

September 1994



Royal Mail

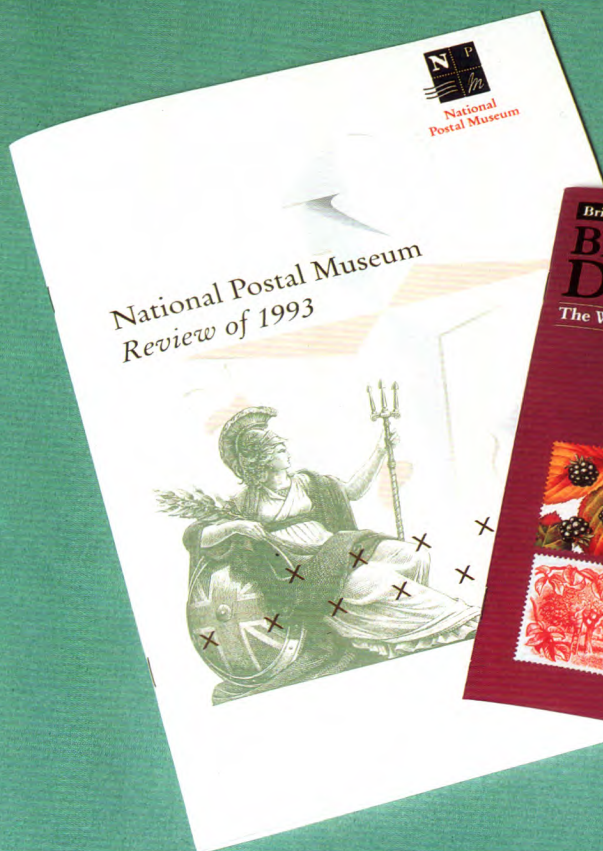
British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 32. No: 1 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 75p



New Museum Postcards

Royal Mail Publications for Serious Philatelists



The National Postal Museum's *Review of 1993*, edited by Douglas Muir, provides a well-illustrated account of recent research and development of the NPM's many and varied collections. It includes specialist articles on Machin research, the 1965 Lister issue and on "Stamp Reform 1964-67". Reports on Post Office Archives, Friends of the Museum. Price £5.

In *British Stamp Design 1993* James Negus records the work of Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee in selecting the designs for the 1993 special issues, greetings stamps and £10 definitive. Many of the unadopted designs are illustrated.

Compelling reading for all interested in stamp design. Price £4.99. (No. 2 in British Philatelic Bulletin Publications series).



Royal Mail

Available from: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

British Philatelic Bulletin

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EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

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Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin** giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, Rest of World £21.75.

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New Museum postcards
(see page 6).

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The development of Victorian postal stationery 12

First in six-part series in which Colin Baker explains the fascination of this popular collecting area



Royal Mail News

1995 Stamp Book Programme

Preliminary information can now be given of next year's programme. Any changes will be notified in future issues of this magazine.

New 50p and £1 vended books will be issued during January, starting a new cover series. This will be the last series of 50p books. The 1995 Greetings book containing stamps featuring animals will go on sale on 31 January.

Further machine-vended books will follow in April, with the 1995 prestige stamp book, marking the centenary of the National Trust, issued on 25 April. This book will contain one pane from the National Trust special stamps which go on sale earlier in the month.

May's releases will be a £1 vended book commemorating Reginald Joseph Mitchell (1895-1937), designer of the Spitfire. Mitchell will also be honoured with a 4 x 1st class book with commemorative label, following the success of the Bank of England issue of July 1994.

1995 promises to be an interesting year for collectors of stamp books and the stamps therefrom.

New Machine-Vended Books

Three new books – 50p, £1 and £2 – go on philatelic sale from 6 September 1994. The 50p and £1 books complete the "Coaching Inns" and "Prime Ministers" cover designs series; the £2 book features No 3 in the "Postal Vehicles" series. These books will be available initially only from the Bureau and 35 Post Office philatelic outlets. They will be available from machines at post offices and other retail outlets as supplies of earlier books are used up. No new stamps are involved – all contain 25p definitives, printed in photogravure by Harrisons on Advanced Coated Paper, with elliptical perforations on left and right side margins.

The design of the 50p book features the famous "Pheasant Inn" at Winterslow, near Salisbury where, in October 1816 the Exeter Mail Coach was attacked by a lioness which had escaped from a travelling menagerie. A contemporary report in the *Bristol Journal* stated:

"It appears that the beast had escaped from a caravan that was standing on the road side, belonging to the proprietors of a menagerie on their way to Salisbury Fair... At the moment when the coachman pulled up one of the leaders (horses) was suddenly seized by a ferocious animal. This produced a great confusion and alarm. Two passengers that were inside the coach got out, ran into the house, and locked themselves in..." The newspaper reported that "The horse, when first attacked, fought with great spirit, and if at liberty, would probably have beaten down his antagonist with his fore feet, but in plunging he embarrassed himself in the harness." The account goes on to say that the horse was not expected to survive as it was seriously mutilated but survive it did and continued its career on the roads for many years. One report states that the horse and the lioness appeared together in a touring exhibition. The incident was depicted in an engraving by R Havell, in 1817 and this was reproduced on a postcard issued by the South Western Postal Region in 1973, and on the second in the strip of five Royal Mail (mail coach) stamps issued in July 1984 to mark the bicentenary of the first (Bristol-London) mail coach service. Both



stamp and postcard are shown here – many *Bulletin* readers will no doubt have them in their collections.

The new £1 book features Clement Attlee (1883-1967), one of our quietest, but busiest Prime Ministers this century. Attlee was born in Putney, London and educated at Haileybury and Oxford. Early on he developed an interest in social problems and the works of John Ruskin and William Morris are said to have converted him to socialism. He became a lecturer at the London School of Economics in 1913 and was wounded in the First World War. In 1919 he became Mayor of Stepney and three years later entered Parliament. In Ramsey MacDonald's Labour government, Attlee served as Under

class) and 10 x 25p (1st class) Christmas stamps. Further details will be announced in next month's *Bulletin*.

Supplies of the two 1993 Christmas books are still available from the Bureau, price £3.80 (20 x 19p) and £2.50 (10 x 25p). These books will be withdrawn from sale on 8 November 1994

Prince of Wales Paintings Exhibitions

Readers are reminded that the exhibition of paintings by HRH The Prince of Wales will shortly be closing. The exhibition, sponsored by Royal Mail, can be seen at the Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow until 4 September. Admission £1.50, children under 11 free.

Five stamps reproducing paintings by Prince Charles were issued on 1 March 1994 and are still available from the Bureau and Post Office philatelic outlets. Also still on sale are the presentation pack (£1.85) and the stamp cards (£1.25 set of five cards). The souvenir book reproducing the Prince's paintings and including a set of the stamps is still available from the Bureau, price £25.

NPM Postcards

Shown on the cover are the four NPM Postal Uniforms postcards, issued on 2 August. The NPM reference codes and descriptions are:

NPM94/10 – Mail cart driver, c.1903, with felt "bowler" style hat

NPM94/11 – London postman, c.1905, with good conduct stripe

NMP94/12 – Postwoman, c.1915 with shako (cap). The officer's number, SE24, can be seen on the coat collar

NPM94/13 – Postwoman, c.1940, with "girl guide" style hat, delivering mail in London

The cards are available, 25p each, to callers at the Museum shop, or £1 per set by mail order from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Also still available from the Bureau are sets of the Museum cards issued on 11 January and 6 May 1994. The January set (ref. NPM94/1-4) feature Valentine cards (£1 per set), the May set (94/5-9) reproduce colourful Correct Addressing posters (£1.25 per set).

The Museum's shop stocks a wide range of postcards (produced by the NPM and other





publishers), books and models of interest to philatelists and postal historians. The Museum, located in King Edward Street, London EC1 is open Monday-Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm, admission free. King Edward Street is just a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station.

On show in the Museum's galleries are selected items from the famous R M Phillips Collection of British 19th century stamps, the UPU Collection of stamps from around the world, and the Post Office's own reference collection of British stamps. Also on display are historic letter boxes, model postal vehicles and pages from the stamp collection of the late Freddie Mercury. The current special exhibition looks at postal addressing from the 17th century to the present, with a glimpse into the future. This exhibition is on display until next April.

Readers interested in the work of the Museum are reminded that the NPM produces an interesting and well-illustrated annual report. The *Review* of 1993 is now available, price £5. It can be obtained at the Museum shop, or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. See June *Bulletin* (page 285) for further details.

New edition of Royal Mail Postmarking Guide

A new edition of the *Royal Mail Postmarking Guide* has recently been published. This attractive 20-page booklet will answer most of the questions collectors are likely to ask: what postage stamps are valid for prepayment of postage?, can postmarks be used to cancel stamps which are not affixed to items of mail?, does the envelope on which I have affixed stamps have to be plain or can it have a design printed on it?, what different types of philatelic handstamp do Royal Mail provide?, etc., etc. An example of each type of postmark is illustrated, both "operational" (counter date stamp, parcel post cancel, machine cancel, packet datestamp), and "philatelic" ("First Day of Issue", sponsored, philatelic counter/tourist).

