

British Philatelic Bulletin

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July Books

New 50p and £1 books are to be issued in July – these will feature designs 2 and 3 in the “Marine Life” series: 50p Common Hermit Crab, Bladder-Wrack and Laver Spire Shell and £1 Edible Sea Urchin, Common Starfish and Common Shore Crab. Further details will be given next month.

Editorial

JOHN HOLMAN

In this month's *Bulletin* we preview the Games & Toys stamps (16 May) – this year's “Europa” issue; stamps on this theme are being issued by all member countries of the CEPT organisation. I found the presentation pack for this issue particularly interesting – featuring illustrations of many old toys; I am sure many collectors will feel nostalgic when they see it. Also this month we illustrate the four postcards, reproducing children's paintings, which will be enclosed in the pack for the Anniversaries stamps (11 April). The cards result from a competition arranged by the Royal Mail in connection with the 150th anniversary of public education in England and Wales. Finally on the subject of young people, the Youth Organisations issue of 1982 is featured in the “British Special Issues” series of articles.

The forthcoming Anniversaries set reproduces special firework displays and we are pleased to publish in the *Bulletin* photographs of the displays. The photograph on this page shows preparation of the displays, the fireworks themselves are featured on pages 196–7. This is the first time firework displays have been shown on British stamps and I cannot recall too many from other countries – although no doubt the thematic collectors amongst you will tell me otherwise.



Games & Toys

16 May 1989

The theme of this year's Europa issue is Games & Toys – stamps depicting this subject will be issued by member countries of the Conference of European Postal & Telecommunications organisation. The four colourful British stamps, to be issued on 16 May, feature an artistic impression of a number of popular games and toys.



The 19p stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate) features building bricks, the 27p (airmail postcards) a toy aeroplane and train, the 32p (airmail Zone B) board games and the 35p (airmail Zone C) toys in general.

Until the 19th century children tended to be treated as miniature adults, were required to be useful members of the family and were often dressed in a similar way to their elders. For children of the working class (the vast majority of the population) toys were almost non-existent. The children of the better-off did have toys and most of those which have survived have come from the homes of the upper middle class and the aristocracy. Visitors to many stately homes now open to the public can see delightful examples of the toys played with by the sons and daughters of the nobility.

Toys have survived from ancient times – such as pull-along animals, spinning tops and balls from Ancient Egypt and knucklebones and clay dolls from ancient Greece and Rome. In 16th century Europe, tops, hobby horses,

hoops, marbles, kites, pull-along carts and toy animals were sold by travelling packmen. In the next century the doll's house developed from the cabinets used by ladies for displaying miniature treasures. In the 18th century the rich often had their estate carpenter build a model of their home for their children. Board games, intended to instruct as well as amuse, made their debut. Some of these games had rather grandiose titles, for example the *Royal Game of Goose* (1775) and the *New Game of Human Life* (1790) which stressed its "utility and moral tendency".

The Napoleonic Wars may well have inspired the appeal of metal toy soldiers at the end of the 18th century – the first type consisted of little flat figures cast, wafer thin but marvellously detailed, in tin. The family firm of Britain Ltd became the great name in the manufacture of toy soldiers – by 1900 they offered about a hundred sets, of all different regiments, at a shilling a set.



Toy replicas of forms of transport have proved popular with children (and some adults!) throughout the ages. Soon after the first passenger-carrying trains ran in the 1820s and 1830s, they became subjects for the toy manufacturers. The early toy trains were of a simple, pull-along nature, referred to as "carpet trains"; later working models were produced with water-filled boilers heated by a methylated spirit burner – nicknamed "dribblers" or "piddlers" after the

trail they left behind. By the late 19th century, clockwork became the chief motive power for toy trains. Since the 1920s the name Hornby has become almost synonymous with toy trains – their early train sets (in good condition) are now prized collectors' items. Toy aeroplanes came on the market soon after the Wright Brothers flights in 1903; as children the Brothers were inspired by a toy powered by an elastic band "which would lift itself into the air".

Construction toys, such as building bricks, became popular in the 18th century; the well-known "Bayko" came into production in the 1930s.

Today old toys and games (also childrens' books, annuals and comics) are much sought after and specialist shops and auctions supply a growing number of collectors. Many museums have toy sections and both London and Edinburgh have specialist museums – the Bethnal Green Museum, London E2; the London Toy and Model Museum, London W2; Pollock's Toy Museum, London W1 and the Museum of Childhood, Edinburgh (the toys illustrated in the presentation pack can be seen in the Edinburgh Museum).

Technical Details

Designed by Dan Fern, of the Royal College of Art, the four stamps have been printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited. They are of vertical format, 41 x 30mm, printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor-coated paper with PVA dextrin gum. Perforation is 14 x 15.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards (formerly referred to as PHQ cards) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 1 May, price 16p each. They are numbered 118A-D.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No 199) will cost £1.35 and was designed by Trickett and Webb Limited with text by John Heyes of the Museum of Childhood, Edinburgh. The many toys illustrated were photographed by Chris Hall at the Edinburgh Museum. The pack was produced by Litho-Tech colour printers.

First Day Cover

The first day cover will be available from 1 May, price 17p, from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal

Museum and main post offices. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one at the Bureau and one at Leeds – home of Waddingtons, a leading manufacturer of games.

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 – charges £1.62 UK (including VAT), £1.41 overseas (no VAT). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 16 May.

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

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
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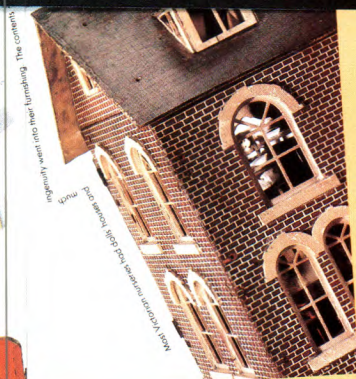
Leeds	Special Postmark Duty Customer Services Leeds LDO 29 Wellington Street LEEDS LS1 1AA
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First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition pictorial First Day handstamps are available at the London Chief Office (arms of the City of London) and Durham (Cathedral). Covers for reposting should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA 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 16 May – full details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Souvenir Cover

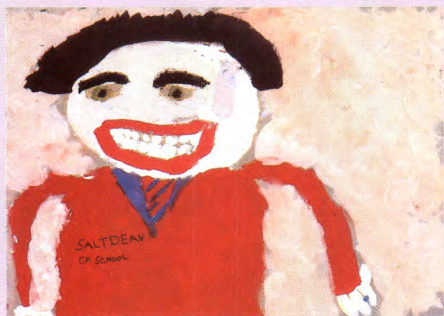
A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from philatelic counters from 17 May, price 17p. This can be used to obtain relevant Games & Toys postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.



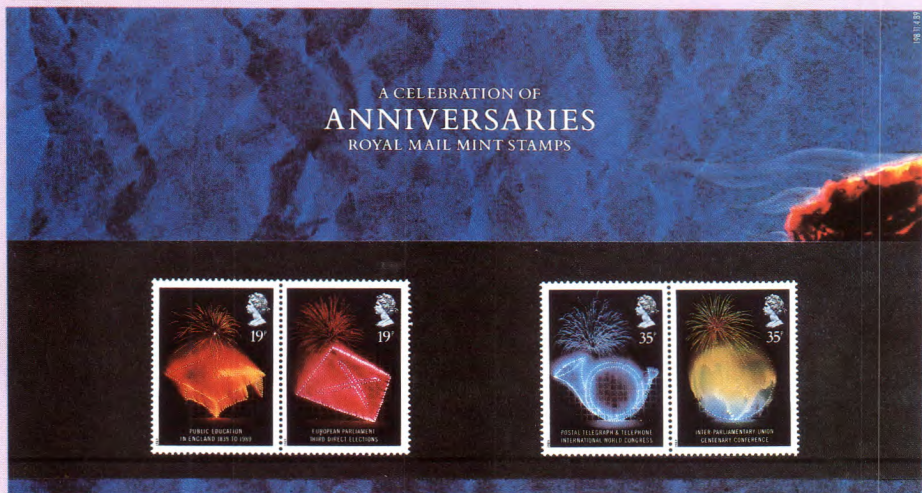
GAMES & TOYS
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Shown here are the four cards, designed by school children, which are included in the presentation pack for the Anniversaries stamps (11 April). The cards result from a design competition organised by The Post Office; details were given in last month's Bulletin.



