

British Philatelic Bulletin

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1983 Collectors' Pack



Editorial

It is surprising how quickly time passes, as once again we are starting preparations for Christmas. In this edition of the Philatelic Bulletin we are featuring the 1983 Christmas stamps due to be issued on 16 November. The theme this year is "Goodwill at Christmas" featuring a dove as the universal symbol of peace and goodwill. Full details of the stamps and the 1983 Christmas stamp booklet can be found in this edition.

On 1 November the Post Office will be putting a new philatelic product on sale at most post offices including all Philatelic Counters, and at the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. This is the Stamp Bug Junior Stamp Album which has been specially made for the Post Office and is ideal for the younger collector. It is excellent value for money, and we include full details of the album on Page 46 of this Bulletin.

We are also introducing a new service for our readers in this edition. This is a regular monthly column giving details of all stamps/stamp books and postal stationery due to be withdrawn each month. We will start the column on a trial basis for 6 months, and if it proves to be popular with readers, we will continue it on a permanent basis. We would also like to take this opportunity to ask readers to write in to us with any constructive suggestions they might have for new subjects to be included in the Bulletin. We do try to cater for a wide audience and include a variety of philatelic information in each issue, but are more than happy to vary the contents of the Bulletin for those philatelic tastes we have not yet reached.!

CHARLES GOWEN

P.S. We would be very interested to know if a reader has an example of all the 'country' definitives stamps and a standard definitive stamp being used appropriately on a single cover. Can anyone help?

Designed to a new format by Trickett & Webb Ltd, the 1983 Collectors' Pack, number 149, measures 8¼" x 11¾". It will contain all seven 1983 commemorative stamps issues complete with background notes. Price £7.25, the pack will be available on 16 November 1983 from most post offices, all philatelic counters, and the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

The 1984 National Postal Museum Programme

In the autumn of each year the details of the programme of exhibitions for the following year is finalised. At the same time, special series postcards and special postmarks are decided and the intended list is published. Of course, no such list is final because so many new and different ideas develop during the year and it is necessary to vary the programme to suit the requirements of the Museum. However, it is a basis and although some items may be added, none have so far been withdrawn.

The exhibitions in the Museum fall into two categories: The main displays which last for about six months and appear on the ground and mezzanine floors and the exhibitions in the main gallery which are of shorter duration and tend to be linked to the issue of new sets of stamps by the British Post Office. However, in 1983 we have introduced a new display linked with the R M Phillips Collection and this must have pride of place.

Since 1966, the Reginald M Phillips Collection

has been the nucleus from which the Museum developed and part of this important collection is on permanent display in open frames, while the remainder is available for inspection in the slides. At the request of Mrs Elsa Phillips, the open frame displays will now be changed each year, following the annual Museum closedown, and a special series card will be placed on sale on this date. These cards will be in the SS series, but will remain on sale for a full year. The first of these, SS19, went on sale on October 10 and the next, (number to be announced) will appear in October 1984. At the same time, the Museum will shortly commence a programme of improving the clarity of the write-up on the Phillips Collection, though this has already shown some improvement by up-grading the lighting in the frames but without increasing the harmful effect of the ultra-violet content in the light.

In the lower galleries, there has been some concentration on Military displays over the last three



years and we are now starting on a programme of exhibitions of a less martial nature. The final part of the Post Office at War will end on December 30 1983 and we shall start 1984 with a new display on Airmails. 1984 is the 50th Anniversary of the completion of the Empire links with the establishment of the regular through flight to Australia. This exhibition will cover the first 15 years from the Paris service of 1919 and the problems of the early 20's when none of the British Airlines received Government support. It will include several models of early aircraft and will be the occasion of a special postcard, SS20, (see illustration), and a special postmark will be used. A booklet, SS5, in the Museum Series will also appear and will give details of postage rates and airmail fees during this complicated period.

1984 will see the holding of the 19th Congress of the UPU at Hamburg in June. An exhibition will be presented by the Museum based on the postmarks of the Congress, special stamps issued and the effects on the British Post Office of the decisions taken by the UPU. A special card and booklet will be prepared and, it is hoped, that part of this display will form the nucleus of the British Post Office exhibit in Hamburg.

