

Philatelic Bulletin

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Introduction

It is a well known axiom that the future of our hobby is to be found in the young collectors who must be encouraged to learn all they can so that in time they may take their place in helping to run local societies or more esteemed bodies. The first requirement is to attract newcomers and to this end we are delighted to co-operate with both the Crown Agents and the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council. Our joint stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition to be

held at Olympia in London from 29 February until 25 March will feature displays of interest to newcomers. Representatives from the three organisations will be in attendance to answer questions and to distribute literature.

Marcus Arman made innumerable friends by his many fascinating articles written while he was Curator of the National Postal Museum. They will be as pleased as we to read his review of a new book on Anthony Trollope – a man famous in the literary and Post Office fields.

Royal Air Force Flown Covers

The 50th Anniversary of No. 2 Sqn. of the Royal Air Force Regiment will occur on 7 April 1972 and it will be marked by a souvenir cover in the Royal Air Force Museum Series. This cover (No. 25) will show the A W Whitley MK3 bomber used by the Airborne Forces for parachute training in 1942, be franked with the Jersey 4p definitive and cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp in use at St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands, on 7 April. The cover will then be flown from Jersey and dropped by container at RAF Colerne, Wilts. Covers will be available by 20 April at 28p (including postage) from the Philatelic Officer, RAF Colerne, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts.

The 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Flying Corps falls on 13 April 1972 when a special BFPS handstamp will be in use at RAF West Malling to cancel commemorative covers, No. 33 of the RAF Museum Series. The covers, depicting an Airspeed Horsa glider used at Arnhem in 1944, will be flown by glider from West Malling to RAF Biggin Hill. They will be available on or about 25 April at 28p (including postage) from the Philatelic Officer, RAF West Malling, MAIDSTONE, Kent.

All proceeds from these two covers will be devoted to the Royal Air Force Museum Appeal Fund.

National Postal Museum
The Years 1878-80
(Part 2)

As described in the previous article six firms tendered in May 1879 for the 1d contract.

Some of the material submitted with the tenders was destroyed in 1930. Nevertheless, the Post Office collection now has the bulk of the specimens and essays actually submitted by the six tenderers. It is thus possible to establish or confirm the sheet sizes and colours in which the well known essays engraved by William Ridgeway for Perkins Bacon, by W. H. Hooper for McCorquodales, and by unknown engravers for Charles Skipper and East and Bradbury Wilkinson's, were printed (Illustrated on pp. 217-18 of Robson Lowe's "The British Postage Stamp of the Nineteenth Century".)

Much more important and interesting was that it now became possible to identify as G.B. essays connected directly with the 1879 Tenders two essays believed to be Colonial. Also some entirely unknown material came to light.

Hitherto, no essays were known as having been submitted by Messrs Waterlow. In fact, that firm submitted 19 single specimens (mounted on cards) of an essay in the one design. As will be seen from the illustration (fig 2) this essay (of which very few other copies are known) is inscribed "Queensland/Two Pence" and it has, not unnaturally, been regarded and catalogued as an essay for that Colony.

Catalogued in Vol III of the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia as an essay for the De La Rue printed 1869 Four Annas green "East India Postage" stamp of India is a similar but cruder design lettered "West India Postage". Two sheets of this essay, printed in rose carmine, were in fact submitted by McCorquodales for the 1879 One Penny Tender as part of the specimens of their work (see fig 3). So it is in fact a G.B. and not an Indian essay.

McCorquodales also submitted as designs for a new One Penny six most attractive stamp-size hand-prepared essays. In each case the Queen's head (which is that first used

for the De La Rue 1855 Fourpenny carmine) is cut from an actual stamp and it is surrounded by delicate hand-drawn frames. They were probably too fine and delicate to reproduce satisfactorily. (Fig 4.)

Charles Skipper and East also submitted two designs: original artists drawings, $2\frac{3}{8}$ " x $3\frac{3}{8}$ " in pen-and-ink and wash (figs 5 and 6). Both drawings are obviously by the same artist but unsigned. However, since the draped head of Queen Victoria on one of the designs is identical with that struck on the campaign medals for the Maori Wars and the Abyssinia expedition of 1868-69, (fig 7) which were the work of Alfred Benjamin Wyon (1837-1884), it is probable that he was the artist working for Charles Skipper and East. Alfred Benjamin was, incidentally, a close relative of William Wyon, Chief Engraver to the Royal Mint, whose 1837 medal inspired the Queen's head used on the Penny Black.