Youth Organisations

British Special Issues: No.152

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The Boy Scouts organisation has held a special place in work among British youth since the movement was founded by the 50-year old Major-General Robert Baden-Powell in 1907, at a camp site on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset. The 50th anniversary of the Boy Scouts and the centenary of the birth of its founder was celebrated at an International Jamboree held in Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham in 1957. The event was also marked by three stamps, specifically inscribed JUBILEE JAMBOREE (thus avoiding any personal reference to Baden-Powell). The issue was the one of the few commemorative series of the period and was the first non-royal occasion issue of the new reign.

The Boy Scout stamp included in the 1982 Youth Organisations issue had to share the honour with three other groups. The complete issue was:

15½p, The Boys' Brigade. This stamp anticipated, by one year, the centenary of the Boys' Brigade, the oldest uniformed voluntary boys' organisation in the world. In 1883, Wil-



liam Alexander Smith, a 24-year old from a Thurso, Caithness family with a military tradition, invited a group of Glasgow boys to meet in a mission hall. The outcome was the first company of the Boys' Brigade, with the members pledged to a Christian and disciplined life, symbolised by an anchor inscribed SURE & STEADFAST, the badge of the Brigade; the Christian aspect emphasised on the stamp by the church in the design. The Boys' Brigade today

half the membership in Great Britain. The bands numbers about 400,000 world-wide with about of the companies implant military discipline and lead processions to church parades, an essential part of Boys' Brigade activities.

19½p, Girls' Brigade. This is the "baby" of the four organisations having been founded as recently as 1965, following the merging of three girls' movements with very similar objectives. The combined forces number about 165,000, now all under the banner of the Girls' Brigade with its motto, *Seek, Serve and Follow Christ*. The inter-denominational religious basis of the Girls' Brigade is indicated by the chapel below the drum on the stamp's design, the drum once again being a symbol of discipline in the marching to church parades.



26p, Boy Scouts. The most famous youth organisation is fully inter-denominational and inter-faith, its members being drawn from all religions. The United Kingdom membership alone exceeds 500,000 Scout and Cub Scouts – the latter being the 8-11 year olds formerly called Wolf Cubs. Cheerful self-reliance and assistance to others is taught, and practised, largely through outdoor camping activities, as hinted by the tents in the background of the design, which deliberately includes a coloured scout and a white cub scout.

29p, Girl Guides. With the Boy Scouts movement only two years old, girls wanted to take part and pressed their case with an all-girl Scout Rally in 1909. By 1910, Agnes Baden-Powell, sister of Robert, agreed to form the Girl Guides as a sister-organisation, the name "Guides" being derived from that of a famous Indian regiment. The stamp design shows a Guide in full uniform together with a Brownie (junior Guides aged from 8 to 11 years). Baden-Powell became Chief Scout in 1920 and his wife, Olave, became a Guide in 1915 and, in 1930, accepted the title of Chief Guide, thus forming a

unique husband and wife team in charge of two vast international youth organisations each seeking to urge its members to standards of self-help and service to others in practical ways.

The stamps were issued on 24 March 1982, the designer being Brian Sanders who, in 1979, had designed the Metropolitan Police sesquicentenary issue. Printing, in photogravure, was by Harrison's, the issued sheets being of 100 stamps in two panes of 50 (5 x 10) on phosphorised paper, perf. 15 x 14.

Major constant flaws were confined to three values, one flaw on each: 19½p, a red stain on the drum face to the right of the cross (Row 5, stamp 6); 26p, red spot on flag, level with The Queen's chin (Row 1, stamp 4); 29p, an upper point of the star missing, adjacent to the roadway in the lower left corner (Row 1, stamp 2). There are 27 minor cylinder flaws listed in the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue*. The issue was withdrawn on 24 March 1983 when the recorded sales were: 15½p 40,169,000; 19½p 9,234,500; 26p 8,669,000 and 29p 8,361,900. The customary set of PHQ cards (Nos. 58a-d) was issued simultaneously with the stamps: 250,000 sets of cards were produced.

Three "First Day of Issue" handstamps were provided by The Post Office – at the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh; Glasgow and London SW. The designs featured a camp fire, Boys' Brigade and Scout emblems respectively. A Scottish aerogramme featuring the Boys' Brigade was issued, to mark its centenary, on 10 August 1983.

Anniversaries Stamps

The plate numbers and colours used for the Anniversaries stamps were 1A (new blue) 1A (greenish yellow) 1A (magenta) 1A (black) for both values; the 19p stamps were also printed from plates 2A2A2A2A, 3A3A3A3A and 4A4A4A4A.

It should be noted that the illustrations in the March *Bulletin* were of essays; the 35p Inter-Parliamentary Union stamp will be inscribed INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION CENTENARY CONFERENCE not ONE HUNDRETH CONFERENCE.

Stamp Bug Club

The Stamp Bug Club now has a new address: Freepost, NORTHAMPTON NN3 1BR. The Club, set up in 1980, has some 70,000 members and

publishes *Stamp Bug News*, a colourful magazine aimed at the young collector. Application forms can be obtained from the above address.

First Day Handstamps

Advance notice is given that the alternative "First Day of Issue" pictorial handstamps for the remaining issues of 1989 special stamps will be: Industrial Archaeology (4 July stamps and 25 July miniature sheet) – Telford; Microscopes (5 September) – Oxford; Lord Mayor's Show (17 October) – City of London, EC and Christmas (14 November) – Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed. Further details will be given here in due course. The British Philatelic Bureau will also have a pictorial handstamp for each issue.

Expanded Stamp Book Sales

In the February *Bulletin* (page 146), we gave details of the programme to make window books available at non-Post Office retail outlets throughout the country during 1989. The scheme was extended to the Tyne-Tees, Grampian, Border, Granada and STV television areas during January, to the Central and TVS areas in February and the Yorkshire television area during March. Books will go on sale at many retail outlets in the London area during April, followed by the Anglia and TSW television areas in May and the HTV area during June.

Window books have now replaced the £1.40 and £1.90 counter books (pictorial cover designs) at most post offices in the London postal districts; gradually they will supersede counter books at all post offices.

Philatelic Paraphernalia

The Philatelic History Society has recently published the 17th issue of its journal *Philatelic Paraphernalia*. This contains features on Philately in Films, the "Ivory Stamp Club of the Air" which had 850,000 members in the USA in the 1930s, and on E Doeblin, an American philatelist of the early 20th century. The Society, set up in 1984, is "for collectors of material relating to the hobby of stamp collecting, whether philatelic, biographical or ephemeric in nature". The annual subscription is £5 UK, \$10 overseas surface mail, \$14 airmail. All enquiries to: Victor Short, Hunters Lodge, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell, OAKHAM, Leics, LE15 7LJ.

Posting Boxes

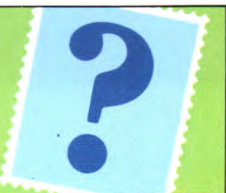
No.98. This month we show a good example of a lamp box at Whiteford, Pitcaple, Aberdeenshire, photographed by Michael Barbour of Thornton Heath in December 1985. Under its white covering the box is no doubt one of the present reign designed especially for use in Scotland, having the crown but not the E II R royal cypher. A box of this nature on the isle of Eriskay was featured in Posting Boxes No.90 in the May 1988 *Bulletin*.



New Exhibition Card

A new exhibition card - third in the series - will be issued to coincide with the Nordia exhibition from 7-11 June 1989. The card will also be available at five subsequent exhibitions — Philexfrance (7-17 July 1989), Autumn Stampex/BPE (17-22 October 1989), Philatelia (3-5 November 1989), World Stamp Expo '89 (17 November-3 December 1989) and Spring Stampex (6-11 February 1990). The cards with bear special stamps cancelled by an Exhibition Cards handstamp; cards sold at exhibitions will bear a cachet in addition. Further details will be given in the *Bulletin* nearer the time of issue with details of how to order cards.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning blocks of four of the 1988 special issues (two strips of Armada stamps). 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: April Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 26 May 1989.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be sent the blocks of the 1988 special stamps. The senders of the next five correct entries drawn will receive a presentation pack of the Anniversaries stamps and a Greetings stamp book. Answers and winners' names will be published in the July *Bulletin*.

