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Editorial

A survey commissioned in 1980 showed that many parents considered the hobby of Stamp Collecting was good for their children as it helped to widen their knowledge.

Having had the pleasure of meeting the young winners of the 1981 Melville awards at their seminar held at the National Postal Museum and sponsored by the Post Office, I am in the position to confirm that parental instinct is well founded. The young boys were not only enthusiastic, knowledgeable and articulate about their stamps, but well mannered and great fun to be with, a credit to both schools and parents.

It was also a great pleasure to meet again the charming and ever young Kay Goodman who was chaperoning the boys. Assisting Kay was Guy Milner, a master from King’s School, Macclesfield, who displayed a distinct flair for communicating with youngsters.

This is the second successive year the Post Office has sponsored the awards which shows that it does more for stamp collecting than just sell stamps to collectors.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Stop Press

Guildford Philatelic Counter page 25

It has now been announced that to mark the opening, a new postcard (SEPR 20), featuring the Head Post Office Building, Guildford, will be on sale from 21 October 1981, price 11p, from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and all philatelic counters. Serviced cards including the special pictorial handstamp will cost 37p each. Orders with remittances made payable to the Post Office should be sent to: Head Postmaster, Philatelic Counter, North Street, GUILDFORD, Surrey GU1 1AA, to arrive by 21 October 1981.

Featured on the cover is The Bristol Royal Mail Coach in King Street, Bristol, circa 1830. One of a set of four new postcards issued by the South Western Postal Region, details of which are on page 22.

The Royal Mail Postbus Service – part 2

Five main types of cancellations are used in the South Eastern Postal Region: (i) short oblong; (ii) long oblong; (iii) large oval; (iv) small oval; and (v) outline of a postbus.

Type (i)

SEPR 2 Dorking - Ockley

SEPR 3 Oxted - Lingfield

described above

Type (ii)

SEPR 4 Sittingbourne - Wormshill.

The single line rectangle was approx 2" x 1 1/8" with a four line text reading – SITTINGBOURNE / WORMSHILL / DATE / ROYAL MAIL POSTBUS.

From 2 June 1975 to 8 September the route was extended to Bicknor and tickets issued for this journey were additionally cancelled with a single line hand stamp – EXTENSION TO BICKNOR.

Type (iii)

SEPR 5 Petworth - Bignor.

The two line oval cancellation approx 2" x 1 3/8" is undated with a four line text reading: PETWORTH – BIGNOR – POSTBUS / SERVICE / VALID ONLY ON DATE / OF ISSUE. The top line follows the curve of the oval. A space is left between the second and third lines to take the date which is applied with a separate datestamp.

The next five services, all under the control of the Head Postmaster Reading, have a service number incorporated in the text. This number is a

local one. Originally ten services were planned but only six went into operation due to lack of support or objection.

All the cancellations in this Reading group have five lines of text with the first line following the curve of the oval.

SEPR 8 Lambourn - Hungerford.

This service has two cancellations, the first used only on the early morning run that leaves Lambourn at 05.30 for Hungerford.

The first cancellation has the two line oval approx 50mm x 36mm with the text reading: HUNGERFORD – LAMBOURN – POSTBUS / SERVICE No. 1 / DATE / VALID ONLY ON DATE / OF ISSUE.

The second cancellation has the two line oval approx 48mm x 33mm with the first line of text reading: HUNGERFORD – EAST GARSTON – POSTBUS.

SEPR 9 Hungerford - Great Shefford.

The two line oval in this and the next are both approx 48mm x 33mm.

The first two lines of text reads: HUNGERFORD – GREAT SHEFFORD – POSTBUS / SERVICE No. 2.

SEPR 10 Hungerford - Kintbury.

The first two lines of text reads: HUNGERFORD – KINTBURY – POSTBUS / SERVICE No. 4.



SEPR 15 Newbury - West Ilsley.

The two line oval of this and the next cancellation are both approx 50mm x 36mm.

The text reads: NEWBURY - WEST ILSLEY - POSTBUS / SERVICE No. 5 / DATE / VALID ONLY ON DATE / OF ISSUE.

SEPR 16 Newbury - Chaddleworth.

The text reads: NEWBURY - CHADDLEWORTH - POSTBUS / SERVICE No. 6 / DATE / Valid only on date / of issue, and differs from the other Reading services in that the last two lines are in lower case, whereas the others are in upper case throughout.

Type (iv).

SEPR 6 Tunbridge Wells - Mayfield.

The two line oval with inner oval measures approx 38mm x 25mm. The text is in five lines, the first and last follow the curve of the oval with the remaining three in the centre being straight, and reads TUNBRIDGE WELLS / ROYAL MAIL / DATE / POST BUS / WADHURST, MAYFIELD.

SEPR 7 Heathfield - Waldron.

This cancellation similar to the last reads EASTBOURNE / ROYAL MAIL / DATE / POST BUS / HEATHFIELD, WALDRON.

EASTBOURNE in the text signifies the route is under the control of the Head Postmaster Eastbourne. At no point in the journey does the postbus touch Eastbourne.

Type (v).

The design of the picturesque cancellation takes the form of a two line outline of a postbus facing left. The outline approx. 45mm x 25mm and larger is otherwise identical with the Bedford design used on the tickets.

SEPR 11 Hailsham - Bodle Street Green.

The three line text reads: Royal Mail Post Bus / DATE / Hailsham - Bodle Street Green., with a full stop after Green.

SEPR 12 Newport (IOW) - Brightstone.

The last line of text reads: Newport - Brightstone without the full stop.

SEPR 13 Newport (IOW) - Newtown.

The last full line of the text reads: Newport - Newtown again without the full stop after the last word.

