

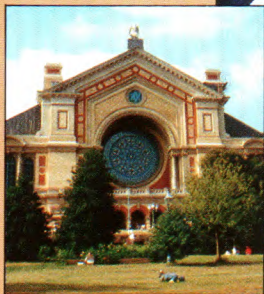
British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 27

Number 9

May 1990


*Stamp World
London
90*



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JOHN HOLMAN

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Standard Aerogramme

The standard aerogramme with the new Royal Mail logo (17 April 1990) exists in two variations - with and without a star in the margin; the starred variety comes from the packs of six. The outgoing aerogramme (issued September 1988) also exists with and without star.

This month's *Bulletin* is the second of two "bumper" Stamp World London 90 issues; I hope readers will find them of interest. This May issue is being despatched earlier than usual so that readers will receive it in good time for the exhibition. I hope all who go to Alexandra Palace will enjoy their visit.

I am pleased to report a good response to our 1989 Special Stamps poll announced in the January *Bulletin*. Some 2,260 entries were received, a slight increase on 1988. Your favourite issue, as expected, was Birds with Industrial Archaeology running it a very close second. Third was Food & Farming, followed by Microscopes, Anniversaries, Lord Mayor, Christmas, and Toys & Games. I am currently reading through all your comments and a selection will be published next month along with the names of the five readers whose remarks earned them a 1989 Yearbook.

I am also most grateful to you for the excellent response to the Questionnaire sent out with the March *Bulletin*; over 1,500 questionnaires were returned within a week of publication.

Obituary — R A G Lee

Ronald A G Lee, one of the best-known British collectors died on 10 March, in his 78th year. Ron Lee was active in national and international philatelic organisations but will perhaps be best remembered as the founder (1955) of the Great Britain Philatelic Society and as Chairman of the Philypia international exhibition in 1970. He formed several prestigious collections of classic stamps including GB; this collection was auctioned under the pseudonym "Maximus" — a name frequently mentioned in philatelic literature. He wrote for the *GB Journal* and his work *The Penny Lilac — Part 1 Frame Damage* was published by the GBPS. Amongst the many positions he held were the Presidencies of the GBPS (1964/71 & 1978/80), the Royal Philatelic Society (1975/7) and the British Philatelic Federation (1981/3). He signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1965.

A Personal Message from Keith Fisher

General Manager, Royal Mail Stamps
& Philately

I am pleased to contribute a few words to this special edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of British stamps and the opening of Stamp World London 90.

Royal Mail Stamps & Philately has two main functions — the production of postage stamps for use on letters and parcels and providing a service to our philatelic customers, involving also support and encouragement for the growth of the hobby. Every day the Royal Mail handles some 54 million letters and a large percentage of this mail still bears postage stamps. In our anniversary year we have been able to meet this huge demand for stamps by increasing to 65,000 the number of places now selling them — mostly in red booklets.

In planning and producing our special stamps we try to find subjects and designs that commemorate important events and anniversaries and reflect the British way of life — its culture, industry and commerce, arts and literature, flora and fauna, organisations and achievements. British stamps should be noticed by the senders and receivers of mail at home and overseas, and that is our aim. We cannot of course please everybody with each new issue but I am sure you will agree that our stamps are never dull — the designs are as often thought-provoking and controversial as they are nostalgic or celebratory. We owe a great deal to the skill and dedication of our Stamp Advisory Committee. The public interest in our stamps is naturally pleasing, and constructive criticism is always welcome. The impact and pride felt in British stamps is shown by the fact that each year over 1,000 individuals and organisations ask us to issue stamps for particular events or anniversaries. The choice of subjects is a daunting annual task!

Royal Mail may have come rather late into the world of philately but none can say that we have not stimulated interest in the hobby. We are proud of the work of our Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and the National Postal Museum in London, of our support of philatelic organisations through the British Philatelic Trust, and



not least of our work with children, reaching 18,000 primary schools up to eight times a year and through the Stamp Bug Club with its 70,000 active members.

We are especially pleased to be closely associated with the Stamp World exhibition and hope that the many visitors, particularly those from overseas, will enjoy the Royal Mail participation at Alexandra Palace. The Museum has joined with the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Library in arranging displays for the Court of Honour and there will be full postal as well as philatelic facilities at the exhibition. In the Court of Honour you will be able to see the world's most important philatelic item, the unique Penny Black proof sheet. Children will be entertained and introduced to the hobby with the many attractions of Stamp Land. Not least, the miniature sheet to be issued on 3 May is our tribute to the Penny Black anniversary on 6 May as well as our welcome to Stamp World London 90.

I hope all visitors will find the exhibition a rewarding experience and I wish it well on behalf of all in Royal Mail.

Keith Fisher

Kew Gardens

5 June 1990



Four stamps will be issued on 5 June to mark the 150th anniversary of Kew Gardens becoming a national institution. The Gardens are amongst the best-known botanical gardens in the world and were described by the late Sir Huw Wheldon as the “plant capital of the world”; they are visited by some 1¼ million botanists and tourists each year. The Gardens, which occupy 300 acres, contain specimens of some 50,000 different kinds of plant.

The four stamps depict trees and several of Kew's finest buildings. The **20p** stamp (basic inland first class and EEC rate) features a cycad, a fernlike tree of ancient origin, and the Sir Joseph Banks Building which opened this year. Banks (1744–1820) actively promoted economic botany; the study of plants with particular uses. The Banks Building, with its appropriate theme of “the Thread of Life”, is the latest addition to Kew's individual pieces of architecture.

House. This 19th century building was designed by Decimus Burton and R Turner; it has recently been restored to its former glory.

The **37p** stamp (Airmail Zone C) portrays a cedar tree and one of Kew's earliest buildings, the famous Pagoda, built as a folly in 1761–2. It reminds us that the gardens were originally constructed as a pleasurable escape for royalty from the formalities of court.

The Gardens were started by Princess Augusta, daughter in law of King George II, and Lord Bute in the 1750s. They quickly developed from a nine acre private garden; by the mid-1760s they were described by horticulturists as a “paradise of our world”, containing many rare and exotic plants. During the reign of George III the Gardens came under the control of Sir Joseph Banks described by Sir Huw Wheldon as “botanic impresario”, who opened the Gardens to the public — one day a week — in 1774. Both George III and Banks died in 1820 and for some years the Gardens went into decline and the Treasury tried, fortunately unsuccessfully, to persuade Queen Victoria to close them as an unnecessary burden on the Exchequer.

The eminent Victorian botanist Sir William Hooker (1785–1865) was appointed Director of the Gardens in 1841; during his period in office the Gardens grew from 11 to 250 acres in extent. By 1850 there were 2,000 species of plants. The famous Palm House was opened in 1848 — a great wrought iron and glass structure, inspired by the Crystal Palace. It measures 362 feet long and 66 feet high and was heated by an extensive system of hot water pipes; Hooker referred to it as the “Great Stove”. The Temperate House, opened in 1863, was the largest plant house in the world. Like the Palm House, it was designed by Decimus Burton.

Sir William's son, Joseph (1817–1911) succeeded his father as Director in 1865; he had studied in the Himalayas and made journeys to New Zealand and Antarctica. He expanded the tree plantations, planting over 1,000 specimens of pines. The trees served to screen out some of the unwanted views of industrial London. He also developed the Rock Garden, expanded



The **29p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) shows a stone pine, a Mediterranean tree with edible seeds, and the Princess of Wales Conservatory, the largest glasshouse at Kew. Opened in 1987, it contains 10 separate computer-controlled climatic zones ranging from desert to tropical rain forest.

The third stamp, **34p** value (Airmail Zone B) features a graceful willow tree and the Palm

collections of sub-Alpine plants, making Kew a veritable "living encyclopaedia of plants". He was succeeded in 1885 as Director by his son-in-law William Thisleton-Dyer (1843-1928), so for over 60 years the Gardens were run, in succession, by father, son and son-in-law.

Kew is far from being a static garden, it is always changing. The Queen's Garden, opened in 1969, contains plants grown in England in the 17th century. It is sited at the back of the Dutch House, used by George III and his family. The Alpine House was opened in 1981. In 1965 Wakehurst Place in Sussex came under the management of Kew; with natural slopes, clean air and better and more varied soil, it ideally complements Kew Gardens. Sadly Kew suffered severe damage in the Great Storm of October 1987 and again earlier this year. The dedication of the staff helped to save some rare species from harm. The stamps are a pleasing tribute to a wonderful national institution.



Technical Details

The Kew Gardens stamps were designed by Paul Leith and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of vertical format, 30 x 41mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 15.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 208) will cost £1.45; it was designed by Angela Reeves (Design Co-ordinator, Royal Mail Stamps) with text by Neil Ardley and printed by Moore & Matthes (Printers) Limited.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards featuring enlargements of each of the four stamps will be available from 21 May, price 18p each. They are numbered 126A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 5 June, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau, the other for Kew.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 5 June.

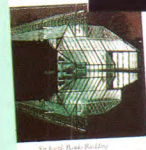
Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Kew London North Special Handstamp Centre
City of London LDO
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA

or Special Postmark Duty
Twickenham LDO
London Road
TWICKENHAM TW1 1AA

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. A pictorial First Day postmark, showing the arms of the City of London will be used at the London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Durham Post Office will be using a pictorial First Day handstamp showing the cathedral. Items for this postmark should be sent to: Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark



St. Joseph's Road, Reading



Box, 100, 100, 100



The remaining species are under attack from acid rain. In Britain, almost a third of the trees are affected.

Trees are a valuable economic resource. Every year about 100 million trees are topped to provide the paper requirements of the people of Britain - almost two trees for every person. But destroying the forests will not only rob us of foods and useful products, it could adversely affect climates. Forests soak up the sun's heat, whereas burning trees releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

and adds to the global overheating known as the 'greenhouse effect'.

Forests are also a genetic resource. They harbour wild species of trees and other useful plants some of which are grown as crops. The genes of these wild plants can be used to improve trees and crops grown in plantations and on farms, raising yields while reducing the failure of harvests due to pests and diseases. If their wild forebears are destroyed, then the trees and crops in cultivation may become overbred with limited defences

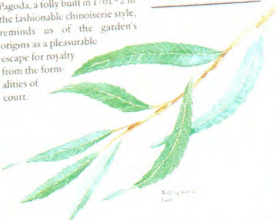
glasshouse at Kew, with ten separate computer-controlled climatic zones ranging from desert to tropical rain forest.

In the third stamp a graceful willow tree appears with the Palm House. Designed by Decimus Burton and R. Turner and constructed between 1884 and 1888, the Palm House has recently been restored to its former glory.

The final stamp portrays one of Kew's earliest buildings, the Pagoda, with a cedar tree. The Pagoda, a folly built in 1761-2 in the fashionable chinoiserie style, reminds us of the garden's origins as a pleasurable escape for royalty from the formalities of court.

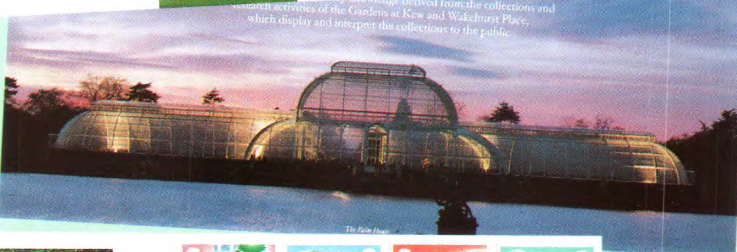


Box, 100, 100, 100

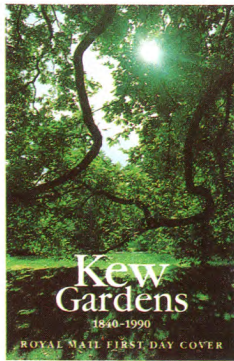


Box, 100, 100, 100

which activities of the garden are derived from the collections and which display and interpret the collections to the public.