The final exhibition on the lower floors for 1984 will be opened in August and will tell the story of the 200th Anniversary of the Carriage of Mail by Coach. This coach ran from Bristol to London on the night of August 2/3 1784 and made the run in 16 hours for 120 miles. This exhibition will tell the story, not only of this first run, but also the development of the coach routes during the following years to the introduction of the Railways and the final demise of the Mail Coach in the 1850's.

The displays which in the main gallery are usually of shorter duration, tend to be linked with the issue of new sets of stamps. Two such sets in 1984 will be the subject of exhibitions — The Heraldry set in January and the Cattle set in March.

1984 is the 500th Anniversary of the College of Arms and a colourful display of British and Commonwealth stamps, tracing the History of the Kings and Queens of the United Kingdom from King Richard III with the appropriate heraldic shields will be at the centre piece. A special card will be issued (SS21).

The Cattle issue is being used to produce a thematic display of Farm Animals which can then be used at Agricultural Shows to support the sales of the new issue. Again a special card will be released.

May will bring us to the National Stamp Day

Exhibition — this year to concentrate on different British Stamp Printers, so in the first half of the year there should be something for everyone from Thematic to Aerophilately and from Traditional to Postal History.

As I have said before, one visit to the Museum is never enough as we try to make sure that there will have been changes by the time a visitor returns!

WRAIFE WELLSTED — CURATOR

Trafalgar Square Philatelic Counter

The philatelic counter at London's Trafalgar Square Post Office has been transferred to the Post Office at 181 High Holborn, LONDON, WC1V 7AP while a refurbishment takes place. The hours of business at High Holborn will be 9.30am to 6pm Monday, 9.15am to 6.00pm Tuesday to Friday and 9.15am to 12.30pm Saturday. The alterations at the Trafalgar Square Post Office are expected to take about a year to complete and will include improved facilities for collectors.

The Trafalgar Square philatelic counter handstamp can still be obtained by sending items to, The Philatelic Duty, West Central District Office, 21-31 New Oxford Street, LONDON WC1A 1AA, or by posting the items at the High Holborn office. As usual, items should be endorsed, 'Special Philatelic Counter Handstamp'.

Posting Boxes



No. 53 Mr. C.J Taylor of Milton Keynes kindly sent us the photograph for this month. The posting box is situated on the roadside in the Bedfordshire hamlet of Battlesden.

7. The Rufus Stone

In the heart of the New Forest, near Stoney Cross, a mile or so west of Cadnam in Hampshire on the road to Ringwood and Bournemouth, there is a small memorial pillar — the Rufus Stone — which stands in a forest glade. It commemorates the death of William II, called Rufus, third (and second surviving) son of William the Conqueror, who was killed by an arrow while on a hunting trip. The 'official' account of his demise is best described on the three facets of the Stone, which was set up by Earl De La Warr in 1745 and encased in iron in 1841, as follows, A, B and C:

(A) 'That the spot where an event so memorable might not hereafter be forgotten; the enclosed stone was set up by John Lord Delaware who had seen the tree growing in this place. This stone having been much mutilated, and the inscriptions on each of its three sides defaced, this more durable memorial with the original inscriptions was erected in the year 1841, by Wm. Sturges Bourne, Warden'. (B) 'Here stood the oak tree on which an arrow shot by Sir Walter Tyrrell at a stag, glanced and struck King William the Second, surnamed Rufus, on the breast, of which he

instantly died, on the second day of August, anno 1100'. (C) 'King William the Second, surnamed Rufus, being slain, as before related, was laid in a cart belonging to one Purkis, and drawn from hence to Winchester, and buried in the Cathedral Church of that city'.

Extraordinary events followed. Tyrrell fled to the coast, found a vessel and crossed the Channel to Normandy, while Henry, William's younger brother, rode to Winchester 'to secure the King's treasure' and was elected King by the Witan or ruling council. Another version of William's death suggests that Tyrrell killed him because the King had 'possessed' his wife on the previous day and that she had stabbed herself to death in shame that very morning. William was a tyrant, ruthless in government and oppressive to his subjects. He exiled Archbishop Anselm of Canterbury and lived 'a life of wanton pleasure'. It is reputed that his ghost, arrow protruding from his chest, appears at the Rufus Stone on each anniversary of his death and follows the route of his last journey to Winchester. Unhappy spirit!