Finally, when De La Rue and Co put in their tender, they submitted as part of the specimens of their work and designs twenty-four essays (with simulated perforations) for the One Penny made from four different heads, each used with six different frames. These were mounted on four cards. Card No 4, which includes the design officially selected for the 1d Venetian Red of January 1880, is one of the important items which can be seen in the R. M. Phillips' collection (fig 8). Cards Nos 1 and 3 were found among the 1879 Tender specimens and are now in the Post Office Collection; the whereabouts of card No 2 are not known to me.

As specimens of their fugitive inks Messrs De La Rue submitted sheets of the Inland Revenue 1d stamp (S.G. F16) printed in three colours different from that normally used: buff, rose-brown and carmine. These were printed on the Anchor watermark paper supplied to the tenderers by the Inland Revenue.

In a memorandum of February 1880 Sir Charles Herries of the Board of Inland Revenue stated that the six tenders received



Fig. 2

were formally opened at a full meeting of the Board and revealed that the prices quoted by the various tenderers varied from $1\frac{3}{8}d$ to $2\frac{3}{8}d$ per thousand stamps supplied. The specimen stamps delivered with each tender were then referred by the Board, without disclosing the names of the tenderers, to the Board's chemists.

As it happens, one of the most important papers to come to light recently is the manuscript confidential report on the specimens submitted by the six firms. This report was prepared by Mr G. B. Robertson, Controller of Stamping of the Inland Revenue.

Of the Perkins Bacon essays, Mr Robertson said that the head was very good, but that "owing to the extreme fineness of the lines of the work, there is a general indistinctness and want of relief". He also considered that the colours were "coarse in hue" and concluded by stating that the firm had not been able to offer "any really good specimens of surface-printing". This was hardly surprising as Perkins Bacon were quite inexperienced in this field. His comments on Bradbury Wilkinson's submission are far more favourable. They had apparently submitted eight designs (none of which appear to have survived), one a contemporary picture of Queen Victoria, three using a subject other than the Queen's head, and three using a head of the Queen cut from existing stamps. The specimens of printing were in his opinion "very good".

Though he was unimpressed by Charles Skipper and East's two designs and found the



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

colours "limited as to variety" Robertson considered their specimens of surface printing "very good". Of McCorquodale's designs Robertson wrote that they had "little originality" and of their specimens of printing that they were "only fairly executed".

Robertson's conclusions on the De La Rue submission were that the designs were "very good and have all been executed with an evident knowledge of the requirements of surface stamp printing". The specimens of printing and colour were, in his opinion, wholly satisfactory. But the area in which De La Rue had the edge over all their competitors was that of the special fugitive inks which they had been developing ever since 1853 and which were kept a closely guarded secret.

As a result of their tests the Board of Inland Revenue's chemists reported that "there was but one tender [De La Rue's] which thoroughly fulfilled the chemical conditions to which the safety of the Revenue required a rigid adherence."



