

# British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 22

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## £5 BOOK of ROYAL MAIL STAMPS *The Story of*



*'Waiting for The Times' by Haydon: in  
Regency coffee houses you queued impatiently  
for the latest news of Napoleon or the  
Reform Act in the only oracle*

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*Trafalgar Square philatelic counter handstamp. Please see page 62.*

Christmas is the season of goodwill, and with this issue of the Philatelic Bulletin, we are pleased to include a small Christmas present for our readers. This is a special supplement which includes illustrations of all current philatelic counter handstamps as well as reposting addresses. It is something for which we receive regular requests, and should prove useful for collectors of modern commemorative covers.

Looking ahead to 1985, the Bulletin will continue to include an additional four pages with each issue, and there will also be no price increase. Christmas would be an ideal time to take out a Bulletin subscription for yourself or collector friends, providing an unusual and useful gift which lasts for twelve months. There is also a special offer in this issue for readers who might have young children or relatives interested in collecting, who would like to join the Stamp Bug Club. This would also provide an interesting Christmas present, and full details can be found on page 70.

We would like to remind readers that the Bulletin will continue to print details of local philatelic events in each issue as far as space permits. The cut-off date for receipt of information is six weeks prior to publication otherwise it cannot unfortunately be considered for inclusion. Where bank or public holidays intervene such as at Easter or Christmas, the cut-off is slightly earlier.

Several special articles and features are planned for 1985 on a variety of different philatelic subjects. We will be continuing the series on the Railway Letter Service and Cinderella collecting, and will also have articles on George V issues, Machins, stamp booklets, thematic collecting, postal history, mechanisation and advice on collecting. If there are any other particular subjects which readers wish to suggest for future articles, we would like to hear from you.

Finally, we would once again like to thank all our readers for their past and continuing support, and wish them a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

CHARLES GOWEN  
Editor

# The Railway Letter Service

## Part 3

We continue this series with a review of the stamps of two more Welsh narrow-gauge railways — the Llanberis Lake Railway in Snowdonia and the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway in the Welsh border country.

### Llanberis Lake Railway

This line runs along the south shore of Llanberis Lake (Llyn Padarn) from Gilfachddu station near the village of Llanberis to Penllyn, a distance of two miles. There is one intermediate stopping place at Cei Llydan. The railway is of 1' 11½" gauge and is constructed on the track of the old Padarn Railway which was opened in the 1840s to connect the Dinorwic Slate Quarries at Llanberis with the coast; the line closed in 1961. The new narrow-gauge railway was opened to Cei Llydan in 1971 and to Penllyn the following year. Most of the passengers now carried are summer visitors, holiday-making in the Snowdonia area.

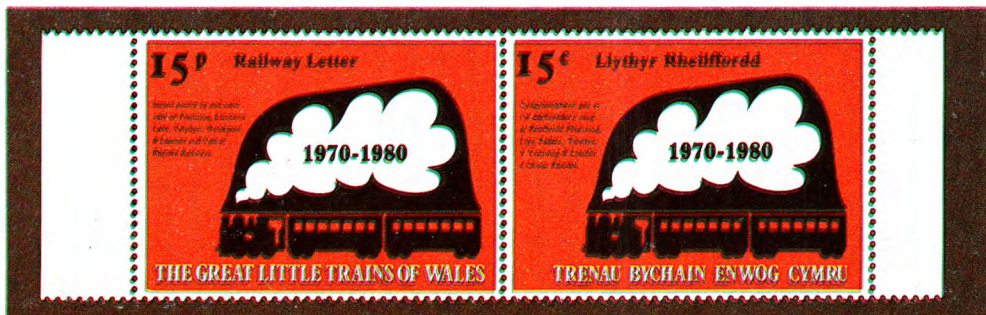
The railway company signed the Railway Letter Agreement with the Post Office in 1974 and the railway letter service started on 4 August 1976 when two 10p stamps were issued — one inscribed in English, the other in Welsh. These stamps depict the locomotive *Dolbadarn* (built in 1922 and named after a nearby castle) alongside Llanberis Lake with the Snowdonian mountains in the background. Two 15p stamps were issued in May 1978 following the increase in the railway letter fee from 1 January that year. These depicted another locomotive — *Elidir* (built 1889), also featured against a lakeside background. These stamps were printed in sheets of ten, as the earlier 10p stamps, five inscribed in



Llanberis Lake Rly. — 15p stamp (Welsh version) cancelled with the Cei Llydan station handstamp.

English, five in Welsh. In October 1980 some were surcharged 5c or 5p (5c is Welsh equivalent of 5p) for use with 15c/15p stamps to make up the 20p rate introduced the following month. Half the 15c/15p stamps in each sheet were surcharged in an arrangement that yielded *se-tenant* pairs of 5c/15p and 5p/15c stamps. Two new 20p stamps were prepared in 1981 — these feature one of the railway's two German locomotives — *Helen Katherine* (built 1948) and like the 10p and 15p issues were produced in English and Welsh versions. To commemorate the railway's tenth anniversary some sheets were overprinted '1971/TENTH ANNIVERSARY/1981' and '1971/DEGFED PEN BLWYDD/1981' and issued on 19 July 1981. The unoverprinted (definitive) stamps were released on 12 August 1981.

Two types of handstamp are used by the company. The first — for cancelling railway letter stamps on covers endorsed 'To be posted on arrival at Gilfachddu' is undated and has the station name 'CEI LLYDAN' across the centre. Around the outside the



Great Little Trains of Wales 15p stamps issued in 1980 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Welsh narrow gauge railways Marketing Panel. The stamps were valid for use on five railways including the Llanberis Lake and Welshpool & Llanfair lines.

company's name in abbreviated form is given — RH.LL.LL./L.L.R. (Rheilffordd Llyn Llanberis, Llanberis Lake Railway). This was used from August 1976 until February 1979 when a new handstamp was introduced worded 'RH.LL.P./L.L.R.' (Rheilffordd Llyn Padarn). The company changed its Welsh name in 1978. The second handstamp is used to cancel postage stamps on 'To be called for' mail. It bears the full name of the company and is dated. As with the Cei Llydan handstamp a new canceller was introduced in February 1979. All cancellations are struck in black ink.

### Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

This line runs from Welshpool to Llanfair Caereinion in the county of Powis (formerly Montgomeryshire), a distance of eight miles. There are intermediate stations and halts at Gofla, Sylfaen, Castle Caereinion, Cyfronydd and Heniarth. The track was laid to a 2' 3" gauge and the line was opened in 1903. Initially it was operated by the Cambrian Railways, coming in 1923 under the control of the Great Western Railway. Most of the railway's revenue came from the carriage of coal and wood. Receipts from passenger traffic were never very substantial and passenger services were discontinued in 1931. The line became part of British Railways in 1948. Freight services continued until 1956 when the line was closed completely. Following the closure a preservation society was formed and the line reopened for passenger traffic from its western terminus of Llanfair to Castle Caereinion in April 1963, to Sylfaen in July 1972 and to Welshpool (Raven Square) in July 1981. The official reopening ceremony by the Earl of Powis (who lives at nearby Powis Castle) took place in May 1982.

The company issued its first railway letter stamps in August 1975 — four 10p stamps each depicting



*Special datestamp used by the Welshpool Rly in July 1981 on the day the first public trains ran into Welshpool Raven Square station.*

one of the railway's locomotives — *The Earl*, *The Countess*, *Monarch* and *Sir Drefaldwyn*. The first two locomotives were built specially for the railway in 1903, *Monarch* (built 1953) was acquired from the industrial railway at Bowater Lloyd's Paper Mills in Kent and *Sir Drefaldwyn* (built 1944) came to Wales from an Austrian railway — earlier it had been used by the German Military Field Railways in World War II. The stamps were printed in *se-tenant* blocks of four. Following the increase in the letter fee from 10p to 15p in January 1978, the stamps were surcharged 15p and brought into use on 24 March. The letter fee was increased again in November 1980; no new 20p definitive stamp was prepared, instead a new printing of the 15p commemorative stamp marking the 150th Anniversary of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway was produced — inscribed 20p (see below).

Several commemorative stamps have been issued — 50th anniversary of locomotive *Joan*, acquired



*Welshpool & Llanfair Rly. — stamps commemorating 50th anniversary of locomotive Joan (1977), 75th anniversary of the opening of the line (1978) and the reopening of the railway into Welshpool (1982).*

from a sugar plantation railway on the West Indian island of Antigua (1977), 75th anniversary of the opening of the railway (1978), 150th anniversary of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway (1980) and the reopening of the railway into Welshpool (1982). The *Joan* stamp depicts this unusual locomotive with its spark-arresting chimney superimposed on a map showing the location of Antigua and Llanfair Caereinion. The 75th anniversary stamp shows *The Earl* together with locomotive No 14 (unnamed) which was built in Leeds in 1954 for the Sierra Leone Railway. It was acquired by the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway in 1975. Two stamps were issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway — of identical design save for the wording — one inscribed in English, the other in Welsh, the two stamps being printed vertically *se-tenant*. The design features *The Earl* and Stephenson's *Rocket*. *The Earl* was built in Manchester in 1902 — at the Beyer, Peacock & Co. foundry. The most recent commemorative — marking the reopening into Welshpool was designed by Douglas Moyle of Nottingham in a competition arranged by the railway company and *Stamp Collecting* magazine. The stamp depicts a detail of the boiler, chimney and steamdome of the locomotive *The Earl*. Part of Mr Moyle's prize was a replica nameplate of the locomotive — presented to him by the Earl of Powis at the reopening ceremony in Llanfair Village Hall in May 1982. The design also includes a stylised map of the railway.

Railway letter stamps are cancelled with a circular handstamp worded 'WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR/RAILWAY LETTER' with 'LLANFAIR CAEREINION' across the centre. Mail handed to the guard at the unstaffed stations is given an additional handstamp 'TRAIN POST' applied as a cachet. Several special handstamps have been used, usually on the day of issue of new stamps, also to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee (11-12 June 1977), the inauguration of the Sierra Leone train (11 August 1979) and the running of the first public train into Welshpool (18 July 1981).

*Readers interested in obtaining stamps from these two railways should write to: Llanberis Lake Railway, Llanberis, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4TY and Hon. Postmaster, Welshpool & Llanfair Light Rly, 9 Kingsley Close, Glan Hafren, Sully, Penarth, South Glamorgan CF6 2UW.*

*In the next article in this series, we will look at the stamps issued by four railways in the south of England — the Bluebell, Kent & East Sussex, Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch and the Mid-Hants.* JOHN HOLMAN

## Christmas Discount Stamp Book

The decimal stamp books, containing definitive stamps, fall into two main groups namely Sewn and Folded, each having a number of sub divisions or series.

This year's Christmas issue contains a pane of Christmas pictorials similar to the counter sheet issue. This issue will commence a third group consisting of books with folded covers containing Specials. It will also be the first of a new series DB12.

**DB12 (1) Christmas Special Offer** — 20 x 13p, 30p off — £2.30. On sale 20.11.84.

The cover, 179mm x 60mm of 120 g.s.m. card, has a Nativity Scene designed by Yvonne Gilbert (who also designed the stamps). The illustration is printed in brown with the text in red, the space inside being used for an abridged rates panel printed in the customary black. On every twenty fifth book there is a short accountancy marker bar printed in black across the top of the fold of the outer cover.

Bound on the extreme left of the cover using the left selvedge as the binding margin is a folded pane of twenty (10 x 2) x 13p Christmas stamps in the same design as that for the counter sheet issue. On the reverse side printed over the gum is a pattern of blue stars in a wallpaper effect.

### Stamp Printing Details

|                |                                                                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Designer:      | Yvonne Gilbert                                                                                             |
| Design:        | 13p The Holy Family                                                                                        |
| Process:       | Photogravure — cylinder 22 rows x 20 without gutters.                                                      |
| Press:         | Jumelle.                                                                                                   |
| Perforator:    | Rotary 'E' margin.                                                                                         |
| Paper:         | Coated, unwatermarked.                                                                                     |
| Adhesive:      | PVA dextrin.                                                                                               |
| Colours:       | Lemon, Bright Rose, Chestnut, Black, Red Brown — Base tint Stone.                                          |
| Cylinders:     | B2A, B1B, B1C, B1D, B2E — Base tint unnumbered.                                                            |
| Phosphor:      | Single 4mm band placed to right of centre.                                                                 |
| Cylinder:      | P79                                                                                                        |
| Security mark: | Diagonal rows of two line stars 14mm point to point printed in blue over the gum before the main printing. |
| Press:         | Albert.                                                                                                    |

After the printing and perforating on the Jumelle the web is trimmed and reeled into work size rolls for book making on the Libra machine.