There is a tie up between passenger services on the Isle of Wight, The Southern Vectis Omnibus Company Ltd, The British Railways Board (Southern Region) and the Royal Mail Postbuses

Royal Mail Post Bus



TICKET



79 AD 57783

ADULT
DAY ROVER TICKET

SOUTHERN VECTIS
BRITISH RAIL
Royal Mail Postbuses

CONDITIONS OF ISSUE

This ticket is issued subject to the regulations and conditions of The Southern Vectis Omnibus Company, the British Railways Board and Royal Mail Postbuses.

NOT TRANSFERABLE

CLASS M/C/N
SERIAL NO.
DATE ISSUED
STAGE BOARDED
FARE PAID

Royal Mail Post Bus
- 10011979
Newport-Brightstone

whereby purchasers of the Day, Weekly or Monthly Rover tickets can use them for unlimited travel on the Southern Vectis bus services, Ryde - Shanklin trains and the two postbus services.

When purchased on the postbus the tickets are cancelled with the postbus cancellation.

SEPR 14 Froxfield Green - Petersfield.

The last line of the cancellation reads: Petersfield - Froxfield without full stop.

10. J for Japanese

Among the more exotic and far-flung countries of the world, the 'island empire' of Japan was one of the first to follow western trends in the publication of postal stationery — especially the official stamp-imprinted correspondence cards — and in the subsequent development of picture postcards, topographicals or view cards, topical-event cards and all kinds of attractive art studies in the traditional Japanese idiom. Japanese culture is unique and takes many forms — architecture, painting, pottery and wood-carving, costumes and centuries-old customs such as the tea ceremony and tea-houses, the geishas or dancing-girls, music, literature and the theatre.

By the turn of the century the Japanese publishers and printers were producing picture postcards of exceptional quality and exquisite design — even the cards picturing vessels of the national shipping line were given ornate borders and settings in a kind of oriental 'art nouveau' style. Many cards were embossed and 'lacquered', gilded and silvered, with numerous artistic versions of Mount Fuji, Japanese cranes and emblematic chrysanthemums. Topographical cards depicted the Buddhist temples and pagodas, buildings,

railway stations and streets of Tokyo and the other principal cities and ports of Japan. The Japanese language is ideographic — the characters comprising picture-symbols representing objects — and was enriched by Chinese words and expressions: the vocabulary has expanded enormously under Western influence.

An official commemorative card was published in 1902 for the jubilee of the Universal Postal Union, while the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5, the battles in and around Port Arthur, Japanese battleships and the war at sea with the final destruction of the Russian fleet in the Tsushima Straits, were all fully represented on picture cards, 'real photographic' and artist-drawn.

To the Western world, the Japanese way of life was virtually unknown until the 1890s, when the British and Continental postcard publishers first began to take notice of the far distant 'land of the cherry blossom'. Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, 'The Mikado' (or 'The Town of Titipu'), first seen at the Savoy Theatre, London, in 1885, probably started the ball rolling — it was featured, along with 'The Geisha' and 'San Toy', by the celebrated artist, Raphael Kirchner, on postcards of the early



1900s, and also on theatre advertisement postcards of the same period. Numerous publishers produced cards with a Japanese theme, sometimes endorsed as greetings and occasionally printed on silk or hand-coloured.

Raphael Tuck, perhaps the most prolific postcard publisher of all time, issued many cards featuring the Japanese, including the colourful sets 'Life in Japan', 'Japanese Daily Life', 'The Japanese at Home' and 'Japland', also a series under the 'Connoisseur' brand entitled 'Real Japanese', depicting indoor scenes and printed in vivid colours on rough-textured 'linen' paper. Another Tuck 'Oilette' series — 'Louis Wain Cats' — delighted Edwardian children with pictures of ginger toms and black-and-white cats dressed in bright kimonos and sashes in Japanese settings — 'The Introduction', 'Flowers of Japan' (geishas), 'Jappy and Happy' (garden tea-party), 'Great Expectations' (fishing), 'The Play's the Thing' (dramatic scene with an executioner standing by) and 'We won't go home till morning' (moonlight revels).

Greetings and topographical cards on the Japanese theme were published by A & C Black, Birn Brothers, Hugo Lang, Stengel (of Dresden), Stewart and Woolf, and Wrench, among many others. There were also picturesque cards for the Japan-British Exhibition at the White City, London, in 1910. My card of a Japanese musician and dancer is one of a series by Landecker & Brown of London.

MALCOLM JAMES

Book Reviews

The Postal History of Great Britain and Ireland

2nd. Edition 1981.

by R M Willcocks & B Jay

Price £7.50 + 75p p&p

Available from: Vale Stamps, 21 Tranquil Vale, Blackheath, LONDON SE3 0BU

This is the second edition of a book first published in 1972. It has been extensively revised and contains a large number of new illustrations. It is very handsomely produced in hard covers and printed by Woods of Perth Ltd. a printer to be reckoned with in the literature of philately. Readers will remember their splendid Robson Lowe book of Classic GB Stamps published some years ago.

For a slim volume the price may seem pretty high — it works out at 83p per ounce — but in this world you have got to pay for top quality, and nowhere is careful research and quality reproduc-

tion more evident than within the 81 pages of this book.

Everything from 'day one' Bishop Marks to Exempt Ships Letters is carefully assembled and realistically priced. All are pre-1840 specimens and it is very doubtful whether a more valuable priced catalogue of types can be found elsewhere.

An essential reference work for the serious postal historian and quite invaluable to the dedicated collector. He will find it saves its cost in no time. Thoroughly recommended.

Revolutionary new Gibbons 'Part 1'

Stanley Gibbons has entered the 'computer age' in this its 125th Anniversary year, with the publication on August 7 of a totally restyled 'Part 1 British Commonwealth' catalogue 1982 Edition, in an entirely new format — the result of computer typesetting.