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

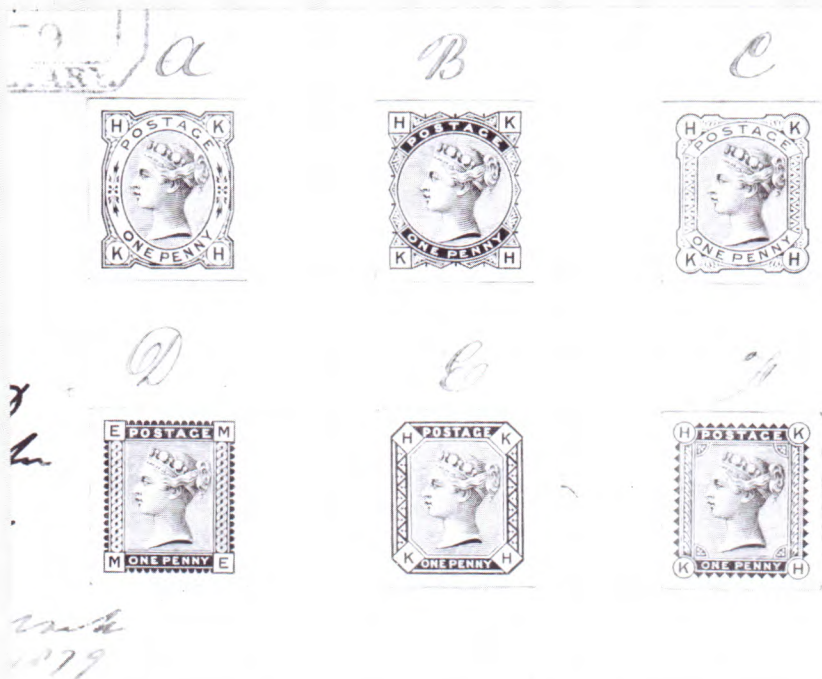


Fig. 8

De La Rue's tender was therefore accepted on 27 June 1879. The design selected (by the Postmaster General) was that marked 'D' on card No. 4 "which will therefore be adopted". As the Post Office wanted the new 1d stamp to be issued as soon as possible De La Rue's were instructed to proceed with the preparation of the plates without waiting for the signature of the new contract. The colour was to be a lighter tint of red (than the previous stamp) "in order to assimilate with the colour of foreign stamps of the same denomination as recom-

mended by the International Bureau" (of the Universal Postal Union which Great Britain had joined as a founder member in 1874).

By 20 October warrants had been issued for the preparation of no less than 62 one penny printing plates. The large number of plates prepared was a corollary to De La Rue's change-over from hand to machine printing; a change which had enabled them to quote in the tender a reasonable price ($2\frac{3}{8}$ d per 1,000) for high quality stamps.

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

On Designing the Polar Explorer Stamps 1972

by Marjorie Saynor

I was absolutely thrilled when the Post Office asked me, amongst others, to make some preliminary designs for a series of Polar Explorer Stamps. The subject appealed immensely and one of the names put forward by the Post Office, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, was that of a childhood hero. So I rushed off excitedly and rather wildly in different directions to find out who were the great polar explorers, what they did, if there was a common denominator and could any of this be illustrated.

Encyclopaedias and background books gave me a general survey of the polar subject. The beginnings are shrouded in legend and give general surmise of a southern region to match the northern as exemplified in the Greek *Antarktikos* "opposite the bear", while the latest developments in the north and the south pole show no frontiers but flags of many nations in the vast area of snow and ice.

As I skimmed through account after account certain names assumed significance. But who to include? With a great deal of help from staff at the Scott Polar Research Unit Cambridge and the Royal Geographical Society I eventually had a short list of six: Frobisher, Cook, Franklin, Ross, Weddell and Scott. Basically three representing each region of north and south, though Cook and Ross travelled extensively in both hemispheres.

Frobisher because he was the first to cross the arctic circle in search of a North West passage to Cathay; Captain Cook, one of the greatest navigators who ever lived sailed far to the north and south; Sir John Franklin whose loss in the arctic shocked the British public to such an extent that many expeditions were mounted to look for him and much valuable information was accrued over the twelve years; James Clark Ross who explored arctic and antarctic regions and of course Captain Scott.

Pictorial reference came from the photographic library of the Royal Geographical Society and the Bodleian Library Oxford. Rough colour guides were prepared to form an idea of the series then a careful portrait of each man was made on a plain ground the actual



stamp size which also showed the Queen's head, poundage, names and dates.

The men interested me so much as people I felt faces were the most important part of the story, not details such as ships or sledges. An idea, too, of making a stamp as simple as possible in design was running through my mind. Then mounted on envelopes and each backed by a brief history the stamps were submitted with not a little trepidation. Would there be enough there? With great delight I heard sometime later that the Stamp Committee had selected three of my designs to go ahead but they would like to see incorporated in each design some sort of shadowy background of the place associated with the explorer. I was to try this out on the rejected three, Cook, Franklin and Weddell. William Baffin was also added to make up a fourth stamp. However I found that "he had not been important enough to have his portrait painted." Henry Hudson was put forward as a substitute but again there

was no contemporary portrait though at last the painting in the Tate Gallery was deemed almost authentic on grounds of long acceptance.

About the same time I met technicians who explained about the phosphor strip and how it affected design also that some white in the background would greatly simplify printing and be helpful in the automatic sorting process. Hence specimen backgrounds were worked with white mercator projection lines of latitude and longitude. The designs quickly came back – not a success so again to the Royal Geographical Society which came up with some absolutely gorgeous contemporary maps.