The Palm House



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Duty, Durham Post Office, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 5 June - details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 6 June, price 18p. This will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Related Issues

The British Post Office has issued a number of stamps featuring flowers and trees, starting with the 3d stamp in the 1963 National Nature Week issue. Four stamps commemorated the 10th International Botanical Congress in Edinburgh in 1964, and the well-known flower illustrations of the Rev. Keble-Martin and used on six British Wild Flowers stamps in 1967. Two Tree stamps were issued in 1973 and 1974, respectively showing an Oak and a Horse Chestnut. Roses featured on four stamps marking the centenary of the Royal National Rose Society in 1976; Spring Wild Flowers was a popular issue in March 1979. Flowers and trees adorned the four British Gardens stamps of 1983. Photographs of flowers by Alfred Lammer were featured on four stamps in 1987; the alternative "First Day of Issue" postmark, inscribed Richmond Surrey, had the Kew Palm House as its design. The Yellow Waterlily and fungi were depicted on two of the Linnean Society stamps of 1988. Kew featured on the cover of the fourth book in the 50p Botanical Gardens series of 1987-8.

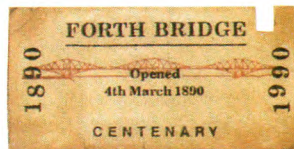
Scottish Aerogrammes

A number of readers have asked for a listing of Scottish aerogrammes which we are pleased to publish. For issues to 24 May 1988, the value in parentheses refers to the postage value of the imprinted stamp; since 4 April 1989 the aerogrammes have included the non value indicator. *Note:* Until 1981 aerogrammes were officially termed "Air Letters".

15 May 74	Glenfinnan Monument (6p)
13 Jan 75	Robert Burns (6p)
12 May 75	Glasgow 800th Anniv (8½p)
18 Jun 75	Highlands (8½p)
23 Jul 75	Scott Monument (8½p)

14 Jul 76	Folk Traditions (10½p)
25 Aug 76	Ailsa Craig (10½p)
4 May 77	Gathering of Clans (10½p)
23 Aug 78	Regimental Uniforms (10½p)
25 Apr 79	St Andrews Golf (10½p)
29 Aug 79	Regimental Uniforms (12p)
21 May 80	Regimental Uniforms (14p)
13 Aug 80	Soc of Antiquaries (14p)
29 Apr 81	Wildlife (20p)
28 Apr 82	Royal Navy (24p)
25 Aug 82	Tartans (24p)
13 Apr 83	Edinburgh (26p)
10 Aug 83	Boys' Brigade (26p)
29 May 84	Inland Air Mail (26p)
14 Aug 84	Edinburgh Festival (26p)
23 Apr 85	War Blinded (26p)
6 Aug 85	Andrew Carnegie (26p)
8 Apr 86	N Lighthouse Board (26p)
5 Aug 86	Mary Queen of Scots (26p)
4 Aug 87	James M Barrie (26p)
29 Mar 88	Year of the Bible (26p)
24 May 88	Glasgow Garden Festival (26p)
4 Apr 89	Famous Scots (32p)
8 Aug 89	William Playfair (32p)
24 Apr 90	Forth Rail Bridge (40p)

Only the Playfair and Forth Bridge issues are still on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters; the Playfair aerogramme will be withdrawn from sale on 7 August 1990.



Society News

Visitors to Stamp World with an interest in local postal history have an ideal opportunity to meet informally with other enthusiasts on 9 May. The Midland (GB) Postal History Society is holding a meeting in Room C between 10.30am and 1.30pm. Postal history societies have been invited to contribute to displays and it is hoped that many members will be present. Enquiries to: W J Calladine, Dunley House, Cranham, GLOUCESTER GL4 8HQ.

A new society for collectors of revenue stamps of the world is being set up; a meeting will be held at the East India Club, 16 St James' Square, London SW1 at 4pm on 10 May. Enquiries to: John Whiteside, 4 Moorfields, Scott Hall Road, LEEDS LS17 6SJ.

Henry Corbould – Penny Black Artist

Henry Corbould, FSA was born in Holborn on 11 August 1787. He studied painting with his father (Richard, 1757-1831) and later was admitted to the Royal Academy as a very young student. Here, he studied under Fuseli, gaining a silver medal for a life study. He was just 20 years old when he exhibited his first picture at the Academy and subsequently showed 44 historical paintings and drawings between 1807 and 1840. Other work was hung at the British Institution and the Suffolk Street Galleries.

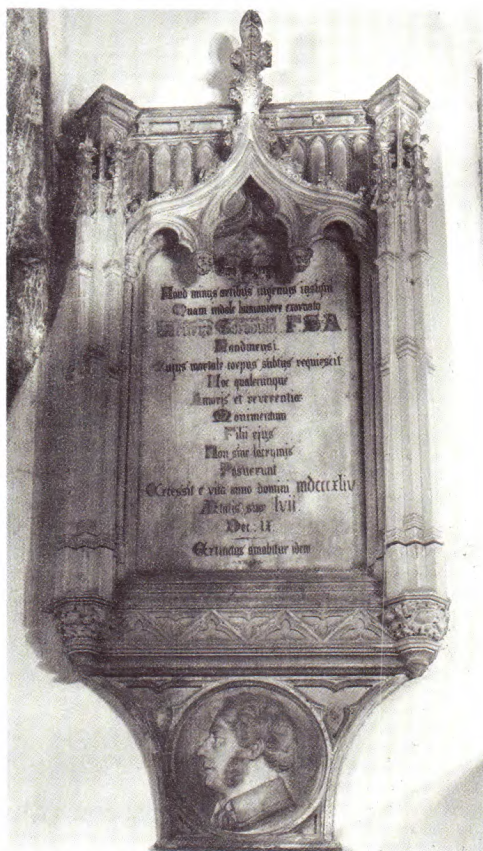
Henry Corbould's main interest was drawing from ancient marbles and he spent over 30 years taking drawings from the collections of the Duke of Bedford and Earl of Egremont. The British Museum possesses his detailed drawings of the Elgin Marbles which were published on completion. He was also a book illustrator and became well renowned as a miniaturist. Biographies of the time indicate that he was extremely popular with his contemporaries and fellow artists and was kind and helpful to students of his profession, to which he was devoted.

Perkins, Bacon & Petch commissioned Corbould to produce four pencil drawings of the young Queen Victoria in 1837. These are now in the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. Later they were required to produce the die for the Penny Black. J.P. Bacon wrote that his firm "would engage to prepare a die to be composed of the best engraving of Her Majesty's portrait which we can get executed by the best Artist, to be surrounded by white and black engine-turned work and the appropriate wording — for the sum of seventy-five guineas." In December 1839, therefore, Henry Corbould produced the drawings of a profile portrait of The Queen, which he adapted from the head on William Wyon's City Medal.

Corbould was paid £12 by Perkins Bacon for his work, which so pleased Queen Victoria herself that she specially requested this portrait to be used for all British stamps during her lifetime and also for those of several colonies.

Henry had two sons, Edward and Frank, by his first marriage. In 1844, he was riding from St Leonards in East Sussex to Hurst Green, where

he was to marry Mary Anne Wale, the widow of Sir Frances Chantrey, who had left her a large fortune. A severe frost on 8 December apparently caused a fatal attack of apoplexy and Henry died, aged 57, the following day at Robertsbridge.



The Corbould memorial in Etchingham church

He was buried in the parish church at Etchingham on 14 December 1844 where in addition to his gravestone, a Gothic memorial tablet was erected on the wall incorporating a profile portrait at the foot by Charles S. Kelsey. His obituary notice reads: "The arts have sustained a severe loss by the death of this excellent

artist. He was surpassed by few in professional knowledge; no painter of his time was more thoroughly acquainted with drawing and his copies from the antique may be referred to as models of accuracy and truth ... Henry Corbould was eminently distinguished by gentlemanly and courteous manners; his person was fine and manly and his countenance remarkably handsome."

I am obliged to Colin Bennett, Churchwarden of Etchingam Church, for supplying this information about Henry Corbould. Details of a commemorative cover for Etchingam Stamp Festival were published in the April Bulletin.Ed.

Posting Boxes

110. Victorian Wall Box

This month we again feature a Victorian wall box and again in Sussex — this time at Splaynes Green, Fletching, Nutley near Uckfield. The box is mounted in a brick and sandstone pillar



surmounted by signposts. One of the places indicated, Sheffield Park will be well-known to gardeners and railway enthusiasts as home of famous National Trust gardens and headquarters of the Bluebell Railway.

Examples of boxes mounted in stone pillars have been illustrated here before, for example in Posting Boxes Nos 36 and 72, published in May 1982 and June 1985. Our thanks to Mr H G Gentry of Tunbridge Wells who submitted the photograph reproduced this month.

Student Stamp Designs

Each year the Royal Society of Arts organises a Design Bursaries Competition for students at colleges of art. The competition, first held in 1924, is sponsored by a number of leading companies and organisations. Since 1971 The Post Office has been involved in sponsoring the Postage Stamp section and details of the winning designs have appeared in the *Bulletin* from time to time.

This year the design brief was for stamps featuring the Student Olympic Games and some of the designs are shown here. An exhibition of the award winning designs — stamps, textiles, ceramics, etc. — will be on show at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London WC2 from 2-24 May. The exhibition is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm, admission free. The exhibition will later go on tour; dates and venues will be published in the *Bulletin*.

Award winning designs submitted by Philip Greenhaugh of Humberside College of Higher Education



Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until October 1990. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau codes are quoted.

H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall, printers

NVI = Non Value Indicator stamps

PB = Penny Black Anniversary Definitive stamps

3 Nov	Philatelia exh. card (EQ015)
14 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS392)
14 Nov	Christmas Pack (AP083)
14 Nov	Christmas aerogramme (QX011)
14 Nov	1989 Yearbook (AY017)
14 Nov	1989 Collectors Pack (AR017)
17 Nov	Stamp Expo exh. card (EQ016)
28 Nov	N Ireland 15p (IS150)
28 Nov	N Ireland 20p (IS200)
28 Nov	N Ireland 24p (IS240)
28 Nov	N Ireland 34p (IS340)
28 Nov	Scotland 15p (SS150)
28 Nov	Scotland 20p (SS200)
28 Nov	Scotland 24p (SS240)
28 Nov	Scotland 34p (SS340)
28 Nov	Wales 15p (WS150)
28 Nov	Wales 20p (WS200)
28 Nov	Wales 24p (WS240)
28 Nov	Wales 34p (WS340)
28 Nov	Country Stamp Pack (CP008)
— Nov	4 x 2nd cl NVI book, H/W (UB007)
— Nov	4 x 1st cl NVI book, H/W (UB008)
8 Jan	RSCPA stamp cards (AQ103)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv stamps (DS906)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv pack (DP012)
10 Jan	NPM Personalities cards (NQ901)
10 Jan	NPM Penny Black Maxi Card (NQ902)
23 Jan	RSPCA stamps (AS398)
23 Jan	RSPCA pack (AP084)
30 Jan	50p machine book, H (TB001)
30 Jan	£1 machine book, H (TB002)
30 Jan	60p stamp book, W (UB002)
30 Jan	80p stamp book, W (UB003)
30 Jan	£1.50 stamp book, H (UB004)
30 Jan	£2 stamp book, H (UB005)
30 Jan	£1 trial book, W (TB003)
6 Feb	Greetings Stamp Pack (JB001)
19 Feb	Europa stamp cards (AQ108)
27 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card (EQ017)
6 Mar	Europa stamps (AS403)
6 Mar	Europa pack (AP085)
13 Mar	50p Def — colour “sand” (DS502)
20 Mar	London Life Prestige Book (YB001)
26 Mar	Queen’s Awards stamp cards (AQ113)