1. The Games & Toys presentation pack illustrates toys from which Museum?
2. Which youth organisation was commemorated by a 29p stamp in 1982?
3. Which society publishes the journal *Philatelic Paraphernalia*?
4. Where were the firework displays shown on the Anniversaries stamps photographed?
5. Which ship was held fast by pack-ice for five days in 1876?
6. Which monarch featured on Tonga's 1963 gold foil stamps?

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 January competition were: R P Wright of Buckinghamshire (first prize), Mrs J Downs of Birmingham, D Craze of Essex, D W Mellin of West Midlands, J Black of Aberdeen and T Williams of Warwickshire.

The answers were: 1. Twelve, 2. over 2 million, 3. Finlandia, 4. Eight, 5. Nicholas Seebeck, 6. Kenneth Graham.

Out thanks to all who entered; over 1,500 entries were received.

Design Matters

4. Stamp Printing Processes – which is best?

BARRY ROBINSON

Design Adviser to The Post Office

There is no doubt that stamps, because of their size and the precise tolerances required in their production, present a formidable challenge to the printer. They also call upon the highest levels of craftsmanship in a wide range of pre-production activities such as platemaking and engraving.

The traditional method of printing stamps was by intaglio or line-engraved recess, a technique invented in Germany in the 15th century. In simple terms, the image to be printed is cut or etched into the surface of the plate or cylinder which is then inked and the surface wiped clean, leaving ink only in the recessed areas. When the paper is passed under pressure between cylinders, the ink is drawn out to transfer the image to the paper.

Photogravure printing is actually a later development of the intaglio process since it also utilises the technique of recessed inking. The unique aspect of photogravure is the fact that the total image, including type matter, is screened. The image is broken up into thousands of microscopic dots which, when etched in acid, become tiny uniform cells varying only in depth. Variations in tone are achieved by the amount of ink held in each cell.

Offset lithography is a much more recent printing technique. Unlike photogravure, variations in tone are obtained by varying the

size of the half-tone dots. The image is transferred photographically onto a metal plate which is then chemically treated so that the image area will reject water and accept ink whilst the non-image area does the opposite.

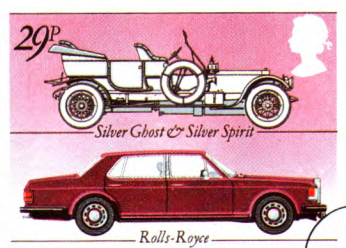
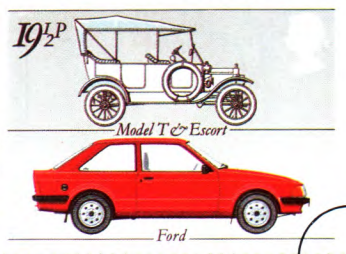
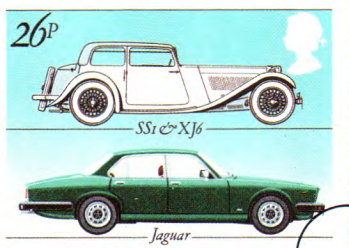
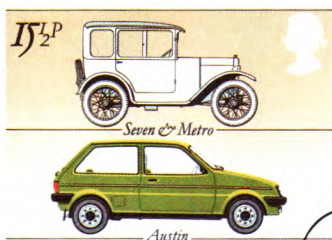
Each printing method offers its own advantages and disadvantages and there is certainly anything but unanimity on the question of which is best for stamp production. The answer to that question really depends on what criteria is established for the production of stamps in terms of quality, cost and convenience – and, here again, there is anything but universal agreement.

For example, it is argued by some collectors that there is no real substitute for an intaglio stamp because it demands the highest levels of craftsmanship on the part of the engraver and, therefore, represents quality as well as maintaining the traditional techniques which produced the Penny Black. I must confess to having a certain sympathy with this school of thought, although my sympathy has to be tempered by a number of harsh realities.

The craft of engraving, although alive and well in places like Scandinavia and France, is not as flourishing as it might be in this country. We would certainly like to encourage the craft where we can but the opportunities we can offer are bound to be limited. It must also be



St John Ambulance and Motor Car stamps (see facing page) printed in offset-lithography by The House of Questa



recognised that intaglio printing is much more expensive and time consuming than photogravure or litho.

Photogravure has undoubtedly proved itself a great success as far as British stamps are concerned and that is due in no small measure to the work of Harrisons. Of all the printing processes, it offers the richest and widest tonal range because of its very fine screen. It is also ideally suited for long runs, ensuring remarkable quality consistency.

It is difficult to fault photogravure. If it has a major shortcoming, it must be the fact that, because the entire image area, including type, is screened, type edges tend to have a zig-zag effect.

Lithography

Offset lithography has certainly come on by leaps and bounds in the last decade. In the early days it was difficult to produce the fine detail required for some stamp designs because of the coarse screen. Much finer screens are now used and this has resulted in a significant improvement in quality although it still cannot match the consistency of photogravure on long runs. As

evidence that litho has improved considerably, The House of Questa required only three changes of plates for the litho-printed Motor Car stamps of 1982. Litho-plates are much easier and much less expensive to change than photogravure cylinders.

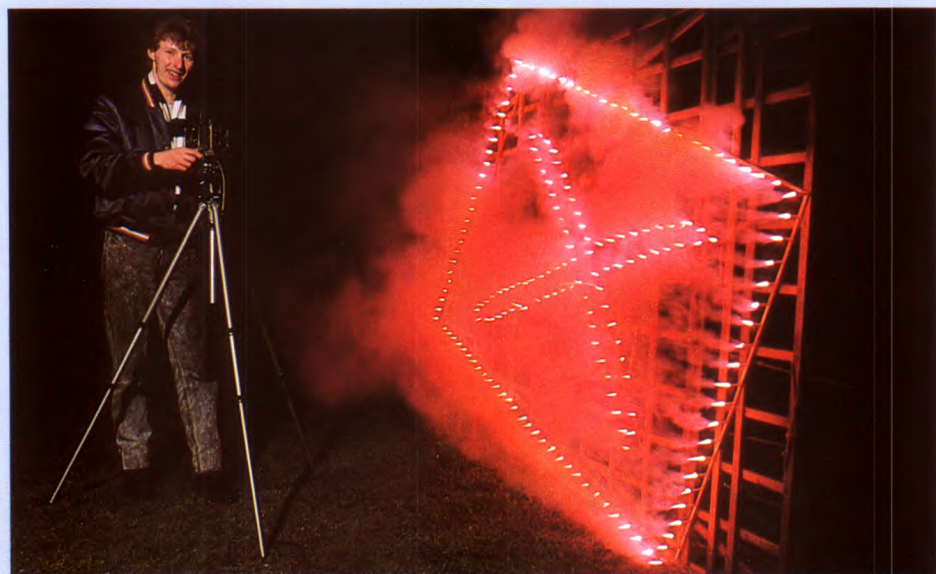
Two Processes

Perhaps the most important development in British special stamp production in recent years is the combined photogravure and intaglio facility on Harrison's Jumelle press. The Victorian Britain issue of 1987 was the fourth set of special stamps produced by this method, the earlier ones being Sailing (1975), Maritime Heritage (1982) and Royal Mail (1984).

We learn something new about this process each time we try it. Whilst we cannot claim to have mastered all the finer points of what is an adventurous, if somewhat difficult technique, we are learning. The results so far demonstrate that it is well worth the effort.

In the last article in this series, Barry Robinson looks to the future for stamp design and production.

Anniversaries Stamps - Firework Displays



Illustrated here are the special firework displays used as the basis of the designs of the four Anniversaries stamps to be issued on 11 April. The firework displays were arranged by Umwin Pyrotechnics Ltd and photographed on Dartford Marshes, Kent by David Amaballino. In order they feature a mortar board (150th Anniversary of Public Education in England & Wales), a ballot paper (Direct Elections to the European Parliament), a posthorn (Postal Telegraph & Telephone International World Conference) and a globe (Inter-Parliamentary Union Centenary Conference). A fifth photograph showing the setting up of one of the displays is reproduced on the Contents page.



The 1948 Olympic Games Issue

Part 3

DOUGLAS N MUIR

Curator Philately, National Postal Museum

When the stamps were issued on 29 July 1948, the first day of the Games, the Post Office sent out a press release giving some background details.



The issued 2½d stamp

"The 2½d stamp, designed by Mr Percy Metcalfe, C.V.O., R.D.I., shows the globe, symbolising the universality of the Games, surrounded by the laurel wreath of Victory.