Perhaps the most-asked question is "how do I find out when and where postmarks are available?". The answer is given – details of forthcoming postmarks (special handstamps and slogans) are published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, the Royal Mail's fortnightly magazine for postmark collectors. The *Postmark Bulletin* is essential for first day cover collectors seeking

interesting postmarks – there were over 30 special handstamps for the recent D-Day stamps. *The Postmark Bulletin* is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. Annual subscription is £10 UK/European Union countries, £20.75 rest of world (airmail). A sample copy can be obtained by writing to the Bureau or from: Room G06, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL

Amongst the much useful information in the new *Postmarking Guide* are the addresses of Royal Mail's seven Special Handstamp Centres, the Hon Secretary of the British Postmark Society, the British Philatelic Bureau, National Postal Museum, and Post Office Archives. Postmark collectors will welcome having all the information published in one handy, compact, publication.

The *Guide* is free. UK collectors may obtain a copy by sending a stamped self-addressed A5-size envelope to their nearest Special Handstamp Centre (addresses below). Overseas collectors should send a self-addressed A5 envelope and international reply coupon to: Kris Menon, Postmark Manager, Room G06, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL.

Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail
KEB
LONDON EC1A 1AA

London South Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

Wales & West Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail
220 Penarth Road
CARDIFF CF1 1AA

Midland Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail
BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA

South East Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail
15 Wexham Road
SLOUGH SL1 1AA

Northern England Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail
Forth Street
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE1 1AA

Scotland/N Ireland Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail
George Square
GLASGOW G2 1AA

Medical Discoveries – Cylinders & Colours

The cylinders and colours used were the same for all values, viz: 1A (greenish yellow) 1B (bright magenta) 1C (new blue) 1D (black) 1E (silver)

Youth Lead The World

The United States Postal Service were so impressed with the re-launch and re-positioning of Royal Mail Collectors Club that they invited Julietta Edgar – Youth Marketing Manager – to Washington DC to advise them on their own youth programme!

Over a two week period Julietta advised the Americans on: the most appropriate package for their junior stamp club; the marketing activities for their National Stamp Month; identified merchandising opportunities arising out of a national stamp design competition; and promoting stamps and letter writing through schools.

The visit provided an ideal opportunity to compare notes with the American stamp programme and finally get to the bottom of the "Elvis stamp" legend! The USPS are interested in capitalising on this opportunity by sending one of their employees to work with the Royal Mail's consumer services team and hopefully develop an ongoing exchange.

This is not the first time that an overseas postal administration has sought our assistance in developing their youth or stamp related programmes. We have advised a number of European countries and, more recently, helped New Zealand who are looking at setting up their own children's club.

Definitive Variations

Further to the notes in June (page 303) and August (p. 343) on the changes to marginal perforations on Enschedé-printed definitives, specialist collectors may like to know that sheets of the 20p and 50p values have now been produced and will be going into general distribution.

The new printing of the £5 definitive, mentioned in June (page 303), was delivered during August and will be going into general distribution shortly. There will be no first day of availability from philatelic outlets. We hope to illustrate the new printing in next month's *Bulletin*.

Christmas Aerogramme

Illustrated by Jenny Tylden-Wright
Printed by McComagill & Partners Limited
for the British Post Office

© Jenny Tylden-Wright

By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme



1 Great Britain
Postage



TO THE POST OFFICE

Sender's name and address please show postcode

Postcode

An aerogramme should not contain
any enclosure, photograph, or other
surcharge or sent by ordinary mail

Christmas 1994



Illustrated by Jenny Tylden-Wright
Printed by McComagill & Partners Limited
for the British Post Office

© Jenny Tylden-Wright



The 1994 Christmas aerogramme will go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and 35 Post Office philatelic outlets on 4 October, price 45p. Designed by Jenny Tylden-Wright, the aerogramme features an interpretation of the story of the Three Kings.

The 1993 Christmas aerogramme is still available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets, price 45p. It will be withdrawn from sale on 4 October 1994. Christmas aerogrammes were introduced in 1965 – a listing was published in the Bulletin in November 1991 (page 54)

Stamp Scene

Picture Postcard Exhibition

Readers are reminded that the exhibition marking the centenary of picture postcards is being held at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, London SW1 until 3 September. Open 11am to 8pm 1 & 2 September, 11am to 6pm 3 September. The exhibition will include some 130 stands of top British and overseas postcard dealers.

Details of postcard fairs and centenary events can be found in *Picture Postcard Monthly*, published from 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, NOTTINGHAM NG12 5HT. Price £1.70; annual UK subscription £20. The July issue of this interesting magazine includes articles on postcards featuring Scarborough, Theodore Botrel, the Bard of Brittany (1868-1925), the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Gilbert & Sullivan, Adam & Eve, etc. There are book reviews, reports of new postcards and a guide to postcard shopping in Chester news on modby

THE 1994 / 1995 UK STAMP SHOPS DIRECTORY



Stamp Shops Directory

The 1994/1995 *UK Stamp Shops Directory* was launched on 1 July 1994 – the first edition of what will hopefully become an annual publication.

The directory features over 240 shops throughout the country, with detailed profiles on almost 100. "The aim", says Editor Robert Burgess, a keen collector for over 20 years, "was to highlight the many small one-man outlets who do so much to keep our hobby alive."

Keen collectors will be able to use the directory to pin-point places to visit when on holiday or days out. The shop profiles allow the reader to discover which outlets specialise in their particular field of interest. Opening hours, telephone numbers, directions and other stock lines have also been included where available.

Copies of the *Directory* are available direct from the publishers – Success Publications, 1 Middlefield Road, ROTHERHAM S. Yorkshire, S60 3JH – for £4.99 plus 50p postage.

Association of British Philatelic Societies

The third issue of *ABPS News* has recently been published which contains a report of the first meeting of the Council of the new Association, held at Sutton Coldfield on 7 May 1994.

The first business was to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman – Brian Asquith and Tom Poynton respectively.

Mr Asquith's philatelic activities include being President of the British Aerophilatelic Federation, of which he was the founder Chairman. He was also the Founder of the Concorde Study Circle in 1978. Brian was the Chairman of EUR-APEX '93 and is currently President of the London & Provincial Philatelic Society.

He has written extensively and received a Gold Medal from the American Air Mail Society for *The Concorde Collectors Handbook* in 1981. His other awards include the International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies (FISA) Gold Pin for services to aerophilately, the BPF Award of Merit, the BAeF Gold Medal and the Canadian Air Mail Society Award.

Tom Poynton has been a collector from a very early age. During his working career he held a position with a firm of export merchants and was able to travel widely which proved a great asset to his collecting. His knowledge of languages, Spanish and Portuguese, was to prove extremely useful to him as his first love is with the philately of Portugal and her Colonies.

Also included in *ABPS News* are details of MIDPEX 1995 – an exhibition for national/specialist societies (Coventry, June 1995), society reports, and a postal history feature, "The Russian Empire goes to War" by Leonard Tann.

The Association intends publishing a *Yearbook* early next year – details will be given here as soon as possible. Readers interested in joining the ABPS are referred to “Stamp Scene” in the June *Bulletin* (page 295).

First Day Cover Collectors Association

There must be tens of thousands of us all over England – fascinated by the absorbing and beautiful hobby of collecting commemorative stamps on specially printed envelopes franked with special handstamps and slogans.

As yet, we have no way of getting in touch with each other, so it is proposed to start a club to be called ABCFDC – Association of British Commemorative First Day Cover Collectors. We could have a regular newsletter, and meetings in suitable locations in the UK depending on membership distribution.

If you are interested, please write, bearing in mind that there will have to be an annual membership fee to cover stationery costs and the cost of a newsletter. All enquiries to: ABCFDC, 102 Regal Way, HARROW, Middlesex, HA3 0RY.

Stamp 1995 Exhibition

Experienced exhibition organisers – Tomorrows World Exhibitions – has announced plans to stage a new stamp exhibition here in the UK.