MALCOLM JAMES



Rufus Stone
New Forest

V. 6. 11. 1901. 780

103. 150th Anniversary of Public Railways, 1975

This survey of British Rail and its forerunners was prompted by the 150th anniversary of the first public steam railway — the Stockton and Darlington line, on which George Stephenson's 'Locomotion' (formerly 'Active') was first used in 1825. On 27 September of that year the primitive 'Locomotion' (depicted on the 7p stamp) hauled a 34-wagon, 90-ton train full of people and goods at an average speed of 15 miles per hour.

It was the realization of dreams for the Durham mine-owners who had been seeking an economical means of transporting coal to the ports, and who had proposed a railway for horse-drawn traffic from Darlington to Stockton-on-Tees, and for George Stephenson, the son of a colliery engineman at Wylam, Northumberland, who was appointed project engineer for the construction of the line and who persuaded the authorities to try out his new steam locomotive (eventually 'Locomotion' blew up and it is the rebuilt version which can be seen in the museum at Darlington).

Three other stamps were included in the set designed by Brian Craker. The 8p depicted the 1876 engine 'Abbotsford,' designed by Dugald Drummond, which became one of North British Railway's 'Waverley' class, among the fastest and most powerful locomotives in Britain at that time. Subsequent developments saw the evolution of perhaps the most handsome of steam locomotives — the 'Castle' class designed by C.B. Collett and constructed at Swindon for the Great Western Railway. No.4073 'Caerphilly Castle' frequently hauled the Cornish Riviera express on its regular run from Paddington to Plymouth (10p). British Rail's Inter-City High-Speed Train (12p), sleek and streamlined, which went into service in 1975, was designed to reach speeds of 125 miles per hour and is still in operation — the mainstay of the B.R. slogan 'the age of the train'.

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. Listed varieties include a broken 'R' in 'Railway' on the 7p, the top serif omitted from the '1' of 'Class' and a fortuitous orange glow in the driver's cab of the 'Caerphilly Castle' on the 10p, and a spectacular 'obstruction' on the line just in front of



the HST on the 12p stamp.

Quantities issued are:

7p	47,160,000
8p	9,900,000
10p	10,530,000
12p	8,690,000

The Wind of Change

Ever since the introduction of postage stamps with the issue of the 1d black in 1840, one of the problems that the Post Office sought to eliminate was the fear that cancellations could be removed. Although the black and red colours of the first stamps and

cancellations were shortly reversed, the Post Office still had lingering doubts about the efficacy of cancellations. The Gem from the Reginald M Phillips Collection this month looks at the events of 1878 which led to major changes in the production of Victorian postage stamps.

The illustration shows one of the experiments made in 1878 by the Board of Inland Revenue showing attempts at removing cancellations. This can be found in volume XXXVII/3 of the Phillips Collection and is part of the original correspondence



between the Board and the printers Perkins, Bacon & Co. The Board was particularly concerned over the ink being used by the printers, and the following is a brief extract from their letter of 6 May 1878.

"It has long been rumoured that the obliterating marks can be taken out of Postage Stamps, and recently I have seen various experiments and have experimented myself on different stamps and am able, therefore, to say that by the use of a certain fluid, which it is not desirable to mention, the obliteration can be perfectly removed with very little trouble.

In the case of the halfpenny, penny, three halfpenny and twopenny stamps, this can be done without leaving any marks of the operation behind. With all the other stamps this is not so, indeed the same fluid that removes the obliterating ink destroys the ground colours of the other stamps as well. The reason for this is that the former named stamps are printed in fast colours while the latter are printed in fugitive colours".

Perkins Bacon replied to this letter arguing that line-engraving was much superior to surface-printing. While the Board agreed with this, they considered that surface-printing was the more practical method. Further trials were submitted by Perkins, Bacon & Co, but the end result was that on 23 December 1878 the Board of the Inland Revenue gave six months notice to terminate the contract. This saw the start of De la Rue's ascendancy as the printers of British Postage Stamps which was to last until 1910. Visitors to the National Postal Museum can see the original correspondence and documentation leading to this change in the R M Phillips Collection.