"The 3d stamp, designed by Mr Abram Games, F.S.I.A., shows the figure of an athlete

combined with the world, symbolising the athletic striving of all the nations taking part in the Games. The horizontal drawing of the athlete and the lines running from him express the movement and vitality of the Games.

"The 6d stamp, designed by Mr Stanley D. Scott, of Waterlow and Sons Ltd., shows the King's head superimposed on the five interlaced rings. Formalized laurel branches on the left and



The issued 6d stamp

*Final essay of the
3d, dated 4 May
1948*



*Final Essay.
Artist - A. Games.*

*Approved
4 May 1948*

right, each with 14 leaves, are indicative of the fourteenth Olympiad.

"The 1s stamp, designed by Mr Edmund Dulac, shows, a winged Victory running round the world calling to the nations and holding out the crown of laurel destined for the victor in the Games.



The issued 1s stamp

"All four stamps have been produced by Messrs Harrison and Sons Ltd., of London, Hayes, (Middlesex) and High Wycombe (Bucks) by the photogravure process. They have been printed on paper especially provided for the purpose by Messrs. Portals (John Allen & Sons) Ltd at their Ivybridge Mills. The air letter forms (but not the stamp printed on them) have been printed by Messrs McCorquodales of Wolverton (Bucks). Messrs Harrison and Sons Ltd printed the stamp on these forms by the photogravure process."

Biographical details were then given of the artists:

"Percy Metcalfe, C.V.O., R.D.I. has had a long artistic career. He is on the Livery of the Goldsmiths' Company; has designed coinage for Eire, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, New Zealand, Fiji, Greece and Bulgaria, the Great Seal of the Realm, 1928, the Great Seals of Eire and South Africa; Coronation medals.

Abram Games, F.S.I.A., born in London, age 34, is self-taught; worked in studio until 21, then free lance. Joined the Army in 1940 and made War Office poster designer, designing exclusively for the Army, including the controversial "A.T.S. Glamour Girl". War posters exhibited in London, New York, Paris, Moscow, Leningrad, Prague, Switzerland, etc. One man shows in Stockholm (1943) and Brussels (1946). Demobilized 1946 and free lance once again. Lecturer in design at Royal College of Art, London.

Stanley D. Scott, age 28, designer for Messrs Waterlow & Sons Ltd. Received art training at the West Ham School of Art and joined the firm in 1935. Saw six years' war service with the Field Survey, Royal Engineers, almost four of which were spent overseas with the Eighth Army.

Edmund Dulac, well-known in the artistic world. His work includes book illustrations, portraits, caricatures, stage settings and costumes and decorations. He designed and modelled King's Poetry Prize medal; the King George VI Coronation stamp (1937), the King George VI cameo portrait used in all the current stamps. He also designed the present 7d to 5s stamps. The Free French Colonial stamps and bank notes and the first post-war stamp for Metropolitan France - "Marianne" - also were designed by Mr Dulac."

The stamps were to be printed "on the special Titanium paper already supplied", the 6d stamps in non fugitive ink. Preparations for printing continued over the months from May through to July.

On 27 May discussions took place about how many stamps should be printed. The quantities were considered in the light of sales of the Silver Wedding and Channel Islands stamps. In the case of the 2½d Silver Wedding stamp one million sheets had proved to be too few. For the 3d, 6d and 1s values, the Director of Postal Services considered that 100,000 sheets (12 million sets) should be provided for philatelic sales. As a result the revised quantities of non-over-printed stamps were:

2½d	1,250,000 sheets of 120 (150,000,000 stamps)
3d	250,000 sheets of 120 (30,000,000 stamps)
6d	200,000 sheets of 120 (24,000,000 stamps)
1s	250,000 sheets of 120 (30,000,000 stamps)

This was an increase for the 2½d and 1s values but, in fact, the final quantities ordered from the printers were even higher. As reported on 28 January 1949 they were:

2½d	1,375,000 sheets (165,000,000 stamps)
3d	300,000 sheets (36,000,000 stamps)
6d	240,000 sheets (28,800,000 stamps)
1s	300,000 sheets (36,000,000 stamps)

A detailed breakdown gave figures for waste etc and final sales.

	<i>2½d</i>	<i>3d</i>	<i>6d</i>	<i>1s</i>
Ordered	165,000,000	36,000,000	28,800,000	36,000,000
Good	156,965,880	34,311,240	26,278,560	34,638,000
Waste	8,034,120	1,688,760	2,521,440	1,362,000
Transferred for overprinting	1,584,000	1,584,000	1,584,000	1,584,000
Specimens etc	2,425	2,425	2,545	2,425
departmental waste etc	1,955	1,355	1,595	1,235
Issued to Postmasters	155,377,500	32,723,460	24,690,420	33,050,340
Withdrawn from sale January 1949	26,520	168,818	293,050	862,875
Postmasters estimated sales*	155,350,980	32,554,642	24,397,370	32,187,465
*not the final figures as postmasters were still returning stamps when the list was compiled.				

This does, however, conceal considerable overordering by those concerned. On 3 September a memo stated that "it seems quite clear that our guess regarding the demand for the 3d, 6d and 1s stamps was wide of the mark.....the only way to dispose of these stamps is for the Stores to keep on pumping them out, holding back the normal 3d, 6d and 1s stamps until the Olympic Games are disposed of." At that point there were still outstanding: 2½d 67,000 sheets; 3d 120,000 sheets; 6d 95,000 sheets; 1s 166,000; – in other words about half the printing of the higher values. Stocks were not finally recalled until the end of January 1949 and the print figures for the UPU issue which appeared on 10 October were considerably reduced.

As can be seen from the detailed figures a total of 13,200 sheets of each value was needed for overprinting. This was a vast reduction from the 82,500 sheets originally envisaged, done "in the light of the experience gained with the Royal Silver Wedding overprints". The postal agencies needing these were in Tangier (3,300 sheets), Tetuan (3,300 sheets), Bahrain (2,200 sheets), Kuwait (2,200 sheets) and Muscat and Dubai (2,200 sheets). Even these estimates were wide of the mark as final sales figures were:

In other words only about a quarter of the print figures were actually sold and, of course, a good number of these went to stamp dealers.

Airletter

From the outset, it had been planned to issue a commemorative airletter, the first such ever. At the time, airletters were printed letterpress by McCorquodales with a special letterpress die for the imprinted stamp. As has been seen the 6d design, the value needed for the airletter, was specifically recommended as being suitable for letterpress reproduction but there was always some doubt about this. Discussions took place between the Post Office, the Royal Mint and the printers at the beginning of March 1948.

On 8 March, the Royal Mint was shown an essay of the 6d value and asked if they could supply 12 or 16 rotary letterpress dies for delivery to McCorquodales by the end of May. For the Mint Mr Whitaker said that "this could be done if an existing engraving of the King's head could be used, but that it would be impossible if a new engraving of the head was required." The head used for the current airletter would be right for size but the engraver would need a line drawing as well.

	<i>Bahrain</i>	<i>Kuwait</i>	<i>Muscat</i>	<i>Morocco Agencies</i>	<i>Tangier</i>
2½d	99,304	89,264	73,998	107,309	101,965
3d	112,515	91,203	72,226	100,020	101,638
6d	112,919	83,677	68,904	94,278	101,175
1s	87,858	83,395	66,867	93,304	96,190

Harrisons had offered to print the stamp in photogravure if letterpress should prove impracticable and it was agreed that this was "likely to produce a much better job whilst obviating the necessity for converting a photogravure design into letterpress, with the risk of losing the effect." Difficulties of registration

Approval of Essays & Proofs

	<i>Essay approved</i>	<i>Cyl. proof approved</i>	<i>1st supply received</i>
2½d	27 May	22 June	29 June
3d	24 May	14 June	21 June
6d	6 May	16 July	17 July
1s	27 May	1 July	13 July
6d air letter		11 May	

were cited by Harrisons as a reason for them printing the whole job in gravure but it was decided that the background stipple and text would be printed in letterpress by McCorquodales at their works at Wolverton and the sheets would then be sent to High Wycombe for the stamp to be added in gravure by Harrisons.