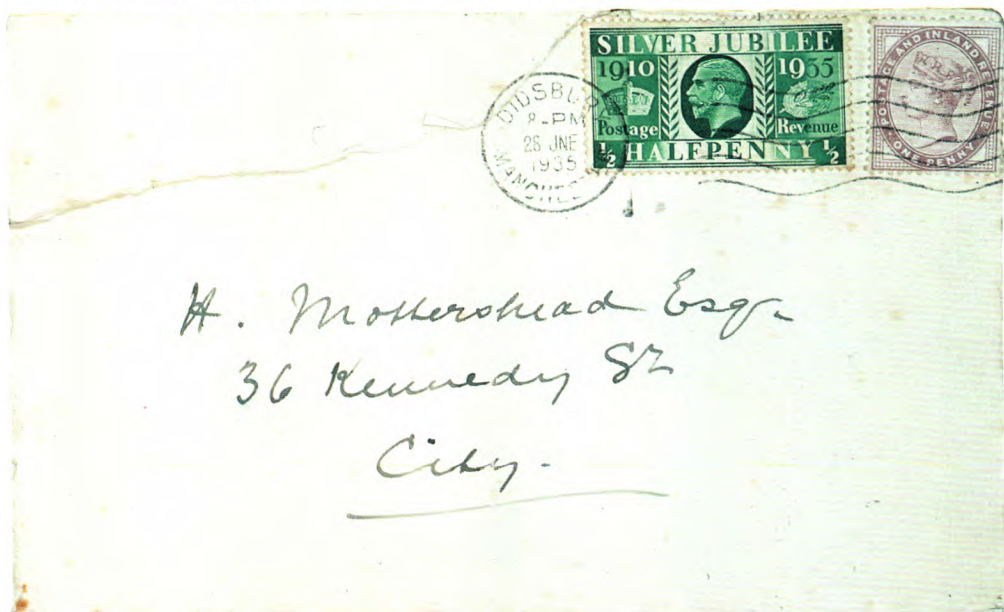
Stamp '95 will take place next April at one of the country's premier venues – Wembley Exhibition Centre. Tomorrows World have already received support from numerous

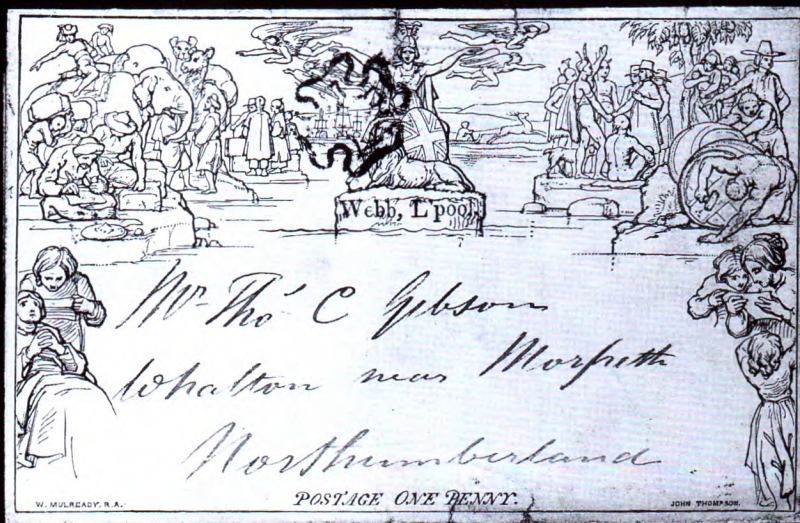
organisations including Royal Mail and Stanley Gibbons, who are officially supporting the event. Devised to raise the profile of the hobby and the stamp trade in general, Stamp '95 will not only be aiming to attract thousands of dedicated enthusiasts from around the world, but will also be actively targeting new and potential collectors and children, to show them the pleasures of the hobby.

Exhibitors from all areas of the UK and the international stamp trade will be actively encouraged to participate. Talks with representatives from postal authorities, dealers, auctioneers, publishing houses, accessory suppliers, clubs and societies have indicated that all these areas of the marketplace will be represented at Stamp '95. Enquiries to: Tomorrows World Exhibitions Limited, PO Box 77, Westbury-on-Trym, BRISTOL BS9 1AZ, Tel. 0275-464422.

Cover Corner

F Buerdsell of Lancashire has submitted an interesting cover. He writes: “Much is made nowadays of First Day Covers. I enclose a cover bearing an 1881 1d lilac which I think must be one of the latest (if not *the* latest) occasions on which this stamp was used to pay postage and not be surcharged. It was received by my employer, a Manchester solicitor, in the normal course of business.”





Britain's Largest Stamp

It is often said that Rowland Hill favoured postal stationery rather than stamps for the prepayment of mail and certainly at the beginning of May 1840 there were huge numbers of envelopes and lettersheets available for sale to the public throughout the British Isles, whereas the printing of the Penny Black and Twopence Blue stamps had only just begun, their availability and distribution being very erratic at first.

Mulready's poetic design for the first issue of postal stationery, quickly rejected by the public even before it became valid for postage.

The Uniform Penny Post was brought into being in a great hurry and it was not until late in 1839 that a prominent Irish artist, William Mulready, RA, was asked to design the new stamped stationery. Mulready's design showed Britannia sending winged messengers to all corners of the empire, below which were scenes of the letters they conveyed being eagerly read.

Only minor changes were made to Mulready's design before it was approved early in 1840.

Mulready's final drawing was given to John Thompson to engrave onto a brass plate from which the printing formes would be produced. When this had reached a satisfactory state, the value, other markings and side tablets for the lettersheets were added and the huge printing order was set in motion.

Despite the message that Mulready had tried to convey through his poetic design, it was far too ornate and fussy for the 19th century public. From 2 May 1840, the day after the stationery was first put on sale, the national press ridiculed the design to such an extent that many people refused to use the new envelopes and lettersheets, preferring instead the more simple

1d and 2d stamps with their neat design and clean lines.

The PO considered that the whole of Mulready's design was the stamp and it must rank as one of the world's largest, covering as it did the whole of the envelope front. Even the PO had to issue special instructions to staff indicating where to strike it, favouring that Britannia should receive the cancelling mark. Because of the size of the design the PO was concerned that if the stamp were cancelled in any position other than on Britannia the cancellation could be covered with a label and the item reused.

Many 1d lettersheets were printed on the inside with a variety of advertisements.

THE MILTON PRESS PRINTING ESTABLISHMENTS,
CHANDOS STREET, STRAND, AND SLOANE SQUARE, CHELSEA.

[The Principal would impress upon the Public to notice that he has no connexion, direct or indirect, with any other office.]

S & 9, CHANDOS STREET, STRAND. AND 35, SLOANE SQUARE, CHELSEA.

It is especially terms of a public who leaves on state, referred to being himself into liability by advertisement. That the name is misapplied. The name of business standing integrity with all its actions, is justified in the adoption of every honest and public end. The name strictly adheres to him who adheres to it, to deceive, and when you apply for the article, misnamed, tricky and fabricated, is resorted to, instead of the real thing. But understanding such characters should, it were a folly to question the genuineness of a good sovereign because some base coin is found in the land.

JOHN NICHOLS.

The great evil of society in the present day is, that low sight of principle, and take up with party. Let us for a moment look at our House of Commons, we shall see three parties, with leaders each; whatever they say or do, their parties applaud, their numbers approve. Until this state of things is altered, England will never be at rest. Let our senators sink their minor differences, and rise in one common cause for the welfare of our country, and England will soon be, as she ought to be, pre-eminent in the scale of nations. I avoid being of a party only, as you would be the pestilence that walketh in darkness.

JOHN NICHOLS.

This above is a view of the Central Office, Chandos Street, Strand.

LETTER-PRESS.

In this department no list of prices can be furnished, owing to the orders ever varying. Numerous fonts of type enable the Principal to execute all manner of work with that despatch usually required by the Press; while the endless variety of Ornamental Type affords occasion for that elegance to which the art has of late years arrived.

Estimates furnished; and Gentlemen engaged on Committees for charitable purposes will find it much to the interests of their respective societies to permit the Principal of the Milton Press Establishment to send an estimate. The largest Printing Bills West of London.

LITHOGRAPHY.

This is executed on the Establishment: first-rate Artists being engaged, the Principal is enabled to materially reduce the price of this commercial style of Printing, and at the same time produce work that will vie with the most elegant contemporary; and he is observed that the Milton Press is the only Establishment known in this great metropolis where all the various branches of Printing are executed on one range of premises. Others take it in, and put it out, and therefore are necessitated to increase the charge to compensate for time. An elegant assortment of splendid borders for Show Cards drawn on Stone by eminent Artists—the interior printed in Letter Press. Maps, Plans, Rail-Road Lines, Prints (both in steel and ink), Circuses, &c., &c. The Principal has discovered a process of transferring impressions from Copper Plates to Stone, so as to preserve the beauty of the Engraving; and by multiplying the transfers, an immense saving is realized when the number required is considerable.

1000 Circular Letters, Large Post, £3 usually charged £4 6s.
Paper, written in a fine hand. £2 " £4 4s.
1000 ditto, Letter size " £2 " £4 4s.

Circulars corrected and written without charge.

ENGRAVING.

Bankers' Checks, Bills of Fare, Shop and Address Cards, Book and Chemical Labels, &c. all materially reduced prices. Arms Armed and Engraved, without any charge made for securing the Her Majesty's Coat.

Seals Engraved in the most splendid styles.

The detail of what might you consider by a judicious order you may arrive at results. The history of Biography furnishes numerous instances of men who had such amongst nobility, that were once in the role of poverty.

COPPER-PLATE.