This time I worked separate background roughs. That each map had still to read as a map and yet not interfere with the approved existing design proved a bit tricky and in the case of Frobisher I had to resort to a much more general map than that showing only Frobisher

Bay. The case of Ross proved interesting inasmuch as the House of Commons had a map especially drawn and printed in 1841.

At last suitable suggestions had been made. Henry Hudson was completed as one piece of artwork and thanks to the considerable skill and courtesy of the printers, Harrison and Sons Limited, it was suggested I should make my finished artwork of the major backgrounds separately to be superimposed in printing on the original portrait.

More fine brushwork then once again I was waiting for things to work out. A few weeks later I went to see the first essays at High Wycombe and to check a few small alterations.

There was further work by Harrisons, then the Queen's approval was received and the designs are now waiting the verdict of the public.

Meanwhile, I count myself very fortunate to have taken part in such a very interesting job.

General Anniversaries First Day Cover Services

Three widely differing anniversaries are featured on a set of stamps to be issued on 26 April, 1972. The 50th anniversary of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun is shown on the 3p, the 150th anniversary of the formation of HM Coastguard on the 7½p and the centenary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams, the famous composer, on the 9p.

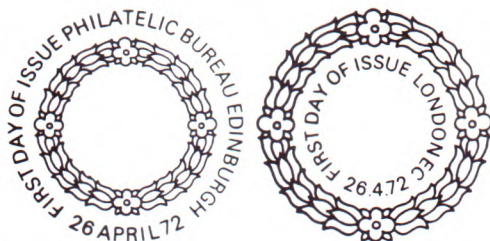
The following first day cover services will be provided by the Bureau:

Service A – a full service providing a specially designed envelope addressed by the Bureau and bearing the three stamps postmarked “Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh” or “London EC”. The charge is 28p for deposit account customers or 30½p for non-deposit account customers.

Service B – Customers own pre-addressed covers will be accepted. The full range of stamps will be affixed and cancelled with the “Philatelic Bureau” or “London EC” postmark for 24½p per cover.

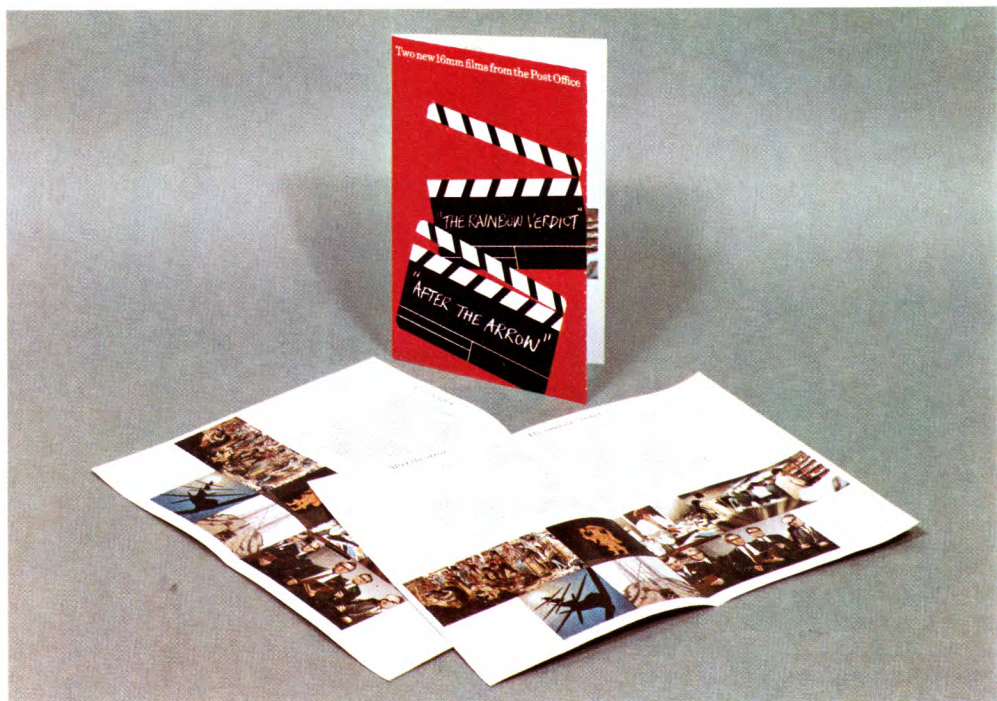
Service C – For 50 or more covers to the same address the conditions of Service A will apply except that the price will be 28p per cover.