10 Apr	Queen’s Awards stamps (AS408)
10 Apr	Queen’s Awards pack (AP086)
17 Apr	Aerogramme — new logo (QO025)
17 Apr	as above, pack of 6 (QO026)
17 Apr	4 x 20p PB book H/W (UB011)
17 Apr	10 x 15p PB book Q (UB013)
17 Apr	10 x 20p PB book Q (UB014)
17 Apr	4 x 29p book, PCP, W (UB012)
24 Apr	Forth Bridge aerogramme (QS025)

Forthcoming

3 May	Penny Black Miniature Sheet
3 May	Penny Black Souvenir Book
3 May	Stamp World exh. card
3 May	NPM Personalities cards
3 May	PO Archives cards
21 May	Kew Gardens stamp cards
5 Jun	Kew Gardens stamps and pack
25 Jun	Thomas Hardy stamp cards
10 Jul	Thomas Hardy stamps and pack
17 Jul	Scot aerogramme (Glasgow)
—Jul	Queen Mother stamp cards
—Aug	Queen Mother stamps and pack
28 Aug	Gallantry stamp cards
11 Sep	Gallantry stamps and pack
11 Sep	NPM Postal Reform cards
1 Oct	Astronomy stamp cards
16 Oct	Astronomy stamps and pack
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards

Notes:

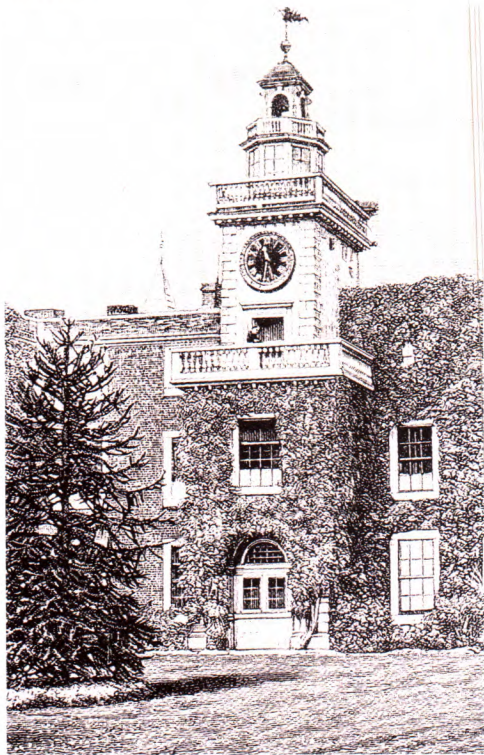
1. The NPM Personalities cards are issued in promotion of Stamp World London 90 and bear the exhibition logo on the reverse. They are listed on the Bureau stock list as SWL90 cards.
2. The 4 x 1st and 4 x 2nd class NVI books issued in November and the 4 x 20p PB stamps book of 17 April have stamps printed by Harrison in covers produced by Walsall.
3. All books issued on 30 January contain Penny Black Anniversary stamps. The £1 trial book has Mills No 1 cover design (as issued on 2 October) and can be found with the bottom edge of the pane perforated and cut straight.

Machin News

The 50p definitive in “sand” (13 March) was printed from cylinder 35. New printings of 15p Country stamps are from plates: Q3Q3 and Q4Q4 Northern Ireland; Q5Q5, Q6Q6, Q7Q7 and Q8Q8 Scotland and Q5Q5 and Q6Q6 Wales. The 20p Penny Black stamp in the “London Life” book has 2 bands as the stamp in the 50p book issued on 30 January.

Postal History at Bruce Castle

Visitors to the Stamp World exhibition at Alexandra Palace should not miss the opportunity of seeing the fine displays of postal history material at nearby Bruce Castle Museum. Bruce Castle, once the home of Rowland Hill, has since the 1920s housed the postal history collection of W V Morten; to which has been added the Union of Communication Workers' own collection of postal history material containing an unmatched range of material from the medieval period to date. Together these give the Museum unique and nationally important collections.



A new "Communications" gallery for the postal history collection was opened last September. The material exhibited brings to life the somewhat perilous nature of carrying mail in years gone by. One of the displays features "The Wicked Lady" — Mistress Mary Hues whose career of robbery in the early 19th century included a hold-up on the Bristol road when "mounted on a fine bay gelding, dressed as a gentleman, and armed with a brace of pistols", she made off with over £200. On show are

several items relating to the famous mail coaches, such as the flint lock pistols used by the guards, and leather cases for carrying the mail. Today mail coaches are a popular subject for Christmas card designs; in the past they featured on jugs and snuff boxes, examples of which are on display.

Carrying the mail by ship was also a hazardous enterprise — crews frequently being involved in fighting French privateers. Pistols, cutlasses and spy glasses form part of the Packet Boat display; pride of place must go to the beautiful ostrich egg bearing a picture of HM Packet *Briseis*, a Falmouth packet lost in 1838 on a voyage to Nova Scotia.

We are reminded of the security of mail at post offices by truncheons inscribed "GPO" (1848) and tipstaves carried by guards at the GPO. A bell used by Nottingham letter carriers (1790s), various Post Office badges and an 18th century letter box (for receiving incoming mail) made of iron but in the style of a whicker basket are some of the many interesting items to be seen.

Many of the exhibits relate to the telegraph and telephone services which were run by the Post Office until 1981. Included is a cable section made by the Submarine Telegraph Co, attractive greetings telegrams of the 1930s to 1960s, the once-familiar Public Telephone sign, and posters.

Numerous small items once commonplace in most middle class households are shown — letter balances, ink wells, sanders, ivory seals, etc. Especially attractive is a lovely inlaid sandalwood box containing multiple headed seal dies. Greetings cards of many types are featured, particularly early Valentines. There are a number of items relating to Rowland Hill and his family; some of the illustration material used in the NPM's Rowland Hill exhibition (January-April 1990) came from Bruce Castle.

On sale at Bruce Castle are postcards and prints showing mail coaches and Post Office buildings; these are also available at the NPM. Bruce Castle Museum, in Lordship Lane, LONDON N17 8NU (Tel. 01-808 8722), is open daily from 1pm to 5pm, admission free. The nearest British Rail stations are Bruce Grove and White Hart Lane (Liverpool Street to Enfield Town line), both about ½ mile from the Museum. The nearest underground station is Wood Green on the Piccadilly Line, about 1½ miles. Wood Green is the station recommended by the Stamp World organisers for travelling to Alexandra Palace.

Stamp World London 90 News

Stamp Printers at Alexander Palace

During the exhibition an engraver and artists can be seen working on the **Harrison and Sons Limited** stand. To appreciate the engravers' skills, their work will be enlarged upon a video screen. Harrison and Sons will also be showing films dealing with stamp production and there will be a chance to see a range of their products and paper over the years, and to examine such items as a cylinder from the Jumelle printing press.

Stamp production at **The House of Questa** will be told in "story-book" fashion on their stand, visitors will be able to enjoy a video showing modern stamp booklet production for the Royal Mail, for which Questa has installed new equipment. Literature and a free Questa badge will be available.

The first stamps printed by **Walsall Security Printers Limited** for the Royal Mail only appeared in 1989, but already much use has been made of its expertise in packaging, notably in stamp booklet production. Visitors to their stand can see a specially produced video which explains the production of a postage stamp. Visitors will be given a free label depicting the company's new logo and can purchase a postcard of the 1989 definitives which the company printed.

The stands of these three well-known British printers will be in the West Hall of Alexandra Palace behind the Royal Mail Stamps stand.

Postal Facilities

In addition to full philatelic facilities, a Mobile Post Office will be provided at Alexandra Palace to provide full postal facilities, such as the handling of registered mail and Datapost. This will be located in the Palm Court entrance. The Mobile PO counter will be stocked with definitive stamps and the usual Mobile PO datestamp will be used on relevant documentation.

Travelling to Stamp World

The exhibition organisers strongly recommend use of the London Underground for the last link of your journey to Alexandra Palace. The Underground serves all the British Rail London main line termini; it is convenient for Heathrow and the Gatwick Express via Victoria, and avoids the need to drive from or through the heavily congested central London area.

Travel to Wood Green station on the Pic-

cadilly Line; when leaving the station, cross the road into Station Road. From a stop on the left hand side of Station Road, courtesy buses will convey you to the Palm Court entrance of Alexandra Palace. On joining the Underground network, the following stations are recommended for transfer to the Piccadilly Line:

<i>From BR Station</i>	<i>Use Underground Line</i>	<i>Change at</i>
Charing Cross	Northern	Leicester Square
Euston	Victoria	Finsbury Park
Liverpool Street	Metropolitan or Circle	King's Cross
London Bridge	Northern	King's Cross
Paddington	Metropolitan or Circle	King's Cross
Victoria	Victoria	Finsbury Park
Waterloo	Bakerloo	Piccadilly Circus

The Piccadilly Line runs through central London and many hotels will be in easy reach of a station on that line. Travellers who start their journey on the Victoria Line are recommended to change to the Piccadilly Line at Finsbury Park where there is a simple cross-platform change.

All travellers using British Rail suburban services to central London are recommended to make use of a one-day Travelcard, available from 9.30am on week-days and at any time on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday. Travelcards give unlimited travel on London Underground and most buses within a radius of approximately 12 miles of central London (which includes Wood Green). Seven-day Travelcards are also available and do not carry the 9.30am restriction.

For travellers already familiar with the Alexandra Palace area, there is a British Rail service from King's Cross to Alexandra Palace BR station. This station will be served by the Stamp World London 90 courtesy buses but the exhibition organisers strongly suggest that this rail service should only be used by those familiar with the line. London Transport bus service W3 serves the Tottenham High Road district, Wood Green underground station, Alexandra Palace BR station, Alexandra Palace itself and then Finsbury Park station.

All local main roads will be well signposted and there are a number of car parks at Alexandra Palace. There will be a separate courtesy bus service from the car parks to and from the Palm Court entrance. Drivers using the M25 should exit at junction 21 if coming from the west and at junction 25 if coming from the east. From the

M1 the last exit leads directly onto the (east-bound) North Circular Road. From the North Circular, in either direction, Colney Hatch Lane leads to Muswell Hill and thus to Alexandra Palace. From the A1, Muswell Hill Road leads to Muswell Hill and thus to Alexandra Palace.

Admission

The exhibition will be open to the public at the following times:

3 May Noon to 8pm

4-12 May 10am to 6pm

13 May 10am to 5pm

The admission charges will be:

3 & 4 May	
Adult	£5
Senior Citizen	£3
Child under 16	£3

5-13 May	
Adult	£3
Senior Citizen	£2
Child under 16	£2

Society Meetings

About 50 philatelic societies will be holding meetings at Alexandra Palace during the exhibition. The following will be of particular interest to collectors of British stamps, postmarks and postal history: British Aerophilatelic Federation; British Thematic Association; Cinderella Stamp Club; Concorde Study Circle; Forces Postal History Society; GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle; GB Overprints Society; Great Britain Philatelic Society; Lundy Collectors Club; Philatelic Errors & Varieties Society; Philatelic History Society; Postal Mechanisation Study Group; Railway Philatelic Group; Smaller Channel Islands Collectors Society; Society of Olympic Collectors; TPO and Seapost Society; and Telegraph and Telephone Stamp Society.

Souvenir Handbook

In addition to the free exhibition catalogue (see February *Bulletin*, page 128), the organisers are publishing a lavishly produced 220-page *Stamp World London 90 Souvenir Handbook*, compiled and edited by John Sussex. This A4-size book will contain 68 pages of colour illustrations, 38 of material in the Court of Honour and 30 of

stamps in the Championship Class. The Court of Honour displays, telling the story of the 1839-40 postal reforms and the Penny Black, has been jointly assembled by the Royal Philatelic Collection, the National Postal Museum and the British Library. Three souvenirs, unique to the Handbook will be included - these relate to the 1940 Stamp Centenary. The book will be available from mid-April from the Stamp World office (107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT) as well as being on sale at the exhibition. Price £10, postage £1.