The following list of prices will at once convince the most sceptical of the important fact, that CHEAPNESS with ELEGANCE are rigidly adhered unto at the above Establishment:

500 Trademark's Shop Cards 7s. 6d. usually charged 12s. 6d.	
500 Extra Superior ditto 10s. 6d. " 15s. 6d.	
1,000 Post free, London 12s. 6d. " 20s. 6d.	
A Name Plate elegantly engraved and 100 Cards 4s. 6d. " 2s. to 6s. 6d.	
100 Enamelled or Gilded Cards 2s. 6d. " 7s. 6d.	
100 Lady's or Gentlemen's Address Cards 2s. 6d. " 2s. 6d.	

The Presses used are HORSKISS'S improved with Steel Rollers; and to avoid the dust arising from charcoal fire or gas flow, Mr. EDWARDS, of Poland Street, has been employed, at an immense expense, in fitting up a Warm Water Apparatus.

Should you employ a Stationer to print for you, you can ensure the same superior work and low charges (for the Stationer's per centage is not inflicted upon) by sending orders when you give your order. Do you employ the MILTON PRESS to print for you?

Partly printed in stone, and if you do not connect the seal spreading of your rough the day you had better have them in the hands of the printer. Do not waste your capital. How many have paid to reflect on what they have done, and what they might have done better.

Despite their lack of popularity, the lettersheets received a new lease of life less than two weeks after they were first released. It is not known who thought of the idea first, but many of the 1d lettersheets and some of the 2d values were printed with advertisements on their reverse sides. These advertisements fall into two groups, those promoting firms such as insurance and manufacturing companies who printed and used the lettersheets themselves and those containing a collection of small adverts, the income from which enabled the publisher to sell the lettersheets at less than face value (often between 8d or 10d a dozen) but still making a profit for himself.

There are over 300 different advertisements and other designs known to have been printed on the reverse of the Mulready stationery, some being fairly common, while only one or two copies of others may exist today. In the majority of cases it was the 1d lettersheets which were used in this way, although some 2d lettersheets and occasionally one or two envelopes were also printed in a similar fashion. All of these additional printings make a fascinating study in their own right and give us a glimpse into the history of that period. However this reprieve and substantial price reduction failed to regain popularity for the Mulready stationery and in the end huge stocks were destroyed, so great was the task that the Post Office had to construct a special machine for the purpose.

The Victorians were extremely concerned that their envelopes and lettersheets would be forged. During the initial design stage early in 1840 it was originally intended that watermarked paper would be used for printing both the envelopes and lettersheets, but when prices were sought from various paper manufacturers in February of that year, the lowest quotation was submitted by John Dickinson, not for paper with a watermark but for one with silk threads laid in the paper itself.

Dickinson had invented the process and owned the patent for making silk thread paper. It was manufactured in a continuous sheet on machines kept secure behind locked doors, guarded night and day and worked by carefully selected and trusted operators. Silk thread paper had proved itself for a number of years previously, having been used for government bonds and legal papers, and with this kind of pedigree it was accepted in lieu of the more

The plan of this work is to sell the Envelopes at 8d. per dozen to Advertisers, and to the Public at 10d. Every Advertiser shall be at liberty to draw (if he pleases) after the rate of one dozen stamps for every line of his advertisement, by which the circulation will be, in a great measure, in their own hands. Nevertheless, the Proprietors will sell to the public the whole, should the advertiser not require them. It is hardly necessary to say, from the great reduction in price that will be immediately made up by the sale of the Public, and the edition being 5000, added to its novelty, offers a medium for publicity hitherto unprecedented; and means will be used for each advertiser so see that that number is really printed.

Ease and Comfort in Shaving.

MESSRS. B. and S. COWMAN have now completed their invaluable **QUADRILATERAL CHINESE RAZOR SHARPENER**, the use of which renders the operation of shaving no longer painful to the most tender skin. By a very simple process the keenest edge may be speedily given to the bluntest razor or penknife. To be had wholesale, of the Proprietors, B. and S. Cowman, No. 164, Fenchurch-lane, London, E.C. 3, and all respectable perfumers &c., in the United Kingdom, price 5s. 6d., 7s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. Also may be had, Cowman's Canton Razor Strop Paste, at 6d., 1s., and 2s. per packet.

TO THE LADIES!—The following Articles for the Toilette have elicited General Commendation, and are confidently submitted to the Patronage of the Public as possessing a decided Excellence in their effects and appearance.

PROUT'S INDIAN RUBBER STICKING PLASTER, which does not wash off. Embracing the advantages of being waterproof and flexible, whilst the superiority of its manufacture must render it a general favourite over the old and exploded Court Plaster, which it bids fair entirely to supersede. From its peculiar flexibility it sticks firm and close on joints and other places where the Original is used, and it is so elastic that it may be removed and re-applied on the hands and face without renewal for several days; it is characterized by extreme tenacity of adhesion, which prevents the liability of its being washed off.

WITHERS' SICILIAN BLOOM, of Youth and Beauty, or impalpable Vegetable Powder, for improving the complexion, is recommended to the Ladies with the utmost degree of confidence, as the most exquisite production in the universe for beautifying the skin, without the possibility of the slightest injury; it is a peculiarly elegant preparation from the beautiful Azalea (a Shrub indigenous to

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NEW LABEL. The great variety of Counterfeit Wrappers of ACASSAR OIL now in circulation, and which original as frequently to deceive the unwary, render a sense of duty, and regardless of expense in our object—the protection of the public from fraud.

Typical private advertisements in general advertising lettersheets.

expensive watermarked paper. However modern research has shown these threads not to be silk but to be coloured yarn, although the name “silk thread paper” is unlikely to change now.

The Future

The rejection by the public of the Mulready design may have slowed down the initial acceptance of postal stationery but it did not prevent its future development in all aspects of the postal service, nor did it discourage the later extensive use of all types of prestamped material.

The remaining articles in this series will show that the continuing development and extensive use of Victorian postal stationery was probably as important to the development of the postal service in this country, with the benefits that it brought to the ordinary citizen, as was the earlier introduction of the Uniform Penny Post in 1840.

To be continued.

© Colin Baker 1994.

Out of the Arc . . .

Curiosities from the Post Office Archives

5. Anthony Trollope's Signature Stamp and Writing Slope

The famous novelist Anthony Trollope is perhaps less well known for his long and successful career with the Post Office. Indeed, many of his most famous works were written during this time, with the places he visited and the people he met providing the inspiration for many of them.

His career began in 1834 when he took the post of Junior Clerk in the Secretary's Office. In 1841 he successfully applied for the newly created position of Surveyor's Clerk in Ireland. His main role was the investigation of complaints made by the public and one of his first jobs was to balance the accounts of a defaulting Postmaster.

In 1851 he became involved in a review of the postal services in Jersey, with one of his main recommendations being the introduction of roadside posting boxes such as those already in existence in France. This proposal was taken up in 1852 with the erection of four such boxes in St Helier, the rest as they say is history.

In 1854, after contributing to a revision of the rural posts in Hereford, he was promoted to Surveyor and returned to Ireland. This was a

Trollope's writing slope



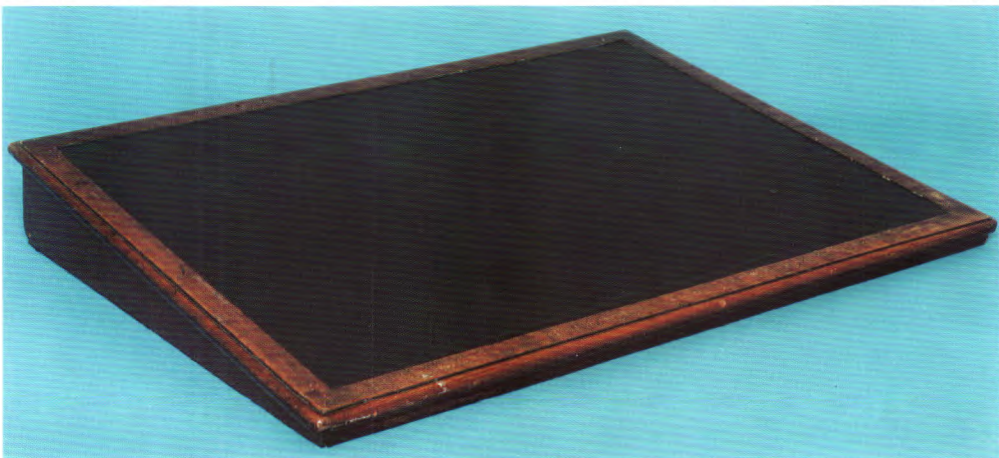
Trollope's Signature Stamp

role that Trollope excelled in, having a virtually free role in the review and establishing of postal routes, services, etc. Following on from his successful period in Ireland, Trollope was appointed Surveyor of the Eastern District of England.

So successful was he in all of these roles that in 1858 he was selected to negotiate a treaty for the conveyance of mails with Egypt, this he was able to achieve within two months. On his return from Egypt he was asked to carry out a review of the Glasgow Post Office and then carry out a similar role in the West Indies.

There then followed a number of similar roles until his retirement in 1867 after thirty-three years of unequalled service.

Frank O'Neill, Assistant Information Manager



Anthony Trollope



Anthony Trollope (1815-82)

Look before you lick!