### Book Production Details

The width of the web of the work roll of stamps, some 16½", at first gave the printers a problem with the binding and after several trials the Harrison engineers were able to adapt the Libra machine for a satisfactory Kite folding sequence. The first fold, gum to gum, was between stamps 6 and 7. The second fold, face to face, now of double thickness was between stamps 4 and 5, and 8 and 9. Whilst this was proceeding the cover card was being printed on both sides.

The printed cover after moving through the drying chamber joined the stamp web to be guillotined into single stamp books in rapid succession. The books were now folded between stamps 2 and 3 forming a perfectly flat and even book having a block of four stamps in each of the five resultant folds.

### 3 September 1984—Introduction of New Postal Rates

The initial rate for an Inland letter by First Class Mail was increased by 1p to 17p and for Second Class by ½p to 13p. New books of stamps catering for the increased postal rates went on sale.

For basic details see August 1984 Bulletin page 207. L F NEWBURY

## Trafalgar Square Philatelic Sales Counter

On completion of the refurbishment of the philatelic counter in the Trafalgar Square, London post office, it will again open for business on 10 December 1984. Normal hours of business on Monday to Friday will be 10 am to 7 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 4.30 pm. To mark the event a special philatelic handstamp, with a movable date, and illustrating HMS 'Victory', will be applied to mail posted at the counter from 10-15 December 1984. This is in addition to the permanent counter handstamp depicting Nelson's Column. For those customers who cannot call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should bear an extra 3p in addition to the normal postage, and sent in an outer envelope addressed to:— The District Postmaster, WCDO, 21–31 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1AA with the appropriate postage stamps affixed. The outer envelope should be endorsed, 'Special handstamp for the re-opening of the philatelic counter'.

## Decimal Stamp Books

### Part 2

#### DB7 Second Class Counter Books

(26) Swansea/Mumbles Railway 10 x 13p — £1.30.

The cover illustration, the first of a series of four on the subject of trams, is drawn by John Thirsk, from a photograph by R.E. James-Robertson.

The 13p stamps with single centre phosphor band are printed on the Chambon press. The basic 'sheet' (one revolution of the cylinder) is of twelve rows of twenty and provides two columns of six booklet panes, column I bound on left and column II bound on the right.

The cylinder used is B7 on FCP with phosphor cylinder B62 the numbers being in book three and in column I they read downwards and in column II upwards. The half arrow is at the top of margin in book 1 and at the bottom in book 6. The only other marginal markings to appear in the issued books are horizontal cutting lines in every alternate row and which appear at the top and bottom edges.

The initial printing run of the stamps was during the early part of July 1984.

#### DB8 First Class and Promotional Counter Books

(26) Social Letter Writing 10 x 17p — £1.70.

Illustrated by George Hardie. A printed offer is on the inside cover enabling customers to send away for a Postal Cassette pack. The 17p stamps are printed on the Chambon press from cylinder B7 on PCP. The cylinder number is in book three, 'sheet' size and marginal markings as for £1.30 above.

The initial printing run of the stamps was during the early part of July 1984.

#### DB9 50p Vending Machine Booklets

(27) Dendrobium Nobile/Miltonia Hybrid.

The first design in a series of four by Peter Morter.

The stamps are printed on the Chambon press the 'sheet' format consisting of two columns of eight booklet panes separated by a vertical gutter of one stamp lengthwise. The stamps are printed sideways, the top being towards the left. The booklet panes are in one format only — one 1p stamp and three 13p above to 1p and two 4p, both columns being identical.

In the left hand selvedge the half arrows are in panes 1 and 8, whilst the cylinder numbers are in

pane 5. Collectors will now be delighted to know that the cylinder numbers will appear in the issued booklets B27 (1p), B7 (4p), B8 (13p) and B57 (phos). The cylinder numbers will thus be in the binding margin adjoining a pair of 1p stamps.

The continuous web after printing and perforating on the Chambon press is slit, trimmed and rewound into work rolls of one column width before being made up into booklets on the Libra book making machine. The left part of the vertical binding gutter forming a wing margin on column I booklets and the right part of the gutter forming the binding margin for column II booklets. The wing margin for column II is provided by the trimmed right selvages.

The half arrows in booklet 1 and 8 column II are placed in the vertical gutter so appear in the binding margin of the issued booklets whilst the cylinder numbers in booklet 5 are placed in the right selvedge so appear in the wing margin of the issued booklet opposite a se-tenant pair of 4p and 13p stamps.

The stamps were initially printed mid July.

#### **DB11 Mixed 1st and 2nd Class Counter Books**

(12) To Pay Labels. 6 x 17p + 4 x 13p — £1.54.

The book numbered 11 of a series of Postal History was designed by John Gibbs.

The stamps were printed on the Chambon press with the layout in column I as 17. 17. 17. 17. 17. — 13. 13. 13. 17. — and binding on the left whilst those in column II are 17. 17. 17. 17. — 17. 13. 13. 13. — and the binding on right. Two combinations of cylinders were initially used — B5 (17p), B4 (13p) phosphor B56 in mid June and B5, B4 phosphor B55 in late June 1984. Both on FCP with the 17p having two side bands and the 13p one either left or right.

The cylinder numbers are in book four with the other marginal marks as above.

