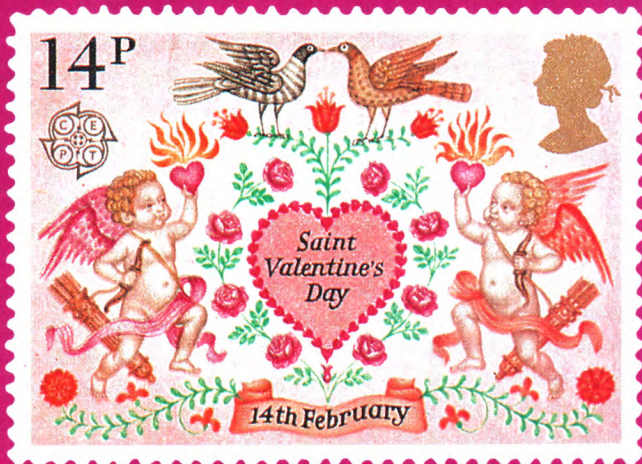


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 18 Number 5 January 1981



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Stampex 1981 will soon be upon us — from Tuesday 24 until Saturday 28 February in fact. This year however, the organisers have acquired more space: not only will they occupy the New Horticultural Hall, situated in Greycoat and Elverton Streets — their established venue — but also the Old Horticultural Hall, Westminster, just around the corner in Vincent Square. More space means more dealers stands, more display frames. We wish Super Stampex 1981, every success.

Elsewhere in this edition are details of the proposed price increases of philatelic items, including the Bulletin. Regrettably the increases are necessary and we have waited until the last possible moment before introducing them.

The Salvation Army History in Stamps

Quite a considerable number of stamp collectors are becoming interested in stamps, postal slogans, first day covers and other philatelic material which is associated with The Salvation Army. There is a fast growing representation of the Army within this media.

The first country to release stamps supporting our organisation was the Netherland Indies. In 1932 and 1936 they brought out 'Charity Stamps' depicting the Army crest and featuring local scenes. To mark the 75th anniversary of The Salvation Army commencing its operations in Switzerland, a Swiss stamp illustrating a woman officer's bonnet was released in 1958.

The Salvation Army, an international religious movement, was founded in 1865 when William Booth, a Methodist minister, formed the Christian Mission Whitechapel in London's East

End. The mission was later reorganised along military lines and given the name, The Salvation Army in 1878.

On 9 August, 1965, the British Post Office marked the Army's centenary by issuing two commemorative postage stamps. The September 1977 Philatelic Bulletin described the set: 'Attractively coloured and designed, the 3d and 1s 6d stamps depicted the popular image of the Salvationists – the brass band on the street corner on a Sunday afternoon, and the pseudo-military yet distinctive uniforms of male and female personnel'.

Two other countries issued stamps in this connection. The Jamaican set designed by Major time serving in the West Indies) featured a missionary officer's cap, flagbearer and drummer.

To coincide with the issuing of the American 5



'Attractively coloured and designed, the 3d and 1s 6d stamps depicted the popular image of the Salvationists – the brass band on the street corner on

a Sunday afternoon, and the pseudo-military yet distinctive uniforms of male and female personnel'.

cent stamp, a first-day of issue ceremony was held at the New York Hilton Hotel. The Assistant United States Postmaster General presented albums containing sheets of the new stamp to Salvation Army Advisory Board members. At this special first-day stamp luncheon he stated, *'The commemorative postal stamp being issued today is our way of saying thank you for a job well done, and keep up the good work'*.

It is a vertical stamp in red, blue and black on white paper. In a top panel of red appears '1865-1965' in white. The centre panel is white dominated by 'Salvation Army' in black. Underneath it in red is, 'One Hundred Years of Service'. Over 114 million of these stamps were placed on sale.

In 1967, to mark the 80th anniversary of the Army's presence in Denmark, a stamp showing a red rose, representing hope for mankind was issued.