Now produced in the international A4 size with a new, clearer typeface, much more information is presented on a page making for greater ease of reference and a thinner volume — 752 pages compared to 1190 in the 1981 edition. As well as taking less shelf space the major advantage with fewer pages is that the increase in price has been kept to the minimum possible. This edition is priced at £13.50, an increase of only 8% from the 1981 issue — impressive, considering that the major change in publishing 'Part 1' has meant that the whole catalogue has been re-set.

This new computerised edition naturally contains many additions and improvements to the listings. Following the revision in the last edition covering GB stamps and crowned-circle hand-stamps used by the British Post Offices abroad in foreign countries, similar treatment has this time been given to those used in countries which form part of the Commonwealth. These sections now form integral parts of the listings for the countries concerned and, in consequence, the 'Z' numbers have been amended. The opportunity has also been taken to include brief details of the postal arrangements concerning their introduction and eventual replacement by stamps for the individual territories.

Traditionally the 'Part 1' catalogue is used to gauge the current stamp market. Collectors should, however, remember that, as always, the prices quoted in this catalogue are those which Stanley Gibbons estimate will be their selling price at the time of publication. They are for stamps of fine condition for the particular issue, unless otherwise indicated; those of lesser quality may be offered at lower prices.

81. Broadcasting Anniversaries, 1972

Two subjects directly involving the British Post Office – broadcasting and telecommunications – were featured on the four stamps issued on 13 September 1972. Three of the stamps celebrated the beginning of daily broadcasting in the United Kingdom just 50 years before – in November 1922 – by the British Broadcasting Company, succeeded in 1927 by the present Corporation. The fourth stamp marked the 75th anniversary of the experiments by Guglielmo Marconi and George Kemp which culminated in 1897 with the first successful radio tests over water – nine miles across the Bristol Channel. Marconi was only 23 when he made this historic transmission, while Kemp was a Post Office engineer, ‘on loan’ as Marconi’s senior assistant.

The stamps were designed by David Gentleman who revived nostalgic memories – for senior citizens, at least – of crystal sets and ‘cat’s whiskers’, of the faintly-heard ‘2LO calling’ and the somewhat ‘thin’ music which reached one’s headphones from Savoy Hill, London. It was in fact the Marconi Company which opened the 2LO station in 1922, and later that year collaborated with other wireless companies to form the British Broadcasting Company under the management of Sir John Reith (later Lord Reith). The Daventry 5XX station was opened in 1925 and the company became the British Broadcasting Corporation, a Royal Charter being granted, effective from 1 January 1927, with Reith as Director-General.

The 3p stamp shows six types of microphone used in broadcasting from 1922, including a moving-coil type (top left) as used at Savoy Hill from 1924; a carbon type (bottom left) widely used both in broadcasting from 1926 and in the TV studios at Alexandra Palace, 1936-39; a ribbon microphone (centre) designed by the BBC, and introduced in 1936 for general studio use; and three modern ‘slimline’ models typical of the wide variety in current use – a type C 28 (1959) and a type D 202 (1965), both bottom right, and a type C 451 (1969) with a wire gauze ‘windshield’ (top right). The 5p shows a domestic wooden horn loudspeaker of the 1920s, the 7½p a television colour camera of 1972, while the 9p illustrates an oscillator and early form of transmitter used by



Marconi in May 1897, when radio communication was established between Lavernock Point, Glamorgan, and Brean Down, Somerset.

The Marchese Guglielmo Marconi, Italian scientist and inventor, was born in Bologna of an Irish mother in 1874, and studied in Florence and Leghorn, and in Bologna University. He came to England in 1896 and took out his first patent for radio-telegraphy; communication between England and France was accomplished in 1898, and between Cornwall and Newfoundland in 1901. Marconi shared the Nobel Prize for physics in 1909 and was created a marchese (marquis) in 1929. He died in 1937, having given his name to the act of communicating by radio-telegraph (to ‘marconi’) by means of a ‘marconigram’.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. Varieties were comparatively few, comprising only the omission of the greenish yellow (terminals) on the 3p stamp, and the brownish slate (Queen’s head) on the 9p, plus some omissions of the phosphor bands. Quantities sold were: 3p 51,704,000; 5p 8,201,800; 7½p 6,632,000; and 9p 5,364,800; presentation packs, 99,453.

JAMES WATSON

Regional Postcards

North Western Postal Board

The last of three sets of four picture postcards depicting Victorian pillar boxes will go on sale from 19 November 1981. As with the previous two sets, these will be printed in black and white.

Orders for fully serviced cards, including a 14p 'Christmas' stamp affixed to each of the cards with special handstamping, should be sent to: North Western Postal Board, Philatelic Manager (Mk 99), St James's Buildings, 79 Oxford Street, MANCHESTER M60 1AA. The cost is 37p per serviced card and 11p per mint card.

Orders for mint and serviced cards sent to NWPB will be accepted up to first day of sale, and the following postage and packing charges will apply:

- 1-10 cards: 25p
- 11-49 cards: 45p
- 50-99 cards: 75p
- 100+ cards: 100p

Mint cards will also be available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and all philatelic counters from the first day of sale. Bulk orders should be sent to: The Manager (Postcards), Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB, where normal discount facilities and handling charges will apply.

South West Postal Region

The Bristol Head Post Office will produce a set of four picture postcards, price 11p each, illustrating the theme, 'Mail Carriers' built in Bristol'. They will be on sale from 21 October 1981, at all philatelic counters. The cards depict various forms of transport which have been used for the carriage of mail from 1830 to the present day. The subjects are a Mail Coach; the SS 'Great Britain'; the Avon 'Mercury' Trimobile, and the 'Concorde', all of which were built in Bristol. The reference numbers are 15 (a) (b) (c) (d) respectively in the SWPR series.