MATTHEW P HINTON

2. Redrawn Country Emblems

Two distinct variations exist of the emblems in the top left-hand corner of decimal country stamps. In this article, I shall outline the variations and show how to distinguish between them as well as pointing out some other features worth looking for:

Northern Ireland

Type 1: The original emblem included a white crown upon a screened background. Each pearl was separate from its neighbour and the crown did not have a “sharp” outline. The 20½p, 22p (yellowish green), 26p and 31p, however, had solid backgrounds.

Type 2: The design is much clearer but the three pearls at the left are joined.

Scotland

Type 1: The lion's eye and mouth are wide open and the eye is not joined by any lines to the outside of the face. There is a vertical line

beneath the top of the right leg and the body.

Type 2: The tongue is thicker and the eye is linked to the nose by a line. The mouth and eye appear partly closed and the vertical line is no longer present. The “space” is also larger and longer.

Wales

Type 1: The dragon is ‘spidery’ with a dot in the centre of the eye.

Type 2: The dragon is thicker with a line joining the eye to the background.

The redrawn designs are to be found only on the lithography printed stamps, with the first appearing in January 1985. On the Northern Ireland issues the 13p, 17p steel blue, 26p red, 28p blue and 31p exist with both types and the 12p & 18p grey-green exist as just Type 2. The Scottish 13p, 17p steel blue, 22p yellowish green, 26p red and 31p exist as both and the 28p as just Type 2. Finally, the Welsh issue follow the same pattern as the Northern Irish, except that the 31p does not exist as Type 2.

There were many other changes which coincided with the redrawn designs which I shall look at now:

Paper

Often it can be found that as the design of the country emblem changed, so did the paper. The



N Ireland: Type 1 (2½p), Type 1 wide value (26p), Type 2 (18p), Type 2 narrow value (26p)

Scotland: Type 1 (13p), Type 2 (18p)



Wales: Type 1 (11½p), Type 2 (26p)

Northern Ireland and Wales 26p and 28p and the Northern Irish and Scottish 31p were originally printed on phosphor coated paper. However, when the design was redrawn, the paper became ACP1 (a bright form of advanced coated paper) which gives a stronger reaction to ultra-violet light. A small printing of the Scottish 31p was produced on PCP with the new design but this occurred when the wrong perforation comb was used. This will be discussed later. The Scottish 17p was also firstly printed on PCP but the new design was on both ACP1 and PCP. In this case, the PCP was again used with the wrong perfs but ACP1 was also used here.

Gum

All the stamps were printed on paper with polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) gum but some have dextrin added as a stiffener and adhesive agent (which can be distinguished easily because it makes the usually white PVA appear greenish). The Northern Irish and Welsh 13p with the Type 2 emblems exist both with and without the dextrin in the gum. The Scottish 17p steel blue was printed with dextrin for the original lion but the new design exists both with and without.

Perforations

During the 1980s the perforation gauge was, for country stamps, changed from 13½ x 14 to what

is now used for all – 15 x 14. This transition coincided nicely with the variations in the emblem designs. As the 26p red saw its design change, so did the perfs. The same is true for the Northern Irish and Welsh 28p and the Scottish 22p yellowish green. On some examples, only part of the Type 2 printing has the new perfs, whilst the rest of the stamps still bear the old 13½ x 14 ones. This occurred in the case of the Scottish 17p steel blue, 28p and 31p. The 17p has new perfs on some examples with ACP1 paper and PVAD gum only.

Other features

There are some other things worth keeping an eye out for when obtaining country stamps with the redrawn emblems. The Northern Ireland 13p exists with a shortened phosphor band and the 26p stamps have narrow, redrawn values. Some of the Welsh 13p also have short bands.

With so many different features the country issues are an interesting collecting area indeed. But the emblems form only a small part of a country collection and anyone contemplating collecting the country stamps is well advised to set out their aims beforehand to prevent themselves from taking on something they cannot cope with. There are about 300 different country stamps!

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Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No. 47 Spoon Cancellations

A time-and-motion study carried out by the Post Office in 1853 resulted in an intriguing range of cancellations which postal historians nicknamed "spoons". Some 30 English provincial post towns and a similar number of Irish towns were involved in the experiment, each town apparently chosen to represent a different style of office, either in size or working under differing conditions.

The concept of cancelling stamps on envelopes with a heavy numeral obliterator identifying the office of posting was well established. So, too, was the separate handstamp applied to the envelope face with town name, date and usually, a duty code letter.

The "spoons" were an experiment in which the two elements of dates and obliterator were mounted together on one base and, thus, applied to the adhesive stamp and the envelope at one stroke, a great time-saver compared with the former separate handstamps.

Early in 1853, the first experiment was tried in the London District Post when numeral handstamps numbered 71 to 79, the digits being contained within a circle, (itself surrounded by short horizontal bars), were combined with a closely adjoining single-circle handstamp containing a code figure and the date but without a town name. At that time (up to 1857), the postmarks of the three metropolitan offices (London, Dublin and Edinburgh) had no name inscribed and were identified solely by their shape or design.

Hull was the first provincial office to be provided with one of the new combined handstamps. It differed from the London stamp in that the oval dater, set horizontally in relation to the upright 383 numeral, impinged on the latter, thus linking the two sections. Any handstamps incorporating this linkage is included in the group quirkily called "spoons".

Within the range are several varieties for a number of towns. In 1855, Liverpool (466) used a horizontal town and date stamp (with code N16) but with lettering (unlike Hull) upright. Two years later at least one Liverpool handstamp

reverted to the original Hull layout.

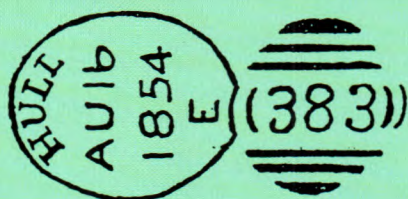
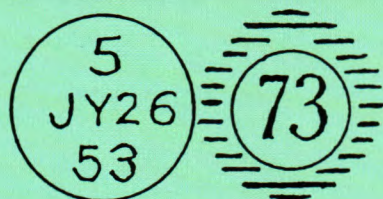
Further afield in Ireland several towns – examples are Belfast (62) and Kilkenny (269) – used English-type stamps at first but later switched to the familiar Irish "diamond" for the numeral part of the combined "spoon". This was to ensure distinction between the Irish places and similarly – numbered English towns. Waterford, in Ireland, provides a good example of the change-over. The town and date portions remained oval in design with the typically Irish numeral (445) set within a diamond of short horizontal bars jutting into the oval. This spoilt the "spoon" effect but since the combined handstamp was part of the national experiment, this hybrid Irish mark is still regarded as a "spoon" cancellation.

Conversely, Dublin employed a diamond shaped code and date-stamp (without the town name as in the cases also of London and Edinburgh), "spooned" with an English oval of bars containing the "186" numerals for Dublin.

Two interesting oddities deserve noting. A "spoon" for Stafford was issued – and quickly withdrawn – with the number 732 in error for the correct 730. At Rugby, Warwickshire, number 659, the outer frame of the name and date portion runs into the numeral oval, the overall effect resulting in the unique "Rugby shoe" which is just as much a spoon as its contemporaries. The English "spoons", together with the experimental stamps used in Scotland, from the true duplex stamps, though that term is often loosely used by collectors to include the later double stamps in which the two elements were separate though mounted on the same handle and struck simultaneously. These double stamps gradually replaced the experimental duplex stamps from 1858 onwards.

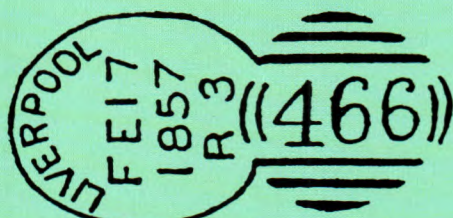
Any collector wishing to study this experiment in depth should acquire the comprehensive 46-page paperbook, *The Spoon Experiment 1853-1858* by R M & R W Willcocks and Wilfred Bentley, published by Willcocks (in 1960) to whom I am indebted for the illustrations.

© Kenneth F Chapman 1994



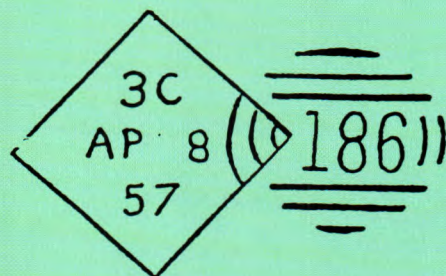
1. Experimental datestamp, London postal districts, 1853.