The four cent stamp from St. Christopher-Nevis, Anguilla, to honour International Women's Year 1975, featured General Evangeline Booth, daughter of William Booth and fourth General of The Salvation Army.

The Swedish Post Office, in 1978, sold in booklet form, stamps in connection with the Independent Christian Associations. One of the stamps in the series shows a Salvation Army band marching along a Stockholm street.

The International Congress celebrations held in London in 1978 were marked by two countries issuing stamps. In November, Monaco brought out a stamp depicting Catherine and William Booth, the Army crest and an open-air service in progress, with the inscription, 'Armée du Salut - 1878-1978'. It is interesting to note that as yet The Salvation Army is not at work in that country.

The December Christmas stamps from Jamaica were devoted entirely to the work of the Army. Three cornetists, a drummer and the Army flag appeared on the 10 cent value. The familiar International Congress trumpeter dominated the 20 cent stamp. A flag, pole and tassel were illustrated on the 25 cent and the 50 cent featured William Booth with the dates 1829-1912 alongside a large 'red shield'. Each stamp bore the title '100

anniversary of The Salvation Army'.

In March 1979, Chile issued a stamp to mark the 70th anniversary of the work of the Army in that country. The Salvation Army flag, alongside the National Flag proudly flies at the top of a mast in the centre of the stamp.

Three months later, the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation made available four stamps linked with the 50th anniversary of Social Services.

Subjects included a blind telephone operator caring for the aged, a village polytechnic and vocational training centre. The first record of The Salvation Army social services in Kenya was given by three Salvationists in 1896. This work was done for those engaged in the mammoth task of building the Railway from the coast of Uganda, which eventually opened up the country. The Official commencement of The Salvation Army in Kenya was in 1921. Religious services were held in Nairobi and then spread throughout the nation. Social work began officially in April, 1929. The Salvation Army enjoys an extremely favourable reputation with the Government of Kenya and has made a significant contribution to the building of the country.

The latest edition to Army stamps are those from Zaire - the third largest nation in Africa. In March of this year it marked the 100th anniversary of The Salvation Army in the United States of America by selling eight stamps and a miniature sheet. The 10z miniature sheet depicts the present international leaders, General and Mrs Arnold Brown with a border decorated by flags of the United States of America and The Salvation Army.

Scenes illustrated on the stamps include, Commissioner George Scott Railton and the seven 'Hallelujah' lassies arriving in New York on 10 March, 1880; the Army on the march; emergency services in Zaire and the U.S.A.; General Evangeline Booth, who led the Army in America from 1904 to 1934, when she became General; and a group of American bandmen holding an open-air service.

One of the trustees of The Salvation Army's Booth Memorial Medical Centre, Mr Kurt Weishaupt, conceived this as a fund-raising project for the centre, as well as a suitable commemoration

New Illustrated Stamp Books

of the Army's century of service to God and humanity in the U.S.A.

The Booth Memorial Medical Centre is located in Flushing, New York. It is a 400 bed general teaching hospital and is the largest single institution of its kind operated by The Salvation Army. This building appears on one of the stamps in the set of nine.

Many countries have cancelled mail which has slogans referring to The Salvation Army. One such slogan used in Long Beach California reads: 'The Salvation Army – Heart to God and Hand to Man'.

Within recent years, because of special anniversaries and local centenaries, a large number of souvenir envelopes bearing handstamps directly relating to our organisation have been produced.

One of the most popular covers was the one which marked the centenary of the 'War Cry' on 21 November, 1979. All mail posted from the International Headquarters of The Salvation Army at 101, Queen Victoria Street, London bore a specially designed handstamp.

It was a freezing, miserable foggy night in London, when the first 'War Cry' hit the streets on 27 December, 1879. Today the paper is regularly distributed throughout Great Britain. The 'War Cry's' missing person column has achieved an extremely high success rate in locating lost relatives in many parts of the world.