A special first day of sale handstamp will be applied at Bristol Head Post Office to all cards posted in a special posting box situated in the office. Mint cards may be ordered by post and the following handling charges will apply: 15p for up to 20 cards, 25p for up to 100 cards, 50p for up to 250 cards, and £1 for over 250.

For collectors requiring serviced cards with the first day of sale handstamp, the charge is 37p each including the cost of the card, postage and service. All orders should be sent to the Philatelic Counter, Merchant Street Post Office, BRISTOL BS1 3EJ to arrive not later than 21 October. Remittances made payable to The Post Office should preferably be sent by postal order or by direct Giro transfer to account number 202 1005.

In addition to the four postcards, a set of four prints of the paintings (size 10" x 22") is being produced. These will cost £2.50 each (£9.00 for the set of four) and can also be ordered by post from Merchant Street Post Office.

Wales and the Marches Postal Region

Shrewsbury Head Post Office is producing a set of two picture postcards, numbers W&TMPB 16 and 19, which feature the interior and exterior of the Shrewsbury to York Travelling Post Office. The Shrewsbury to York TPO has been in operation since July 1902 and conveys mail nightly between Mid Wales, Shropshire and the NE of England.

Price 11p each, the postcards will be on sale from Monday 2 November 1981 and a pictorial handstamp will be applied to cards posted at Shrewsbury HPO on the first day of sale. Serviced postcards with the first day of sale handstamp will cost 37p each, which includes postage and handling charge, and can be obtained from The Philatelic Duty, Shrewsbury Head Post Office, SHREWSBURY SY1 1AA where normal reposting facilities will also be available.

In addition a cancellation by the Shrewsbury to York TPO operational datestamp will also be available on 2 November 1981. Customers requiring this facility may either forward their postcards (which must bear a first class stamp) to the above address or apply for serviced postcards again price 37p. Please be sure to state clearly which cancellation is required.

Remittances, made payable to The Post Office, preferably by cheque or Giro Transfer (Giro A/C 403 7014) should be sent to the above address. Mint cards will be available from Philatelic Counters and Shrewsbury HPO. Bulk orders for mint cards should be sent to:

British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB where normal discount facilities and handling charges will apply.

Midland Postal Region

The Midland Postal Board is issuing a full colour picture postcard, another in its series of interesting

posting boxes. The card will be on sale from Tuesday 1 December 1981.

The card depicts an example of the familiar standard posting box which dates back to 1887 together with an example of the K type box which is being used for all new installations. Designed by Mr Tony Gibbs of Forest Hill and produced at the Lion Foundry, Kirkintilloch near Glasgow, the K type is the first new design for almost a century. The box featured on the card is sited in Birmingham and is one of the first 11 to go into service.

Mint cards at 11p each can be obtained by personal application from all philatelic counters. Orders for fully serviced cards including first day of sale handstamp and first class postage should be sent to: Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, Letter Branch, Royal Mail Street, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA. The cost is 37p each. Orders must be received by Friday 27 November.

Remittances should be sent, if possible by Postal Order of Giro transfer to Birmingham Head Post Office, Letter Branch, Royal Mail Street, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA Giro Account number 4021002.

Bulk orders for mint cards only may be ordered from the Manager (Postcards) Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB where normal handling charges will apply.

National Postal Museum Notes

Two new postcards have been issued by the National Postal Museum to mark the 70th Anniversary of the first Air Mail Service, from Hendon to Windsor Castle on 9 September 1911. The first card (SS5 issued 30/9/81) features a reproduction of the actual postcard used on this first flight. The second card (SS6 issued 1/9/81) features the blue Air Mail Letter Box installed in 1930 outside the London Chief Office, King Edward Street, London, EC1, where the Museum is now situated. Both cards are available to visitors to the Museum at a cost of 11p per card, or can be obtained by writing to the National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, London, EC1A 1LP, at 25p including postage and packing.

As we mentioned in an earlier issue of the Philatelic Bulletin, the Museum will be closing its galleries to the public from 5-30 October 1981. This

is to allow essential maintenance and repair work to be done, and is the first time that the Museum has closed since it was opened in its present form in 1969. During this period, the sales counter will remain open and the Museum's Maltese Cross handstamp will be available. All correspondence will be dealt with as normal and the research facility will still be available.

When the Museum re-opens on 2 November 1981, a special Postcard Exhibition will be on show until April 1982. This will feature the history of Post Office postcards in Great Britain, from their origin in the nineteenth century to modern times. On 2 November, the Museum will also be issuing reprints of sets no 2 and no 5 in its series of cards. These will be available from that date onwards at a price of 50p per set.