Stamp World Souvenirs

The organisers of Stamp World are producing a number of fascinating souvenirs to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first adhesive postage stamp. For the centenary in 1940 an exhibition was planned which was later aborted as a result of war. Two souvenir sheets, each comprising a block of four labels with the Chalon portrait of Queen Victoria, were printed in recess, one in black and one in blue, by Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd. The supply of these sheets has remained unknown until recently re-discovered. One of each (one black, one blue) is being inserted in each copy of the *Souvenir Handbook* — a truly unusual and remarkable item.

In addition Stamp World London 90 has commissioned a number of souvenir items, specially printed by Harrison & Sons, using the original processes. There are: (1) reproductions from the dies of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue held by the National Postal Museum; (2) reproductions of proofs of the souvenir envelope and postcard produced for the Penny Post Jubilee in 1890; (3) reproduction of five of the designs submitted for the Centenary issue of 1940.

Penny Black Souvenir Book

The Royal Mail will publish on 3 May a souvenir book entitled *The Penny Black Anniversary Book*. This will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum, price £6.95. The book contains chapters on Uniform Penny Postage and the Penny Black; George V and the Seahorse stamps; Machin definitives; the Penny Black Anniversary stamps and details of Printing Techniques. Included with the book is "The Penny Black Anniversary Collection" comprising a set of the Penny Black Anniversary stamps (10 January 1990), the miniature sheet (3 May) and a unique reproduction of an original Mulready lettersheet.

The text of the book has been written by Tim Shackleton, design is by Sedley Place Limited and printing by The House of Questa. Kenneth F Chapman, former Editor of *Stamp Collecting* and a regular contributor to this *Bulletin*, acted as Philatelic Adviser.

In the Foreword, John Marriott, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, reminds us of the importance of the Penny Black and praises

the way the text "captures the real significance of this famous stamp and the way it facilitated the implementation of Rowland Hill's revolutionary new postal system". Chapter 1 tells the story of the postal reforms of 1839-40, the Treasury Competition and the preparation of the first postage stamps. Well-chosen illustrations complement the text; we are shown some of the Treasury Competition designs, the proof sheet of the Penny Black (without corner letters), the first and most biting caricature of the Mulready design (by John Leech), the printing presses on which the Penny Black was produced, a beautiful Mulready envelope used with five 2d blues to make up the rate (1s) to Malta and 1d stamps with experimental cancelling marks. Some of these illustrations are well known but it is nice to have them all in one place for easy reference.

We should not forget the sweeping administrative changes brought in by the 1839-40 reforms and the effect on postal revenue. As predicted the Post Office accounts showed a loss for some years but the success of the reforms should not be judged in cold monetary terms. George V remains Britain's best-known





philatelist. He started stamp collecting when Duke of York and as frequently as possible relaxed from his Royal duties by studying his collection. He took a keen interest in British stamps issued during his reign, described in the second chapter of this souvenir book. Perhaps the finest stamps of his reign were the High Values. The Post Office decided to produce these stamps by recess printing and, like most stamp collectors, George V had a high regard for this process, with its exceptional clarity of detail and elegance of line. For the first time on a British stamp, the head of the monarch was not the dominant feature; the design, known to collectors as the "Seahorses" is described by Mr Shackleton as "... an unequivocal statement of national pride, and ... unmistakably British". Designs of George V stamps are illustrated as is the unique cover, addressed to him as Prince of Wales, bearing the Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum stamp, the issue of which was cancelled owing to Edward VII's death.

Just as George V was concerned with the designs of the stamps of his reign, so his granddaughter, HM The Queen, takes a real interest in the stamps that bear her portrait. This is made clear in the chapter on the Machin Definitives. The background to this issue is explained, the need for "a fresh design strategy for stamps" carried out mainly during the years Anthony Wedgwood-Benn was Postmaster-General (1964-6). One of the illustrations shows Arnold Machin modelling the Machin head in bas-relief; various unused designs are shown including one very similar to the Penny Black.

Chapter 4 deals with the Penny Black Anniversary stamps pointing out that for the 150th anniversary the Royal Mail "... felt that something more long-lasting than a set of

Special Stamps should be employed". Jeffery Matthews was asked to adapt the Machin design and started work on the project in October 1988. In some versions he introduced the dates 1840-1990 and graphic elements from the original Penny Black. Various designs, including some in horizontal format, are illustrated. After exploring many possibilities Mr Matthews came back to his original concept with the stamps issued in January.

The book concludes with an appendix giving concise but useful details of stamp printing techniques — Letterpress; Intaglio (Recess); Photogravure; and Offset Lithography and technical details of the items included in the Penny Black Anniversary Collection.

Postal Reform and the Penny Black

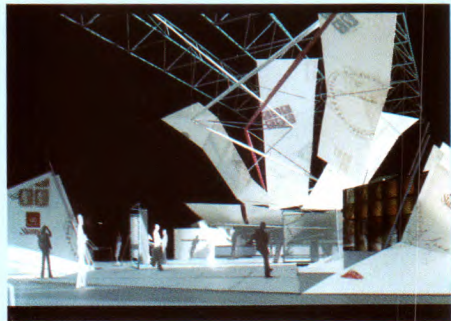
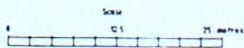
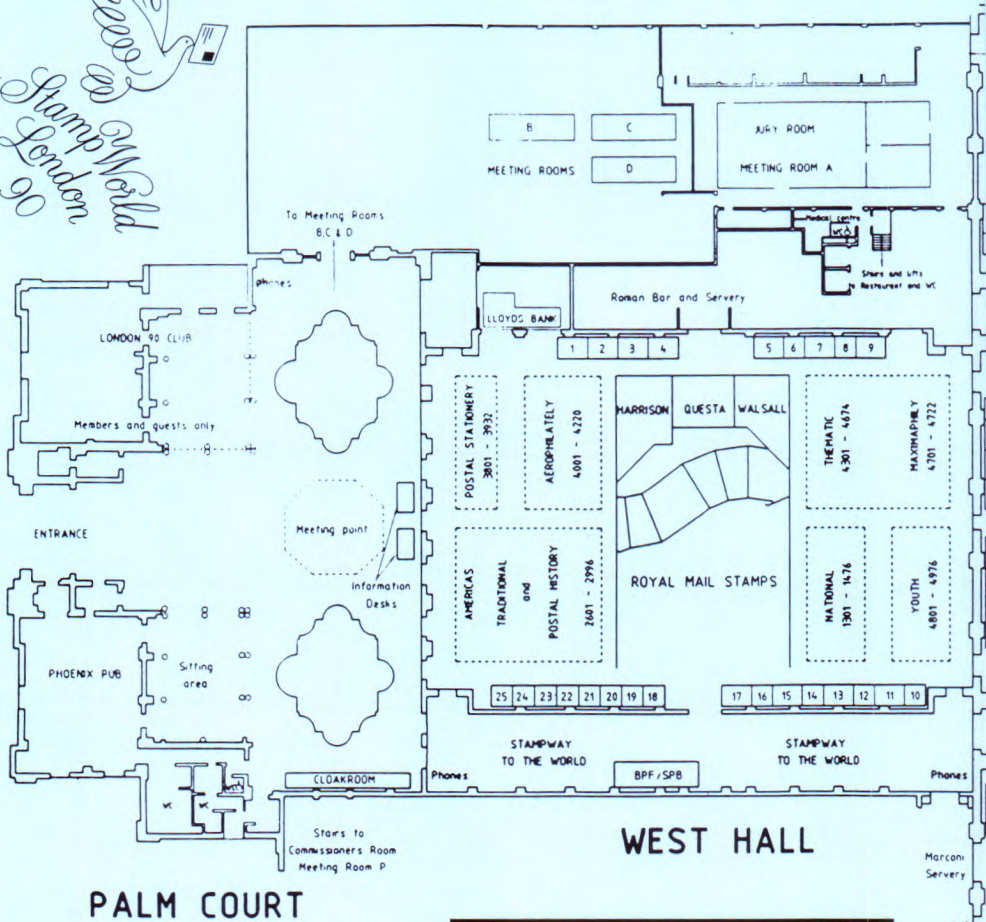
The National Postal Museum will shortly be publishing a major book *Postal Reform and the Penny Black — A New Appreciation* by Douglas N Muir. The book will contain over 200 pages including many colour illustrations of items in the NPM, the Royal Philatelic Collection and the Victoria and Albert Museum. In writing this book, Mr Muir has undertaken research in the Royal Archives, the Public Record Office, the V & A Museum and the British Library as well as Post Office Archives and the NPM.

Details are given of the campaigns for postal reform and the Treasury Competition and includes, for the first time, a listing of the entries to the Competition. The work of Henry Cole is highlighted; his importance in the postal reforms of 1839-40 having previously been understated.

The book, publication date to be announced, will be available from the Philatelic Bureau and the NPM, price £12.50, postage 70p.

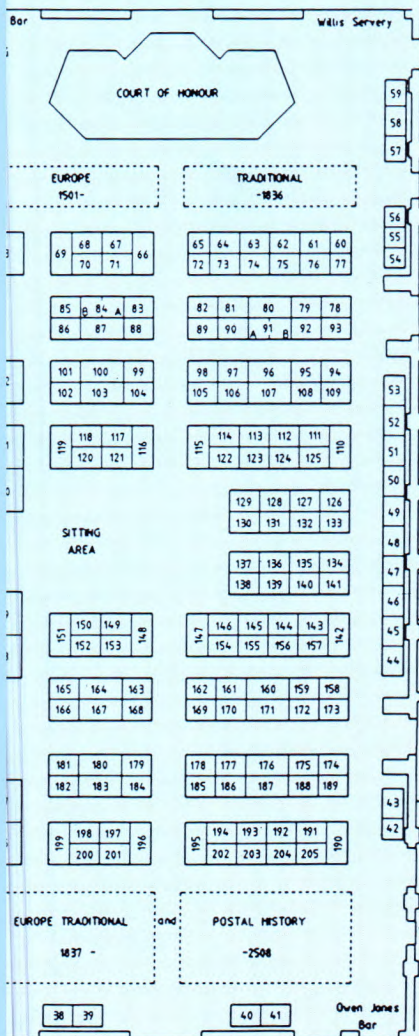
Exhibition Hall Layout

*Stamp World
London 90*



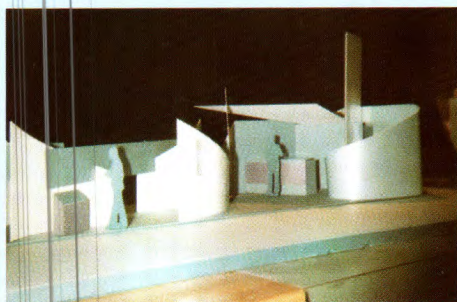
The Royal Mail Stamps stand (West Hall)

Illustration of the use of the Adhesive stamp, instead of a Trafer.

 An illustration showing a square adhesive stamp with a red border and a central design featuring a building and figures. The stamp is placed over a circular postmark that contains the word 'LONDON' and a date. The entire scene is set against a background of a folded piece of paper.

The floor plan of the East Hall includes the following areas:

- Entrance and Reception:** Located at the top center, featuring a large 'SEATING' area and a 'Reading Area' to the left.
- Left Wing:** Contains a 'REST OF WORLD TRADITIONAL' section (300 - 3336) and a 'REST OF WORLD POSTAL HISTORY' section (3401 - 3736).
- Center Wing:** Features a 'CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS' section (1001 - 1256).
- Right Wing:** Includes a 'ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY' section.
- Bottom Wing:** Contains a 'SERVING AND BAR' area and a 'BATH POSTAL MUSEUM' section.
- Facilities:** A 'WC' (restroom) is located near the bottom center.
- Exterior Features:** A 'Reading Area' is located outside the main hall, and a 'Johanson Servery' is located at the bottom left.