During a visit to Natal, South Africa I saw an unusual post office. It is called, 'Salvation' – an appropriate name since it is sited in a settlement run by The Salvation Army. It is the official centre of the Army's farm and mission settlement near Vryheid. The post office serves many African kraals and their people, as well as a 65 bed Bantu hospital, the farm and Divisional Headquarters.

The postal cancellation applied to mail posted there says simply 'Salvation'.

Post cards illustrating Generals, bands, songster brigades, training colleges and other places of Army interest, form part of this unusual thematic study.

KENDAWES
Major.



No. 5 of the second series of stamp books with illustrated covers to be issued on 26 January 1981 will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and other offices.

Details of the make-up of each book is as follows:

- 50p book: 3 x 11½p; 1 x 14p; 1 x 1p; 1 x ½p. All have 2 phosphor bars except the 11½p which has a single bar. The illustration is of a Lanchester (1896) motor car.
- £1.15 book: 10 x 11½p — single central phosphor bar. The illustration is of a Spitfire and Lanchester aircraft.
- £1.40 book: 10 x 14p — PCP (phosphor coated paper). The illustration is of Preston Mill, Scotland.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

A new philatelic sales counter will be opened to the public in the Head Post Office, 65 Sandgate, AYR, KA7 1AA, on 12 January 1981. A special pictorial handstamp bearing the words, 'OPENING OF PHILATELIC COUNTER AT AYR 12 JAN 1981', will be applied on that day only to mail posted in the philatelic posting box situated in the Head Post Office, Ayr. For customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to call at the Office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent to:- The Head Postmaster, Operations Division, 65 Sandgate, AYR, KA7 1AA.

Posting Boxes



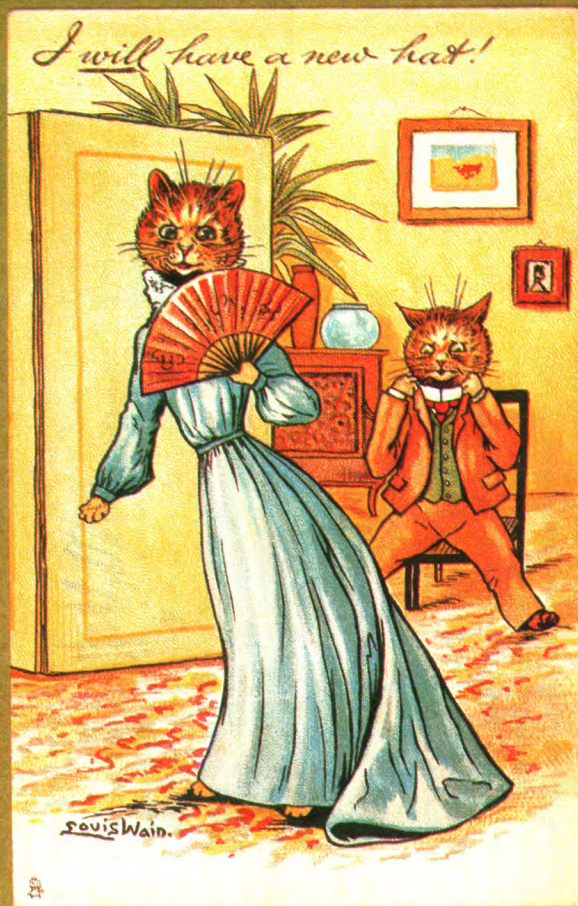
No. 22. Some letter boxes can be seen in very attractive settings. This 'shrine' was erected at Rous Lench, Worcestershire by the Lord of the Manor, The Reverend W K W Chaty at the end of the 19th Century and can still be seen on the Rous Lench to Inkberrow road, just outside the village. Another similar setting is situated close to the village green.

ABC of Postcard Themes 3. C for Cats

The aloof and dignified domestic cat has long been a favourite pet, perhaps especially with children, and 'pussies' have been featured in drawings, picture books, calendars, greetings cards and picture postcards since Victorian times. At first they were depicted in serious or sentimental style appropriate to the book or greeting, and many beautiful cat studies may be found in modern publications. The first 'catty' postcards came from the Continent in the 1890s, notably from Austria, Belgium, France and Germany, and virtually all of them were in humorous vein – cats and kittens in human situations – boating, swimming, gardening, making music and singing, racing, cycling, fishing or simply playing with balls of wool.