Special Issues for 1978

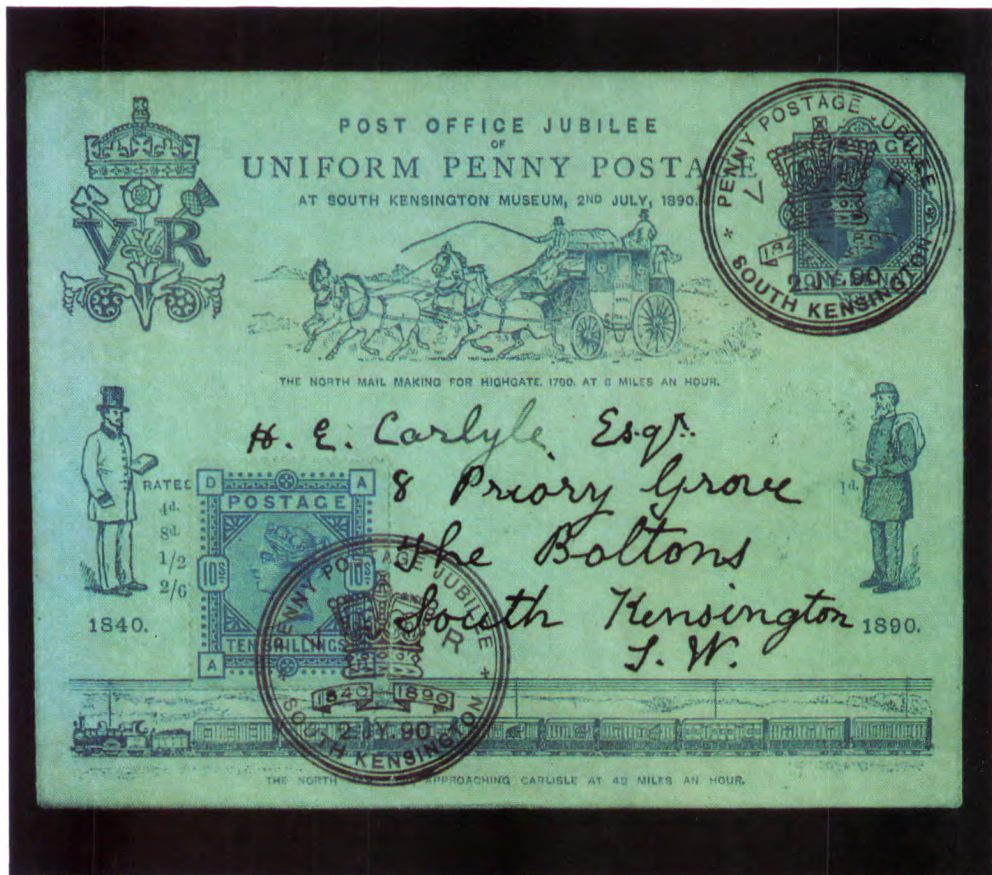
ISSUE AND DATE	VALUE	NUMBER ISSUED
Energy	9p	42,270,000
25 January 1978	10 ¹ / ₂ p	10,630,000
	11p	9,950,000
	13p	9,340,000
British Architecture	9p	43,770,000
1 March 1978	10 ¹ / ₂ p	11,230,000
	11p	10,850,000
	13p	9,880,000
British Architecture Miniature Sheet	53 ¹ / ₂ p	2,520,000
1 March 1978		
25th Anniversary of Coronation	9p	66,700,000
31 May 1978	10 ¹ / ₂ p	16,430,000
	11p	15,200,000
	13p	14,080,000
Horses	9p	48,470,000
5 July 1978	10 ¹ / ₂ p	12,490,000
	11p	11,910,000
	13p	10,940,000
Cycling	9p	44,990,000
2 August 1978	10 ¹ / ₂ p	12,760,000
	11p	11,980,000
	13p	10,980,000
Christmas 1978	7p	258,370,000
	9p	119,400,000
	11p	19,480,000
	13p	17,980,000

Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage

The Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage was celebrated on 2 July 1890 and a special pictorial envelope and correspondence card was issued. This was the first of only two pictorial 'stamped stationery' envelopes ever produced by the Post Office. (The second one being the 10th Anniversary envelope produced by the National Postal Museum in 1979). The Jubilee envelope was produced by Elliott of London, and there is also a famous caricature by Furniss in existence.

The cover illustrated for this month's 'Gem' can be found in volume IX/48 of the Reginald M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum.

This bears the current 10/- stamp cancelled with the Special South Kensington commemorative cancellation in use at the exhibition. While the covers were sold at the time for 1/- and are relatively easy to obtain today, it is highly unlikely that any others exist with a 10/- stamp affixed. Several different types of cancellation were in use at the time, and one is also on show cancelling a penny black on a cover to Bath. There is also an example of the eight-pointed star used at the Guildhall shown cancelling a 1d black on piece which is in volume IX/49 of the Reginald M Phillips Collection.



Low Value/'Country' Definitive Packs

The Post Office will issue four new definitive presentation packs on 28 October 1981, to be numbered as follows:—

- 129A — Low definitive pack
- 129B — Country definitive pack — Scotland
- 129C — Country definitive pack — Wales
- 129D — Country definitive pack — Northern Ireland

Low Value Definitive Pack

This pack will contain all the low value stamps issued by the Post Office from the beginning of 1978 until January 1981. The last low value presentation pack was issued on 2 February 1977.

Technical Details

The stamp values included in the pack are 2½p, 3p, 4p, 10½p, 11½p (sepia), 11½p (mushroom), 12p, 13p, 13½p, 14p, 15p, 15½p, 17p, 17½p, 18p, 22p, 25p, 75p and they are printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd with the exception of the 4p and 75p values which are printed by the offset litho process by John Waddington of Kirkstall Ltd and The House of Questa respectively. Paper-phosphor coated for all values except for the 4p which has two phosphor bars, the 11½p mushroom which has one phosphor bar and the 75p which has no phosphor. The adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

The pack is designed by Jeffery Matthews FSIAD, and will be available at philatelic counters and from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, from 28 October at £3.17½ each.

'Country' Definitive Packs

These packs will contain all the low value 'Country' definitive stamps issued for the appropriate countries from the beginning of 1978 until 8 April 1981. The last 'Country' definitive packs were issued on 20 October 1976.

Technical Details

The stamp values included are 7p, 9p, 10½p, 11½p, 12p, 13½p, 14p, 15p, 18p, 22p and they are printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd except the 11½p, 14p, 18p and 22p values which are printed by the offset litho process by the offset litho process by The House of Questa for the Wales and Northern Ireland issues and John

Waddington of Kirkstall Ltd for the Scotland stamps. Paper-phosphor coated unwatermarked except for the 7p and 11½p values which have a single phosphor bar and the 9p and 10½p values which have 2 phosphor bars. Designer of the pack is Jeffery Matthews FSIAD.