*The National Postal Museum/Post Office Archives
stand (East Hall)*

Royal Mail Exhibition Card

Royal Mail Exhibition Card number 4 will go on sale at both the Royal Mail Stamps stand at Stamp World London 90 and the British Philatelic Bureau on 3 May 1990, price £1.50. The card will bear stamps from one of the year's special issues and will carry a special "Royal Mail Exhibition Card No 4" cancellation. A cachet will be applied to cards sold at the Royal Mail Stamps stand at the exhibition. Collectors

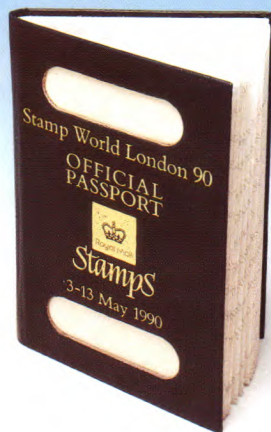


unable to visit the exhibition can obtain the card with cachet by writing to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. Price £1.50 plus handling charge. Orders must be received by the date the exhibition closes, i.e. 13 May.

All six variations of Exhibition Card No 3, issued for exhibitions from Nordia (June 1989) to Spring Stampex (February 1990) will be withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau on 2 May.

Philatelic Passport

Shown here is the Philatelic Passport being produced by Royal Mail Stamps for sale at Stamp World London 90. The Passport gives details of postal administrations represented at

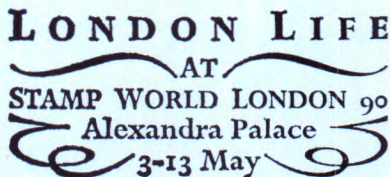


the exhibition; collectors may obtain relevant stamps at the administration stands and affix them in the Passport for cancellation with a cachet. The British page will have the 20p Alexandra Palace stamp already affixed and cancelled with a unique cachet.

This interesting philatelic item will be available only at the Stamp World London 90 exhibition, price £1.

London Life Prestige Book

Purchase of the £5 London Life prestige book will enable free entry to the Stamp World exhibition on 8-13 May (normally £3). The book should be presented at the Royal Mail Stamps sales counter situated at the main entrance to claim free entry.



There is space in the book for a commemorative cachet which can be applied if the book is presented at the Royal Mail Stamps sales counter on any day of the exhibition (3-13 May). The book includes a colour illustration of the West Entrance to Alexandra Palace, similar to that featured on the 20p Europa stamp.

British Stamp Printers Today

DON STADDON

It seems appropriate to mark the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black with a resumé of the contemporary printers of British postage stamps.

Harrison and Sons Limited

The senior printer in length of service is Harrison and Sons Limited of High Wycombe, Bucks, which has been a supplier to the Post Office since the 1830s. The first stamp contract in 1881 was for embossing 1s stamps on telegram forms. However it was not until 1910 that the company gained a bulk contract for the



Harrison stamps — George V 1d letterpress (typo) printed (1912) and photogravure (1934); 1948 Olympic Games commemorative; 1963 National Nature Week 4½d — an early multicoloured stamp and 1988 recess-printed £2 Castle high value

printing of postage stamps — five Edward VII definitives (½d, 1d, 2½d, 3d and 4d) issued in late 1911.

First Photogravure Stamps

By 1934 Harrisons had become a major supplier with the introduction of stamps printed by the then new photogravure printing process. Printing at the Coates Lane factory commenced that year, and it has continued there ever since. The first photogravure stamps consisted of a range of George V definitives, issued from August 1934 (heads with solid dark background, large format 1d scarlet and 1½d red brown, intermediate format ½d, 1d and 1½d).

Now, many years and hundreds, if not thousands of Machin definitive variations later, relations between Harrisons and the Royal Mail are still close. Specially designed or modified photogravure presses are dedicated to stamp printing. They have the capacity to supply orders running into many millions, and at the same time meet required quality standards. The days of Timson, Thrissell, Halley and Woods presses beloved by Machin specialists in the 1970s have gone. These days British stamp production has been concentrated on the giant Jumelle machine which came on stream at the beginning of 1973, plus booklet stamp printing on a Chambon press.

The Jumelle has seven gravure units and three rotary intaglio (recess) units in line, with two perforators perched on top. It has the capacity of printing and perforating two different stamps on the web at the same time, one of which could be a single colour definitive and the other a multicolour special stamp.

Paper, Coating and Gum

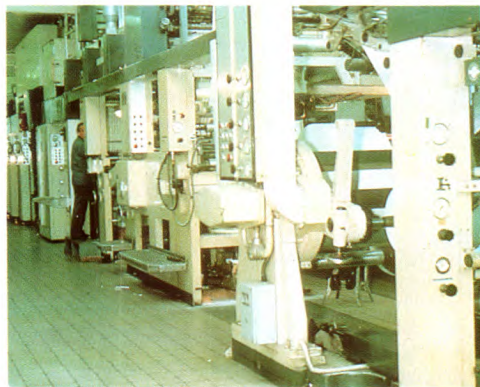
Relations between Harrisons and the Post Office have been close over the years because of another Harrison speciality — paper and, in particular, paper coating. Joint development work with Post Office chemists led to the printing of phosphor bands on stamps capable of being read automatically by sorting office equipment. All-over phosphor first appeared in experimental form, such as the 4½p steel blue

definitive with added phosphor bands issued in November 1974 and the 8½p yellowish green in March 1976.

In October 1979 there was a trial issue of three stamps on phosphor printed paper (1p, 2p and 10p). By 1982 most of the low value definitives had changed to phosphor coated paper (PCP) with further development work by Harrison going on at the same time. This produced an improved formula to be called advanced coated paper (ACP) which was tried out on the 22p deep blue definitive in 1982. It began to be put into general use from 1983.

Work on the gummed side of the paper was not neglected, with Harrisons involved in the development of a synthetic adhesive which replaced the traditional gum arabic between 1968 and the early 1970s. When a natural colour substance was introduced to make the gum more obvious to the naked eye the formula became polyvinyl alcohol with added dextrin (PVAD).

This specialised knowledge of paper and paper coating has stood Harrisons in good stead. In one of their brochures, we are told that there are more than 50 different formulations available in paper supplied to more than 60 State printing works. Harrisons also supply paper specially prepared for litho printing to The House of Questa and, lately, to Walsall Security Printers.



The Jumelle press at Harrisons, High Wycombe

Investing in Quality

In 1983 Harrisons spent approximately £600,000 on two Accuray mini-computer systems for use in quality control on paper coating and gumming. Taking all this into consideration it is not surprising that the company won a Queen's Award for technical innovation in the printing of multicolour stamps by photogravure. Since

1979 Harrisons have been owned by the international trading company Lonrho plc. This has provided substantial financial backing for the heavy investment costs involved; investment not only in printing and paper technology but also in printing inks, engineering and the application of computers. Quality control is a vital part of the process, and I can vouch from my own detailed examination of sheets of stamps over many years that since 1980 there has been a major reduction in the number of constant flaws — looked out for by many collectors.

Although Harrisons offer intaglio (recess), litho and letterpress in addition to the gravure process, only the intaglio process has been used for British stamps as an addition to photogravure. Using the intaglio unit on the Jumelle press, recess was first combined with photogravure on the 1975 Sailing stamps. Subsequent issues include the London 1980 50p miniature sheet.

Although the Machin design has continued on the low value definitives without interruption for more than 20 years, there has been a change for the high value definitives. The first £1 Machin stamp was recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinson who lost the contract to Harrisons in 1977. A modified design was then printed by photogravure, to the dissatisfaction of some who regretted the change from the recess process traditionally associated with the Penny Black and the high value Castles stamps. Their concerns were heeded when it was decided to commission a new design incorporating castles, to be recess printed at High Wycombe. The engraving was entrusted to Chris Matthews, recently appointed to the Harrison staff; he did an excellent job. The set of four values, £1, £1.50, £2 and £5, was issued on 18 October 1988 after a press preview attended by the Duke of York who, together with Gene Nocon, was responsible for the photography.

The House of Questa

The House of Questa (hereafter referred to simply as Questa), was founded as a litho printing business in 1966, by Wally Rodgers, Ken McAllen and Charles Haswell. It began general commercial printing for the Post Office some two years later.

However, the printing of postage stamps for other countries was already well established before there was any opportunity of stamp

production for the Post Office. This eventually came about after an invitation to produce essays from artwork for the previously issued 1967 *Gypsy Moth IV* stamp which commemorated Sir Francis Chichester's world voyage. The essays were sufficiently impressive for Questa to be given warrants for the production of three national definitives: 75p issued on 30 January 1980 and 2p and 5p issued on 21 May 1980. These were followed by the Sport set on 10 October 1980. The first Country definitives from Questa, for Northern Ireland and Wales came out on 8 April 1981.

Ten years have rolled on since 1980 — a period of significant development and change for this business tucked away in the south east corner of London.

John Waddington and Sons, the Leeds based security printer, was the subject of a takeover bid by Robert Maxwell's Printing and Communications Corporation during the mid-1980s. Waddingtons, who were printing the 4p and 20p national and the Scottish definitives, reacted to this by making a successful approach to buy out Questa, including its team of founder directors who still run the business under its own name.

The Waddington stamps printing business moved south; Questa-printed Scottish definitives were first issued on 28 April 1986 and the 4p and 20p national definitives on 13 May 1986.

Although the production of all national sheet printed definitives has since been concentrated at Harrisons, Questa has not only maintained its responsibility for all Country definitives but it also produces two sets of special stamps per year, has a substantial share of window book production and printed the 1989 "Scots Connection" prestige book. To these can be added pictorial aerogrammes and stamp (PHQ) cards.

Technical Developments

In conversation with Wally Rodgers, I was told that although the basic litho printing process is unchanged the last 10 years has seen major developments in technical processes and quality assurance. A combination of craftsmen and technology, from computerised development and control systems, through automated monitoring and adjustment on the Heidelberg machines, to those indispensable ladies making the final issued inspection, has brought about significant improvement in print quality.

Better paper and ink, sophisticated step-and-

repeat cameras, and the use of screens up to 300 per linear inch are some of the additional factors Wally Rodgers believes are bringing litho into line with photogravure in terms of overall reproductive quality. Stamps which are considered to most clearly demonstrate technical excellence in the litho printing process are the 1982 British Motor Cars and the 1989 Microscope stamps, both sets printed by Questa.



The founders of The House of Questa — Wally Rodgers, Ken McAllen and Charles Haswell

There is also considerable pride in the window book machine designed and patented by the company. It takes book covers and stamp panes at one side, through a series of steps in transportation round a circular base, and delivers them as finished books at the end.

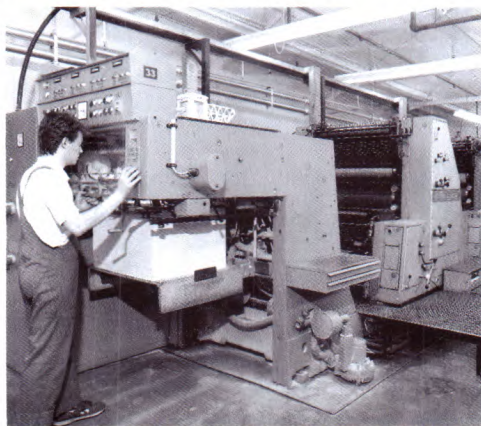
Philatelic Interest

Operational changes which have achieved philatelic interest over the years include the 2p national definitive in 1984, and the 1986 Industries stamps perforated from the front through to the back on the Bickel sheet-fed perforating machine; a change from imperforate to perforations through the left margin on definitive sheets with odd numbered plates; a perforation change

in 1984 on the 2p and 5p national definitives from 13½ x 14 to 15 x 14; and, more recently, a run of books of 10 x first class and 10 x second class stamps imperforate instead of perforated through binding margin. The 17p Wales and Northern Ireland stamps were changed from one to two colour printings shortly before the postal rates increased in 1986. There have also been paper variations resulting from the use of more than one supplier. A major variety which affected different stamps, escaped the system before a hiccup in the process was discovered and put right. This was a complete row of missing perforations at the bottom of each sheet. The example I have affects the 15p Sport stamp of 1980, from plates 2A1A1A1A1A.