2. Hull "spoon" – oval town cancel, set horizontally.



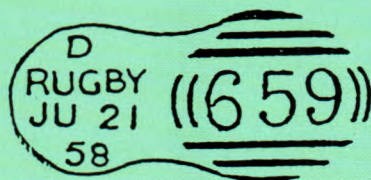
3. Liverpool – 466 with horizontal town and datestamp, 1855

4. Liverpool – 1857 datestamp, in Hull format.



5. Irish "spoon" – Waterford.

6. Dublin diamond-shaped datestamp, without town name.



7. The unique Rugby "shoe".

Posting Boxes

No. 151 Postbox Miscellany

Featured this month are four boxes in different parts of the country. Top left is a VR wall box on Kidderminster Railway Station – not in use at the time the photo was taken by Stan Goron, Manager of the National Postal Museum. Top right is the box at Brighstone Post Office, Isle of Wight, also photographed by Mr Goron.

Bottom left is a Elizabeth II pillar box on Jersey, photographed by Arthur Roberts. This box is fitted with a special plate worded “This Elizabeth II Pillar Posting Box commemorates

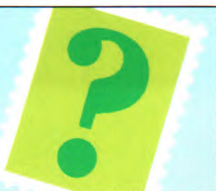
the centenary, 23 November 1952 of the erection here of one of the first four pillar boxes in the British Isles. All four were erected in St Helier.” Shown bottom right is a “leaning” George VI box, photographed by *Bulletin* Editor, John Holman, in Queens Road, Chester. (Note: the box was leaning, not Mr Holman!)

Readers interested in letter boxes should consider joining the Letter Box Study Group which has some 700 members. For details send a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS



Competition

SPONSORED BY:
OMNIPHIL APPROVALS



Win a Cape of Good Hope Triangular

This month's competition is sponsored by OMNIPHIL, specialists in APPROVALS. The prizes, supplied by Omniphil, comprise:

★ 1st prize: The scarce 1861 4d Woodblock triangular of Cape of Good Hope in the rare deep bright blue shade, (SG 14c). Couple of small repaired tears, complete with 1992 Royal Philatelic Society certificate stating genuine. A rare stamp, catalogued £4,500..

★ 2nd prize: The elusive, Yugoslavia 38th Esperanto Congress Zagreb, 300d. airmail high value, fine mint, (SG 756). Catalogued £300. One of the key stamps to a collection of Yugoslavia.

★ Four 3rd prizes: Unmounted mint Guernsey 10s of 1969 (SG 27) catalogued £25 each.



Introducing OMNIPHIL Approvals

Omniphil has been supplying fine stamp approvals to thousands of collectors worldwide for over 35 years, during which time they have accumulated vast stocks of quality stamps from Great Britain, The British Commonwealth, Europe and the Whole World.

These are sent on 12 days approval without obligation to purchase so that discriminating collectors can peruse them in the right conditions, peace and comfort, of their own home.

Unlike most other dealers Omniphil are big enough to offer each and every stamp individually available for you to select from their library of over 2856 different approval books – yes, they break every set! Very helpful for collectors with broken sets.

The organisation of their stock does not permit them to handle wants lists or latest issues, but if your collection is missing stamps

from 1840 to the 1980s all you have to do is tell them all the countries/areas that you collect and they will send a suitable selection as available without obligation.

At present Omniphil Approvals are offering all *Bulletin* subscribers the opportunity to pick a further 25% worth of stamps FREE OF CHARGE provided subscribers can select stamps to a sales value of £12 plus from each selection requested.

The first 250 *Bulletin* subscribers to receive their approvals will also receive absolutely free of charge an 1841 2d Blue of Great Britain catalogued £35.

Write now telling them all countries you collect and whether you collect mint and used to:

**Omniphil Approvals
Bulletin Book Offer
PO Box 29
STROUD,
Glos GL6 6RW**



To enter this month's competition answer the questions below and send your answers with your name and address on a postcard to: September Bulletin Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL. Entries should arrive by 28 October:

1. Which Prime Minister features on the cover of a new stamp book issued this month?
2. How much is the recently published *UK Stamp Shops Directory*?
3. In what year were numeral handstamps numbered 71-79 introduced in the London District Post?
4. Who has designed the 1994 Christmas aerogramme?
5. Who owned the patent for making silk thread paper?

The answers to all these questions will be found in this month's *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees of Royal Mail or Omniphil.

The winners of the June competition were: Miss B Meek (Norfolk) who wins £100 worth of Royal Mail philatelic products; A Innes (London); Mrs R Sheirtcliff (New Zealand); Miss G Young (London); P Tarran (Herts); and M Baird (Sutherland); who receive Summer-time presentation packs.

The answers were: 1. Harry Vardon; 2. General Eisenhower; 3. Writtle College, Chelmsford; 4. 1919; 5. Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Our thanks to all who entered.



The 7th edition of **Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue Volume 4**, covering the Queen Elizabeth II Decimal Definitive Issues has recently been published.

In the three years since the 6th edition was published there have been several important developments in the Machin definitive stamps and in the forms in which they are made available to the public. These include books of self-adhesive stamps, elliptical perforations, Non Value Indicator (NVI) stamps in sheets, Enschedé stamps printed by a partly computerised method, a fluorescent additive to phosphor ink, and a £10 stamp incorporating many new security features as well as Braille.

As well as covering all these in depth, entries for earlier issues have been thoroughly revised and updated and almost 100 new pages have been added. The rapidity with which the Machin field is expanding may also be judged by the fact that since the 5th edition (1988), hived off special issues and concentrated on definitives, the number of pages has increased by almost 50%. This trend continues and although the new publication carries the story to the end of 1993, the re-design of the To Pay labels and the discovery that Enschedé have been applying varnish under their phosphor bars must await the 8th edition.

Collectors who are already familiar with previous editions will need no prompting to buy the latest one; the mere announcement of its publication will be enough for them to order it immediately in order to re-appraise and re-value their collections. They will not be disappointed. As well as a comprehensive review of detail, whole sections have been completely re-written, most notably the account of booklet perforators. Prices, too, have been thoroughly over-hauled; some of these are downward but most show an increase, reflecting the huge and growing popularity of these issues and highlighting the extreme scarcity of some of them.

The preface to the new work states: "The purpose of a specialised catalogue is to provide encyclopaedic information from which individual collectors can then make their own

selection". How far has this aim been realised? Certainly no other specialised work on the decimals is as comprehensive in its coverage. More than half of the content is devoted to the Machin issues, subdivided into recess stamps, photogravure sheet and coil stamps, photogravure booklet panes, multivalve coil strips, lithography printed sheet stamps and booklet panes, and the NVI issues, both photogravure and lithography printed. Other sections deal with the self-adhesive issue, the Castle and Britannia high values, Greetings stamps, the special issues commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black, the Regionals (separated into photogravure and lithography issues and lithography printed booklet panes), the experimental postage labels of 1984, and postage due stamps. Then there are two appendices, one covering perforators and another listing every decimal booklet issued, sensibly divided into categories including stitched, folded and window books (called barcode books) with the latter further divided into Machins, NVIs, Greetings, etc. The only obvious omissions from this impressive work are the postal stationery impressions and the popular coil leaders.

Such a vast field brings complex problems of organisation and it is no cause for surprise that there are two editors. Their combined knowledge and experience is probably unsurpassed. Indeed, Robert Oliver's responsibilities at SG embrace even wider fields which he has filled with distinction for 40 years. At any meeting of "Machin editors" he would surely be offered the chair.

There are, however, some defects resulting from the decision to separate booklet panes from complete booklets and then to subdivide each of them into categories. A collector interested in, say, the Beatrix Potter book might have some difficulty in ascertaining that the four panes are listed on pages 355 (section UH, national lithographed stamps), 373 (section UI, NVIs), 405 (section UM, Greetings stamps), and 513 (section XD, regionals). Nor is this approach helped by the fact that the pane on page 355 also contains NVIs. In the case of the Wales book and, presumably, the N. Ireland book eventually, one of the panes can be found only in Volume 5. The relevant information is given (apart from the fact that because, presumably, of a late decision to re-allocate Greetings stamps from section UK to UM, the cross-references are not always correct) but such

scattering makes it difficult to gather all the relevant information about a book.

Sometimes the linkages between panes and books are omitted altogether, leading to more serious objections. For example, while a complete list of all cylinders and cylinder combinations is given in the panes sections, this information is not included in the (separate) list of complete booklets making it impossible to ascertain which cylinders were used for the panes in a given edition. Such information can be vital in ascertaining the worth of particular booklets. Similarly, while the Walsall book of ten 2nd-class Penny Black anniversary issue with the wrong rates panel, and the pane with a horizontal bar in the margin, are both listed and priced at £10 in their respective sections, the combination is not mentioned. This is a pity, as this book figures in every specialist dealer's buying list and is certainly worth three figures.