The packs will be available from the Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh, and Philatelic Counters from 28 October at £1.49½ each.

New Philatelic Sales Counters

Two new philatelic counters will be opened in October.

On 12 October 1981 the City Centre Post Office, MILTON KEYNES, MK9 3AA will open a philatelic counter. A special handstamp bearing the words, 'Official opening day Philatelic Counter 12 October 1981 City Centre Post Office Milton Keynes' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in the philatelic posting box situated in the office. Normal reposting facilities will be available; covers should be forwarded to The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, Dawson Road, Bletchley, MILTON KEYNES, MK1 1AA.

Hours of business: Monday to Friday 10 am to 1.30 pm and 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm, Saturday 9 am to 12 noon. First day of issue of stamps 9 am to 1.30 pm and 2.30 pm to 5 pm.

On 21 October 1981 the Branch Office, North Street, GUILDFORD, GU1 1AA will open a philatelic counter. A special pictorial handstamp depicting the town hall clock and bearing the words 'Official opening of philatelic counter Guildford Surrey 21 October 1981' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in the philatelic posting box situated in the office.

Normal reposting facilities will be available; covers should be forwarded to — The Head Postmaster, Woodbridge Meadows, GUILDFORD, Surrey, GU1 1AA.

Hours of business are Monday to Friday 10 am to 4.30 pm; Saturday 9 am to 1 pm. First day of issue of stamps 9 am to 5.30 pm.

The 'Melville' Junior Competition Seminar

The Second Seminar for the Award winners in the Melville Junior Stamp Competition of 1981 took place from the 3rd to 6th August.

Based in the National Postal Museum, the three days of lectures, films and visits gave the participants a unique opportunity to learn about stamp design and printing; the operation of the Post Office Railway and of the East Central London Sorting Office; Stamp Auctions; Various collecting themes; and the history of the Postal Museum.

Led by Mrs Kay Goodman, Chairman of the Melville and Youth Committee and assisted, exceptionally this year by the Master-in-Charge of the winning School Trophy, Mr Guy Milner of the King's School, Macclesfield.

The winners were addressed by – Mr Peter Shives, former Chief Design Director of the Post Office; Mr Derek Howlett, Managing Director of Harrisons; Mr Frank Brench, Assistant Editor of the Philatelic Bulletin; Dr Jean Alexander, Member of the Post Office Stamp Advisory Council; Mr D E Marchant of Kent Federation; Mr David Boyd, Philatelic Director of Phillips and Mr. W Raife Wellsted, the Curator of the Postal Museum. All the young collectors present displayed and spoke on their winning entries.

The Seminar concluded with a Buffet Lunch at which Mr Cyril Sharwood, Post Office Overseas Marketing Manager (Philatelic Section) presided.

Forthcoming Events

The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle

The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle will hold its tenth AGM on Saturday 17 October 1981 at the Albright & Wilson Recreation Club, Station Road, Langley, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4LN. The venue is within very easy reach of Birmingham. The day's activities will start at 9.00 am, and all collectors are welcome. The Post Office will be there as well as numerous dealers. For further details please contact the Publicity Secretary, 18 Henlow Close, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8BE.

Philatelic Course

Following last year's successful course on stamp collecting it is intended to repeat the course again starting on 21 October 1981 and lasting over 3 terms until June 1982.

It is suitable for beginners and those at intermediate stage, and will cover basic principles, essential equipment, and various methods of mounting and displaying material both for private collection as well as showing at competition level. A lot of time will be devoted to British material; students will also have the opportunity of undertaking practical work on their own collections, and exchanging material.

It is also intended that when possible, visiting speakers will be asked to show material of an unusual and interesting nature. Philatelic films will be shown, and visits will be made to places of philatelic interest.

Enrolment will take place at the Holloway Institute, Ashmount School, Hornsey, LONDON N19 3BH.

The Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club

The Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club are holding their Fourteenth Annual Exhibition on Saturday 7 November 1981 in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, from 11 am to 5 pm.

The Exhibition will be formally opened by Mrs Kay Goodman FRPS (L) one of our leading and popular philatelists who works so hard to encourage the younger element of our hobby. During the afternoon Mrs Goodman will also conduct the presentation ceremony of the BPF Award of Merit to Mr Norman Tamlyn.

This year the Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club are hosting the competitions of the Somerset & Dorset Philatelic Federation and so visitors can be assured of numerous and varied items on display.

There will be a Post Office Philatelic Counter and several dealers in attendance. Refreshments will be available all day. Car parking facilities will be found in either of the two town car parks, only two or three minutes walk from the Corn Exchange.

Telford Philatelic Society

A stamp fair will take place on 7 November 1981 at Belmont Hall, WELLINGTON, Shropshire from 10 am to 4 pm organized by the Telford Philatelic Society. A number of dealers will be present and The Post Office will provide a philatelic display and sales counter. A car park is adjacent, refreshments will be available and the cost of admission is 20p: children 10p.

Postal Mechanisation Study Circle

The Annual General Meeting of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle will be held at The Museum of London, LONDON, EC2 at 2 pm on Saturday 31 October 1981.

Further details about the Study Circle are available from the Secretary, John Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, PINNER, Middlesex HA5 3BW.