Walsall Security Printers Ltd

The newest addition to the range of printers supplying postage stamps for the Royal Mail is the Midlands based Walsall Security Printers Ltd. I had the good fortune to attend the official ceremony to inaugurate the first print run in January 1989. Mr Bill Cockburn, Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters, switched on the presses to start production of first and second class stamps for use in £1 stamp books.



The Favorit stamp printing machine at Walsall

The impression I gained during the visit was one of considerable pride by both senior management and machine room staff of this privately owned company in winning the contract. It came as no surprise, therefore, to find more stamp warrants going their way later — for window books of four and for a trial printing of £1 books with glossy covers designed to overcome sticking problems in vending machines. In

a little over one year, Walsall has produced window book covers (issued January and November 1989 and April 1990), machine book covers and stamps (April 1989 and January 1990), and window book covers and stamps (August 1989 and January and April 1990). For stamp and book cover production, Walsall uses a two-colour Roland "Favorit" litho press and a Bickel sheet-fed perforator.



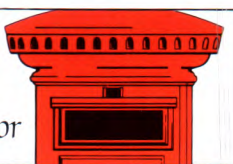
Walsall second class window book (August 1989)

At a recent press preview at the National Postal Museum I met Jeffery Matthews, well-known designer. He commented favourably on the result of the two colour litho process used for the pane of four Walsall-printed first class stamps. In his opinion, both the litho process and photogravure are doing full justice to his work.

The Future

So this is where the future begins. Three printers, two basic processes plus a third for special jobs. Will it be that way for the next 10 years? Both Wally Rodgers of Questa and Derrick Howlett of Harrisons think so, for as long as stamps continue to be needed in their present form. Maybe the pendulum will swing back away from phosphor coating to optical reading of stamp designs. We already have Optical Character Recognition of typed or printed addresses, so why not design elements in the stamps? However, I am not in receipt of privileged information, and the foregoing should only be considered as a guess.

Wally Rodgers of The House of Questa thinks that the two processes — photogravure and litho — will move closer together. Not that the systems will be the same but that there will be similarity in reproductive quality.



Stamp Design Debate

Dear Editor,

Referring to Barry Robinson's articles (May & November 1989) outlining general sentiments which I wholeheartedly share, I would like to add a historical footnote to the subsequent correspondence.

At the beginning of the 1960s I proposed to the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Communications that Nigerian stamps should be designed by Nigerian artists.

Arising from this I was retained to co-ordinate the design and execution of stamps from sketches by Nigerian artists, but that myself and a small international team from the US philatelic agents should also submit designs as a back up.

It started well, a collaboration with Ben Enwonwu resulting in some of the designs mentioned by Mr Deeds. I had hopes of other artists I met there during a very interesting tour, however it gradually became apparent that little was being accepted from local sources. I regretfully withdrew after a few years as it seemed they were being overwhelmed by the outside submissions.

Returning to the general proposition, the fact that many countries have no purely graphic art tradition although they may be strong on sculpture, pottery, weaving, etc., means that the familiar "european" idioms are the only model which will be seen to be applicable as a desirable mirror of progress.

The ubiquity of the pictorial stamp may have made it more difficult for national characteristics to form; for example the beautiful and deliberately non-figurative designs of Arabic art scarcely find an echo in those stamps, except as a pictorial feature.

Perhaps a national *style* in stamps is a simpler objective to aim for first and, given continuity with some general rules might lead on to wider effect.

MICHAEL GOAMAN, Lyndhurst, Hants

Readers will remember some splendid British stamp designs from Michael and Sylvia Goaman during the 1960s. Ed.

The House of Questa

Dear John

In an article on the 1982 British Motor Industry stamps in the February *Bulletin*, Francis Kennedy refers to The House of Questa. He makes reference to The House of Questa being founded by former employees of Format International. I would like you to publish the following to ensure that the records are accurate.

In 1966, Wally Rodgers, Ken McAllen and Charles Haswell founded Questa Colour Ltd which was a commercial printing company. In 1968, a consortium was formed with Questa Colour Ltd as the printer, Caldew Colour Plates Ltd as the platemaker, a designer named Victor Whiteley and a Middle East Agent named Fouad Antoun. This consortium was called Format International Security Printers Ltd.

After approximately 18 months of trading, Questa Colour Ltd withdrew from the consortium. In 1969, Questa Colour Ltd developed their own platemaking company and housed all their companies under the title of The House of Questa. The House of Questa has never, ever been connected with Format and in fairness Format was, in those early days, only a shell company in that Questa Colour Ltd was doing the printing and all other ancillary operations. Caldew was making the plates for Questa and the product was being sold under the name of Format.

I trust this will now put the record straight.
WALLY RODGERS, Co-Founder and Director,
The House of Questa, London SE5

Letters

I receive a considerable number of letters and I am always interested in reading what fellow collectors have to say. I regret that I cannot undertake to reply to individual letters but assure you that they will be read and, where necessary, the points raised brought to the attention of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately. Many of the letters are about matters of general interest and I will try to answer some of these from time to time in the *Bulletin*.

Editor.

Phone Number Changes

From 6 May the London dialling code changes from 01 to 071 (inner London) and 081 (outer). The National Postal Museum and London North and South Special Handstamp Centres will have 071 numbers.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society— Helping to promote GB philately

PETER SARGENT

GBPS

Promotion of GB philately is important at all levels, from beginner through to specialist. Although there are many thousands of GB collectors who gain much from their hobby in the form of relaxation and satisfaction, like many hobbies GB philately has its ups and downs.

If GB philately is to advance it should not be a solitary hobby but involve the sharing of knowledge and ideas with others. A society is the ideal vehicle to achieve this and one of the primary objectives laid down by the GBPS is "to promote, encourage, and contribute to the advancement of the philately of Great Britain". This article looks at what the GBPS has contributed and what it has to offer.

History

The GBPS was formed in 1955 by a small but enthusiastic group of collectors, since then it has grown steadily both in the UK and abroad from under 60 members in 1956 to over 700 today. To many the GBPS may sound like a society dedicated solely to GB postage stamps. In fact the Society covers all aspects of GB philately: postal history back through the ages; postal stationery; booklets; College stamps; philatelic conservation; and (of course) postage stamps.

Communication: The Vital Ingredient

With a truly international membership, communication is of vital importance in keeping members up to date. This is achieved in a number of ways. The *GB Journal*, a high quality publication, carries authoritative articles on all GB matters with the emphasis on research and new discoveries. Queries and letters are also featured. The *Journal* has become a research handbook in its own right and complete runs are particularly sought after. In addition to the *Journal*, there is the regular *Newsletter* which is a more informal forum with meeting details, letters and a free section for members' wants.

The GBPS has also published a whole range of excellent books on GB philately: *The Plating of the Penny 1840-64* (Vols 1-5) edited by Harold W Fisher; *Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great*

Britain by Marcus Samuel & Dr A K Huggins; *Newspaper and Almanac Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland* by John Chandler & Harry Dagnall; a booklet on King Edward VII by Alfred J Kirk; and more recently a series entitled *British Stamp Booklets* by Jean Alexander and Leonard F Newbery has been published.

THE GB JOURNAL

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 5 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1989

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ISSN 0022-8913 THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY PRICE £3.50

The GB Journal, first published in 1956

Entertaining Meetings

Most meetings take place at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, conveniently situated near the Barbican and Farringdon railway stations. Refreshments are available and the atmosphere is always very friendly. By popular demand all-day meetings have been introduced to encourage members from further afield to attend. A few dealers are also invited to some of the meetings. Meetings outside the BPC include two at the Royal Horticultural Hall during the Spring and Autumn Stampex exhibitions. The Society will hold a meeting at Alexandra Palace during Stamp World London 90.

Displays at meetings range from Machins and line-engraved to postal stationery and illus-



A well-attended GBPS meeting

trated envelopes — something for everybody to enjoy and learn from. The displays are always of a high quality including some notable medal-winning collections. In addition to the displays, a number of competitions (from beginner to specialist) are open to members.

Celebrating a Philatelic Milestone

1990 is a special year for British philately — the 150th anniversary of the world's first and most famous stamp, the Penny Black. It is also the 150th anniversary of uniform penny postage. The GBPS is celebrating this in a number of ways. Firstly there will be a bumper souvenir *Journal* (free to members) which contains a comprehensive review of British philately and is superbly illustrated. Secondly there will be the Society meeting at Stamp World London 90 on 6 May. Please feel free to come along. Thirdly an evening reception has been arranged on a Thames cruiser and fourthly there will be a GBPS prize at Stamp World.

Additional Services Offered

Four popular auctions take place each year with around 600 lots. The exchange packet continues to thrive and the extensive library service is ideal for members interested in research or background reading. In addition the GBPS consultants covering all areas can be contacted with any philatelic queries.

To the Future

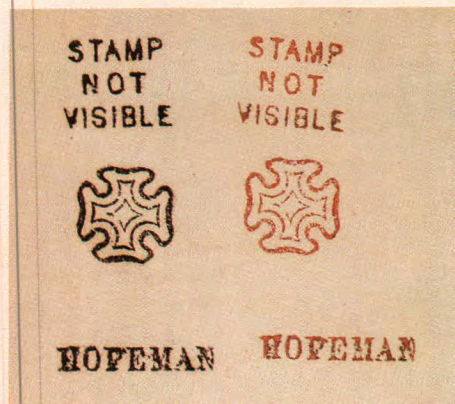
The advancement of GB philately cannot be achieved by any one person but by collectors from all walks of life making a contribution. The GBPS offers the ideal broad framework for this to happen.

For full details write to the Membership Secretary: Tony Walker, 42 Jesmond Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE2 4PQ.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

173. 1840 Postal Markings

Shown here is a very rare example of a Post Office delivery note that accompanied the sending of postmarks. When such marks were ordered an impression was sent with them. This particular note was sent to Hopeman Post Office, Hopeman being situated on the Scottish coast about 20 miles from Edinburgh. The impressions are of a Maltese Cross obliterating stamp, a single-line HOPEMAN town stamp and a STAMP NOT VISIBLE marking. This was used on newspapers sent



through the post without a newspaper tax stamp which enabled free postage. Such newspapers were then treated as unpaid and surcharged at the letter rate. The impressions on this delivery note were applied in both black and red inks.

The Post Office in 1840 was very concerned about safeguarding postal revenue and the reuse of stamps. A special handstamp worded "OS" (Old Stamp) was applied to covers bearing adhesive stamps already cancelled by the Maltese Cross. Two pence postage due was then charged.

The Hopeman delivery note can be seen on page 1 of Volume 12 of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. The Museum is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission free.