Both the Bureau and London EC cancellations will be pictorial.



The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at about 180 offices. Items posted in the special collecting boxes at these offices will be given a “first day of issue” cancellation.

Successful Post Office Films now in 16mm



Following its showing on the Post Office stand at Philypia, "After The Arrow" went on to be honoured as one of the ten best sponsored films of the year and taken by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for world-wide cinema distribution.

"The Rainbow Verdict" was awarded certificates of merit by both the British Industrial and Scientific Film Association and the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It has also been taken by MGM for a world-wide theatrical release.

Now both films are available for the first time in 16mm and can be obtained on free loan from selected libraries.

If you would like to find out more about these successful and entertaining productions and how to borrow them, please write for the colourful illustrated leaflet, available free

from:-

The Films Officer,
Postal Headquarters (Dept. PB),
FREEPOST
London,
EC1B 1HX

No postage is necessary but, if you have a Postcode please remember to include it on your own letterhead when writing. It is regretted that free-loan facilities are restricted to the United Kingdom at present.

Philatelic Posting Boxes

Special philatelic posting boxes are now opened on first days of issue at Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire, Greenock, Renfrewshire and Basingstoke, Hants.

Book Review

Anthony Trollope Servant of the Post Office and of Literature

At a time when novelty and sensationalism tends to be accepted as the criteria of literary and artistic excellence the writings of Anthony Trollope are as refreshing as a draught of astringent spring water. Not for nothing does his new scholarly biographer, James Pope Hennessy remind us that Trollope's inestimable gift was a complete appreciation of the usual. Indeed Trollope himself held that the object of a novel should be to instruct in morals while it amuses.

That there is still a very definite place for tales well told which would not bring a blush to a maiden's cheek is evident from the popularity that many of Anthony Trollope's novels enjoy some ninety years after his death. Post Office people may take pride in the fact that the works by which Anthony is chiefly remembered – Barchester Towers, The Warden, and the Small House at Allington – were written during the thirty-one years he spent in the service of the post and before he “retired” to devote himself full time to his writing. By then he was 52 years old and, in the following year, Smith Elder published *The Last Chronicles of Barset*, the bulk of which had been written while Anthony was in his Post Office harness.

Trollope's productivity was prodigious. His first book was published when he was 33 and for the succeeding 34 years he wrote one book after another with a regularity equalled only by Sir Walter Scott and Charles Dickens. At the time of his death he had no less than 47 novels to his credit – many of them immense three deckers “written on the strength of beef and through the inspiration of Ale” as Nathaniel Hawthorne said of them. In total Trollope's writings filled over 130 volumes and, surprisingly, the 1971 Edition of Books in Print lists almost half of them as still obtainable.

Anthony Trollope entered the Post Office service in 1835 when Sir Francis Freeling was Secretary. Just a year later he became one of the personal clerks to Freeling's successor,

Colonel Maberley. It is curious to learn that Maberley had a fashionable wife who was one of the few women in London Society who chose to see the erstwhile friend of Lord Byron, Lady Blessington, who was then living with the notorious Count d'Orsay at Gore House. Pope Hennessy omits to point out however that this same Lady Blessington edited the *Book of Beauty* which Charles Heath of “Penny Black” fame produced annually – a fact which must have been gall and wormwood to Colonel Maberley who loathed anything even remotely connected with the Postal reforms of 1840 which he was forced to implement as Secretary to the Post Office. The Colonel was a choleric character: he arrived daily at his office in St Martin's-le-Grand at eleven o'clock precisely and announced his arrival by “tearing at the bell for his breakfast”. He had no time for young Trollope which is perhaps understandable since on a celebrated occasion Anthony accidentally drenched the Colonel's face and shirt front with ink – an event unlikely to endear a young civil servant to his chief then or now!

Trollope's career in the Secretary's Office was further shaken when the mother of a young woman stalked into the room he shared with other gentlemen-clerks and demanded “Anthony Trollope when are you going to marry my daughter?” Not surprisingly soon afterwards Anthony volunteered for a vacant post as Surveyor's clerk in Dublin and took up his appointment in 1841. Fortunately the Irish Secretary to the Post Office told young Trollope that he proposed to judge him on his merits rather than on the basis of the devastating private report he had had from Colonel Maberley.

