamps Study Circle

The BDSSC was formed in 1974 with the object of promoting and encouraging interest in the study and collection of British decimal stamps and related subjects. It publishes news-sheets, newsletters and specialised articles (known as GUIDECS), holds postal auctions and organises meetings. The 1989 leaflet/membership application form is now available from the Hon Secretary: Pete Daniels, 70 Moor Park Close, Rainham, GILLINGHAM, Kent, ME8 8QT. The subscription for UK members is £9, £11 Europe and £14 overseas.

British Philatelic Trust

In the past three years the Trust has made grants to 254 school and youth stamp clubs, and it is pleased to announce that it will run a similar scheme in 1989. Through the scheme, schools and youth organisations with a stamp club can be provided with catalogues, books and stamp collecting material. Interested teachers or persons in charge of a stamp club run by a school or youth organisation based in the UK, and which has not previously received a grant, should write to the Secretary of the Trust, John Littlebury at 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.



Collecting British First Day Covers by N C Porter. 1989 edition. 312pp, limp binding. Available from A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA, price £8.50 post-paid.

This is the ninth edition of a popular and well-presented catalogue covering first day covers of both special (commemorative) and definitive issues. The General Notes are clear and informative explaining the philatelic significance of operational postmarks (handstamps and machine), first day cancellations, sponsored handstamps, etc. All Philatelic Counter handstamps are illustrated as are "other permanent handstamps" such as those used at the National Postal Museum, London SW1 (Buckingham Palace) and Tower Hill, London EC3. Separate catalogue listings are provided for special and definitive issues; for the former these are subdivided into Special Handstamps, Ordinary FDI Postmarks, C.D.S. postmarks and Slogan Postmarks. It is clear from the prices quoted that the demand for some covers with relevant operational datestamps and slogans must exceed supply, for example covers with the 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival slogan are priced at £275 non-phosphor and £325 phosphor compared to £10 or £12 with standard First Day of Issue handstamp.

British Forces Air Mail Letter Cards & Air Letters by O R J Lee. Second Edition. 154pp, limp binding. Available from Forces Postal History Society, 25A Mill Road, BURNHAM ON CROUCH, Essex, CM0 8PZ. No price quoted.

The first edition of this work was published in 1983 and has now been amended and updated. British Forces Air Mail Letter Cards were first issued in 1941 although their introduction had been suggested eight years earlier by D W Grumbley, Inspector-General of Posts & Telgeraphs in Iraq. Over the years many types have been issued, most are unstamped (adhesive stamps have to be affixed) although some have the "Official Paid" device. This work provides a detailed guide to the different variations with

plenty of illustrations to aid identification. Forces aerogrammes are still available from post offices.

British Philatelic Federation 1989 Yearbook and Philatelic Societies' Directory. Edited by A Herbert R Grimsey. 154pp, limp binding. Available from: British Philatelic Federation, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, price £6 UK & overseas surface mail, £8 airmail.

This book should be in the library of all serious collectors. It is invaluable for details of British philatelic organisations – local and specialist societies, stamp insurance companies, magazine publishers, etc. Look no further for details of stamp museums, philatelic bureaux, stamp slides and films and expertising services. £6 well spent; the book is of course supplied free to BPF members.

Cross Post

The Autumn 1988 (Vol.2 No.3) issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, has recently been published. It contains several articles of interest to stamp collectors and postal historians. Nigel Wilson of the Post Office's Travelling Post Office Section writes on the operation of the TPO network in the 1980s; Harold S Wilson, a leading collector of railway postal history, looks at the philatelic aspects of the TPOs.