The Wyon Dynasty

Continued from April Bulletin

TONY GAMMONS

Exhibitions Officer, National Postal Museum

Peter Wyon

We now return to Peter Wyon at Lionel Street, Birmingham. After his brother, Thomas, left for London Peter carried on the business alone. It is quite likely that Peter Wyon and his son William were living in Lionel Street when the young Rowland Hill and his family moved into number 68. Peter's work was in great demand and he produced many dies for tokens and medallions. He, like his father, produced work for Matthew Boulton. He moved from Lionel Street to Cock Street, St Pauls in Birmingham where he died in 1822. Peter Wyon's son William was born in 1795 and at the age of 14 was apprenticed to his father. When he was 16 he engraved a head of Hercules in bold relief, which attracted the attention of Nathaniel Marchant the gem engraver, medallist and assistant engraver at the Royal Mint. In 1812 William visited London on the invitation of his uncle Thomas, and was persuaded to make a die in competition for the premium offered by the Society of Arts. The subject was "a head of Ceres", Marchant praised the design and when Wyon wanted to obtain a model of an ancient plough told him to go to Richard Payne Knight, the numismatist and vice-president of the Society of Antiquaries, and say that he was "that pretty behaved, modest boy whom he had spoken to him about"! On 25 May 1813 the Society of Arts awarded Wyon their large gold medal for his "Ceres" and bought the dies for striking their gold medal for "Agriculture". He was also awarded the gold medal for his designs for a naval prize medal. In 1815 William again visited London to help his uncle Thomas, the elder, in engraving the new "Great Seals". He cut those for Scotland and Ireland while his cousin, Thomas, cut the Great Seal for England. In 1816 Pingo and Marchant, the chief and second engravers of the Mint, retired.

Thomas Wyon Junior was promoted to Chief Engraver and, despite objections on the grounds that he came from the same family, William was awarded the post as Second Engraver by Sir Thomas Lawrence (later President of the Royal Academy). Thomas Wyon Junior died in 1817

and instead of William being promoted into the post, Benedetto Pistrucci, the Italian gem-engraver and medallist was "offered" the position by Wellesley Pole, Lord Maryborough, the Master of the Mint. Wyon resented the appointment and relations between the two men were strained. Pistrucci had in fact been working as an outside assistant to the Mint from early 1816. Although he was a skilful artist he had a reputation for being lazy and most of the work done on the "great recoinage" of 1816 and the British and Colonial coinage of George III and George IV fell to William Wyon.

This caused more friction as Wyon was paid a salary of £200 while Pistrucci was attacked in *The Times* on account of his nationality. However he had a powerful ally in William Hamilton the antiquarian, famous for "liberating" the Rosetta Stone from the French after the Battle of Alexandria. It seems that the post of Chief Engraver was actually in abeyance though Pistrucci continued to perform the duties and receive the salary. The situation continued until 1828, when, as a compromise, Wyon was made Chief Engraver and Pistrucci being awarded the post of "Chief Medallist", each receiving a yearly salary of £350. An award of £500 was paid to Wyon for his extra work performed between 1823 and 1828. This solution got the Master of the Mint out of an awkward situation as he had no authority to offer the position of Chief Engraver to a foreigner as an Act of Parliament stated that "no foreigner was allowed possession of the dies of the coinage of the kingdom".

Universal Acclaim

In 1830 William Wyon began to work on a series of coin dies of William IV and in 1835 he travelled to Lisbon and modelled the portrait of Queen Donna Maria for the new Portuguese coinage. On 10 March 1838 he became an Academician, the first medallist to be so honoured. It was around this time that he produced the Guildhall Medal. Wyon's head of Queen Victoria for coinage (Fig. 5) received universal acclaim; Richard Sainthill, the numismatist,



Fig. 5 William Wyon coinage head

saying, "the graceful arrangement, character and expression of the whole bust; its breadth and softness; the perfect youth, ... strike us as a combination of excellence where the truth of nature is displayed in all the perfection of art". In 1839 he was awarded with a gold medal by Louis-Philippe in Paris. During the remaining years of his life he remained actively engaged on coin and medal work. A case of his medals was exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851. His wife, Catherine, died in February 1851 and some months later he was attacked by paralysis down his left side. He died at his home in Brighton on 29 October 1851.

His elder son, Leonard Charles, became Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint on his father's death and remained in office until his death in 1891. He drew his father's portrait in 1842 and it is this that has been used as the basis for the National Postal Museum's postcard to be issued on 3 May 1990. Leonard also engraved a portrait medal of William Wyon in 1854 (Fig. 6).

Leonard's son Albert William did not follow



Fig. 6 Portrait medal of William Wyon by his son Leonard

in the family footsteps. He took first place in the final Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1890 and was admitted as a partner in the firm of Price Waterhouse & Co in 1893, later rising to senior partner. He was created Sir Albert William Wyon KBE in 1919. Unmarried he died in December 1937.

Figs. 3-5 by courtesy of Kevin Squelch of Post Office Archives

New NPM Cards

Shown here are two of the three new NPM cards being issued on 3 May. They show Charles Heath, to whom the engraving of Queen Victoria's head on the Penny Black was entrusted, and William Wyon whose City medal formed the basis of the Queen's head on the Penny Black and Twopence Blue. The portraits on the cards are renditions by Clive Abbott. The third card will show William Mulready and the Mulready stationery.



The cards cost 20p each and can be ordered from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. A handling charge of 20p is raised on orders under £22, £1.75 above £22 (sent by registered post). Minimum order 60p.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin Editor.

Battle of Britain. A cover No RAFA1 (first in series of 20 Battle of Britain covers) was issued on 23 January to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. It features the bombing of Portland Harbour (4 July) and No. 151 Squadron engaging the enemy over the Thames Estuary (9 July). A flight cachet has been applied and the cover bears the 20p, 27p and 35p Penny Black Anniversary stamps cancelled by Forces postmark 2216. Price £2.25, £3.75 pilot signed or £5.25 signed by Battle of Britain veteran. Remittances to JSPCF. Orders/enquiries to: Philatelic Officer, RAFA, CHQ, 43 Grove Park Road, Chiswick, LONDON W4 3RX.

Battle of Britain. Cover RAFA2 was issued on 6 February and shows the attack on convoy Bosom (20 July 1940) and the virtual destruction of No 141 Sqn (19 July). The cover bears Scottish Country stamps cancelled by a special Forces handstamp 2217. A flight cachet was applied. Price £2.25, pilot signed £3.75, £5.25 signed by Battle of Britain veteran. Remittances to JSPCF. Orders/enquiries to Philatelic Officer RAFA, address above.

150th Anniversary of Penny Black. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first day of use of the Penny Black on 6 May 1840 G Eldridge is producing a full colour cover bearing the 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamp cancelled by a 'Special 6th May pictorial circular Penny Black Day Stamp World Exhibition handstamp' (*Mr Eldridge's description - Ed.*). Covers will be posted on 6 May at the Stamp World exhibition and bear a special pictorial 'Posted' rubber cachet to that effect. Covers cost £1.80 each (three for £5.20); overseas customers add 60p, remittances in Sterling. Orders/enquiries to G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

North East England Philatelic Association. A commemorative cover is being produced for the Association's Convention in Durham on 19 May. It features a specially commissioned pen and ink drawing of the Marquis of Londonderry equestrian statue by the Durham artist Margot Smith. The covers will be a Penny Black Anniversary stamp cancelled by the Durham Philatelic Counter handstamp. Price 75p, signed by the present Marquis, £2. Orders/enquiries

to: David Williams, Secretary Durham City Philatelic Society, 17 Weardale Drive, DURHAM DH1 1LE.

Scottish Blood Transfusion Service. The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service was founded in 1940 and to mark the golden anniversary the Glasgow and West of Scotland Blood Transfusion Service produced a special cover and sponsored a special handstamp used in Glasgow on 5 March. Covers with the 32p Microscope stamp are available price £1.50 or £2 signed by the Medical Director, Dr Ruthven Mitchell. All proceeds go to a registered charity. Orders/enquiries to: Commemorative Cover, Glasgow and West of Scotland Blood Transfusion Service, Law Hospital, CARLUKE, Lanarkshire, ML8 5ES.

Titanic. A commemorative cover was issued in March to mark the unveiling of a plaque in memory of the musicians on the RMS *Titanic* on the new offices of the Municipal Mutual Insurance Company. The plaque was unveiled by the youngest survivor of the disaster, Miss Millvina Dean. The cover design reproduces a specially commissioned oil painting of the ship leaving Southampton on her maiden voyage. A special handstamp, showing the vessel was used at Southampton on 7 March. Price £2.65. A postcard of the *Titanic* cancelled with the special handstamp is also available, price £2. A number of signed covers and cards may still be available. Orders/enquiries to: Rembrandt Philatelics, Regency House, Beacon Road, West End, SOUTHAMPTON SO3 3BS.

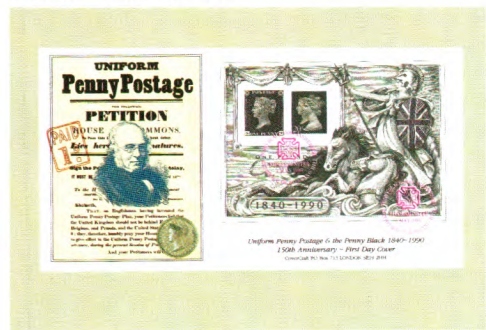
Class 47 Locomotive. A Forces cover was produced in March to commemorate the naming of British Rail Class 47 locomotive "Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Services"; the cover design features a train and the locomotive nameplate. The cover bears a special Forces postmark, No. 2222, dated 20 March. Price £1.70 or £3.20 signed by Brigadier R J N Kelly, Director Defence Postal and Courier Services and Mr W Cockburn, CBE, TD, Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters. Orders/enquiries to: Philatelic Officer, DDEF PCS, BD, BFPO 777.

Telethon '90. To celebrate the second Telethon being held on 27-28 May, a souvenir cover is being produced by Anglia Television bearing a special handstamp. This will be a limited edition of 500, individually numbered and signed by Jimmy Savile, the well-known show business and TV personality. Mr Savile will be leading the Anglia team throughout the 27 hour broad-

cast. Covers cost £5.50 (post paid) and can be ordered from: Anglia Television, Anglia House NORWICH NR1 3JG.

Suffolk 1996 Festival/RSPCA. A first day cover bearing the full set of the RSPCA issue was produced by the Lodge of Virtue and Silence No. 332, in the province of Suffolk. The cover was produced to raise funds for the 1996 Festival in aid of the Boys and Girls School. A special handstamp, showing a Masonic motif was used at Hadleigh, Ipswich on 23 January. A limited number of covers are still available, price £3.65. Orders/enquiries to: R Beechener, Beeches, Churchill Avenue, Hadleigh, IPSWICH, Suffolk, IP7 6BT.

Scout & Guide Stamps Club. The Club is producing a souvenir cover for its exhibition on 4-6 May (see Events). The cover with exhibition postmark costs 75p, covers with 1982 Youth Organisations 26p or 29p stamps or with 1987 Victorian Britain 34p cost £1 each. Three postcards depicting Baden-Powell, previously unpublished in postcard format, will be available, price 50p the set of three. Cards with special postmark are 60p each. A souvenir sheet will cost 10p, the sheet on cover with special postmark 60p. Postage 30p per order. Orders/enquiries to: Peter Duck, 256 St Margaret's Road, TWICKENHAM TW1 1PR.



Penny Black Miniature Sheet. A special cover featuring Rowland Hill and the Wyon City Medal on a backdrop of a Penny Postage handbill has been produced by CoverCraft. The cover carries the Penny Black Miniature Sheet cancelled with a special handstamp used at Kidderminster, birthplace of Rowland Hill. The cover costs £3.75, postpaid (overseas orders please add £1 for the first cover and 50p per cover thereafter). Orders, and enquiries about other covers associated with Rowland Hill and the Penny Black, to: CoverCraft, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Events

The **Scout and Guide Stamps Club** will hold their annual exhibition at the Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 on 4-6 May; the theme will be the Relief of Mafeking, 1900. As well as displays by Club members, material from the Scout Association's archives will be on show. The exhibition will be open 4 May 2-6pm, 5 May 11am-6pm and 6 May 11am-4pm, admission free. A special postmark and souvenir cover are planned. For further details contact Peter Duck, 256 St Margaret's Road, TWICKENHAM TW1 1PR.