The most prolific creator of comic cats was British-born Louis Wain (1860-1939), who devoted his life and talent to them and other animals from about 1881 when his first published sketch appeared in the *Sporting and Dramatic News*. A few years later he was contributing regularly to the *Illustrated London News*, and one of his best-known sketches, a lithograph entitled 'Mrs Tabby's Academy' – catty chaos in the classroom – was published by Cassell and Company in *Yule Tide*, 1888, and also appeared on postcards.

By the turn of the century Louis Wain was famous as an illustrator of cats in an enormous variety of comic situations – 'undressed' and in human dress – which delighted the collectors of picture postcards and the readers of children's books, particularly the *Louis Wain Annuals* which started in 1901. Sadly, after the First World War, the 'Cat Man', who rather foolishly sold his sketches outright, was threatened by poverty from a reduced income, and he was eventually certified insane and committed to an asylum, whence, following a public appeal and exhibition of his work, he was 'rescued' and transferred to a hospital where he was cared for until his death. Signed 'Louis Wain' postcards are eagerly sought today and cost from £5 to about £15 according to scarcity and condition. Raphael Tuck produced about 300 different cards, while many other publishers contributed at least one card or set of cards. My illustration, from the Tuck



'Humorous' series 6084, postmarked 1907, shows a typical Wain situation – 'I will have a new hat'.

Numerous photographic studies of rather wooden, doll-like cats and kittens were reproduced on postcards by the Landor Studios, and here again all kinds of human activities were copied – cats painting pictures and visiting an art gallery, cats having tea, looking in mirrors or sitting demurely amidst the wreck of a model railway train, cats sitting coily beneath bunches of mistletoe. Greetings cards frequently pictured long-haired Persian cats as well as common black-and-whites or ginger toms, and there were literally hundreds of different 'Good Luck' cards featuring 'lucky' black cats – these can be found embossed, in embroidered silk or with felt

appliqué – and there are novelty cats with glass eyes.

Children's cards – fairy tales and nursery rhymes – picture all the traditional favourites: Puss in Boots, Dick Whittington's cat and the pussy cat which 'went up to London to look at the Queen' – probable source of the phrase 'a cat may look at a king'. Postcard actresses invariably fondled a reluctant 'ball of fluff' in their publicity pictures, while there were several series of Felix the Cat and his adventures. Manx cats – minus tails, of course, were featured on postcards from the Isle of Man, and thirsty cats were pictured on cards advertising 'Milkmaid' and 'Nestle's' Milk.

MALCOLM JAMES

Folklore Stamps Issue

6 February 1981

The word folklore was invented by the British antiquary J W Thoms in 1846. Today the word is used as a heading under which such diverse topics as fairy tales, superstitions and traditional customs can be grouped. The Post Office will issue four stamps depicting folklore as the theme. The stamps, values 14p, 18p, 22p and 25p will illustrate St Valentine's Day, Morris Dancers, Lammastide and Medieval Mummers.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two special pictorial handstamps will be available: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and 'London WC'.

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled; 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or, 'London WC', as requested, and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested, and despatched.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 28 January 1981.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.16	£1.01
Deposit account customers	£1.11	96½p
Service 'B'	£1.03	89½p

Presentation Pack

Presentation pack, price 96p, containing all four stamps, will be available from 6 February 1981.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 11p each.