Post Office Surveyors, their clerks and assistants, were the king pins in Post Office provincial management until as recently as the nineteen thirties. Many of the senior people who are today at the top of the Post Office managerial hierarchy served, as did Trollope, as Assistant Surveyors. New management techniques have ousted the men who were

"Monarchs of all they Surveyed" and never again will the travelling officer enjoy as did Anthony the pleasure of keeping a splendid hunter in his stable for his journeys on official business and as a rider to hounds. With delightful candour Trollope admits in the Autobiography to travelling on horseback as much as he could as the mileage allowance he could claim subsidised his hunter! Descriptions of hunting appear in many of the novels and *The Pall Mall Gazette* produced a series of light-hearted "Hunting Sketches."

Marrying in 1844 on his Post Office Salary of £400 a year – an income which he regarded as "slender" but which many of this Century's Clerks before the war, let alone in the 19th Century, would have coveted – Trollope wrote: "My marriage was like the marriage of other people and of no special interest to anyone except my wife and me". So far as one can tell in the face of such reticence Anthony and Rose Trollope found happiness.

In 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, Trollope was sent to the South West of England to reorganise the Posts from Wiltshire to Lands End and from the Channel Islands to Monmouth and the six South Wales counties. His objective was to "create a postal network which should catch all recipients of letters" – and it was in that endeavour that he proposed the introduction of letter boxes in Jersey and Guernsey. They soon spread to the mainland and became accepted as essential street furniture. Oddly his new biographer does not mention letter boxes. Influential as Anthony unquestionably was in the development of the postal network which serves the most remote districts of Britain, this West of England period was equally eventful for the famous Barsetshire series of novels. Winchester and Wells, Exeter and Worcester were given new life in the tale of Hiram's Hospital and in the persons of Archdeacon Grantley, Mrs Proudie and Mr Harding.

Becoming a Surveyor in 1853 – instead of a Surveyor's clerk – the difference consisting mainly of an increase in salary from about

£450 to £800 as Trollope laconically puts it in the Autobiography – from travelling the West of England Anthony was sent on official business to Egypt, Malta, Gibraltar, the West Indies and generally "banging about the world." These journeys, as had those made in Britain, similarly enriched English literature: the novelist who used his power in describing the usual in a manner which illuminated tales well told, showed himself equally able to report less familiar scenes and situations.

As was perhaps to be expected Pope Hennessy is rather more concerned with Anthony Trollope the Novelist than with the Post Office man. But his biography is none the worse for that.

("Anthony Trollope" by James Pope Hennessy is published by Jonathan Cape £5).

F. MARCUS ARMAN

Young Collector's Corner

The Caledonian Philatelic Society Jubilee Cup Competition 1972

This competition is open to Junior Collectors up to and including the age of 18, belonging to Schools in Glasgow and the West of Scotland or to any School or Philatelic Society.

All entries should be received at the following address not later than noon on Saturday 11 March 1972:–

Mr Hamish Anderson
59 Maxwell Drive
East Kilbride
GLASGOW
G74 4HJ

The Cup, awarded to the winner of the Competition, and Prizes will be presented and the winning entries exhibited at a meeting of the Caledonian Philatelic Society to be held on Thursday 23 March, 1972, at 7.30 pm in the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, 183 Bath Street, Glasgow.

All enquiries about the competition should be sent to the address above.

National Army Museum Series Military Covers

The final issues of covers by the National Army Museum in the current series will be made in March as follows:-

14 March Group 5 No. 11

The Ashantee War Medal

21 March Group 3 No. 12

Field Marshal The Viscount Wolseley

28 March Group 5 No. 12

The Indian General Service Medal

Special pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamps will be used to cancel the covers.

Orders should be sent with remittances to:-

The Philatelic Officer

National Army Museum Appeal

Duke of Yorks Headquarters

Kings Road

Chelsea

London SW3 4RX.

Overseas customers please add 5p for postage by surface mail or the 20z rate for air mail.

Please include the return postage in correspondence where a reply to an enquiry is required.