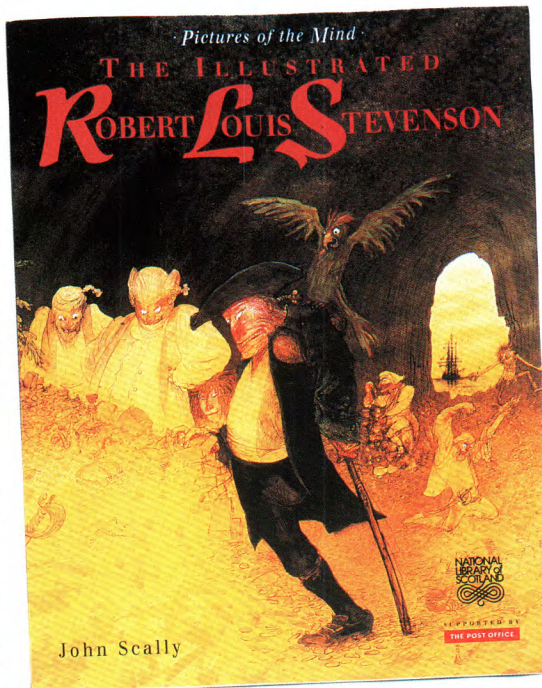
Much original research has gone into the new production. Your reviewer was particularly interested to see that the study of the Machin head has been extended and the number of main types has now reached Head G, although SG notations do not always accord with those generally accepted by students of the subject. Clearly, there is room for further research here.

Inevitably in a work of this magnitude there are a few errors. One is the description of the gum on the Enschedé printings as PVAD (dextrin) instead of PVA. Another stems from the treatment of the Jeffery Matthews re-drawn numerals. Attention is not always drawn to these so that, in some cases, one is left wondering whether an entry has the new fount or not, while in the case of the lp from the QL coil, the wrong value type is stated. The dated expression 'new phosphor ink' has been retained for what collectors generally know as "A" phosphor although this has been overtaken by an even newer phosphor ink, known as "C" However, such matters do not seriously detract from the book's usefulness to collectors.

One of the great strengths of the SG specialised series is the number and clarity of the illustrations. This new edition has over 2000 of them, almost all derived from actual photographs. They include all the 200 plus booklet panes, although the complicated phosphor layouts on these are, necessarily, not visible. What a wealth of essential information is crammed into this book! An absolute must for all collectors of GB decimal definitives. 688 pages. Price £19.95, postage extra. Available from

Stanley Gibbons Strand shop, or Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

DM



To mark the centenary of the death of Robert Louis Stevenson, an exhibition entitled "Pictures of the Mind" is on show at the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh until 30 October. The exhibition is supported by The Post Office. A lavish book *Pictures of the Mind: The Illustrated Robert Louis Stevenson* is now available, published by Canongate in association with the National Library. This reproduces many of the fine painting and drawings which have illustrated Stevenson's books over the years – *A Child's Garden of Verses*; *Treasure Island*; *Kidnapped*; *Catriona*; *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *The Master of Ballantrae*. The introduction provides a concise biography of Stevenson – arguably Scotland's best-loved author. In his foreword, Mr Kenneth Graham, Chairman, Scottish Post Office Board, writes of the delight Stevenson's words have given "youngsters and the young at heart over all the world". The RLS Scottish aerogramme, issued on 22 March 1994, is reproduced on the back cover. The book can be ordered from good bookshops, price £14.95. ISBN 0 86241 492 X.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until the end of 1994. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

1 Mar	Prince of Wales stamps (AS584)
1 Mar	Prince of Wales pack (AP120)
22 Mar	Scot Aerogramme – Stevenson (QS033)
5 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamp cards (AQ298)
12 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamps (AS590)
12 Apr	Pictorial Postcards pack (AP121)
26 Apr	50p book – Coaching Inns 2, H (TB032)
26 Apr	£1 book – Prime Ministers 2, H (TB033)
26 Apr	£2 book – Postal Vehicles 2, H (TB034)
26 Apr	Channel Tunnel stamp cards (AQ304)
3 May	Channel Tunnel stamps (AS596)
3 May	Channel Tunnel pack (AP122)
3 May	Channel Tunnel Souvenir book (AW055)
6 May	NPM postcards-Postcodes (NQ922)
31 May	D-Day stamp cards (AQ309)
6 Jun	D-Day stamps (AS603)
6 Jun	D-Day pack (AP123)
6 Jun	50p book – Coaching Inns 3, H (TB035)
6 Jun	£1 book – Prime Ministers 3, H (TB036)
14 Jun	Alcock & Brown aerogramme (QO031)
28 Jun	Golf stamp cards (AQ315)
5 Jul	Golf stamps (AS609)
5 Jul	Golf pack (AP124)
19 Jul	19p definitive gum trial (DS916)
19 Jul	Pictorial aerogrammes – Birds (QO033)
19 Jul	Scot a/g – Gordon Highlanders (QS034)
26 Jul	N Ireland prestige book (YB008)
26 Jul	Summertime stamp cards (AQ321)
27 Jul	Bank of England stamp book (UB089)
27 Jul	Bank of England stamp pane (UC001)
2 Aug	Summertime stamps (AS615)
2 Aug	Summertime pack (AP125)
2 Aug	Summertime souvenir book (PB053)
2 Aug	NPM postcards – Uniforms (NQ923)
9 Aug	4 x 60p stamp book (UB088)
17 Aug	1st NVI (Boots sheet)
23 Aug	Large aerogramme (Garden Birds)

Forthcoming

6 Sep	50p book – Coaching Inns 4
6 Sep	£1 book – Prime Ministers 4
6 Sep	£2 book – Postal Vehicles 3
20 Sep	10 x 1st book – Promotional offer (4 cover designs)
20 Sep	Medical Discoveries stamp cards
27 Sep	Medical Discoveries stamps
27 Sep	Medical Discoveries pack

4 Oct	£2.40 book – Christmas cover design
4 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
4 Oct	10 x 1st books (“You’ve Won”) (UB090)
4 Oct	10 x 1st book (“Better Luck...”) (UB091)
25 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
1 Nov	Christmas stamps
1 Nov	Christmas pack
1 Nov	Christmas stamp book (1st class)
1 Nov	Christmas stamp book (2nd class)
14 Nov	Year Pack 1994
14 Nov	Year Book 1994

Notes:

H = printed by Harrison & Sons

W = printed by Walsall Security Printers

* = provisional date of issue.

September Stamp Books

Readers are reminded that four promotional books go on philatelic sale on 20 September – details were given in the August *Bulletin* (page 348). By sending in 1st class stamps and a coupon, purchasers will receive pictorial “stampers” (woodblock rubber stamps) and an ink pad. The “stampers” are shown here. *Note change of date to 20 September.*



Events

until 3 Sep 94. Picture Postcard Centenary Exhibition at Royal Horticultural Society Hall, London SW1. Promoted by Postcard Traders Association, Enquiries: John Bateman, Tel. 0550-777064.

8 Sep 94. "Valuables by Post" E K Parker Memorial Lecture by M V Sussex at Sheffield Phil Soc, Carver Methodist Church Guild Room, Rockingham Lane, SHEFFIELD S1 4FW, 19.15. Enquiries: J R Hartley, Tel. 0742-304155.

9-11 Sep 94. British Philatelic Congress at Writtle College, Chelmsford. Enquiries: Allan Boyce, 22 Longfield Road, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD CM2 8DD.

24 Sep 94. HAMPEX '94, organised by Hampshire Phil Fed, at Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood, Hants.

24 Sep 94. Philatelic Music Circle Jubilee Convention in London. Enquiries: Ian Summers, Tel. 0706-826655.

11-16 Oct 94. Autumn Stampex at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1. Enquiries: Stampex office, Tel. 071-490 1005.

20-23 Oct 94: STAMPA – Irish national stamp exhibition, Dublin.

22 Oct 94: Salvation Army Philatelic Circle second annual convention and exhibition at Citadel, Gillygate, York. Enquiries: Harry Hayes, Tel. 0904-764660.

27 Oct 94. Association of Sussex Phil Socs Autumn Convention at Burgess Hill. Enquiries: John Hobbs, 12 Orhpier Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 2SR.

29 Oct 94. Telford Phil Soc stamp and postcard fair at Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, Tel. 0952-223926.

29 Oct 94. Association of Essex Phil Socs Autumn Rally at Spring Lodge, Witham. Enquiries: L C Stanway, 25 Clay Hill Road, BASILDON, Essex, SS16 5DD.

Postal Memorabilia Displays

David Harrop is arranging displays at:

31 Aug-4 Sep: Great Dorset Steam Fair, Tarrant

Hinton, Blandford Forum (Norwich Union Royal Mail coach will be in attendance).

10-11 Sep: Malpas Yesteryear Rally, Hampton Old Hall, Hampton, Malpas, Ches. Enquiries: David Harrop, 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT SK4 3DQ.

Railway Letter Stamps

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway will issue a new 25p railway letter stamp on 1 September – this features North Eastern Railway Class Q7 loco No. 901 which is owned by the National Railway Museum and used on the NYMR. The loco was built 75 years ago this year. The stamp has been printed by Questa in sheets of 10. Stamps are available at face value plus postage. The first day cover will cost £2.50, with 25p Royal Mail Summertime stamp, £3.75 with full set of Summertime stamps. A postcard showing loco 901 will be available, a pair (one mint, one used first day) costs £1.90.