Len Newbery provides part 1 of a series of articles on the Recorded Delivery Service which was introduced on 1 February 1961. A cover sent by Recorded Delivery on the first day of the service is illustrated. John Harley, the Archivist of Harrison & Sons Limited, gives a fascinating insight into "How a stamp is made", part of his talk to the Friends last May. This feature will be continued in the next issue. Sir Leonard Aitkinson writes on "The embossed stamps of Great Britain", Bernard R Smith examines stamp boxes in the NPM and Dr J W M Stone provides part 6 of his summary of the "Peover Papers" – the earliest extant day-to-day records of PO administration. News of the Museum and activities of the Friends is given.

Copies of *Cross Post* are available from the NPM, price £2 to non-members, £1.25 to Friends (includes postage). Details of membership of the Friends can be obtained from the Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Commemorative Covers

HMS Quorn. To commemorate the completion of the building of the last "Hunt" class vessel, HMS Quorn, a special Forces Postal Service handstamp was used on 17 January and a souvenir cover produced showing the ship at the builder's yard and crests. Covers with 19p Bird stamp cost £1.50; covers are also available with full set and signed by the Commanding Officer. All orders and enquiries to: Cdr R G D Williams, RNPO, FAA Museum, YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HT.



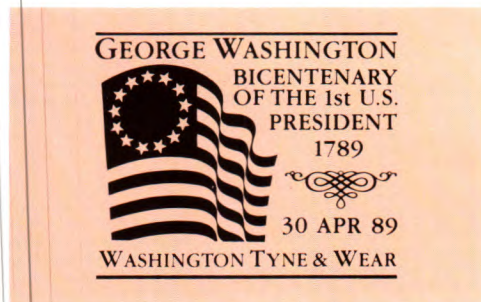
Kensington Palace. Kensington Palace has been a royal residence since 1689 when William and Mary moved there from Whitehall to avoid the damp, dirty air of the city. Queen Victoria was born at the Palace in 1819 and in 1899 opened it to the public. To mark the 300th anniversary, CoverCraft has produced a commemorative cover featuring a full colour picture of the south front. The cover is available with the 1980 Kensington Palace 17½p stamp cancelled by a special handstamp of 10 March, price £2.75 (£3.75 overseas). Orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft (Kensington Palace), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Grand National. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of this famous race at Liverpool's Aintree course, G Eldridge has produced a commemorative cover. This is available with "Liverpool pictorial handstamp" of 8 April, price £1.70 UK, £2.30 overseas. A selection of autographed covers will be available - details available for SAE. All orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

Ministry of Agriculture. To commemorate the centenary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, CoverCraft has designed and produced an exclusive first day cover for the Food & Farming stamps of 7 March. The cover

features a specially commissioned watercolour painting by Andrew Stock, a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists. The cover bearing the four stamps cancelled by a special centenary handstamp at London SW costs £4.50 or £7.50 signed by Nichola Dearne (designer of the Food & Farming stamps) and Andrew Stock. Prices include inland postage & packing, overseas orders please add £1. Orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft (MAFF Cover), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Public Funded Education. One of the four Anniversaries stamps to be issued on 11 April will commemorate the 150th anniversary of public education in England and Wales. G Eldridge has produced a special cover marking this anniversary which will bear the 19p Public Education stamp cancelled with a "special educational pictorial handstamp", price £1.70 UK, £2.30 overseas. Covers with full set of Anniversaries stamps cost £3.80 UK, £4.40 overseas. Orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.



George Washington. Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the USA on 30 April 1789. To commemorate this anniversary a souvenir cover will be available depicting fine engravings showing Washington taking the oath as President together with an early representation of the American coat of arms. The cover will bear the British stamp marking the American bicentenary issued in 1976, cancelled with a special handstamp at Washington, Tyne & Wear. The Old Hall at Washington was the home of Washington's ancestors before they moved to Sulgrave Manor. The cover costs £2.95 (overseas add 50p and remit in sterling); orders and enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Dick Turpin. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the demise of Dick Turpin at the gallows in York gaol and to mark this event a

special cover has been produced by A G Bradbury. The cover features a contemporary print of Turpin and will bear one of the 1984 Mail-coach stamps cancelled with a special handstamp at York on 7 April. The cover costs £2.95 (overseas add 50p and remit in sterling); orders and enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



Royal Show. To honour the Royal Show, Benham has produced a cover featuring The Queen at the Show; a special handstamp will be used at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire on 7 March when the Food & Farming stamps are issued. Covers cost £3.99; signed by Lord Selbourne, Deputy President of the Royal Agricultural Society, price £5.99 (postage 35p UK, 50p overseas). Orders and enquiries to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Westcliff House, FOLKES-TONE, Kent, CT20 1SZ.