Philatelic Sales Counters

Two New Philatelic Sales Counters

On 7 November 1983 a new philatelic counter will open at Bolton Head Post Office, 124 Deansgate, BOLTON BL1 1AA. The hours of business will be, Monday — Friday 9.00am till 1.30pm, 2.30pm till 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am till 12.30pm.

A special one day handstamp will be available at Bolton on 7 November to commemorate the opening.

For reposting facilities, covers should be forwarded in an outer envelope to the Head Postmaster at the above address, and marked 'Philatelic Counter Handstamp'.

The second new philatelic counter will open on 21 November 1983 at the Market Square Branch

Office, 43-45 Market Square, SUNDERLAND SR1 3LL. The hours of business will be, Monday — Friday 10.00am till 4.30pm, Saturday 10.00am till noon.

The counter will be opened by the Mayor of Sunderland, and a special one day handstamp will be available on 21 November to commemorate the event.

For reposting facilities, covers should be forwarded in an outer envelope to the Postmaster at the above address, and marked 'Philatelic Counter Handstamp'.

Coventry Philatelic Counter

The opening hours of the Philatelic Counter at Corporation Street PO have been amended as follows:

Monday — Friday	10.00 am till 1.00 pm
	2.00 pm till 4.30 pm
Saturday	9.30 am till 12.30 pm

Christmas Stamp Book Discount Price



Once again the Post Office is offering a Christmas stamp book at a special discount price on 9 November 1983. Containing 20 x 12½p definitive stamps, the cost is £2.20, a discount of 30p. The stamps will have a single phosphor bar, and on the reverse side each stamp will bear a non-toxic print of a star. The stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd. The illustrations on the outer cover are of pantomimes, drawn by Barbara Brown.

The books will be withdrawn from sale on 24 December.

World Beating Stamp Design Team Honoured

The Post Office's world-beating stamp design team were toasted at a special ceremony in London in September to mark two major international philatelic awards.

The team, including stamp designer Adrian George, recently led the Post Office to its double victory at the prestigious Italian International Stamp Fair at Riccione. There the Post Office came away with the Fair's two major trophies - both for stamps in the special commemorative set to celebrate the history of 'British Theatre', issued in April last year.

The Gran Premio dell'Arte Filatelica 1983 (The Grand Prize of Philatelic Art) was presented for the 15½p 'Ballerina' stamp and was the highlight of the Fair. It was awarded by Italy's philatelic journalists for the finest stamp in the world. The other, Il Francobollo d'oro (The Golden Stamp Award 1982) was for the 19½p 'Harlequin' stamp which was voted the world's most beautiful stamp by readers of Italy's top philatelic journal, 'Il Collezionista'.

Stamps nominated by 42 major stamp producing countries were considered for the awards. It is the first time a single postal administration has won both major trophies and for designs by the same artist.

At the London presentation, in the Italian Institute in Belgrave Square, the trophies were presented to the Post Office team by Professor Alessandro Vaciego, the Italian cultural attache and Institute director.

Said Professor Vaciego: 'The Harlequin is of particular interest to Italy, since this historical character originated in the Italian theatre at the famous Comedia dell'Arte'.

He added: 'This is an outstanding success. It is a great honour and an international recognition of the high artistic standards of the British stamps'.

'Although these competitions are judged almost exclusively by Italian philatelists, they have in the past proved to be a good barometer of world taste'.

Mr John Mackay, Director of Philately said: 'These awards are an independent endorsement of our policy to set the highest standards of design, artistic merit and printing technology. And we are naturally delighted when our special stamps are as well received abroad as at home'.

Stamp Bug Junior Stamp Album



From 1 November 1983 a new stamp album, specially produced for The Post Office with young collectors in mind, will go on sale at most main post offices, all philatelic sales counters, price £3.75, or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, for £4.50 incl. postage.

This beautifully produced album with illustrations in full colour of British postage stamps issued since 1840, has spaces arranged on each page for the appropriate stamps to be inserted. Extra blank pages are incorporated in the album to accommodate the stamps issues for 1984 and beyond.