Warrants for 4,200,000 forms, including stamped waste, were issued, being a month's supply, but, not unnaturally, problems arose in production. McCorquodales had recently rejected 30 tons of paper for airletter production as being of poor quality. The replacement delivery was of better quality but in a drab shade rather than azure and was rejected as far as the Olympic issue was concerned. Because of the paper quota system, however, it was accepted for use on ordinary airletters. Up to standard supplies were purchased from another firm. Printing took place on the same rotary press used by McCorquodales for postal orders.

About half the amount had been printed by McCorquodales and supplied to Harrisons by May when the latter asked that no more be sent for the time being. This was because the cylinder was not approved until 11 May and no printing was taking place. When the stamps had been printed on the uncut sheets, these were returned to McCorquodales for cutting and gumming.

The airletter was placed on sale on 29 July, the same day as the stamps, the total sales amounting to 4,060,000.

Postscript

The Postmaster General was asked on 23 February 1949 about sales figures. These he gave to

the nearest thousand. He regretted that information regarding stamps bought by philatelists was not available. "The Post Office has no means of identifying postage stamps bought for philatelic purposes as opposed to those bought for use for prepayment of postage".

References

Post Office Archives files:

Post 102/12 (M133488/49) Postage Stamps
Commemorative: Channel Islands Liberation
and Olympic Games.

BUS 62

Article

Wilcock, R. The Olympic Games London 1948.
British Philatelic Bulletin Vol. 26 pp 71-74



Registration copy of the Air Letter (28 July 1948)

Correction

Two captions in Part 1 of this article (February) were transposed: the design attributed to A C King was by W S Matthews and *vice versa*. Our apologies for any confusion.

Polar Postmasters — The Arctic

Part 2

TONY GAMMONS

Relief Ship

Back in England delays had occurred in fitting out the relief ship. As Captain Allen Young was preparing the steam yacht *Pandora* for a voyage to the Arctic, in the hope of recovering additional relics or information of the last days of Sir John Franklin, he was asked to take correspondence for Nares's expedition and leave it at the cairn on the Carey Islands before sailing westwards to try and find a way through to the Pacific via Peel Sound and the Dease and Simpson Straits. Young left the mail at the cairn

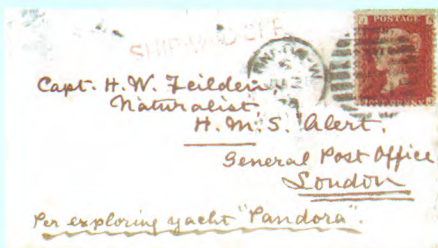


Fig 1 – Letter carried on *Pandora*'s first voyage (1875)

on the small island at the eastern end of the Carey group on 10 September 1875 and sailed on to Peel Sound. However, after passing through as far as Bellot Strait the *Pandora* was unable to find a way through the pack ice and returned to England arriving at Southampton in September 1875. Young laid his ship up for the winter with the intention of returning to the Arctic the following year.

Early in 1876 the Admiralty requested the use of the *Pandora* as the relief and communications ship for the Nares's expedition. Young agreed, and the Post Office issued a notice (No. 18) dated 15 May 1876 with instructions to address letters "Arctic Yacht *Pandora*, Portsmouth". On 22 May *Pandora* moved to

Portsmouth to collect the mail and dispatches for the *Alert* and the *Discovery* and to await final instructions from the Admiralty. She sailed for Plymouth to take on coal and water and left for the Arctic on 2 June 1876. By 24 July *Pandora* was in Melville Bay, off the coast of Greenland, surrounded by pack-ice. Young found himself cut off from open water and his ship was soon trapped fast in the ice. The situation became so serious that the ship's boats were loaded with supplies and swung out ready to be lowered at a moment's notice.

Held Fast

Pandora was held fast for five days until she was able to extricate herself with the aid of a strong south-east wind and reached the Carey Isles on 1 August. Here Young found the mail he had left the previous September. The expedition then sailed north passing Cape Alexander and entering Smith Sound where Lieutenants Arbuthnot and Becker landed on Littleton Island and collected the report and letters left by Nares in July 1875. *Pandora* then steamed across Smith Sound to Cape Isabella. It was here that Nares had asked that any dispatches or letters for the *Alert* and *Discovery* should be left in case the relief ship could go no further north. The two Lieutenants landed with a cask full of letters addressed to nearly all the officers and sailors of the expedition. The record which Nares had left at Cape Isabella was taken from the cairn by Lieutenant Arbuthnot. Young spent the next three weeks "dodging up and down Smith Channel", fighting gale force winds and drifting pack-ice until, on 25 August, he reached Leconte Island. Two days later Smith Strait was filled by the ice and *Pandora* headed for Upernavik.

Fig 2 – Letter carried on second voyage of *Pandora* (1876)



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



POLAR EXPEDITION

DESPATCH OF MAILS FOR.

MAILS for the Polar Ships "Alert" and "Discovery" will be made up for conveyance from Portsmouth on or about the 25th May by the Steam Yacht "Pandora," Captain Allen Young having kindly consented to convey letters for the officers and crews of the Polar Ships, to be deposited at the depots.

All letters should be sent through the Post Office prepaid the inland rate of postage, and addressed "Arctic Yacht Pandora, Portsmouth."

It should be understood that these letters will be deposited at the depots on the chance of Captain Nares being able to communicate with the entrance of Smith's Sound by means of a small sledge party in the autumn of the present year, and that there is, therefore, some uncertainty whether the letters will reach their destination.

It is requested that the friends of officers and men of the Polar Expedition will make their letters as few and as light as possible.

No letters containing articles of value should be sent.

No Newspapers should be sent, as the Admiralty will send a sufficient supply.

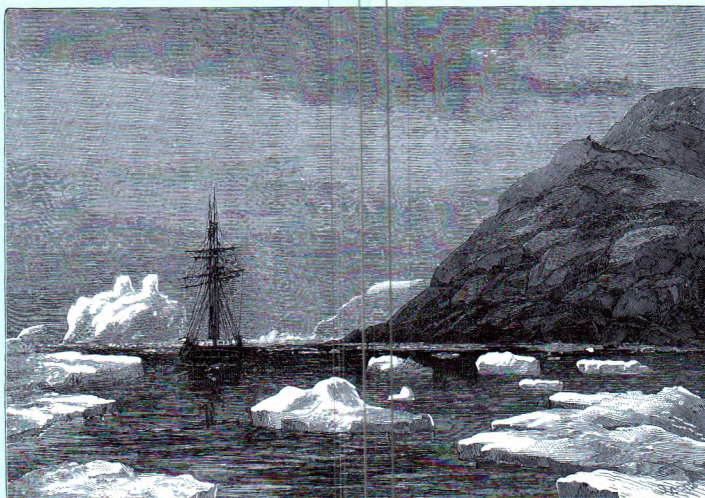
By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
15th May, 1876.

Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by W. P. Gurnea & Son, Printers-General, Old Bailey, London, E.C.

Fig 3 – Post Office notice No. 18 of 15 May 1876
Young hoped to find a ship bound for Denmark, he would then send one of his officers to England with Nares's dispatches while the *Pandora* would return to winter-over in Smith Strait.

Fig 4 – *Pandora* at Cape Isabella (cairn can be seen on headland)



Sailed a fortnight before

Pandora arrived at Upernavik on 7 September 1876 to find that the last ship had sailed a fortnight before. As he had no means of informing the Admiralty of his plans to stay the winter, Young reluctantly set off for England. The *Alert* and *Discovery* had already sailed for home and *Pandora* caught up with them in mid-Atlantic on 16 October 1876. In order not to "steal Nares' thunder" Young reduced speed and arrived at Portsmouth three days after Nares. The crew of the *Pandora* presented Young with a large silver cup bearing the inscription "Presented to Captain Allen Young by the warrant officer, petty officers and the ship's company of the Arctic steam-yacht Pandora R.Y.S., as a mark of respectful admiration." The letter (Fig 2) was picked up by Nares and handed to the addressee. The means by which the letter (Fig 1) reached Captain Feilder is unclear, it was left by Young in the cairn on Carey Isle on 10 September 1875. When he visited the cairns on his second voyage, 1 August 1876, the cairn had not been disturbed. If Nares collected the mail on his way home, the letter would surely have been handed over at the time but the cover bears, on the reverse, the words "Brought back from Carey's Island" and a Dundee handstamp dated 5 November 1877. One wonders who brought the letter back from Carey Isle?