Stamp Fairs

The following stamp fairs will take place during October, November and December:

Saturday 24 October : St Laurence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, UPMINSTER, Essex RM14 2BB. 10.00 am to 5.30 pm;

Saturday 31 October : Cathedral Social Club, Ingrave Road, BRENTWOOD, Essex CM15 8AT. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm;

Saturday 14 November : Canon Roche Social Centre, Laindon Road, BILLERICAY, Essex CM12 9SU. 11.30 am to 5.30 pm;

Saturday 28 November : St Laurence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, UPMINSTER, Essex RM14 2BB. 10.00 am to 5.30 pm;

Saturday 5 December : Cathedral Social Club, Ingrave Road, BRENTWOOD, Essex CM15 8AT. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm;

Saturday 12 December : Canon Roche Social Centre, Laindon Road, BILLERICAY, Essex CM12 9SU. 11.30 am to 5.30 pm;

Saturday 19 December : Labour Hall, 400 High Road, ILFORD, Essex IGL 1TW. 10.00 am to 5.30 pm.

Full details of 1982 Stamp Fairs is available on receipt of sae from: Ms Martine Blaise, 27 The Drive, ILFORD, Essex IGL 3EZ

Rainham (Essex) Stamp Bourse

The Rainham Stamp Bourse will take place in St Margaret's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Rainham, (KENT) from 7.30 pm until 10pm on the following days:

Thursday 15 October 1981;

Thursday 19 November 1981;

Thursday 17 December 1981.

The North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies

The Annual Convention of the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies will be held on Saturday 7 November at the Brabazon Suite, Manchester Airport from 11 am to 5 pm.

The Convention will be hosted by the South Manchester Philatelic Society which is producing a special commemorative booklet of stamps for the

event. The theme of the booklet, which will have a specially designed cover, is the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer. The booklet will contain Royal Wedding stamps and will cost 75p. A limited edition of booklets will be printed and will be available in matched pairs with the selvedge on both the left and right hand side of the stamps.

In addition dealers will be present throughout the day, an auction will take place during the afternoon and a draw will also take place with a first prize of £50.

Croydon Stamp Fair

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

The fair will open at 10 am until 4.30 pm and the price of admission is 10p. Car parking is free and there are frequent bus services to and from East Croydon Station, and Croydon Town Centre.

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

Charity Stamp Fair

A Charity Stamp Fair will take place in the Community Hall, Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, GILLINGHAM, Kent, on Saturday 7 November 1981 from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm. Admission 25p (children and senior citizens 5p).

A similar event last year benefited the Miers Court County Primary School by more than £500. This year, with the assistance of the Gillingham Lions, proceeds will be donated to a local charity for the disabled.

Basildon Philatelic Society

On Saturday 24 October 1981, the Basildon Philatelic Society will hold its autumn stamp fair in St Martin's Church Hall, Basildon, from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free.

Heswall and District Philatelic Society

This new Society was formed in July and will meet once a month until the end of the year when it is hoped to meet on two occasions each month. Membership is already approaching 30. Full details can be obtained from: Mr L C E Smith (Hon Sec), 27 Breezhill Road, NESTON, South Wirral, L64 9PZ enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Christmas Stamps

Issue 18 November 1981

The Christmas stamps for 1981 are all designed by children, the winners of a competition organised by 'Blue Peter' the BBC's popular television programme for young viewers.

There are five stamps: Santa with an armful of gifts (11½p): a mosaic collage of Christ in majesty (14p): a Christmas angel floating through a blue starry sky (18p): Joseph and Mary journeying to Bethlehem (22p): Three Kings pointing to the shining star above Bethlehem (25p).

First Day Cover Service

A first day cover will be issued, price 13p, and the following services will be provided, including a choice of two handstamps – 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and 'Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed'.

SERVICE A

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and given all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled with either postmark and despatched.

SERVICE B

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched. The following charges will apply.

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
Service A	£1.29	£1.12½
Deposit account customers	£1.24	£1.08
Service B	£1.16	£1.01

Customers who specifically require the Bethlehem postmark, should send their orders to the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Section), LLANELLI, Dyfed, SA15 1AA. All orders for cancellations other than Bethlehem only, should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BB, to arrive not later than 9 November 1981.

Bristol Philatelic Counter

The new handstamp for use at Bristol Philatelic Counter, mentioned in the September issue of the Bulletin, did not come into use on 23 September as stated. Details of the new date of introduction will be published as soon as possible.

Posting Boxes



No. 29. The postman at Gaulby in Leicestershire has to be sure he is on time to clear this letter box, where the villagers can keep their eyes on the time – as long as the sun is shining!

Forces Covers

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps will participate in the Lord Mayor of London's Procession on 14 November 1981. A special cover will be available to mark the event depicting the Lord Mayor's coat-of-arms. A 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp will be affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPS 1700. The Lord Mayor, Mr Alderman Christopher Leaver JP will sign 100 covers, and the Director General of Ordnance Services, Major General J Brown will also sign a similar number. The cost is £2 per cover. Unsigned covers are £1 each.

Orders, with remittances made payable to:

Central Bank account HQ RAOC Training Centre, should be sent to: HQ RAOC Training Centre (Commemorative cover), Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut, CAMBERLEY, Surrey, GU16 6RW.

Royal Navy

A new destroyer for the Royal Navy, HMS 'Southampton' will be commissioned on 31 October 1981. To mark the event a commemorative cover will be available illustrating HMS 'Southampton' at sea together with the ship's badge and the white ensign. A 14p 'Fishing' stamp will be affixed cancelled with BFPS 1758 handstamp depicting the ship's badge. The price is 70p. Alternatively, the cover bearing a 22p 'Fishing' stamp, cancelled, but signed by Captain H G de Courcy-Ireland RN, Commanding Officer of the ship, and Mr J Deacon, the Mayor of Southampton, the price is £1.95. In addition, the cover with an 18p 'Fishing' stamp affixed and signed by Mr Deacon only, the charge is £1.15.

Orders with remittances made payable to the 'FAA Museum' should be sent to the: RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS, Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL, accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Commemorative Covers

First Official Visit by The Prince and Princess of Wales to the Principality

To mark this Royal visit to the Principality a commemorative cover will be available on 27 October 1981. Featuring the Welsh Dragon, it will bear the 14p and 25p 'Royal Wedding' stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamp with a choice of a CARDIFF or CAERNARFON post town. The cost of the serviced cover is 70p.