Christmas Stamps Issue

16 November 1983



The Spirit of Christmas is shown with considerable imagination in the set of five stamps for 1983. Familiar everyday objects like a pillarbox, chimney pots, an umbrella, a street lamp and a topiary hedge are transformed into magical settings for happenings that express the longings and thoughts shared by most of us at Christmas-tide.

The theme for this year's set of special stamps is 'Goodwill at Christmas'. The dove symbolising peace and goodwill is featured in each of the designs.

12½p — 'Christmas Post'. The design features birds carrying messages and Christmas greetings.

16p — 'The Three Kings'. Three chimney pots represent the Three Kings of the Nativity. A cat and a dove sit together among the chimney pots.

20½p — 'World at Peace'. A dove and a blackbird share an umbrella. The snow on the umbrella forms a map of the world.

28p — 'Light of Christmas'. A dove and a blackbird again representing mankind, with a street lamp symbolising the light of the world.

30p — 'Christmas Dove'. A topiary dove on which the snow is settling, is featured in this design.

Designed by Tony Meeuwissen, the stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd in sheets of 100. They are horizontal in format measuring 41mm x 30mm with 15 x 14 perforations. The paper is unwatermarked, phosphor coated, except for the 12½p stamp which has a single printed phosphor bar. PVA dextrin is the adhesive.

The first day cover, price 14p, and the presentation pack number 148, price £1.28, are designed by Collis Clements.

Values and Colours

12½p — Bistre Yellow, bright rose red, bright blue, black, blackish brown, gold.

16p — Bright yellow, bright rose red, new blue, lake brown, black, gold.

20½p — Greenish yellow, bright rose, new blue, black, bright blue, gold.

28p — Orange yellow, bright rose, bluish violet, black, blue green, bright reddish violet, gold.

31p — Lemon, cerise, new blue, black, light green, olive brown, gold.



Cylinders used

12½p — 1A 1B 1C/2C 1D 1E 1F

16p — 1A 1B 1C 3E 1E 1F

20½p — 1A 1B 1C 2D 1E 1F

28p — 2A 1B 3C 1D 1E 1F 1G

31p — 2A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available from 2 November, price 13p each.

Souvenir Cover

A Christmas souvenir cover, price 14p, designed by Collis Clements, will be available from all philatelic counters from 17 November 1983 and remain on sale for a period of 12 months, or less if stocks become exhausted.



Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Royal Mail Mint Stamps



Decimal Booklet Pane Printings – Technical Details

by L. Newbery

Section II – Printings of se-tenant panes for Stched Stamp Booklets.

The stamps were reel fed printed.

Printings on the Halley III press were perforated in the web on the Swedish rotary perforator before being sheeted whilst those on

the Thrissell and Halley II presses were sheeted before being hand fed in lifts on a Grover perforator.

The sheets of 4 stamp panes provided 60 booklets from the sewn mass whilst those of the 6 stamp panes provided 40 booklets.

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink	Phos	Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
DP1	Se-tenant Vertically									4133
	2 x 2p	B2	B1	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.	OCP/PVA1	30.10.70	26 Nov 1970	Discontinued
	2 x 1½p	B6								
	2 x 2p	B2	B1	Two				14.4.71		
	2 x 1½p	B7								
	2 x 2p	B2	B1	Two				10.5.71		
	2 x 1½p	B9								
DP11	Se-tenant Horizontally									
	2 x 2p	B6	B1	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.	OCP/PVA1	6.7.71	Not taken	
	2 x 1½p	B13								
	2 x 2p	B6	B1	Two	Thrissell	Grover		10.9.71		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
	2 x 2p	B6	B5	Two				6.1.72		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
	2 x 2p	B6	B1	Two			FCP/PVA1	12.9.72		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
	2 x 2p	B6	B5	Two				26.1.73		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
	2 x 2p	B7	B5	Two				23.5.73		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
	2 x 2p	B7	B5	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.		21.6.73		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
DP11A	2 x 2p	B7	B5	Two	Thrissell	Grover	FCP/PVAD	9.11.73		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
	2 x 2p	B9	B5	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.		2.10.74		
	2 x 1½p	B13								
DP2	Se-tenant Vertically									
	2 x 1p	B1	B1	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.	OCP/PVA1	23.10.70	26 Nov 1970	Discontinued
	2 x 1½p	B2								