Next Month: Polar Postmasters – The Antarctic

Walsall Security Printers

During the present reign, British stamps have been produced by six printers: Harrisons, De La Rue, Waterlows, Bradbury Wilkinson, Wad-dingtons and Questa. Stamps printed by a newcomer to this select group, Walsall Security Printers Ltd (WSP), will go on sale later this month.

Royal Mail Stamps & Philately has placed a contract with this company to print £1 stamp books, containing 14p and 19p definitives; printing began on 20 January, the books will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 25 April. To launch the stamps in style, WSP invited representatives from local television, the local and philatelic press, and RMS&P to their factory to see the start of production. Guest of honour was Mr Bill Cockburn, Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters, who set the presses rolling.



Mr Bill Cockburn, Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters, watches the production of the first Walsall stamps for the British Post Office, 20 January 1989. Mr Jack Aspinall, Chairman of Walsall, is in foreground.

WSP are a privately owned company specialising in high quality security printing; they currently undertake work for more than 60

overseas government authorities. In addition they produce security documents for a large number of UK commercial organisations. WSP as an independent company was set up in the 1960s, although the family printing Group has been in operation since 1894.

Their stamp-printing activities began in 1963 with a set of 13 stamps for Tonga - noteworthy with philatelists as the world's first foil circular stamps. These die-cut stamps reproduced the ¼, ½ and 1 koura coins showing the coat of arms of Tonga and Queen Salote; they commemorated the centenary of the first Polynesian Gold Coinage (SG 129-40. O17). The following year



Tonga gold foil issues – Walsall's first stamps

further Tonga stamps were produced in the shape of a heart and a map of Tongatapu – these marked the Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Woman's Association meeting (SG 143-50). On two occasions – in 1972 and 1981 – HM King Tupou IV of Tonga has visited the Walsall printing works.

Another first came in 1964 with the printing of the Sierra Leone "free form" self-adhesive stamps marking the World's Fair, New York. These stamps were in the shape of a map of Sierra Leone and had to be peeled from coloured backing papers (SG 285-98). A similar set, later in the year, commemorated President Kennedy (SG 299-312). Self-adhesive stamps for Gibraltar, the first used by a European postal administration, were produced in 1974 – 2p, 6p and 14p stamps showing Victorian, George VI and Elizabeth II pillar boxes printed se-tenant and issued in booklets (SG 328-30). WSP also produced self-adhesive, map-shaped stamps for Norfolk Island in 1974 and 1975 (SG 158-MS162, 163-4).

In 1969 WSP was appointed as a major supplier of stamps to the Crown Agents (now CAPHCO Ltd); stamps have been designed and printed for many countries including the Bahamas, Jamaica, New Zealand and Trinidad & Tobago.

Stamp Books

Walsall are particularly proud of the stamps they have printed in booklets, offering postal administrations stamps produced in what they term "Economy", "Presentation" and "Prestige" books. The "Economy" book is described as a "radical new approach to the concept of stamp books", by incorporating the book's cover into a "one-piece" stamp paper – the stamps, on self-adhesive paper, are peeled away from the inside front and back covers of the book. The cost of such books is appreciably below that of conventionally produced books made up with stamp sheets and separate covers. The five stamps marking the 20th anniversary of the Coronation of King Tupou of Tonga, issued in July 1987 (SG 972-6), were sold in economy books.



Bermuda



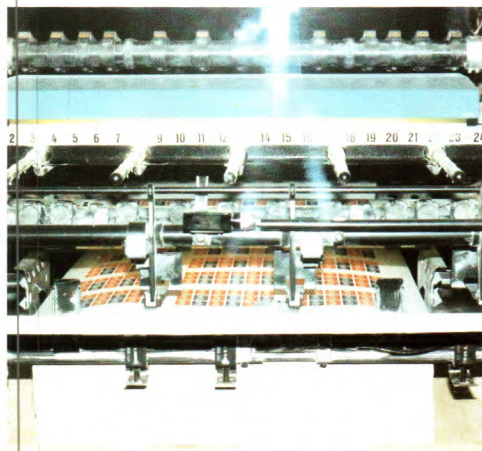
WINSLOW HOMER BERMUDIAN WATERCOLOURS



Economy, Presentation and Prestige books from Tonga, Bermuda and Gibraltar.

The "Presentation" book – an attractive and effective method of issuing stamps which "deserve special presentation" – comprises a cover with a "window" allowing one of the stamps to be seen, thus promoting the stamp design to good effect. Text can be provided on the inside of the cover, giving details of the issue or promoting sales through a philatelic bureau. Bermuda's five 40c stamps reproducing paintings by Winslow Homer, issued in April 1987 (SG 544-8), were produced in such a presentation book.

The "Prestige" book format is similar to the British Prestige Books, containing extra printed sheets containing information, photographs or advertisements. This type of book makes an ideal souvenir for tourists and business visitors. An example of such a book is that issued by Gibraltar in December 1975 to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of Michelangelo (SG 358-60).



The first sheets of Walsall 14p and 19p stamps emerge from the "Favorit" press.

The British Stamp Book

The £1 book to be issued on 25 April contains a pane of six stamps – two 14p with one phosphor band at right and four 19p with two bands – as first appeared in the £1 book issued last September. The most significant differences for the specialist collector of Machin stamps will be the fact that these stamps are now litho- rather than photogravure-printed and have a new gauge of perforation – 14½ instead of 15 x 14. Printing was carried out on a "Favorit" single sheet-fed machine manufactured by Roland of Offenbach-am-Main in West Germany. The printed sheets contain 45 panes of six stamps, arranged

in 15 blocks of three panes per group. Plate numbers have been printed above the first pane of each of the first nine blocks; thus plate numbers will appear in one in five issued books.



A proof sheet of the Walsall stamps – 15 blocks of stamps, each block containing three panes of six stamps required for the £1 machine book. Plate numbers appear above the first pane of each of the first nine blocks.

The numbers are W2 (deep blue) W1 (paler blue) W2 (deep orange) W1 (paler orange) representing the two shades used to give the final dark blue and flame colours required for the 14p and 19p stamps. The left and right edges of the pane are cut straight, the stamps are perforated along the top and bottom edges and between the two columns, the perforations extending into the binding margin.

The book cover, also printed by Walsall, features a design by Liz Moyes, number 3 in the Charles Dickens series – *Great Expectations*: the words used by Mr Cockburn to describe the Royal Mail's hopes for its association with Walsall Security Printers.

Earlier booklet work by WSP for the Royal Mail comprised the covers for the 56p and 76p window books issued on 24 January; these contained 14p and 19p stamps printed by Harrison's (see pages 123 and 155 of the January and February issues of the *Bulletin* for details).

Forthcoming Events

The 13th **North East Philatelic Week End** is to be held at the Airport Hotel, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne on Friday 19 May to Sunday 21 May. The programme is designed to include many aspects of philately, and to cater for both new and advanced collectors. The week end will be enjoyed in a congenial and friendly atmosphere and all newcomers will be assured of a very warm welcome. Further details are available from: Dorothy M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE3 4RY, (enclose foolscap SAE).

The Worcester & District Philatelic Society is to host the **17th Spring Convention of the Three Counties Federation** at Worcester College of Higher Education on 29 April. The event opens at 10am, at 2pm there will be a meeting of the Midland Great Britain Postal History Society. Local schools have been invited to see a mobile display on the Melville National Youth Stamp Competitions, provided by the British Philatelic Federation. Enquiries to: I Crickmer, 12 Cypress Street, Barbourne, WORCESTER WR3 8AU.

The Tiverton Stamp Club is hosting the **Somerset & Dorset Philatelic Federation's Competitions** on 15 April at the East Devon College, Bolham Road, Tiverton. Open 10am to 4.30pm, dealers will be present and refreshments available. Enquiries to: Mrs M Claydon, Hazellhurst, Tiverton Road, Bampton, TIVERTON, Devon EX16 9LJ.

The **Goodmayes Philatelic Society Stamp Fair & Display** will be held at the Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Goodmayes, Essex on 22 April from 10am to 5pm, admission free. Ten dealers will be present and refreshments will be available. Enquiries to the Society's Secretary, Peter Attrill, on 01-594 4252.

Stampway to the World

Following the success of this exhibition at the Liverpool Museum last Autumn, it is intended to put the core of the display on show at further venues. The exhibition opened at the Manchester University Museum on 22 March and will continue until 24 June. A special handstamp, reproducing the Manchester "498" postmark, will be used on mail posted at the exhibition.