European Parliament. To mark the third direct elections to the European Parliament, the Blue Rosette (Conservative Party) are sponsoring a special handstamp at Downing Street, London SW1. Covers will be available bearing the four Anniversaries stamps (one of the two 19p values marks the Elections), price £3.99 or £2.25 with single stamp. Covers signed by politicians will be available, price £6.99 (postage 35p UK, 50p overseas). Remittances should be payable to "Blue Rosette"; orders and enquiries to: Benham, address above.

Inter Parliamentary Union Centenary Conference. Benhams are producing a souvenir cover for the Conference and a special handstamp will be used at London SW1 on 11 April when the Anniversaries set is issued (one of the two 35p stamps marks the Centenary Conference). The cover bearing the four stamps cancelled with the special handstamp will cost £3.99. Signed covers will be available, price £6.99 (postage 35p UK, 50p overseas).

A special handstamp will be sponsored for use during the Conference in September –



covers bearing the 35p Conference stamp will cost £2.25; covers with the four Microscopes stamps (5 September) cost £3.99 (postage 35p UK, 50p overseas). Orders to Benham, address above.

Scottish Rugby Union. To mark the 100th Rugby Union match between Scotland and Ireland, a special cover has been produced by the Scottish Rugby Union and a special handstamp will be used at Edinburgh on 4 March (a similar cover and handstamp marked the 100th match five years ago). Proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to the SRU Injured Players Fund. Covers will cost £1; signed by John Rutherford and Roy Laidlaw, two of Scotland's most capped players who have taken part in many Scotland v Ireland matches, price £3 (postage 22p 1 cover, 26p 2-4 covers; please enclose 9 x 4½" self-addressed envelope). Orders and enquiries to: Scottish Rugby Union Commemorative Cover, Murrayfield, EDINBURGH EH12 5PJ.

Forthcoming Withdrawals

Seven definitive stamps and 18 window books will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and philatelic counters on 11 April: *Definitives* 2p green litho issued 23 February 1988 (Bureau code DS025), 4p peacock blue litho 13 May 1986 (DS042), 5p light reddish-brown litho 25 February 1986 (DS054), 12p emerald green New Phosphor Ink 1986 (DS122), 20p grey litho 13 May 1986 (DS203), 28p blue 7 October 1986 (DS281) and 75p dark grey litho 23 February 1988 (DS753). *Window Books* All 10 books containing 13p, 18p and 26p stamps issued on 4 August 1987 (Bureau codes DW001-10) and the second printings of eight of the above 10 books with New Locking Tab introduced early in 1988 (DW011-18).

1987 Special Stamp Quantities

Of the special stamps released in 1987, the following quantities were issued to counters:

Flowers

18p	34,465,100
22p	6,647,700
31p	5,966,400
34p	5,691,500

Isaac Newton

18p	34,918,400
22p	6,434,700
31p	5,829,200
34p	5,493,300

British Architects in Europe

18p	33,759,600
22p	6,383,000
31p	5,857,500
34p	5,586,900

St John Ambulance

18p	34,824,200
22p	6,422,100
31p	5,856,300
34p	5,558,400

Scottish Heraldry

18p	33,501,100
22p	5,885,100
31p	5,415,300
34p	5,150,500

Victorian Britain

18p	33,924,700
22p	6,231,200
31p	5,686,500
34p	5,405,700

Studio Pottery

18p	33,795,600
26p	6,164,900
31p	5,611,900
34p	5,368,100

Christmas

13p	272,014,500
18p	149,067,400
26p	14,677,000
31p	13,397,300
34p	11,782,900

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning all 25 window books issued in August and October 1988. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: March Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 28 April 1989.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be sent the window books. The senders of the next five correct entries drawn will receive presentation packs of the Food & Farming stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the June *Bulletin*.