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink	Phos	Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
DP12B	2 x 1p	B5	B1	Two	Thrissell	Grover	FCP/PVA1	9.9.71		
	2 x 1½p	B6								
	2 x 1p	B5	B5	Two	Thrissell	Grover		5.11.71		
	2 x 1½p	B6								
	2 x 1p	B5	B1	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.		3.7.72		
	2 x 1½p	B6								
	2 x 1p	B5	B5	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.		26.6.73		
	2 x 1½p	B6								
	2 x 1p	B5	B5	Two			FCP/PVAD	19.9.73		
	2 x 1½p	B6								
DP12A	2 x 1p	B5	B5	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.	FCP/PVA1D	26.9.74		Phosphor 250 Screen. No records seen appeared in Feb 73 April 73 10p Booklets
	2 x 1½p	B7								
	2 x 1p	B5	B6	Two	?	?	FCP/PVA1	?		
	2 x 1½p	B6								
DP9	Se-tenant Horizontally									4138
	4 x 3p	B9	B3	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.	OCP/PVA1	21.12.70	7 Jan 1971	Discontinued
	2 x 1½p	B2		1 bar L						
		B9	B3	Two	Thrissell	Grover	FCP/	7.9.71		
		B2		1 bar L						
		B9	B3	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.		29.6.72		
		B12	B3	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary.		5.7.73		
		B2		1 bar L						

Variation to Existing Definitives

A litho version of ACP (advanced coated paper) has been produced by Harrisons for print quality trials by Waddingtons Ltd. The 16p Scottish definitive stamp has been chosen for this exercise and will be available from all philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau from 2 November 1983.

These stamps are not regarded as new issues and no official first day facilities will be offered.

Withdrawn Items

These items will be withdrawn from sale in November 1983:

Christmas 1982 stamps	16 November
Christmas Aerogramme 1982	16 November
Christmas Presentation Pack 1982	16 November
Christmas Postcards 1982	16 November
Collectors' Pack 1982	17 November

Melville National Junior Stamp Competition

A date has not yet been fixed for the 1984 Melville National Junior Stamp Competition, but it is not too soon to approach your local society for details and entry forms. The competition is open to all young people under 21 years of age, who are resident in the United Kingdom. There are 4 classes for the different ages and full information will be found in the rules, which can be obtained from your stamp club secretary.

If you do not belong to a stamp society, entry forms and rules may be obtained from the Secretary of the Melville and Youth Competition: Mrs Barbara Glassborow, The Pump House, Long Sutton, LANGPORT, Somerset, TA10 9HU.

The probable closing date for the receipt of exhibits will be the end of March 1984, but final details will be published very soon.

Army Stamps at the Army Museum

A special exhibition featuring facsimile artwork for the British Army stamps issued last July, is on display in the National Army Museum, Chelsea, from October 1983 to January 1984. The designs adopted for the stamps were by Eric Stemp, a specialist in fashion illustration at St. Martin's School of Art, who has previously designed stamps for the Post Office. Preliminary designs submitted by other artists will also be on display as well as essays printed by Harrison and Sons, (High Wycombe) Ltd.

If you would like to visit the museum or require further information, details are as follows:

The National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, LONDON SW3 4HT. Telephone for enquiries: 01-730 0717 extn. 49.

Book Reviews

Collect First Day Covers

The 12th edition of this popular publication represents the most impressive of these annual catalogues, which have become quite important to

most cover collectors. Not only are there now over 300 illustrations of the many special postmarks available, but from most of the issues listed at least one representative cover is illustrated in colour. An additional innovation this year is the inclusion of several very interesting and informative articles on cover collecting by well known specialists.

At £2.50, the catalogue represents truly remarkable value, and is on sale at philatelic sales counters and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh. Alternatively, it may be obtained direct from BBP Publications Ltd, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 6TB, or 22-28 High Street, HYTHE CT21 5AT, Kent.

Forthcoming Events

Welsh Philatelic Society

The Welsh Philatelic Society will hold its November 1983 meeting in Shrewsbury on Saturday 26 in conjunction with the Shropshire Philatelic Society and the Shropshire Postal History Society.