70th Anniversary of Army Nursing Services

A commemorative cover will be produced to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, now Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, on 27 March 1972. The cover will be franked with the 3p British Legion stamp and cancelled with the British Forces Postal Service handstamp, 1199. Covers are available at 25p each from:

The Philatelic Officer,

QARANC Training Centre,

Farnborough Road,

Aldershot, Hants.

Victorian Pillar Box

This interesting letter box is situated on Glanmire Road (now called Kent) Station, Cork.

The original door with the VR letters has been replaced by a plain door which is perhaps



unusual because a large number of boxes still carry the letters VR or ER on their doors in the Irish Republic.

The Special Notice (Fogra Speisialta) reads "Letters bearing an additional 1d stamp posted in this box up to 2.45 pm will be forwarded by Day Mail. Letters posted up to 8.45 pm will be posted by Night Mail".

We are grateful to Mr M. P. L. Costeloe, Blackrock, Co Dublin for the loan of his print.

Bilingual First Day of Issue Handstamps

Bilingual handstamps worded "Dydd Cyhoeddiad Cyntaf First Day of Issue" and the name of the office will be used in future at: Aberystwyth, Caernarvon, Cardiff, Carmarthen Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, Haverfordwest, Llandrindod Wells, Llandudno, Llanelli, Newport Mon., Pontypridd, Rhondda, Swansea.

1972 Stamp Programme

The 50th Anniversary of the BBC will be commemorated by stamps with the denominations 3p, 5p and 9p. The 75th Anniversary of the first wireless transmission across water by Marconi and Kemp will be the 7½p stamp and not the 9p as announced in the February *Bulletin*.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting, bearing at least 3p in postage, should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town in which the special posting box is located.

27 March 1972

1902-1972 70th Anniversary Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps 27 March 1972 British Forces 1199 Postal Service. Special posting box at QARANC Training Centre, Royal Pavilion, Aldershot, Hants. Items for reposting to the Philatelic Officer at the same address.

23 May 1972 — 26 May 1972

Y 54 Edd Gyngres Ffilatelig Prydain Fawr 23rd May 1972 Llandudno Caernarvonshire. The translation is **The 54th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.** Special posting box at the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno, Caerns. A differently designed handstamp will be used for each day of the event.

5 — 12 August 1972

Berkshire International Scout Camp BIC 72. The Great Park Windsor, Berks. Special posting box at the Camp, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used, marking the outer cover "Postmark Slogan".

17 January — 31 December 1972

Ventnor Isle of Wight for Leisure and Pleasure. To be used at Birmingham.

1 February — 31 December 1972

Livingston the New Town for People and Industry. To be used at Livingston, West Lothian.

1 February — 31 December 1972

Golden Littlehampton Sands and Sunshine in Sussex send 7½p for Guide to Mr Post Council Offices Littlehampton. To be used at Littlehampton, Sussex.

14 February — 15 June 1972

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Chesterfield.

14 February 1972 — Until further notice.

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Rotherham, Yorkshire.

21 February — 6 March 1972

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Barnsley, Yorkshire.

28 February 1972 — Until further notice.

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at: Galashiels HO; Berwick-upon-Tweed SSO; Duns SSO; Selkirk SSO.

20 March 1972 — Until further notice.

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at: Hereford; Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire.

20 May — 7 July 1972

Nottingham Festival 8-23 July 1972. To be used at Nottingham.

31 January — 25 March 1972

Ideal Home Exhibition Olympia London 29 Feb. — 25 Mar. 72. To be used at seven District Offices in London ie, South East, Paddington, South West, Northern, Eastern Central, North West and Mount Pleasant.

10 April — 29 April 1972

5 June — 17 June 1972

Sunny Worthing World Bowls Championships 5 — 17 June 1972. To be used at Worthing, Sussex.

28 February — 9 April 1972

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at: Dumfries; Annan, Castle Douglas

and Lockerbie in Dumfriesshire; Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire.

28 February – 24 March 1972

Tax Free Premium Savings Bond Prizes. To be used at Glasgow.

28 February – 24 March 1972

Tax Free National Savings Certificate Interest. To be used at Clydebank and Greenock.

28 February – 24 March 1972

Tax Free National Savings SAYE Bonuses. To be used at Bathgate and Fraserburgh.

28 February – 13 July 1972

Wolverhampton Workshop to the World. To be used at Wolverhampton Staffs.