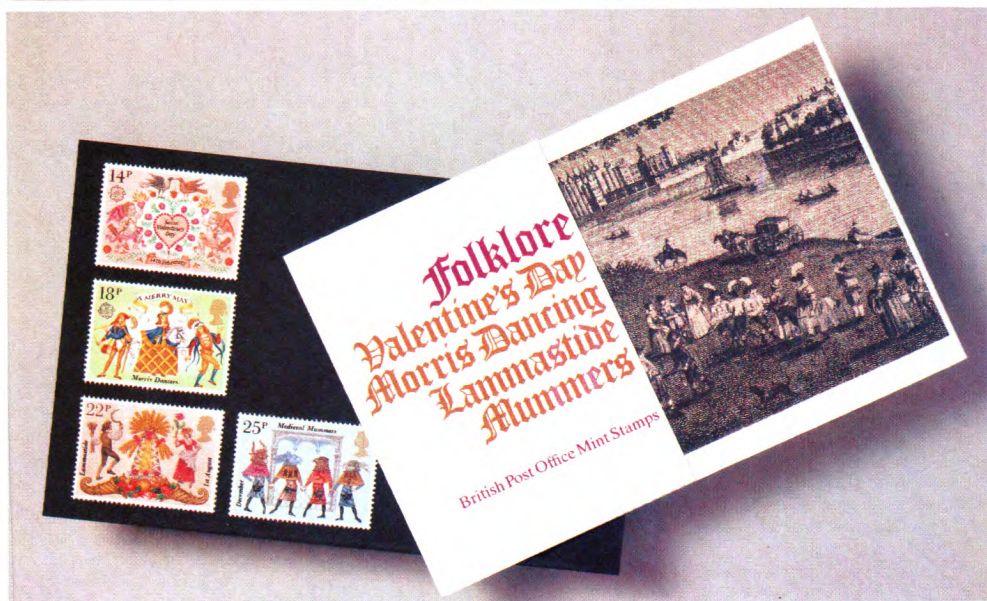


Printing Details

Designer:	Fritz Wegner MSIAD
Printer:	Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd
Process:	Photogravure
Paper:	Coated, unwatermarked
Phosphor:	Pre-treated
Adhesive:	PVA Dextrin
Format:	Horizontal
Size:	41mm x 30mm
Perforations:	15 x 14
Sheet Size:	100

Values and colours

14p	yellow-orange, flesh, carmine-red, emerald, drab, gold.
18p	lemon, apple green, blue, lake-brown, black, gold.
22p	greenish-yellow, bistre-brown, bright blue, scarlet, black, gold.
25p	cobalt, greenish-yellow, scarlet, chocolate, black, gold.



72. Christmas, 1970



This was the Post Office's fifth consecutive issue of special stamps for Christmas, and once again the Nativity was the selected theme. The traditional story of Christmas is always acceptable as a design subject, providing that sources and presentation are original and unrepentive – in this instance a novel source of illustration was discovered by a young freelance artist, Sally Stiff, ARCA – the De Lisle Psalter (The Book of Psalms) which is a part of the Arundel Collection in the British Museum. Her selected scenes were: 4d. Shepherds and Apparition of the Angel; 5d. Mary, Joseph and Christ in the Manger; and 1s. 6d. The Wise Men bearing Gifts. Incidentally, these were the last British postage stamps to bear the old £sd denominations – they were issued on

November 25th 1970 and subsequently invalidated as from 1 March 1972.

Sally Stiff, then 28, was trained in art at the High Wycombe School of Art, and later at the Regent Street Polytechnic in London. From 1963 to 1966 she attended the Royal College of Art, where she first worked on stamp design, and then became a freelance artist and illustrator of children's books. For Sally the Christmas stamps were 'third time lucky' as she had previously submitted designs – unsuccessfully – for the Charles Dickens and Philymphia issues. She was again successful in 1972 when her 'Musical Angels' designs were accepted for the Christmas issue of stamps that year.

New Philatelic Charges

Subject to agreement by Government the following increases in philatelic charges will come into force from 26 January 1981.