L F NEWBERY

## **Success of British Stamp Designs**

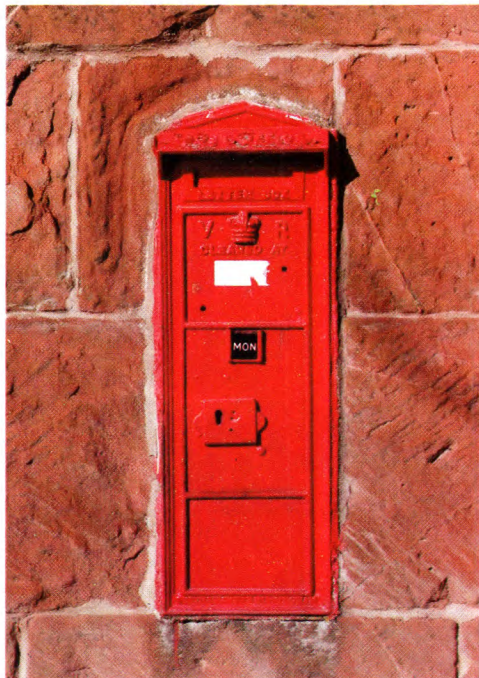
For the second year running the British Post Office has won a major award for stamp design. Two of the 'British Theatre' stamps designed by Adrian George previously won the Gran Premio dell'Arte Filatelica 1983 (The Grand Prize of Philatelic Art) and Il Francobollo d'oro 1982 (The Golden Stamp Award).

The 1983 Francobollo d'oro Award was won by Tony Meeuwissen for the 20½p 'Christmas' stamp entitled 'World at peace'. Readers of Italy's top philatelic journal, 'Il Collezionista', again voted

Britain winner of this award which is sponsored by Alberto Bolaffi, who also produces the Catalogo Nazionale dei Francobolli Italiani. The award was presented to John Mackay, Director of Philately, at the prestigious Italian International Stamp Fair which is held at Riccione in August each year.

Having won the 1982 and 1983 Il Francobollo d'oro Awards, the Post Office hopes to make it a hat-trick in 1984. It would be interesting to speculate on which 1984 special stamp would be most likely to achieve this. As well as being a great honour and an international recognition of high artistic standards, to win the Award also reflects the popularity of British Stamps with Italian collectors. The British Post Office also has an official agent in Italy for providing a philatelic service.

## **Posting Boxes**



No 66. This month's photograph, taken by Mr John Reader of Shrewsbury, and sent to us by Mr G Horner of Streatham, London, is of a rare wall posting box. It is an improved model introduced in 1858 with a pedimented top to stop rain water entering the aperture after running down the wall. There are but a few of these boxes still in use.

Thank you gentlemen for your interest.

# Decimal Booklet Pane Printings – Technical Details

Now that Len Newbery's treatise on this popular subject has successfully concluded, we are now able

to illustrate some of the booklet panes he discussed in his series of articles.



SECTION I Vol. 21 page 8  
DP13 ex 25p book Feb. 1972



SECTION I Vol. 21 page 9  
DP5 ex 25p book Feb. 1971



SECTION I Vol. 21 page 8  
DP4 ex 25p book Feb. 1971



SECTION I Vol. 21 page 9  
DP6 ex 30p book Feb. 1971



SECTION II Vol. 21 page 50  
DP9 ex 50p book Feb. 1971



SECTION II Vol. 21 page 49  
DP11 ex 10p book August 1971

SECTION V Vol. 21 page 148  
DP28A ex 50p book June 1977



SECTION V Vol. 21 page 148  
DP31 ex 10p book Jan. 1978

SECTION V Vol. 21 page 148  
DP33 ex 50p book August 1979



SECTION VI Vol. 22 page 28  
DP59 ex £2.50 Xmas book 1982



SECTION VI Vol. 22 page 28  
DP48 ex £1.30 book Sept. 1981

# Famous Trains Stamps Issue

## 22 January 1985

The Post Office will issue five new postage stamps illustrating famous steam trains.

Passenger trains lent colourful appeal to British railway journeys in the age of steam. On 1 January 1923, Britain's railway companies merged as four groups: the Great Western (GWR), the Southern (SR), the London and North Eastern (LNER) and the London Midland and Scottish (LMSR). The 150th anniversary of the foundation of the original GWR in 1835 inspired this tribute to five distinguished titled services, once steam-hauled by prestige locomotives of the 'Big Four' which amalgamated as British Railways on 1 January 1948.

The illustrations are the work of the celebrated artist, Terence Cuneo, and the demoninations and subject are: 17p 'The Flying Scotsman', 22p 'The Golden Arrow', 29p 'The Cheltenham Flyer', 31p 'The Royal Scot', 34p 'The Cornish Riviera'.

### Printing Details

The stamps are printed by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd by the photogravure process on unwatermarked phosphor coated paper. The format

is horizontal and the size is 41mm x 30mm with 15 x 14 perforations. There are 100 stamps per sheet and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

### Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available from 8 January 1985, price 14p each.

### Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 159, and first day cover are designed by Collis Clements. The pack will cost £1.64.

### Souvenir Covers

Souvenir covers — price 15p each — designed by Collis Clements, will go on sale on the day after the stamp issue, 23 January 1985.

Those customers who wish to send their own stamped and fully addressed covers for cancellation with the 'Bristol' postmark, should enclose them in an outer envelope, fully addressed and stamped, and send them to: The Head Postmaster, OD1.1.2, Head Post Office, Cattle Market Road, BRISTOL, BS1 1AA.





# Harrison and Sons – Printers of Postage Stamps

On Monday 8 October 1984, Harrison & Sons Ltd the security printers celebrated 50 years of continuous printing of British postage stamps, by inviting the Chairman Sir Ronald Dearing, members of the The Post Office Board and senior postal managers to a banquet held at Stationers Hall in the City of London.

In 1934 Harrison's secured a new contract with the Post Office and for the first time printed postage stamps by the photogravure process, the main advantage of which were high speed production and lower costs.

It was fitting that such an occasion took place at Stationers Hall with whom Harrison and Sons have enjoyed a long and happy association. In 1403 the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London approved the formation of a stationers guild, the members of which text writers and illuminators of manuscript books, booksellers, bookbinders and suppliers of parchment. With the introduction of printing into England in 1476, printers began to join the guild which increased in importance and received a charter of incorporation in 1557 from the Crown, and in 1560 a livery from the City. The guild hall of the Company — Stationers Hall — has been on its present site since 1606.