The 14th **Northeast Philatelic Weekend** is to be held at the Airport Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne on Friday-Sunday 1-3 June. The programme is designed to include many aspects of philately and to cater for both new and advanced collectors. These weekends are enjoyed in a most congenial and friendly atmosphere, and all newcomers will be assured of a very warm welcome. A souvenir booklet will be produced to commemorate the event; the theme of the booklet will be the Penny Black Anniversary. Price £2.95 for a pair of booklets plus stamped, addressed envelope. It should be noted that these booklets are in no way connected with the Royal Mail. Details of the Weekend (send SAE) and orders for booklets to: Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 4RY.

The Harrogate Philatelic Society is hosting the **Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention** at the Royal Baths, Harrogate on Saturday 9 June. The event marks the Society's 50th anniversary. Thirty dealers will have stands; there will be an extensive exhibition and a golden jubilee booklet will be available. For details contact: Capt A Green, 13 Redgill Road, HARROGATE, N Yorkshire, HG1 3JQ.

The 41st **North-east of England Philatelic Association Convention** will be held at New College, Durham on Saturday 19 May. The Stamp Fair associated with the Convention will commence at 10am; Margaret Morris will be the guest speaker during the afternoon and give a display on "Whales". For details of a special cover see the "Commemorative Covers" section of this *Bulletin*. Enquiries to: David Williams, 17 Weardale Drive, DURHAM DH1 1LE.

The **Leeds Philatelic Society** celebrates its centenary this month; it is now one of the largest provincial societies in the country. A centenary dinner will be held on 19 May, a Stamp Fair on

20 October and an exhibition is being arranged in the City Museum. A limited edition commemorative plate, featuring the Society's badge, has been produced. Details of the Society and its centenary events can be obtained from Mr D F Elliott on Leeds (0532) 455404.

In order to publicise the sending and collecting of postcards, 5-13 May has been designated **National Postcard Week**. As in previous NPWs, local postcard societies will be arranging events and displays of cards at local libraries. Such events are planned for Aberavon, Arnold, Balldon, Blackpool, Canterbury, Douglas, Exeter, Holmfirth (at Postcard Museum), Leeds, Montrose, Preston, Todmorden and Tonbridge. Details of such events are normally given in *Picture Postcard Monthly* (published from 15 Debdaie Lane, Keyworth, NOTTINGHAM NG12 5HT). Further details of NPW can be obtained from: Alan Bower, Manor House, 21 School Lane, Walton, WAKEFIELD, W Yorkshire, WF2 6PA.

Stamp Active

Stamp Active is a new scheme designed for teachers, parents and youth leaders who are already, or would like to be, involved in setting up a stamp club for youngsters. Promoted by the Melville & Youth Committee of the British Philatelic Federation and designed by John Davies, himself a stamp club organiser, Stamp Active provides a series of interesting ideas, activities and useful materials.

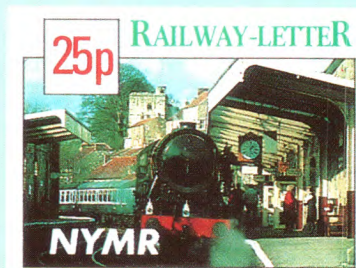
Stamp Active will supply new members with a professionally designed "Welcome Pack" containing free stamps, philatelic literature and innovative ideas for lively and fun stamp games. "Up-date" packs will be issued every three months.

Annual membership at £10 is open to anyone active in youth philately wishing to run a junior stamp club. Membership brings automatic affiliation to the BPF with benefits such as the BPF Handbook and *Stamp Mail* magazine.

The organisers of Stamp Active acknowledge the support of the British Philatelic Trust, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately and the British Philatelic Federation. Stamp Active will be launched on 7 May (Youth Day) at the Stamp World exhibition at Alexandra Palace. Further details can be obtained from: British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT or John Davies, Stamp Active, 3 Longfellow Road, BANBURY, Oxon, OX16 9LB.

Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here is one of three new railway letter stamps to be issued by the North Yorkshire Moors Railway on 24 May. They mark the 15th anniversary of the NYMR using Pickering station. Initially the NYMR services terminated just outside the station until British Rail decided to sell the station to the North York Moors Historical Railway Trust. The three stamps feature Pickering station as it was 100 years ago (10p), the NYMR logo (15p) and Pickering



station today (25p). The stamps are printed horizontally se-tenant in sheets of nine, rouletted. They can be obtained at face value, first day covers bearing 10p and 15p stamps and the 25p stamp are available at £2.75 the pair. Orders/enquiries to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

Slogan Postmarks of the Eighties

Collectors of British Postmarks will be well aware of the books compiled by Cyril Parsons, Colin Peachey and the late George Pearson. Messrs Parsons and Peachey are pleased to announce that a new title *Slogan Postmarks of the Eighties* will be available in April, price £5.95, postage 75p. Orders may be sent to: Colin Peachey, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH. Overseas customers not remitting in sterling should add £5.

Also available are: *Collecting Slogan Postmarks* (1986, £9.95 plus £1 postage) and *Slogan Postmarks of the Seventies* (1980, reprinted 1989, £8.50 plus £1.20 postage).

The new 1980s book will be on sale at the National Postal Museum shop.

Rowland Hill Commemorated

Courtesy of Dr David Hill, we feature photographs of the Queen Victoria memorial at Lancaster. Around the base of the memorial are



effigies of eminent Victorians including Sir Rowland Hill. His face can be seen in the centre of the photograph at right. Below him, in wig, is Lord Brougham; the figure alongside is possibly Charles Darwin.



The Stamp Book That Never Was!

Kattomeat
with Chicken & Tuna

Kattomeat provides a young cat needs to keep healthy and active. Now with 11 delicious varieties to choose from, Kattomeat will satisfy even the fussy feline.

Right now Kattomeat is offering you the chance to instantly receive 4 x 1st class Royal Mail stamps at your local post office when you collect 35 tokens from specially marked cans. Each variety has a label by cutting along the line as indicated and you will find further details and instructions to participate in this 1st class offer on the reverse side of the label. Hurry this offer is only a limited offer available only in the UK. Only 1 application per household. Offer closes 1st September 1990.

4 First Class Stamp

Kattomeat is a complete petfood formulated and tested to ensure it provides all the nutrients essential for the daily nourishment of cats.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE
Feed adult cats at least twice a day, serving as much Kattomeat as they will eat. Cats regulate their food intake and seldom over eat. Lactating cats may need up to 4 times as much food as usual. Kittens may need more food than adult cats and should be fed 3 or 4 times a day. Please store this can unopened in a cool dry place.

INGREDIENTS		TYPICAL ANALYSIS	
Meat and animal derivatives, fish and fish derivatives and minerals. Contains E.C. permitted colourants.	Protein 2.0% Fat 3.4% Ash 3.1%	Protein 2.0% Fat 3.4% Ash 3.1%	

CONTAINS: Vitamin A - 2000 i.u./g
Vitamin D₃ - 200 i.u./g
Vitamin E - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin B₁₂ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin C - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin K - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin M - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin N - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin O - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin P - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin Q - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin R - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin S - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin T - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin U - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin V - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin W - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin X - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin Z - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin AA - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin AB - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin AC - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin AD - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin AR - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin AS - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin AT - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin BM - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin BN - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin BP - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin BR - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin BV - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin BW - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin BX - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin BY - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin BZ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CA - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CB - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CC - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CD - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CE - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CF - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CG - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CH - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CI - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CJ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CK - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CL - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CM - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CN - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CQ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CR - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CS - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CT - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin CU - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin CW - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin DC - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DD - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DE - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DF - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DG - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DH - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DI - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DJ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DK - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DL - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DM - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DN - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DQ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DR - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin DS - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin EM - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin EP - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin IE - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin IH - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin II - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IJ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IK - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IL - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IM - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IN - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IQ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IR - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IS - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IT - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IU - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin IV - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin JD - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin LA - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin LF - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin LK - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin LL - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin LM - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin LO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin LP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin LQ - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin NA - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin NW - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin OA - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OB - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OC - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OD - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OE - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OF - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OG - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OH - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OI - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OJ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OK - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OL - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OM - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin ON - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin OP - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin PN - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin PO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin PP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin PQ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin PR - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin PS - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin SA - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin SR - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin SS - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin ST - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin TJ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin TK - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin TL - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin TM - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin TN - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin TO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin TP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin TQ - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin TW - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin UK - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UL - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UM - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UN - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UP - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin US - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UT - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UU - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin UV - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin XL - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin XP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin XQ - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin ZN - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin ZO - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin ZP - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin ZQ - 16 mg/kg
Vitamin ZR - 16 mg/kg
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Vitamin ZZ - 16 mg/kg

390 g e

A special promotion will run from April 1990 in conjunction with Spillers Kattomeat whereby books of first class stamps are offered against Kattomeat catfood labels. Don't rush out to stock up Kitty's larder in the expectation of

Kattomeat
WITH Chicken & Tuna

FREE STAMPS
INSTANTLY AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE

4 First Class Stamp

OFFER CLOSING 1ST SEPTEMBER 1990
SEE BACK FOR DETAILS

obtaining yet another book variety, as illustrated, as this particular design, with the Royal Mail logo, does not exist! The promotion was arranged whilst various cover designs were under discussion.

May Digest

Issued in May

3 May: Penny Black Miniature Sheet containing 20p Penny Black Definitive and reproduction Penny Black, price £1.

Designer: Sedley Place Design (stamp — Jeffery Matthews)

Printing: Harrison & Sons Limited, intaglio (recess) and photogravure, 122 x 90mm, phosphor-coated paper, PVA Dextrin gum. 20p stamp perforated 15 x 14.

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: London EC

3 May: Penny Black Souvenir Book, containing "Penny Black Anniversary Collection" — Penny Black Anniversary definitives, miniature sheet and unique reproduction Mulready letter-sheet, price £6.95.

3 May: Royal Mail Exhibition Card No. 4, price £1.50.

3 May: Philatelic Passport, containing pages for postal administrations represented at Stamp World London 90. British page has 20p Europa (Alexandra Palace) stamp affixed and cancelled by special cachet. Price £1, available only at Stamp World London 90.

3 May: National Postal Museum cards featuring Penny Black and William Wyon; Twopenny Blue and Charles Heath and Mulready stationery and William Mulready, price 20p each. A special cachet will be applied to cards purchased at the NPM stand at Stamp World London 90.

3 May: Post Office Archives postcards featuring mail coach scene, Victorian postmen's uniforms, etc. Initially available only at PO Archives stand at Stamp World London 90; a cachet will be available at the stand. For details of the cards and other Archives products see April Bulletin.

21 May: Kew Gardens stamp cards (PHQ126A-D), price 18p each.

Withdrawn in May

2 May: Royal Mail Exhibition Card No 3 — all six variations issued for Nordia (June 1989), Philex France (July 1989), Autumn Stampex (October 1989), Philatelia (November 1989), Expo '89 (November 1989) and Spring Stampex (February 1990) exhibitions.

15 May: Games and Toys stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

GB Collectors Database

QB Software of Seaford have informed us of a GB Machin Database computer program for IBM/Amstrad. Their information leaflet describes the program as easy to use and having the following features: Listing in unique format; regular issues and errors; create personalised checklists, want lists and catalogues; add new issues or corrections; delete all error issues; value codes and tick boxes; and pop up help messages. It is hoped to produce similar databases for pre-Machin issues. For a copy of the information leaflet contact: QB Software, 50 North Way, SEAFORD, East Sussex, BN25 3HP, Tel. 0323-895077.

Competition

There is no Competition this month; this popular feature will return next month. The results of the February competition will be published then.

Front Cover

This month's front cover features three views of Alexandra Palace — the Palm Court entrance, and the famous Rose Window as seen from outside the building and from the inside the Great Hall.

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