The venue will be the Grapes Hotel on the Welshpool Road into Shrewsbury to commence at 1.30pm until 4.30pm.

There will be three displays, one of which will be 'WORLDWIDE DRAGONS' presented by the Rev R W Hughes.

Further particulars are available from Mr D G H Salt, 7 Woodbank Drive, Porthill, SHREWSBURY, SY3 8RH (phone 0743 4061).

South of England Fairs

A stamp, coin and postcard fair will take place on Saturday 26 November 1983 at the Assembly Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The Post Office will provide a philatelic display and sales counter.

The cost of admission is 30p, children under 14 20p. Refreshments will be available.

Forces Covers

Royal Air Force

The rare occurrence of the first flight of a British aircraft has been marked by the issue of a commemorative cover RAF(AC)7 in the current RAF Museum co-ordinated series.

The Trago Mills SAH 1, piloted by Air Vice Marshal G Cairns made its first flight from Bodmin Airfield on 23 August 1983 carrying covers bearing the 'Information Technology' 26p stamp cancelled by the special handstamp BFPS 1000.

The covers have been overprinted with the test flight details, and signed by the test pilot. They are available at the inclusive cost of £3.00 from The Director of Appeals, Royal Air Force Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL.

All proceeds from the sale of these covers will go to the Bomber Command Museum Appeal Fund.

Commemorative Covers

St Bartholomew's Fair

The special issue on 5 October commemorated the 850th anniversary of St Bartholomew's Fair which was held in Smithfield just outside the gateway of the Priory Church of Saint Bartholomew-the-Great. This magnificent Church, founded in 1123, the oldest Parish Church in the City of London, is famous as an outstanding example of Norman Architecture and has a fine musical tradition.

On 5 October a limited quantity of 500 special covers addressed to the Rector were posted in a special posting box at the church. They have all four of the 'British Fairs' stamps affixed and the envelopes illustrate a coloured reproduction of a print of St Bartholomew's Fair. The covers were cancelled with a special handstamp showing the coat of arms granted to the Priory Church by King Henry I, and are signed by the Rector of St Bartholomew-the-Great. Orders by post with remittances of £4.25 inc p and p should be sent to The Bookstall, St Bartholomew-the-Great, Cloth Fair, LONDON EC1A 7JQ.

Key Theatre's Commemorative Cover

Peterborough's Key Theatre — Britain's liveliest and friendliest theatre — which opened on 23 November 1973 is producing a commemorative cover to coincide with its 10th birthday. The cover, bearing a 15½p 'British Theatre' stamp cancelled with a special handstamp on the birthday, depicts a line drawing of the theatre beside the River Nene. All covers will be signed by Tony Clayton, the artistic director. The cost of the covers is £1 each and they will be sent through normal postal channels unless an additional 25p is included for return packaging and postage. A limited number of covers will also be signed by famous stars who have appeared at the theatre, price £2 each. Orders made payable to the 'Key Theatre' should be sent to 'Birthday Covers', Key Theatre, Embankment Road, PETERBOROUGH PE1 1EF.

RJ Mitchell Aircraft Museum Appeal

In conjunction with the R J Mitchell Museum building appeal, a philatelic cover is now available. It

commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Great Britain winning the Schneider Trophy Seaplane Race in the Super Marine 56B, designed by Mitchell, from which the famous Spitfire was developed.

The covers were flown over the original course in a Super Marine 56B replica, and cancelled with a pictorial handstamp dated 15 September 1983. The cost is £2.75 each or £5.75 for three. Part of the profit from sales will be donated to the appeal.

Orders with remittances should be sent to: G K Eldridge, 29 Chalk Hill, West End, SOUTHAMPTON, SO3 3BY.

Naming of Locomotive 'Croydon'

On 15 September 1983, the Mayor of Croydon named a BR class 73 Electric Locomotive 'Croydon'. To commemorate the event, a philatelic cover is now available with a 15½p definitive stamp affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp featuring a Class 73 Loco. The cost is £1.25 including return postage and packing. Orders with remittance to: Design Encounter, PO Box 120, CROYDON, Surrey, CR9 6AX.