It was in this historic building, steeped in tradition and ceremony, that the Chairman of Harrison & Sons Ltd, Mr Kenneth Graham, welcomed the assembled guests, many of whom were from other postal administrations in Europe. The highlight of the evening was a congratulatory telegram from Her Majesty The Queen to Harrison's followed by the presentation of a magnificent china bowl to the Post Office, made for the occasion by the Wedgwood company. In return, Sir Ronald Dearing, Chairman of the British Post Office, presented Mr Graham with a framed illuminated address which read:

*'The British Post Office takes great pleasure in recording its appreciation of fifty years of continuous and outstanding service rendered by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Limited.*

*The fine and consistent quality of Harrisons contribution has helped British Stamps to enjoy an unrivalled world-wide reputation.*

*The British Post Office is very pleased to celebrate the skill, dedication and craftsmanship unfailingly shown by the management and staff at Harrisons.*

*We offer our heartiest congratulations and warmest thanks at this time and look forward to our association continuing to grow and prosper'.*

During the evening music was provided by the Light Orchestra of the Band of the Corps of the Royal Engineers (Chatham) who were given a standing ovation after their rendition of the 'Post-Horn Gallop'.

During the morning of this memorable day, the Post Office displayed for the first time, at Stationers Hall, the 1984 Christmas stamps for the benefit of the press.

## British Pullman Carriages – Venice Simplon Orient Express

A limited number of Post Office first day covers bearing a special cachet will be carried in the British Pullman carriages of the Venice Simplon Orient Express on 22 January 1985 during a special journey between Paddington and Didcot, Oxon (centre of the Great Western Railway Preservation Society), to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Great Western Railway. The covers bearing a full set of 'Famous Trains' stamps, will be cancelled on 22 January 1985, the first day of issue, with the Philatelic Bureau handstamp.

They will also bear the cachet 'Carried in the British Pullman carriages of the Venice Simplon Orient Express Paddington — Didcot 22 January 1985 150th Anniversary Great Western Railway' to commemorate their journey aboard the train. The covers can be obtained at a cost of £3.00 each (all inclusive) by application to the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh.

Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the 'British Philatelic Bureau', should be sent to 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT by 17 December 1984.

# New Stamp Books

The second in the new series of stamp books with illustrated covers will be introduced on 15 January 1985. The new 50p book, designed by Peter Mortor, illustrates orchids — *Cypripedium Calceolus* and *Ophrys Apifera* and the contents are 3 x 1p, 2 x 4p and 3 x 13p definitive stamps. The £1.30 book, designed by John Thirsk, illustrating trams, features — the Glasgow Tram — and contains 10 x 13p definitive stamps. The £1.54 book continues with the postal history theme portraying embossed stamps, contains 4 x 13p and 6 x 17p definitive stamps. All three books will be available from most post offices and philatelic counters, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT.

## Forces Cover

### Commissioning of HMS 'Beaver'

To commemorate the commissioning at Devonport of HMS 'Beaver' a new Royal Navy class 22 frigate, a philatelic cover will be available from 13 December 1984. The cover will illustrate HMS 'Beaver' and the Badge of the ship. The postage stamps offices will be cancelled with a BFPS hand-stamp 1854, and the rubber stamp of the ship's mail room will be applied. The cost of the covers is £1.50 each. In addition a limited number of 100 will be signed by the Captain at £2.00 each. Orders with remittances made payable to HMS 'Beaver' should be sent to, The Philatelic Officer, HMS 'Beaver' BFPO Ships, LONDON.

## Book Reviews

### The Joy of Stamps by Hunter Davies

Published by Robson Books, the paperback edition of this book is currently available, price £2.95. Hunter Davies takes a humorous look at collecting and collectors and pokes fun at some of the hobby's pretensions. The book can be obtained from most reputable bookshops and stamp dealers, or direct from the publishers (postage and packing free): Robson Books, 5-6 Clipstone Street LONDON W1P 7EB.

### 1985 Stoneham Catalogue of British Stamps

This is the 7th edition of the Stoneham catalogue which is an extremely comprehensive single volume for collectors of the stamps of Great Britain. There have been several additions to this edition including Mulready's, Postal Fiscals and Frama Labels. The Machin Section has been completely rewritten, by popular request, and now includes short bands and missing phosphors. The Control Section has been revised and now prices cylinder control blocks of 6 from the photogravure Issue. Prices throughout the catalogue have been brought up to date to reflect the current market position. Priced at £5.75, the catalogue offers good value for money and is published by Sarum Publications Ltd, 15 Fisherton Street, SALISBURY, Wiltshire, SP2 7SU.

### The Postal History of Glasgow

by James A Mackay

Great and detailed archival research has gone into the production of this book as well as personal study of material — as one would expect from such a well-known author of books, particularly on the postmarks of Scotland. In 220 A4 pages he describes the postmarks of Glasgow and the affairs of the Glasgow post office. Some 2621 postmarks are illustrated and this is where the value of the book lies. There is also a very valuable and detailed listing of all the offices within the city of Glasgow, though the area outside the city but under the control of the Head Postmaster is outwith the scope of the book.

Unsurprisingly, Glasgow was late on the postal scene, its first postmark — the 'Woodblocks' or 'Rosettes' as the author prefers — coming only in 1740. It developed apace in the nineteenth century, though, and was to the fore with experimental cancels. The Madeleine Smith trial is given prominence, detailed more accurately than hitherto. Indeed, many new facts are incorporated overall and as such this is a welcome addition to Scottish postmark studies.

Unfortunately, the anguished jet ink printing of computer or word-processor inspiration required by costs, makes reading difficult. And the author is weak on modern postal mechanisation. Glasgow never had 'Elsie' equipment, which, by the way, had nothing to do with the introduction of phosphor stamps. The lack of indication of relative rarity of the various markings, and that of an index, is also detrimental. But the field of Glasgow postmarks is vast and the coverage given here is excellent. Available at £8.80 (post paid in U.K.) from the author at 11 Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG1 1LN.

## Treasury Competition Entries

Robert W Sievier, 12 Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, London, who began his career as an engraver and later achieved prominence as a sculptor, submitted four embossed essays to the Treasury Competition.

One of these (TN22811) can be found in volume one, page twenty, in the R M Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum. It is in white, blue and green, embossed on a page of the London and Westminster Review, March 1840. The design proposed to prepare stamps with an embossed subject in the centre, such subject to be the Head of Her Majesty, the Royal Arms or any other device; the stamp surrounding the embossment to be printed in two or more colours. The designer had two objects in view, first to obviate as much as possible fraud by imitation of the stamp, and secondly, a rapid and cheap method of production. The first object would be effected by the complicated design, the second by a machine that the resourceful Mr Sievier had constructed for that purpose.