6 March – 31 December 1972

Newtownabbey Easy Access for all Industries. To be used at Newtownabbey Co. Antrim.

1 June – 31 December 1972

Holiday in Herefordshire the Friendly County Tourist Information Centre, Chandos House, St. Owen Street, HEREFORD HR1 2PT. To be used at Hereford.

5 June – 16 July 1972

See You at the East of England Show July 18, 19, 20 Peterborough. To be used at: Peterborough, Huntingdon, Wisbech, Cambs; Grantham, Lincs; Sleaford, Lincs; Market Harborough, Leics; Corby, Northants; Northampton, Kettering, Northants; Boston, Lincs; Bedford, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

1 February – 11 April 1972

Burnham-on-Sea Somerset's Family and Touring Resort Guide 5p Dept Y Information Bureau. Now to be used at Birmingham only and not as previously announced.

REPEAT CAMPAIGNS

1 February 1972 – 31 January 1973

Consett Co. Durham Industrial Sites With All Services Available. To be reused at Consett, Co Durham.

Livingston the New Town for People and Industry. Will not now be used at Livingston, West Lothian until further notice.

17 January 1972 – 16 January 1973

Leeds Motorway City of the Seventies. To be reused at Leeds.

24 January – 20 February 1972

Tenth Anniversary Year English Sinfonia Conductor. Neville Dilkes. To be reused at Nottingham.

25 February 1972 – 22 February 1973

Visit Inverness the Highland Capital. To be reused at Inverness.

Clacton-on-Sea Free Holiday Guide from Entertainments Manager Town Hall Clacton-on-Sea Essex. Will not now be used at Coventry as previously announced.

Correction

The Postmark **Londonderry Court Welcomes Trade** in the January 1972 *Philatelic Bulletin* should read **Londonderry Port Welcomes Trade**.

British Pioneer Airmails

The booklet produced to complement the exhibition at the National Postal Museum illustrating the story of the carriage of mails by air is available to callers at the National Postal Museum as well as by post from the Bureau. The price of the booklet is 29p

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Mention of the Guild of St Gabriel, the excellent society for collectors of philatelic material of religious interest, in a recent *Bulletin*, prompts me to write about Christmas postmarks.

Although the several different types of "Post Early for Christmas" marks must have been used in their thousands, they are surprisingly difficult to find today. The earlier and experimental "Posted in advance

for Christmas Day" are very rare. Modern marks can be classed as "Definitive" (eg "Please Post Cards in bundles"; "Post your cards by the 20th Dec") and "commemorative" (eg "Puss in Boots Pantomime").

The British marks may not have been as spectacular as the Christkindl marks of Austria but make an interesting sideline.

May I express my hope that the 1971 "A Happy Christmas - The Post Office" will not be repeated? The word "Christmas" is divided longitudinally into sections and capped with snow - to add a festive note! But the effect is to blur the impression and a large proportion of my several hundred specimens are indistinct.

Could future "definitive" marks sometimes contain a specifically Christian symbol - perhaps a star or a miniature manger scene?

I would be very pleased to hear from other collectors and dealers in G.B. Christmas postmarks.

Yours faithfully,

J. T. WHITNEY, BA, LPC

38 Hazlemere Road,
Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex.

maintaining one machine in working order is about £62 per annum".

Yours sincerely,

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

Curator, National Postal Museum.

Dear Sir,

It is a welcome sight to see such a brightly coloured and interesting set of stamps as the British Explorers set shown in the February *Bulletin*.

When this issue is compared with the drab Ulster Paintings set and the rather dull Literary Anniversaries issue let us hope that a new trend in attractive stamps has begun.

Yours sincerely,

Dundee.

MISS A. BULLOUS

Dear Sir,

Perforation of Postage Stamps - Pioneer Experiments

Since the publication of my articles on the introduction of perforations (*Bulletin*, August and September 1971) I have come across a memorandum by Ormond Hill dated 26 February 1856 which gives some interesting additional information. The memorandum, which was prepared at the request of the Director General of the French Post Office, states that "the cost of perforating is per thousand sheets 6s 6½d, or per thousand stamps (about) 1/3d (one third of a penny). All the postage labels are perforated at two machines; the machine perforates 600 sheets or 144,000 stamps per hour. The first cost of one machine complete is £400. The expense of

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