New Scottish Aerogramme



Shown here is the new Scottish aerogramme issued on 4 April to commemorate the centenary of the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland. The aerogramme is on sale at all post offices in Scotland, at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, price 32p (includes 27p postage).

New Bath Postcard

The Bath Postal Museum have recently issued their 21st postcard – featuring a replica 19th century post office. It is how the Bath PO may have looked, unfortunately there is no pictorial record of the interior and the replica is based on prints and paintings of other early post offices. Bath PO was in 1840 situated in the premises now occupied by the Museum. The card costs 12p unused, £1 with first day of sale postmark, postage 20p. All orders/enquiries to: Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, BATH BA1 5LJ.

Shakespeare Handstamp

A special "tourist" handstamp will be in use at Stratford upon Avon from 23 April (Shakespeare's birthday) until the end of September; this will be of a new design - the

fourth since the Stratford Shakespeare handstamp was introduced in 1980. Covers for reposting should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, Stratford PO, Bridge Street, STRATFORD UPON AVON, Warwickshire, CV37 6AA.

New Machine Book Covers

Two new machine books will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 25 April. The cover of the 50p book will feature *The Mikado* – the third design in the Gilbert & Sullivan series by Lynda Gray. The book contains 1 x 14p stamp with phosphor band at right and 2 x 19p stamps with two bands, printed in photogravure by Harrisons – as in the 50p books issued in September 1988 and January 1989. The stamps were printed on the Chambon press, the covers on the Libra bookmaking machine.



The cover of the £1 book features *Great Expectations* – the fourth design in the Charles Dickens series by Liz Moyes. Both the covers and the stamps in the book were printed by Walsall Security Printers – see the article on this printing company in this *Bulletin* for details.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

163. De La Rue Dummy Stamps

The De La Rue Company produced a number of dummy stamps, one of the best known designs featuring the helmeted head of a female, usually referred to as the "Minerva's Head Type". The tablet beneath the head is inscribed THOS. DE LA RUE & CO LTD LONDON. Die proofs are known as early as 1891 and as late as 1907 and this type was used by the printers in 1912 when submitting bicoloured trials for the Union of South Africa issue. Page 31 of Volume 44 of the Phillips Collection contains five "progressive proofs" in carmine showing "gradual variation from plain to solid background" to the portrait. The page also contains a block of six (in light green) of the Queen's head type as used in the dummy books (see last month's Gems) and a single Bradbury Wilkinson essay similar to the Cape of Good Hope issue of 1867 showing "Hope" seated with vine and ram (Stanley Gibbons catalogue description).

Also illustrated this month is a die proof, denominated 2s 6d and inscribed THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD, showing the Virgin standing on clouds (Vol. 44 page 35). This item is not written up, nor is there any reference to it in Robson Lowe's standard work on the Phillips Collection. It may well be an essay for the issue of 1s and 2s 6d fund-raising "stamps" for the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund, issued in 1987.

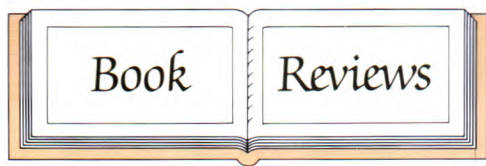


These items can be seen in the Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm Friday.

Stamp World London 90

This international exhibition will be held at Alexandra Palace from 3-13 May 1990, the first international stamp exhibition in London for 10 years. Collectors are invited to help with the exhibition; the organisers want to hear now from potential helpers. Help is required from collectors living in the Home Counties who would be able to give some four or five full days mounting exhibits from 28 April to 2 May 1990. Further help will be required with dismantling

on 14 & 15 May. The work will be interesting but hard and volunteers will be expected to commit themselves for all or nearly all of the days mentioned. It is planned to run a one-day training seminar in May 1989 and then to invite those involved to help with the setting up and dismantling of Autumn Stampex. Help is also invited to man the exhibition office. Further details from Ian Crane, Administration Officer, Stamp World London 90, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, telephone 01-251 5040.



The Undated Straight Line and Numbered Receiving House Marks of the Midland Counties 1840-1860. 68pp, limp binding. Published by the Midland (GB) Postal History Society. Available from the Society, Dunley House, Cranham, GLOUCESTER GL4 8HQ, price £5.50, postage £1.

This is the second work published by this Society, the earlier book on Undated Circular Marks was reviewed here in June 1985 (second edition in February 1987).

This new work bridges a gap, so far as the Midlands are concerned, between the first book and the definitive series of *The British County Catalogue of Postal History* by Willcocks & Jay, which lists all known postal markings up to 1840. The book records the undated marks that either survived the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840 or were newly issued to town receiving houses in the 1840s and 1850s. Uniform Postage brought an end to the multiplicity of local penny posts in the provinces and the increase in the number of letters sent brought a demand for improvements in the postal service outside the main towns and the introduction of new postal routes led to new minor offices being established. This book is largely about the handstamps used to identify these minor offices until they received the undated circular stamps described in the earlier book.

Victorian Things by Asa Briggs. 448pp, hardbound. Published by B T Batsford Ltd, London, available from booksellers. Price £19.95.

In this impressive new work, Lord Briggs, Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, completes the series begun with *Victorian Cities* and *Victorian People*. In 10 chapters he presents an analysis of Victorian material culture and values, describing objects as diverse as commemorative items, spectacles and cameras, museums and exhibitions, home furnishings and decoration, matches, hats, coal, telephones and typewriters and postage stamps. The last-named are given a 42-page chapter of their own, entitled "Stamps –

Used and Unused". It opens with four contemporary quotes on the importance of cheap postage and stamps. Henry Cole is quoted as describing uniform Penny Postage as "...the glory of England for all time"; the historian Marc Bloch says of the stamp "These have revolutionized human communications".

Most of what Lord Briggs writes will be well-known to specialist collectors of 19th century stamps but this chapter is useful reading for those who want a concise guide to the development of the postal service and letter-writing, penned by a historian who can see beyond the somewhat narrow confines of "postal history". Long-neglected by the academics, postal history is now becoming more appreciated as an area of legitimate study by social and economic historians.

The book is well-illustrated, including items from the National Postal Museum. In a useful Biographical Note, Lord Briggs describes many books on stamps as "...solely of interest to philatelists"; exceptions to this are the late James Watson's *Stanley Gibbons Book of Stamps and Stamp Collecting* and, it is pleasing to note, "...the file of past numbers of the Post Office's *Philatelic Bulletin*".

Cylinder News

The 14p and 19p stamps in the 56p and 76p window books issued on 24 January were printed from cylinders B28 (phosphor B83) and B13 respectively. The numbers were trimmed from the sheets after printing so do not appear in the issued booklets.



Formula Received

Sir,
May I, through your columns, thank all those readers who replied to my request for a "Day of the Week" formula printed in the January *Bulletin*. I was very pleased to receive a large amount of mail on this subject.

F WRIGHT, Clacton-On-Sea, Essex

Commemorative Covers

201 Squadron. To mark the 75th anniversary of No. 201 Squadron, a cover was prepared showing aircraft used by the Squadron from 1914 to date. A special Forces PO handstamp was used on 17 January, day of issue of the Birds stamps. The cover, with set of Bird stamps and signed by Wing Commander Wight Boycott, is available, price £4 including postage from: Gp Capt W S O Randle, 60 Shelves Way, TADWORTH, Surrey, KT20 8QF. Remittances should be made payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund".

6 Squadron. To commemorate the Squadron's 75th anniversary a cover was produced, depicting Lord Dowding and the Lord Dowding Sheltered Housing Complex, for use with a special Forces handstamp on 31 January, day of issue of the Greetings stamps. The cover, with Greetings stamps and signed by Air Marshall Sir Ivor Broom, is available, price £4 including postage from Gp Capt Randle, address above.

Womens Land Army. The Land Army was formed 50 years ago and in commemoration a special cover was prepared, showing a montage of Land Army activities, for use with a special Forces handstamp on 7 March. The cover, with Food & Farming stamps and signed by the Chairman of the British Womens Land Army Society, E M Jean Procter, is available, price £4 including postage from Gp Capt Randle, address above.