### the stamp being susceptible of an

The design concept of this unacceptable essay included three elements that were eventually to be incorporated into issued stamps:

- i the use of a portrait of the Queen's Head,
- ii the use of more than one colour (1887),
- iii the embossing concept.

The R M Phillips Collection can be viewed at the National Postal Museum, London, during normal opening hours 10am-4.30pm Monday to Thursday, 10am-4pm Friday.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Assist. Curator

## The Stamp Bug Club

The Stamp Bug Club, which began in 1980, is a non-profit making organisation which encourages youngsters to collect and enjoy the world's most popular hobby. The Club has some 60,000 members and is primarily intended for the junior collector in the 7-11 age group. In practice members range from the youngest at a few months old, to the oldest who is 83 years young.

Members receive six copies of the Club magazine every year, Stamp Bug News, which includes details of all new stamp issues and philatelic products. The magazine also includes special features in each issue: competitions offering both philatelic prizes and visits to places of interest, a letters column and advice on collecting. Beginners' Corner which is written by Alain de Cadenet explains technical terms, and contains useful information on how to house and build up a collection. Famous collectors are also featured in each issue and these have included many household names. Each issue of Stamp Bug News also contains an 8 page 'Swap Special' supplement, through which members can exchange duplicate stamps, obtain their wants and correspond with other collectors.

In addition to the magazine members also receive other benefits from the Stamp Bug Club. These include a special Stamp Bug Album for each year's special stamp issues, a Stamp Bug calendar, and a personal membership card. Special first day covers for the Cattle and Royal Mail issues were also produced exclusively for members in 1984, and a third cover is scheduled for the Famous Trains issue in January 1985.

To join the Club costs just £1 for one year or £1.50 for two years' membership. This price has not increased since 1981 and offers very good value for money. As a special offer for readers of the Philatelic Bulletin, there is a bonus for all who wish to join or would like to give their children or young relatives a special Christmas present. This is a free set of the 1985 Christmas PHQ cards featuring the Nativity. Readers wishing to take advantage of this special offer should send a postal order or crossed cheque

made payable to 'The Stamp Bug Club' to: The Stamp Bug Club, Dept PB, Freepost, PO Box 109, HIGH WYCOMBE, Buckinghamshire. HP10 8NP. (No

stamp is necessary). For readers wishing to use the Club Giro bank account, the Giro number is 2158353.

## Facets of Postal History

### 3. Christmas in Bethlehem

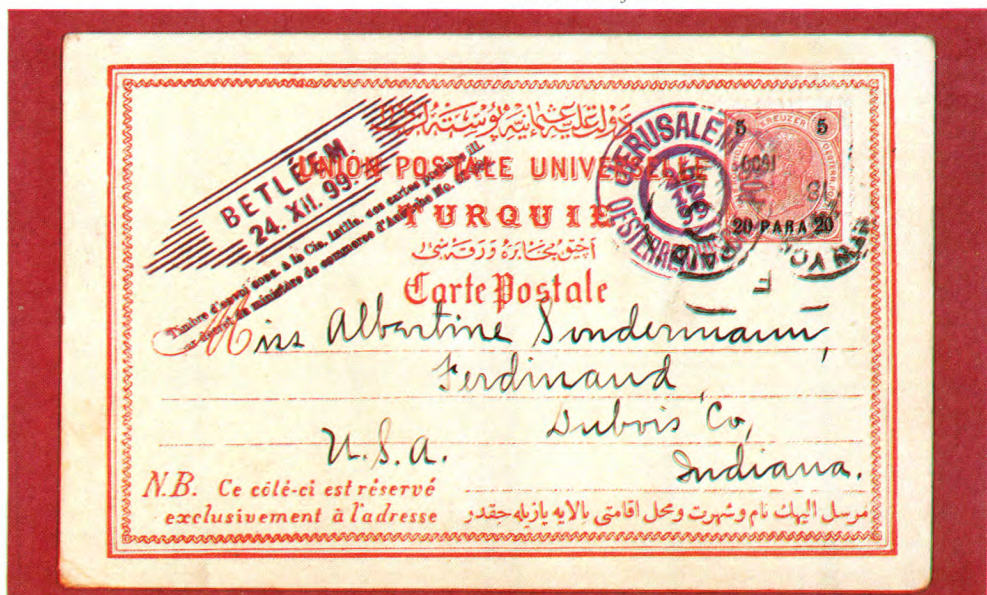
For almost 20 years the Post Office has offered collectors of commemorative covers the choice of pictorial postmarks for Christmas — that of the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, or the distinctive cancellation of Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed, in South Wales. (in fact the first Bureau handstamp was dated 13 October 1971). The first British Christmas stamps were introduced on 1 December 1966, the year in which the 'Bethlehem' postmark was first used.

Bearing all this in mind, I was intrigued to find the postal stationery card illustrated here — it is a Turkish card bearing an Austrian definitive stamp surcharged in the prevailing Turkish currency, 20 para, for use in the Levant — and it is stamped in violet with a 'BETLEEM' cachet/cancellation dated 24 XII 99 (Christmas Eve 1899) and the circular datestamp 'JERUSALEM OSTERREICHISCHE POST' dated 25 12 99 (Christmas Day 1899), also in

violet and evidently a rubber handstamp. On the reverse is the traditional Nativity scene with the appropriate Christmas greetings. The card was addressed to Indiana in the United States, and may well be one of the earliest examples of Christmas 'philatelic' souvenir. The 'BETLEEM' handstamp is typical of Austrian diamond/bars cancellations of the period, and it is authenticated by the Austrian Ministry of Commerce in the inscription at the foot. It would appear that mail posted in Bethlehem was conveyed to the main post office in Jerusalem for cancellation, sorting and onward transmission.

There were various Austrian post offices in the Ottoman Empire — perhaps the most important (and the oldest) was that in Constantinople, the present-day Istanbul, capital of Turkey, which opened in 1748 and closed on the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Jerusalem, the principal office in Palestine, opened in 1852 and likewise closed in 1914.