Item	Present Price	Proposed Price
Philatelic Bulletin		
Inland	£1.75	£2.10
Airmail	£3.00	£3.60
Single copy	14p	17p
First Day Cover	10½p	13p
Presentation Pack	14p	17p
	(above face value of the stamps)	
Collectors Pack	40p	48p
	(above face value of the stamps)	
Bulletin Binder	£1.25	£2.25
Postcards (PHQ)	8½p	11p



The 1970 Christmas stamps were printed in photogravure (with the Queen's head in gold and then embossed) by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (12 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with one central phosphor band (4d.) or two phosphor bands (others). The stamps were multicoloured and there were numerous errors and varieties — embossing omitted (all values), phosphor omitted (4d. and 1s. 6d.). The 5d. may be found with emerald colour missing, and the 1s. 6d. with the ochre or salmon colours omitted. A constant variety was the thinned frame by the shepherd's arm on the 4d. stamp. Quantities sold were: 4d. 360,016,216; 5d. 181,161,720; and 1s. 6d. 22,598,520.

JAMES WATSON

'Design Christmas Stamps' Children's Competition

Christmas revolves around children, and the Post Office, through the medium of the BBC TV programme 'Blue Peter' will devise a competition whereby children will be asked to design the stamps for Christmas 1981. Details will be announced soon.

This is the second time children have been given such an opportunity. In 1966 the Post Office and 'Blue Peter' sponsored a similar competition when two children — aged 6 years — were responsible for the design of two Christmas stamps. 183 million were printed. This time it is estimated that 500 million will be printed, and as part of their prize, the winners will see the stamps being printed.

The First Five Pound Orange



This month's 'Gem' from the Reginald M Phillips Collection is a departure from the normal 'postal' items which have appeared regularly in this feature. The illustration above is of the £5 orange, also the £1 brown, Telegraph Stamps both of which were issued on 1 March 1877.

The Phillips Collection of these items includes five imperforate plate proofs in black, and two perforated colour trials as well as a complete collection of the imprimaturs, including those to one pound and overprinted 'Specimen' to five pounds, as illustrated here.

The design of both stamps, although 'fiscals', was subsequently adopted (with only minor changes) for the £1 brown and the classic £5 orange postage stamps. Although 'fiscals' are something of a poor relation in the stamp world, these items neatly illustrate the influence that they sometimes have on 'postage' stamp design and also their own importance in the field of philately.

Visitors to the National Postal Museum can see the extensive selection of these attractive items in volume XLIV of the Phillips Collection which is always on display.

CHARLES GOWEN

Forthcoming Events

Croydon Stamp Fair

The Croydon and Purley Philatelic Societies are jointly organising a stamp, coin and postcard fair to take place in the Selsdon Hall, Selsdon, South Croydon (corner of Addington and Old Farleigh Roads) on Saturday 14 February 1981. Among the attractions there are to be stamp displays by both Societies.

The fair will open at 10am until 5pm and the price of admission is 10p. Car parking is free and there are frequent bus services to and from East Croydon Station, and Croydon Town Centre.

Proceeds will be donated to 'Help a London Child' charity organised by Capital Radio.

British Philatelic Federation Congress 1981

The British Philatelic Federation Congress next year will be held at Guernsey, Channel Islands, from Thursday 1 October to Sunday 4 October 1981.

Guernsey Conference Services will arrange a 'package' which will include the travel by air or sea, hotel accommodation with transport between airport and hotel, basically for four nights but this can be adjusted for a shorter or longer stay to meet individual requirements.

The Headquarters Hotel will be The Duke of Richmond which is only a few minutes walking time from the Beau Sejour where the meetings will take place.

The usual features of a BPF Congress will be retained although curtailed into a shorter period to allow for travel to Guernsey on Thursday.

Full details will be available from the Secretary, BPF Ltd., 1 Whitehall Place, LONDON, SW1A 2HE from 1 February 1981.

1981 Melville Junior Stamp Competition

The next Melville Junior Stamp Competition will be held in March 1981, and now is the time to start preparing your exhibit. As in previous years, the entries will be divided into four age groups, as follows:

- A. For those aged 18 years and under 21 years.
- B. For those aged 16 years and under 18 years.
- C. For those aged 13 years and under 16 years.
- D. For those aged under 13 years.