Royal Albert Bridge. A special cover is being prepared to mark the 130th anniversary of the opening by Prince Albert of the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash near Plymouth; the bridge carries the main railway over the River Tamar into Cornwall. The full-colour cover will bear a Train stamp and a "special Plymouth handstamp" of 4 May 1989. Price £1.70. A special cover carried over the bridge by travelling post office, and cacheted to that effect, will be available, price £2.10. Prices include inland postage, overseas add 60p. Orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

General Municipal & Boilermakers Union. To commemorate the Union's centenary a commemorative cover has been prepared for use with a special handstamp at Beckton, East London on 31 March – the date and location of the founding of the Union in 1889. The cover features the original Union membership cert-

ificate and the GMB Centenary logo. The cover bears the 1976 11p Energy stamp (showing gas flame) and a definitive; a picture of Will Thorne, founder of the Union, is included on the filler card. The cover is available at £2.50 or £6.50 signed by GMB President Olga Mean and General Secretary John Edmonds. Orders to: GMB Commemorative Cover, Communications Dept, Thorne House, Ruxley Ridge, ESHER, Surrey, KT10 0TL. Remittances should be payable to "GMB".

Lockerbie Air Disaster. To raise money for the Disaster Fund established by Dumfries & Galloway Regional Council for the victims of the Pan-Am crash at Lockerbie, special covers were prepared and cancelled on 25 January 1989 with a pictorial handstamp honouring Robert Burns. The vignette of the cover bears the Nasmyth portrait of Burns, his Masonic chair (Tarbolton) and the poet's Masonic symbol from Highland Mary's Bible. A three-line cachet LOCKERBIE AIR DISASTER FUND was also applied to these covers which are available from: Peter Westwood, 28 Stranka Avenue, Lounsedale Court, PAISLEY, Renfrewshire, PA2 9DW, price £2.20 including postage & packing. Remittances, crossed, should be made payable to "Peter Westwood (Disaster)".

Three Countries Federation Convention. A souvenir card, with a maximum printing of 1,000, will be available at the Convention in Worcester on 29 April. The cards will bear a 19p Greetings stamp cancelled by the Worcester Philatelic Counter handstamp and will be signed by the Federation's President. The cards cost 50p; all orders/enquiries to: I Crickmer, 12 Cypress Street, Barbourne, WORCESTER WR3 8AU. Remittances should be payable to "I R Crickmer"; return postage should be added if cards are to be despatched under cover.

RAFLET Stamp Club. The Club is producing a maxi-card in connection with the Games & Toys stamps; the card shows four model aeroplanes – Warneford Moth (1935), Frog Interceptor (1935), Dinky Envoy (1938) and Meccano Aeroplane (Set 2, 1930s). Unused cards cost 20p, serviced cards with single stamp 50p (postage extra). All orders/enquiries should be sent to: Eric Cowley, Swiss Cottage, Sutton Road, Huttoft, ALFORD, Lincs, LN13 9RG, from whom details of the Club can also be obtained.

European Parliament. The direct elections to the European Parliament are commemorated on one of the Anniversaries stamps issued on 11

April. A special first day cover will be available featuring the twinned cities of Leicester and Strasbourg – home of the Parliament. The full-colour cover features the old town halls and coats of arms of both cities; a special handstamp will be used at Leicester. Covers bearing the four Anniversaries stamps cost £4.75 (£9.75 if signed by Edward Heath, who took Britain into Europe in 1973) or £2.25 with single stamp. Overseas orders add 50p postage and remit in sterling. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. To coincide with the Games & Toys stamps, a NSPCC cover is being produced, designed by Dan Fern who also designed the stamps. A special "Putting Children First" handstamp will be used at London EC1 on the day of issue. Covers with full set of stamps cost £5 or £7 if signed by Roald Dahl, world-famous author of children's books; other signed editions may be available – details on request from the address given below. Prices include inland postage, overseas customers should add £1. A minimum donation of £1 and £2 will be made to the NSPCC from each unsigned and signed cover sold. Orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft (NSPCC Cover), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.



Ministry of Agriculture. We have been asked to point out that the cover produced by Cover-Craft (see March *Bulletin*, page 181) was produced with the full co-operation of the Ministry and the special handstamp marking its centenary sponsored with its approval.

National Postal Museum News

Exhibitions

"The Ottoman Empire" display of classical Turkish stamps and the postal history of Istanbul, which opened in March, will continue until the end of April. The material in this display has been loaned by Otto Hornung, a well-known collector and philatelic writer.

A display of Post Office uniforms will go on show on 5 May and will continue until the end of the year.

Postcards

Five new postcards will go on sale on 5 May – numbered 89/4-6 featuring early Post Office uniforms, 89/7 a souvenir card for children showing the Penny Black and 89/8 a card for the British Philatelic Congress featuring two views of the Transorma sorting machine at Brighton PO. The children's card will cost 10p, the others 20p each. All cards can be ordered by post, subject to a minimum order of 60p plus handling charge of 19p on orders of up to £18, £1.59 on orders above £18 which are despatched by registered post. All orders should be sent to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

A special "National Stamp Day" handstamp will be used on 6 May; as this is a Saturday when the Museum is closed, a posting box will be provided at the Museum on Friday 5 May. Cards and covers to receive this handstamp, which will feature the VR Penny Black, should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. A further special handstamp, connected with the Uniforms display, will be used on 16 May; cards and covers for reposting should be sent to the Special Postmark Duty at the address given above.

Annual Report

The Museum has recently published its first annual report, entitled *National Postal Museum: The Philatelic Year 1988*, price £2. This contains a review of the Museum's research activities, exhibitions, future plans, publications, etc and includes a chapter on the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and the *British Postmark Bulletin*, both edited at the Museum. Copies of the report have been distributed to members of the Association of Friends of the NPM; copies may still be available from the Museum's Sales Counter.

April Digest

Issued in April

- 4 April **Scottish aerogramme – Centenary of the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland** 32p (27p stamp)
- 11 April **Anniversaries stamps 19p x 2, 35p x 2 se-tenant**
designer: Lewis Moberly
printing: House of Questa, offset-litho, 30 x 41mm, printed on phosphor-coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum
Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: London SW
presentation pack: £1.35
- 25 April **Stamp books: Gilbert & Sullivan No. 3** (Mikado) 50p machine-vended (1 x 14p band right, 2 x 19p 2 bands, photogravure)
Charles Dickens No. 4 (Great Expectations) £1 machine-vended (2 x 14p band right, 2 x 19p 2 bands, straight edges, offset-litho)
- 25 April **19p Scotland Country definitive variation** printed by House of Questa in offset-litho on phosphor-coated paper supplied by Coated Papers Ltd

Withdrawn in April

- 11 April **National definitives** – 2p green, litho (issued 23 Feb 1988); 4p peacock blue, litho (13 May 1986); 5p lt reddish brown, litho (25 Feb 1986); 12p emerald-green, New Phosphor Ink (1986); 20p grey, litho (13 May 1986); 28p blue (7 Oct 1986) and 75p dark grey, litho (23 Feb 1988)
- April 1988 stamp books**
- Mark 1 Window books** (issued 4 Aug 1987) – all 10 books
- Mark 1 Window books with new locking tabs** (issued early 1988) – all 8 books

New Telecom Card

Telecom Technology Showcase will issue a new card on 26 April. Measuring 210 x 155mm, the large card features six views of the Showcase. The card costs 50p unused, 80p with first day of sale cachet; postage & packing 40p. Orders/enquiries to: Telecom Technology Showcase, 135 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AT.

1989 Digest

Listed here are the dates of the main issues for 1989. More detailed information will be found in the "Digest" each month.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 17 January | Birds |
| 24 January | 50p & £1 Machine Books |
| 24 January | £1.40 & £1.90 Counter Books |
| 24 January | 56p & 76p Window Books* |
| 31 January | Greetings Stamps Book |
| 7 March | Food & Farming |
| 21 March | £5 "Scots Connection" Book |
| 4 April | Scottish Aerogramme |
| 11 April | Anniversaries |
| 25 April | 50p & £1 Machine Books† |
| 25 April | 19p Scottish C P Ltd paper |
| 16 May | Games & Toys |
| 4 July | Industrial Archaeology |
| 25 July | Ind Arch Miniature Sheet |
| August | Scottish Aerogramme |
| 5 September | Microscopes |
| 17 October | Lord Mayor's Show |
| 14 November | Christmas stamps & aerogramme |

*Panes have straight edges on three sides

†50p stamps & book covers printed by Harrisons, £1 by Walsall Security Printers Ltd

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