The final NYMR stamp for 1994 will be issued on 9 October to mark the 21st anniversary of steam galas on the Railway and to celebrate the complete rebuilding of BR standard 4 loco No. 75014. The stamp which reproduces a drawing of the loco by Stuart Hudson, will be printed by Questa in sheets of eight – two blocks of four with a central horizontal gutter. Stamps will be available at face value, first day cover with 30p Royal Mail Age of Steam stamp £2.75, with set of Age of Steam stamps £3.95. Postcards £1.90 a pair – mint and used.

The date of issue of the 25p stamp showing LNER Class K1 loco was brought forward to 4 July from 27 July as announced in the July *Bulletin* (page 330). All orders/enquiries: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

September/October Digest

Issued in September/October

6 September: Machine Books – 50p Coaching Inns 4 (Pheasant Inn), £1 Prime Ministers 4 (Attlee), £2 Postal Vehicles 3 (Experimental Electric Mail Van). Available initially from Bureau and philatelic outlets, from machines at post offices and retail outlets as earlier stocks used up.

20 September: Four 10 x 1st class books. Four different front cover designs featuring a promotional offer of “Stampers” (woodblock rubber stamps). Available initially from Bureau and philatelic outlets and from post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier books used up.

20 September: Medical Discoveries stamp cards.

27 September: Medical Discoveries stamps – 25p, 30p, 35p, 41p; presentation pack.

4 October: Christmas aerogramme: Three Kings (price 45p).

4 October: £2.40 stamp book containing 4 x 60p stamps. Christmas cover design, Christmas and airmail labels.

4 October: 10 x 1st class NVI stamp books – W H Smith “Win a Kite” promotional offer. Two books, with different inscriptions on inside back cover: “You’ve Won!” (for winners of kite), and “Better luck next time” (non-winners). Available from selected branches of Smiths, July–September. Available from Bureau and PO philatelic outlets from 4 October.

25 October: Christmas stamp cards.

Note: Some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT and from 35 Post Office philatelic outlets (Collections, Post Shops Plus, Philatelic Counters) at main post offices in: Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Gloucester, Guildford, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (Lombard Street & Trafalgar Square), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Romford, Southampton, Southend on Sea, Stratford upon Avon, Truro, Windsor, and York.

Withdrawn in September/October

13 September: Autumn stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

11 October: Sherlock Holmes stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards.

25 October: 18p, 24p, 28p, 33p, 34p and 39p definitives.

25 October: Low Value Definitives Collectors’ Packs Nos 24 (May 1991) and 25 (September 1991). No 24 contains 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 17p, 20p, 22p, 26p, 27p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p, 37p, 50p, and 75p stamps; No 25 6p, 18p, 24p, 28p, 34p, 35p and 39p values.

30 October: Stamp Rolls – 18p, 24p and 39p stamps and mixed value roll (2 x 5p, 2 x 4p). Note: Stocks of 33p stamp roll sold out at Philatelic Bureau.

30 October: £1.56 stamp book (4 x 39p) and £1.32 book (4 x 33p), issued 16 September 1991 and 8 September 1992 respectively.

For the Record

The 3p and 75p definitives were withdrawn from sale at the Bureau on 17 July 1994. This information was given in the Bureau stock list of July/August 1994. We regret it was not included in the July *Bulletin*. These two stamps remain available in Definitives Collectors’ Pack No 24 until 25 October (see above).

The 19p Northern Ireland Country stamps in panes 3 and 4 of the Northern Ireland prestige stamp book have phosphor band at left whereas stamps from normal sheets of 200 have the band slightly to the right of centre. We regret that this left band NI stamp was not listed with the three national definitive stamp variations in the preview of the prestige book in the June *Bulletin* (page 280). However the variation was mentioned in the preceding description of the stamp panes. We apologise for any confusion and hope this clarifies matters.



Hi-Tech Help for Stamp Collectors

JAMES MACKAY

There used to be a verse which went something like this:

What distinguishes philatelists
From stamp collecting boys,
Is merely the size and sophistication
Of their electronic toys.

Having got by for more than half a century with a reasonably good magnifier, a plastic perforation gauge and the jappanned tray and benzine dropper which probably came with my XLCR stamp outfit, I was somewhat bemused when I was asked to test and report on a range of the equipment that is currently available. Over the years I must have measured more perfs and squinted at more watermarks than many readers have had hot dinners, using techniques that had hardly altered since Dr Magnus devised the two centimetre scale back in the 1860s.

Perforation Measurement

So it was with considerable scepticism, and not a little trepidation, that I unpacked the various boxes and beheld their contents. The first gadget was the Perfotronic which measures perforations accurately using computer technology and light. It is also incredibly simple and easy to use; plug it in to the power source, slip the stamp into the slot at the front and press the button on the left. There's a slight whirring, and a flickering, and then – hey presto! A liquid crystal display gives you a digital read-out. I was mounting stamps of Honduras when the parcel arrived so the first stamp I tested was the 5 centavos of 1895 (SG 102). Sure enough, the read-out was 11.5, which accorded with the catalogue, but on re-inserting the stamp sideways I was surprised to get a reading of 11.75. The other stamps in the set registered 11.5 all round, so had I chanced upon a hitherto unrecorded variety? A footnote, however, warns that forgeries are in existence, including stamps perf 11, 12.5 or 14.5. Is my stamp a forgery or the genuine article?

The Perfotronic is accurate to 1/1000 of a millimetre and operates by means of a light sensor. It is truly a quantum leap of which Jacques-Amable Legrand would have been

proud. Straightaway, it has opened up another dimension and from now on I shall be looking at stamps with a more critical eye. At the same time, could I take this opportunity to appeal to editors, catalogue publishers and philatelic bureaux to scrap vulgar fractions when giving gauges of perforation. It seems anachronistic in these days of metrication to find 12½ x 13¼ – even in countries which have otherwise been metric for generations. The metric system permits a much higher degree of accuracy, such as we can obtain from the Perfotronic, and already I note that some postal administrations (Australia is a splendid example) measure the perforations of their stamps to three decimal points.



The catalogue also mentions that those Honduran stamps occur on thin or thick paper. Time, therefore, to try the Mitutoyo micrometer which measures accurately the thickness of anything up to a centimetre. For all practical purposes, however, we are looking at fractions well below a millimetre in thickness. In the case of my Honduran set, for example, the 5 centavos with the wrong perforation registered a thickness of 0.0075mm, whereas others in the set ranged between 0.0085mm and 0.015mm. This is a beautiful precision instrument with a wide variety of applications, but I can see that for really serious study of an aspect of philately which has hitherto been rather imprecise it would be invaluable.

Watermark Detection

Useful as these gadgets are they pale into insignificance alongside the Signoscope watermark detectors. These come in two sizes: the Signoscope T2 handheld portable model at £85 and the desk-top Professional model at £155. "No inks, no fluids, no damage, just fast and clean" is the manufacturer's slogan and those who have had the disastrous experience of seeing some modern photogravure stamps melt before our very eyes when splashed with old-fashioned benzine will appreciate the security guaranteed by this machine. All you do is place the stamp under the precision ground optical block and insert this into the scope. A thumbscrew on the T2 and a lever on the Professional apply sufficient pressure, then switch on the illumination and there it is, a watermark you can really see and study and measure, for as long as you like – not something that "flits, ere you can point the place" as the benzine evaporates.

For my money, however, I would opt every time for the larger Professional model. I only wish I'd had this extremely useful gadget years ago. When I think of the headaches and eye strain I've suffered from checking the watermarks on GB postage dues and Wilding definitives! At the present time, the most awkward watermarks are probably those employed by the Crown Agents, but with the Signoscope the subtleties of CA spirals are revealed with startling clarity. Incidentally, an extremely useful bonus is the ability of the Signoscope to show up any defects, repairs or fakery.



UV Scanner

Last, but by no means least, there is the Phililux II HF. Although this is essentially a UV scanner it also has built into it a very accurate perforation gauge and a versatile magnifier which can give up to six-fold magnification and a field of view 50mm in diameter. However, it is as a scanner that it will be mainly employed, both long and short wave tubes being included. The long wave tube has a light wavelength of 366nm and, as the instrument hails from Nuremberg, it comes as no surprise that this standard UV-A burner was designed with the stamps of Germany in mind. On the other hand many other phosphor-treated stamps continue to glow and cannot be activated by this long wave light. For the stamps of the USA and Britain, therefore, you need to use the short wave UV-C light with a wavelength of 254nm. Fortunately these tubes are easily interchangeable. No one attempting to make a serious study of the Machin definitives can afford to be without this instrument. A "philatelist" of the old school said to me recently that when stamps had differences that could not be seen with the naked eye it was time to abandon the hobby and take up telephone cards instead; but that is a shortsighted view (no pun intended). As science finds ever more ingenious ways of loading paper magnetically or electronically, philately must move with the times – and these machines are the ideal tools for this job.

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Editors Note: The equipment tested by Dr Mackay is all available from: Safe Albums (UK) Ltd, Freepost, WOKINGHAM, Berks RG11 1BR.

Win a Perfotronic in this month's competition – see page 363.