Ages to be reckoned as on 1 January of the year of the competition. A cup will be awarded to the best entry in each class (to be held for one year) as well as silver, bronze/silver and bronze medals to all entrants who achieve a sufficiently high standard. In addition, the Cartwright Medal will be awarded to the entry in Class C or D which shows the most promise, the Hélène Leverton Medal for the most promising entry in Class B and the National Westminster Bank Prize for the most promising entry in Class A. Interested juniors should write (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope) for the rules and entry forms to, Mrs F Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, PINNER, Middx, HA5 4AL, who will also put intending entrants in touch with their nearest philatelic societies. Completed entry forms should be given, with exhibits, to the secretary of a society, Federation or Association affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation, so that they can be sent to Mrs Rapkin, at the above address, to arrive no later than Saturday 28 February 1981.

Melville 'Teach-In' during Stampex

On 28 February, the Saturday of Stampex, the Melville Committee will organize a 'Teach-In' in the Lecture Theatre at the Royal Horticultural Hall, (the venue of Stampex). There will be three one and a half hour sessions starting at 11am, 2pm and 4pm. Talks on preparing and building up a basic collection will be the topic for discussion and display. Tickets will be available free of charge to young persons under the age of eighteen years, from the BPF stand during the exhibition, but can be obtained in advance, by sending a 50p postal order, indicating which session is required to Mrs Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, PINNER, Middx, HA5 4AL.

Variation of Existing Definitive

The current $\frac{1}{2}$ p definitive stamp printed with two phosphor bars is now being printed on phosphor coated paper (PCP). The new printing is available from the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic sales counters. This stamp is not regarded as a new issue and no first day of issue facilities are offered.

Commemorative Covers

Salvation Army

A special cover is being produced by The Salvation Army to commemorate the Swindon Citadel Centenary Celebrations on 24 February 1981. A special handstamp will be used to cancel the covers which will bear a single 'Folklore' stamp. The cost is 80p.

Alternatively the cover with all four 'Folklore' stamps affixed and cancelled, will be available price £1.30. Orders should be sent to Major K Daws, 75 Park Lane, HARROW, HA2 8NN, accompanied by a remittance made payable to The Salvation Army.

The Robin Hood Society Exhibition

To coincide with the issue of the 'Folklore' stamps on 6 February 1980, the Robin Hood society of Nottingham offer a commemorative cover featuring several characters from the Robin Hood legend depicted beneath the famous oak tree.

The cover bearing all four stamps, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, will be posted in a special box sited in Nottingham Castle. The cost of the cover is £2.50 including return postage and packing. A further 250 covers will be available, signed by the present Sheriff of Nottingham, price £4.75 each. Orders and remittances should be sent to:- Mr A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ. Further details of the Society can be obtained from:- Mrs M Chamberlain, Robin Hood Society, 37 Moorsholm Drive, Wollaton, NOTTINGHAM, NG8 2EF.

St Valentine's Day Cards Exhibition

To coincide with the 'Folklore' stamps issue on 6 February, an exhibition of St Valentine's Day cards will be staged in the Newarke Houses Museum, Leicester. To mark the event a commemorative cover will be available bearing all four stamps, cancelled with a special handstamp. The covers, price £2.50 each will be posted at the exhibition.

Orders with remittances should be sent to Mr A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ.

The English Folk Dance Song Society

To mark their 1981 Folk Festival taking place in the Royal Albert Hall, London, The English Folk

Dance Song Society will offer a commemorative cover on 6 February, bearing all four 'Folklore' stamps, price £2. Alternatively, the cover with a single 'Morris Dancing' stamp affixed will be available for £1. The special handstamp used to cancel all covers will depict Morris dancing. Orders with remittances should be sent to:- The English Folk Dance and Song Society, Dept. LT, 2 Regents Park Road, LONDON, NW1 7AY.