MALCOLM JAMES



# 115. Centenary of Royal Institute of Chemistry, 1977

British achievements in chemistry were featured on the four centenary stamps issued on 2 March 1977. The stamps were designed by Jerzy Karo, Head of Graphics at the City of Leicester Polytechnic, and the designs show Nobel prize-winning developments by British scientists — who are named on the stamps together with the years of their awards — in diagrammatic and symbolic style with explanatory captions. Bright colours enhance what might otherwise have been considered dull designs.

The 8½p stamp illustrates the chemical structure of a steroid against a background of pharmaceutical instruments and products, related to the work by Professor Sir Derek Barton, professor of organic chemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, on conformational analysis, enabling the reproduction of complex natural substances in chemical plants and laboratories. Sir Derek was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1969. The molecular structure of Vitamin C (with a section of orange in the background) on the 10p represents the work of Sir Walter Norman Haworth (1883-1950) and his team at Birmingham University, which enabled production of the first synthetic vitamin identical with that occurring naturally in citrus fruits. Sir Walter shared the Nobel Prize with Karrer in 1937.

The 11p stamp illustrates partition chromatography by which the components of a gas or liquid can be separated, identified and measured, a technique which was developed by Professors A J P Martin and R L M Synge who shared the Nobel Prize in 1952. The stamp shows the kind of pattern produced by the process on paper, and also a graph showing the varying amounts of substances in a complex mixture after separation by the chromatography technique. The 13p stamp shows crystallography — the X-ray photography of crystals — pioneered by the father and son team, Professors Sir William Henry Bragg (1862-1942) and Sir William Lawrence Bragg (1890-1971), who shared the Nobel Prize in 1915. The design shows the chemical model of the salt crystal.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. The two listed printing varieties both



relate to the 8½p stamp — a small mauve spot by the pipette, and a black dot over the 'a' of 'Barton'. Both are constant. Quantities issued were: 8½p 37,060,000; 10p 9,360,000; 11p 8,460,000; and 13p 7,860,000.

JAMES WATSON

## The Railway Letter Service — Part 3

In the October Bulletin, the British Rail railway letter service was incorrectly quoted as ceasing on 8 June 1984. This should have been shown as 9 June as one or two sharp-eyed readers have kindly pointed out.

# Letters to the Editor



I read with interest Malcolm James' article 'Coach and Horses' in the October Bulletin. However, I feel that certain remarks could be misleading. The article gives the impression that William Chaplin was the proprietor of the Swan with Two Necks at the time of the inaugural run on 2 August 1784, this is not so. Chaplin did not take over the Swan until c1825, the contractor in 1784 being William Wilson who sold out to William Waterhouse in 1792, hence the name on the bill of carriage shown in the article. As regards the Bull & Mouth, Edward Sherman did not take over until 1823, the Bull being in the hands of John Willan before that time. Small points perhaps, but it means that collectors, if they are looking for a complete 'set', would need to have five, not two examples.

Bills from Willan, Sherman, Waterhouse & Chaplin can be seen in the Mail Coach Exhibition 'Speed, Regularity and Security' on show at the National Postal Museum until 26 April 1985.

A J GAMMONS  
Exhibitions Officer  
National Postal Museum

Malcolm James writes: I am grateful to Mr Gammons for his additional information about the coaching-inn proprietors which will doubtless be of interest to collectors.

I would just add that it seems unlikely that William Chaplin took over the Swan with Two Necks 'c.1825' as he suggests — my 'Waterhouse' bill of carriage (illustrated in the article) is dated 23 August 1826.

Dear Sir

I was interested to read the article in the August edition of the Bulletin (Volume 21 Number 12) about stamps produced for Jersey during the German occupation of the Channel Islands, but surprised that no mention was made of the incorporation into the design of the 3d (highest value stamp) of the 'GR' cypher representing George Rex. Perhaps Mr Newport might like to comment upon this as I am sure other readers would be interested to know more about it.

Catherington  
Hants

Yours faithfully

W A EVERSHERD

Mr Eversherd is quite right, as is Mr D Johnson, of Thornton Heath, who wrote a similar letter. Edmund Blampied, who designed the 1943 pictorial stamps, admitted that he deliberately incorporated the letters GR on either side of the denomination on the 3d value to deceive the German authorities. I was well aware of this, and wrote about it in my book 'Stamps and Postal History of the Channel Islands', but unfortunately overlooked mentioning it in my article in the August British Philatelic Bulletin.

O. W. NEWPORT

Dear Sir

Having read some articles in the Philatelic Bulletin about the design of British Stamps I would like to mention my opinion as a Dutch collector of British Mint Stamps since 1964.

I think that most of the chosen designers and illustrators, who produced the stamp designs, are top artists, who demonstrate their experience in flora, fauna, figures, and portraits.

It can be seen that most of the people chosen are specialists in their field, having listed some examples as Birds 1966, Battle of Hastings, Bridges 1968, Architecture 1970, Village Churches 1972, Turner 1975, Roses 1976, Spring Wild Flowers 1979, Nat Trust 1981 etc etc.

I do agree with Mr Guy Averill (no. 11, July 1984) that the stamps for the first direct elections to the European Parliament are not the best ones, but I found the recent cattle issue as well as the Heraldry set very fascinating!

So I believe that the committee has mostly chosen the right people for the particular stamp subject and that explains why British stamps enjoy a high reputation among the ever growing group of Dutch collectors!

Bilthoven  
Holland

Yours faithfully

G HAIGHTON

## Withdrawn Items

This listing has now been running for a year and will be continuing in future issues. It will normally show items no longer on sale from any Post Office philatelic outlet unless otherwise specified. This was not made absolutely clear in the September issue where the stamp booklets listed were in fact only withdrawn from general outlets, not from philatelic counters or the British Philatelic Bureau.

The following items will be withdrawn from sale on 24 December 1984: Christmas 1983 Discount Stamp Book.

# Liverpool International Garden Festival

The Post Office stand in the main Exhibition Hall at the Festival was awarded a silver medal by the organisers. This was accepted at the awards ceremony on 13 October 1984 by Mr Lawson, Head Postmaster Liverpool on behalf of the Post Office. The success of the stand's design and presentation can be attributed to the experience and expertise of the Post Office Headquarters' exhibitions officer, Don Scarff.