National Association of British Market Authorities

NABMA is a local or public authority specialising in marketing, and a philatelic cover has been produced on its behalf. Bearing a 31p 'British Fairs' stamp the cost is £1.60. With a complete set of 'British Fairs' stamps the charge is £3. In addition, the cover with the 31p stamp only affixed and signed by the President of NABMA, Councillor S A Banting JP, member of Birmingham City Council, the cost is £3.30. The covers are cancelled with a special handstamp and costs include return postage and packing. Orders with remittances to: Design Encounter, PO Box 210, CROYDON, Surrey, CR9 6AX.

Fairfield Croydon

Fairfields Halls was opened in 1962 on the site of Croydon Fair which was held there between 1588-1868. A philatelic cover is currently available, featuring the fair taken from a watercolour dated 1833. Bearing the 16p 'British Fairs' stamp the price is £1.50. With all four 'British Fairs' stamped affixed, the charge is £3. The charges include return postage and packing and the covers are cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting the frontage of Fairfields Halls. Orders with remittances to 'Fairfield Croydon', Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, CROYDON, Surrey, CR9 1DG.

Norwich Cathedral

Again this year Norwich Cathedral will offer a limited issue commemorative cover with Christmas

Card insert. Both will illustrate the Cathedral.

The covers will be serviced with the Christmas stamps on 16 November 1983, cancelled by the Norwich FDI handstamp. A Seasonal Greetings Cachet will also be applied.

Serviced covers bearing the full set of stamps cost £2.25 each.

Those bearing one stamp only, cost 60p each. Post and packing is extra at 25p per order inland, and 50p overseas.

Contributions from sales will go towards the work of the Cathedral.

Orders with remittance made payable to 'Cathedral FDC' should be sent to PO Box 67, NORWICH, Norfolk NR3 4HR.

The Minster Gatehouse Isle of Sheppey

Hawkwood Stamps will offer on 16 November a cover commemorating The 50th Anniversary of the Rededication of the Minster Gatehouse, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. It will illustrate the Gatehouse, taken from an old colour print. All five Christmas stamps will be affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp also depicting the Gatehouse.

The cost is £3.50 including postage and packing.

Orders with remittances should be sent to, Hawkwood Stamps, Freepost, LONDON, E4 7BR.

Birth of Samuel Pepys

To commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Birth of Samuel Pepys, a philatelic cover is currently available bearing the 'British Fairs' stamps. The cover depicts a pen and ink drawing of Pepys Library, Magdalene College, Cambridge.

With a 16p stamp affixed the cost per cover is £1.25. Bearing a full set of 'British Fairs' stamps the cost is £3.25. With a full set of gutter pairs the charge is £4.25. All covers were cancelled on 5 October 1983 with a special pictorial handstamp, and the prices include return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to 'University Covers' should be sent to: B A Downham, 70 Metcalfe Road, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 2DD.

'Leathermark' Commemorative Cover

The Northampton leather merchants, G L Michel & Sons Ltd, will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the company in 1858 with the issue of a commemorative cover. Bearing a 16p 'British Fairs' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, the cover is available for £2. For despatch in a protective envelope, 20p should be added to order for 1-5 covers and for 6 or more covers a single handling fee of £1 should be added. All profits from sales will be donated to the 'Leather and Hide Traders' Benevolent Institution'.

Orders with remittances made payable to: 'G L Michel & Sons Ltd — Leather Benevolent A/c' should be sent to: G L Michel & Sons Ltd, 1 Purser Road, NORTHAMPTON NN1 4RG.

A special posting box will be sited at the philatelic counter, St Giles Street Post Office, NORTHAMPTON. Reposting facilities for the handstamp will be available through: The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, 55 Barrack Road, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 1AA, marking the outer envelope, 'G L Michel & Sons Ltd, special handstamp'.

Nasareth North Wales

A special commemorative cover will be available on 16 November coinciding with the issue of the five Christmas stamps. The covers will be cancelled at Nasareth in North Wales with a special handstamp depicting doves of peace, and the cost is £3.50 each. Remittances made payable to A G Bradbury, should be sent to him at 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6JF.

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