1. Which company supplied paper for the new printing of the Scottish 19p stamp to be issued in April?
2. How many "My School" postcards are enclosed in the Anniversaries stamps presentation pack?
3. When are the Anniversaries stamps issued?
4. Who printed the "Scots Connection" book?
5. Who wrote "This is the right Crown"?
6. When was the first British stamp book put on sale?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, the National Postal Museum, their agents and their families. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the December competition were: M R Houston of Western Australia (first prize), Mrs J Carr of Wiltshire, P J Child of New South Wales, M D Wells of Norway, Mrs L M White of West Sussex and S A Edwards of Leicestershire.

The answers were: 1. Newark, 2. Monday, 3. Samantha Brown, 4. Frank Langfield, 5. Christopher Chataway, 6. Shrewsbury.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Issued in March

7 March **Food & Farming stamps** 19p,
27p, 32p, 35p

designer: Sedley Place Limited

printing: Harrisons, photogra-
vure, 35 x 37mm, printed on
phosphor coated paper in sheets
of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum

presentation pack: £1.35

**Bureau f.d. service alternative
handstamp:** Stoneleigh, Kenil-
worth, Warwickshire

21 March **£5 Prestige Stamp Book- "The
Scots Connection"** Contents:
pane 1-9 x 19p (ACP); pane 2-
6 x 14p (centre band); pane 3-5
x 14p (left band), 2 x 19p (2
bands), 1 x 23p (2 bands) &
label; pane 4-6 x 19p (ACP)

printing: The House of Questa,
offset litho

**Bureau f.d. service alternative
handstamp**(for pane 3) - Inver-
ness

27 March **Anniversaries Stamp Cards
(PHQ cards)(Nos 117A-D)**
16p each

Withdrawn in March

21 March **Sports issue** - all items

28 March **Scottish aerogramme - Year
of The Bible**

British Postmark Bulletin

Readers of this *Bulletin* interested in special handstamps and postmark slogans are reminded that The Post Office also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin* which aims to give advance information on all forthcoming handstamps and slogans. Details are given so that collectors can send in covers to receive these cancellations. The *Postmark Bulletin*, published since 1971, is now compiled at the National Postal Museum in London together with the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and is despatched to subscribers from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. Annual subscriptions are: UK £7.50, Europe £9.50, Rest of World (Airmail) £17 and should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

The cylinders and colours used for the Food & Farming stamps were:

19p 1A (brownish grey) 1B (greenish yellow)
1C (rose) 1D (new blue) 1E (black) 1F (pale grey) 1G (emerald)

27p 1A (brownish grey) 1B (greenish yellow)
1C (bright carmine) 1D (new blue) 1E (black) 1F (pale grey) 1G (bright orange)

32p 1A (brownish grey) 1B (greenish yellow)
1C (rose-red) 1D (new blue) 1E (black) 1F (pale grey) 1G (bistre yellow)

35p 1A (brownish grey) 1B (greenish yellow)
1C (bright carmine) 1D (new blue) 1E (black) 1F (pale grey) 1G (brown red)

The 50p definitive has recently been printed from cylinder 34. The £1.50 Castle high value is reported from plates 1A and 2B and the £2 and £5 both from plate 1A.

The cylinders noted in the 24 January machine and counter books are as follows: 50p B1 B17 *phosphor* B76; £1 B6 B21 *phosphor unsewn*; £1.40 B18 *phosphor* B49 and £1.90 B3.

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