## Commemorative Covers and Postcards

### Fine Art Covers

A new series of limited edition first day covers is being launched by Fine Art Covers. These will be individually designed de-luxe covers which will cost £5.50 each (plus postage and packing). Only 850 will be produced for any one stamp issue, and the covers will be manufactured to a high technical standard. Further information can be obtained on application to: Daniel O'Brien, Fine Art Covers, 132 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, BRENTWOOD, Essex CM13 1BP.

### New P & O Cruise Ship — Royal Princess

The new luxury cruise liner was officially named 'Royal Princess' by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales at Southampton on 15 November 1984. To commemorate this royal occasion and the maiden cruise commencing on 19 November 1984, a mini series of philatelic covers has been produced. The new 40,000 ton cruise liner, which has a passenger capacity of 1,200, will be featured in full colour on every philatelic cover as well as the P & O flag and logo. A limited number of the covers have been personally autographed in aid of charities by the Chairman of P & O and Captain J R Young.

Two special pictorial handstamps have been produced, one for the royal naming and the other for the maiden cruise. These have been applied at Southampton. A limited number of covers posted in Miami, Florida, USA, when the 'Royal Princess' arrived for the commencement of the cruise. Further information can be obtained from Philip Croucher, Rembrandt Philatelics, 21 High Street, Botley, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants, SO3 2EA.

### The Flying Scotsman

A special philatelic cover is being produced to celebrate the Flying Scotsman which is housed at the Steamtown Railway Museum, Carnforth, to coincide with the Famous Trains stamp issue on 22 January 1985. The limited edition cover will feature an original drawing of the Flying Scotsman, and part of the design will be gold-foiled. A special Carnforth postmark will also be used. The price of the covers bearing the full set of Famous Trains stamps is £4.00 each, and £2.25 for those bearing the single Flying Scotsman stamp only. Both prices are inclusive of postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to A G Bradbury should be sent to him at: 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL.

### The 6000 Locomotive Association — 'King George V'

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Great Western Railway, the 6000 Locomotive Association, together with H P Bulmer Ltd of Hereford, will be running the steam engine, 'King George V' from Hereford to Shrewsbury. The run will take place on 22 January 1985, the day of issue of the Famous Trains stamps. A special postcard featuring the engine, 'King George V' will be issued to commemorate the journey. The postcards will cost 50p each (including postage and packing) and will have the 29p Famous Trains stamp affixed, cancelled with a special handstamp. Postcards and further details can be obtained by writing to: PO Box 6000, SHREWSBURY, SY1 1AA.

### Hemel Hempstead Philatelic Society

The Society will be producing a second postcard showing a further selection of Hemel Hempstead postmarks, old and new, but mainly 20th century. Although there will be no special postmark this year, the cards will be serviced with a 17p 'Christmas' stamp and posted 'on the day' 3 December, the Society's 21st Birthday. They will also be available serviced with the same stamp and posted for the 'First Day of Issue' handstamp of Hemel Hempstead on 20 November, this also being the 'first day' of the postcard (customers acquiring the card before this date are requested not to 'use' the card before 20 November).

Cards will be available from 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH as follows:

- mint cards 20p each (plus postage minimum 30p please).
- serviced postcard, either on 20 November or 3 December (please state which date) at 50p plus 30p for dispatching under separate cover.

## **Diarrhoea and malnutrition in Children of the Commonwealth**

Not a pleasant subject, but cause for a conference to be held at St Bartholomews Hospital on 5, 6 and 7 November 1984.

To mark the occasion a special handstamp was commissioned and 1000 covers each bearing a 17p 'British Council' stamp were cancelled with the handstamp on 7 November. The cost including return postage and packing is £1.25.

Proceeds from the sale of these covers will be donated to the rebuilding of the childrens cancer ward at St Bartholomews Hospital. Orders with remittances made payable to 'St Bartholomews Hospital', should be sent to Dr. J Walker-Smith, Department of Childhealth, St Bartholomews Hospital, LONDON, EC1A 7BE.

## **Salvation Army Social Services**

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the Salvation Army Social Services, on 13 October 1984. The cover is the only officially authorised one, and all proceeds will go to Salvation Army Funds. The covers have been diestamped in five colours and were cancelled with a specially commissioned handstamp at St Pauls, LONDON. The cost of the covers is £2.50. The covers and further information can be obtained from: Cotswold Covers Limited, Liege House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts, SN14 8LZ.

## **Last Day of ½p coin as legal tender**

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the last day of use of the ½p in postal rates. The covers are printed in four colours with an informative cachet, and bear odd ½p stamps cancelled with a Windsor pictorial postmark on 31 December 1984.

The price of the cover is £1.20, 3 for £3.25, or 10 for £9.00, inclusive of postage and packing.

Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 4TD.

## **Last Day of ½p as legal tender**

To commemorate the last day of the ½p as legal tender — 31 December 1984 — a special cover has been produced. The front of the cover has an illustration of ½p coins, and ½p, 3½p, 12½p, 16½p and 20½p stamps are affixed cancelled with a special handstamp at Half Penny Green, West Midlands. The cost is £1.60 including return postage and

packing. Orders with remittances should be sent to: K and D Covers, Freeport, LONDON, SE17 2BR.

## **Loge La France Centenary**

A special philatelic postcard has been issued on 19 November 1984 to commemorate the centenary of the Loge La France number 2060. This Lodge comes under the Obedience of the United Grand Lodge of England and carries out all its work in French. The card depicts a stained glass window given to the masonic college at Rickmansworth in 1889 by the Loge La France number 2060. The cards have a 17p definitive stamp affixed, which has a perfin 'LF' representing the Lodge's initials. The cards have been cancelled with a special handstamp. The price of the cards is £2.00 each, and orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to the Lodge Secretary: S H J Verhulst, LGR, 10 Thanet Court, Queen's Drive, LONDON W3 0HW.

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## **Philatelic Bulletin**

*Editor* Charles Gowen

*Assistant Editor* Frank Brench

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*The Editor wishes the readers of the Philatelic Bulletin  
a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year*