Datapost Inaugural Flight to China

On Wednesday 13 November 1980, British Airways inaugurated their first fare paying passenger flight to Peking, China.

To mark the occasion specially prepared covers – cancelled with the Heathrow Airport PO pictorial handstamp on the morning of the flight – were despatched by Datapost Mail to Peking on this first flight. The covers cost £4.65 each and are obtainable from:- Henry Murray, Arlington Supplies Ltd., PO Box 143, Palmers Green, LONDON, N13 4XN.

Burns Night Postmark at Dumfries

The Dumfries Burns Club, which celebrated its 160th anniversary last year, is sponsoring a pictorial postmark to be used at Dumfries on 25 January 1981, the 222nd birthday of Robert Burns. The datestamp incorporates the statue of Burns and the Muse of Poetry, by the Irish sculptor, Peter Turnerelli, which forms the centre-piece of the Burns Mausoleum in St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries. The Dumfries Burns Club has produced souvenir covers, with a vignette illustrating the Mausoleum. Fully serviced covers, bearing an appropriate postage stamp and the special postmark, will be available from the Secretary of the Club, Mr John McFadden, 37 George Street, DUMFRIES, DG1 1EA, at 65p (U.K.) or 75p (overseas).

Collecting Machin Definitives

Don Staddon's series will continue in the February edition of the Bulletin with part 5.

Stanley Gibbons Postcard Catalogue, 1981 First Edition

Retail Price: £4.95

The picture postcard hobby, which was all the rage in Edwardian times, has progressed in leaps and bounds during the past ten years, and collectors will welcome this new and authoritative guide. Many will be surprised – if not astounded – at the extent and scope of picture postcards, ranging from common and not-so-common street scenes of long ago and the artist-drawn glamour studies of the First World War through the ‘seven ages of man’ to modern times. The compilers, Tonie and Valmai Holt, have divided the era of the postcard into seven periods – period 1, 1869-1899 covers the first day of issue of the postcard (by Austria on 1 October 1869) to the first regular issue of picture cards (in the 1890s); period 2, 1900-1914, the ‘golden age’ of picture postcards; period 3, 1914-1918, World War I, and so on through to period 7, 1969 to the present day. The significance of each period is fully explained in an introductory history.

The main body of the catalogue is taken up by an elaborate classification of subjects or themes, alphabetically arranged from Accessories, Advertising and Animals etc. to the important Social History/Topographical and War sections. Each theme has its numerous sub-divisions, again in alphabetical order, and the entries are conveniently cross-referenced to different but related sections. The classification ‘Artists’ contains some 40 pages of short biographies of some of the best-known postcard artists, while details of other artists are listed under the various themes. The index is the key to the whole catalogue and there are separate lists of Artists and Themes. The three-band pricing system of values is unique in that it provides an average or median price for a card, based on its age and condition, thus the older cards – generally the most valuable – in near perfect condition without blemish, will rate the highest band. The book is profusely illustrated by about 500 reproductions of postcards representing every category – these too are numbered, captioned and priced, and cross-referenced to the text. With 224 pages.

1981 Elizabethan Catalogue

Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

The new 1981, seventeenth edition of the popular Elizabethan Specialised Catalogue of Modern British Commonwealth Stamps is currently available, price £11.95.

The collecting of modern Great Britain and Commonwealth stamps has become one of the most popular aspects of the hobby. This is reflected in the carefully revised prices given in the latest edition. Because stocks of older ‘Elizabethan’ issues are no longer available in quantity their prices continue to show considerable increase. Prices for more modern material are more fickle, but for popular areas their potential is already evident.

Among the improvements to listings are the expanded Appendixes which are now to be found at the end of the countries concerned. Included for the first time are some issues of Belize, Dominica (gold foil stamps) and Redonda.

In addition, the unannounced photogravure printings of the Malaysian States 1971-78 definitives are now listed and collectors of Rhodesia will find much new information, together with prices, added between 1966 and 1980.

Philatelic Bulletin

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