Orders for serviced covers with the CARDIFF postmark and bulk orders of mint covers should be sent to: The Head Postmaster, 220-228 Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA, where normal handling charges for bulk orders will apply. Orders for covers with the CAERNARFON postmark should be sent to: The Postmaster, Post Office, Castle Square, CAERNARFON, Gwynedd LL55 2ND.

Remittances should be made payable to 'The Post Office'. Mint covers will be on sale at all philatelic sales counters, price 13p each.

The Royal British Legion

1921 — Sixty Years of Caring — 1981

The Diamond Jubilee Year of The Royal British

Legion continues with two further philatelic covers.

On 2 November 1981 a British Rail locomotive will be named 'The Royal British Legion' at Euston Station, London. To mark the event a cover will be available with a 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp affixed, cancelled with a special handstamp depicting a locomotive. Cost of the cover is £1.30 plus 20p postage and packing.

A commemorative cover will also be available on 7 November 1981, coinciding with the Festival of Remembrance, which takes place in the Royal Albert Hall, London. The cover illustrates both sides of the medallion struck for Diamond Jubilee Year and will bear a 14p 'Duke of Edinburgh's Award' stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. Cost of the cover is £1.30 plus 20p postage and packing.

Both covers can be obtained from: The Royal British Legion, Royal British Legion Village, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME20 7NX., for the attention of Mr R Farley, Administration Officer. Remittances should be made payable to 'The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal'.

The Fishermen's Mutual Association (Buckie) Ltd

A philatelic cover is currently available, produced by the Fishermen's Mutual Association (Buckie) Ltd, in association with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution bearing the 18p and 25p 'Fishing' stamps, cancelled on the first day of issue, 23 September 1981, with a special handstamp. The cover depicts some of the interests of the FMA eg boatbuilding and repairs, fishing nets and oil. The price is £1.50, or £1.70 if required to be sent in a reinforced envelope.

Orders should be addressed to: Mr Iain Sinclair, Chief Accountant, Herd & Mackenzie, The Slipway, Commercial Road, BUCKIE, Banffshire, AB5 1UR.

Bob Hope British Classic

At the recent pro-am golf tournament — The Bob Hope British Classic — held at Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire between 24-27 September 1981, Bob Hope acted as host to many celebrities who took part. To commemorate the event a special philatelic cover is now available featuring the profile of Bob Hope and the British and American flags. Bearing a 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp, cancelled by a pictorial handstamp, the cover costs £1.35. A limited number with a 25p 'Royal Wedding' stamp affixed, cancelled, and signed by Bob Hope are available, price £3.95

each. For those wishing for the cover to be returned in an outer envelope, an additional 20p should be added.

Free details of this offer, sold in aid of British Charities, can be obtained from: Rembrandt Philatelics, 21 High Street, Botley, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants, SO3 2EA.

Blackwell's Bookshop, Oxford

Handicapped children from the Ormerod School near Oxford will benefit from the sales of a special Christmas cover illustrating a bookworm talking to 'Alice' in Blackwell's Bookshop. The cover bearing all five Christmas stamps, cancelled on 18 November 1981, with a handstamp including the legend, 'Blackwell's Christmas Book Show, Oxford', will be available, price £2.50 plus 15p return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to: 'Hawkwood Stamps', should be sent to: Hawkwood Stamps, 60 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, LONDON, E4 7PJ.

'Hambro Life' Derby — Hickstead

To mark the 'Hambro Life' Derby at Hickstead — the company's first major sports sponsorship event in the showjumping calendar — a commemorative cover is currently available printed in full colour, illustrating an action shot from a previous Hickstead Derby.

The cover costing £2 has all four 'Horses' stamps of 1978 affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp including the date, 30 August 1981. It is available by post from the appointed philatelic agents: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd, 33 St Georges Place, CANTERBURY, Kent CT1 2XX. An additional 20p per order should be added for postage and packing.

Remittances should be made payable to 'Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd'.

Church of England Children's Society

To commemorate the 100th Christmas of the Church of England Children's Society a cover will be available on 18 November 1981 featuring a painting of children gathered around Jesus Christ by Margaret Tarrant. The cover will bear all 5 Christmas stamps — the stamps which are designed this year by children — will be cancelled at Canterbury with a pictorial handstamp. It will be carried by mail coach from the Cathedral to the Head Post Office and a cachet will be applied denoting the fact. The cost of the cover is £2.75. A limited number will be signed by the Dean of Canterbury at £5.25 each, and the Archbishop of

Canterbury will also sign a limited number at £10.25 each. The Church of England Children's Society will benefit from the sales of this special cover. All prices include return postage and packing.

Overseas orders should include additional postage applicable to the country concerned.

Orders with remittances made payable to the Church of England Children's Society, should be sent to 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT. Please allow 20 days for delivery after 18 November.

The Salvation Army

This year marks the Centenary of the Hinckley Temple Corps of The Salvation Army.

It is 100 years since William Booth, the Founder and first General, sent Emma Hughes to Hinckley to open the 234th post of the Army.

To commemorate this event a special cover has been designed which will bear the full set of 'Fishing' stamps.

The pictorial cancellation for 31 October 1981 will incorporate two female members of The Salvation Army with two children, and will carry the inscription 'The Salvation Army Hinkley 1881-1981 100 Years of Caring'.

This commemorative cover will cost £1.65. Signed by the Commanding Officer Major Saltwell the cost is £2.65 inclusive of return postage.

All proceeds to The Salvation Army.

Orders are now being accepted by post to J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON, N14 4RL.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Memmott

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

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