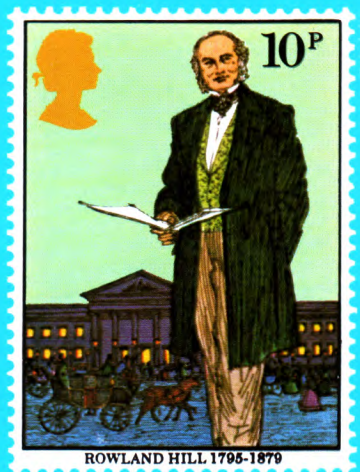


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 16 Number 12 August 1979



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Editorial

With this issue we reach the last in Volume 16 and look forward to another Bulletin year.

We have tried to maintain the high quality we set from the outset and if we have done so it was managed with the help of only a modest increase in subscription. Our costs increase like everything else and we may find it necessary to pass some of them on.

The most disappointing aspect of our editorial job is the almost total lack of 'Letters to the Editor'. We offered the forum many years ago to enable readers to air their views. In the early days we had a fair number of letters but over the last year or so the stream has dried to a trickle.

The column is yours: please use it when you can.

New Posting Boxes

We had hoped to give further details about the new style posting boxes referred to in the June Bulletin, but at the time of going to press no further information is to hand.

Illustrated Stamp Books

The new series of stamp books with illustrated covers continues with the issue on 12 September 1979 of:

10p	London 1980
50p	Vintage Cars
80p	Military Aircraft
£1	Industrial Archaeology

New Agent in Germany

The British Post Office has appointed Mr Jurgen Schneider of the firm Georg Roll Nachfolger, D-2880 BRAKE, Ulriciweg 3, W Germany, as agent in the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria for the sale of GB mint stamps and associated philatelic material.

Mr Schneider will act as distributor to the philatelic trade in those countries.

Philatelic Bulletin

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The Development and Use of Post Office Phosphors

Part 3 Types of Phosphors Used

It has already been mentioned that another property investigated was the duration of afterglow. There are two accepted ways of defining this property — the more scientific is the 'standard life-time', defined as the time required after cessation of irradiation (ie switching off the UV source) for the brightness to fall $\frac{1}{e}$ of the original value, that is to about 37%. (See figs 1 and 2.)

Another way is to define the 'half life' or time required for the brightness to fall to 50% of the original value. We use this method for routine tests.

Unfortunately these values are not constant for a given phosphor, but depend on just when one takes the measurements relative to switching off the UV source.

New apparatus has just become available, and the following figures were obtained by means of a solid-state phosphorescence tester coupled to a Tektronix WP1200 Oscilloscope System utilising a CP 4165 Processing Unit. (See fig 3.)

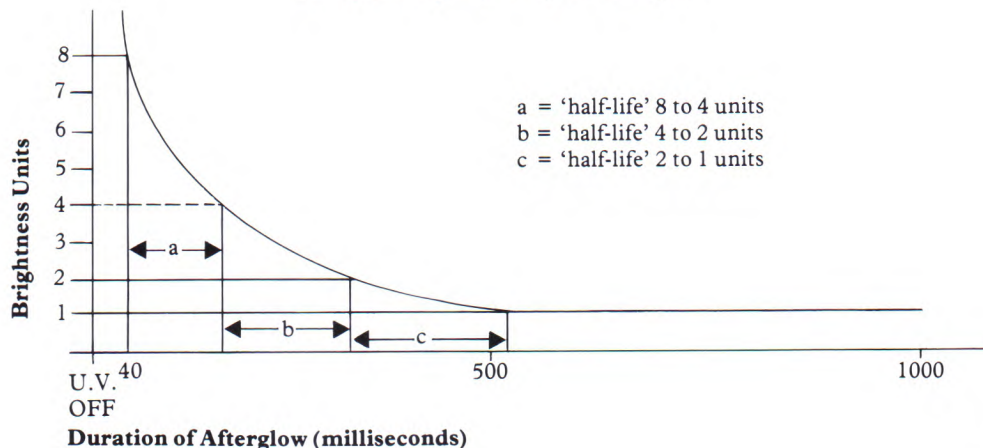
It is of interest that if one delays commencing the measurements, higher figures are obtained, as indicated below:

Table 3
(All figures in milliseconds)

Phosphor		Half-life measured from stated time after irradiation ceased			
		0— millisec	250 millisec	500 millisec	2 seconds
PHD	('Green')	200	820	940	1200
CSA	(Blue)	560	710	910	1200
TPA	(Violet)	120	150	240	380
SA	(Violet)	160	250	300	500
PABS(S)	(Violet)	130	240	300	500
DLMA	(Green-Blue)	50	175	360	900
SPYPA	(Bright Yellow-Green)	180	270	330	630
ZINC SULPHIDE (Copper activated)	(Yellow-Green)	30	225	350	1500

(Some of these are mentioned later)

A diagram may help to explain the figures:



It may seem strange that the afterglow is visible for a period which is many times its 'half life' but what is implied is that (*very roughly*) if the half life is 750 milliseconds, then every 750 milliseconds it falls to one half of what it was before, so strictly it would never reach zero!

Also, of course, the human eye has a very definitive threshold for light, so the brighter the afterglow is initially, the longer it is perceived for a given phosphor, and the initial brightness may simply be a function of the amount put on! This is one reason why the afterglow from CSA may apparently persist for a longer period than that of PHD — there has been more put on, and it is a brighter phosphor anyway.

It is worthwhile making this point, because our printers normally aim for a much higher brightness than the Post Office acceptance minimum to allow for the adverse effect of some colours, cylinder wear, etc. (See fig 4.)

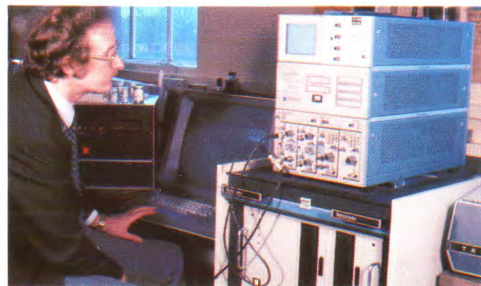
An example of such a stamp compared with a similar one phosphor-printed at a brightness only just above the Post Office acceptance level, would give the impression that the former had a much longer afterglow than the latter, whereas it is the same phosphor in both cases. Duration of visible afterglow can be very confusing in identifying phosphors.

Other Phosphors

So far nothing has been written about the physical properties of phosphor powders, as of little interest to philatelists. Strangely, the physical properties vary considerably and depend on the activator used, although this is present only at a level of 1% to 4%. TPA yields a fairly hard material, which reduces to a fine powder in a ball mill, without significant loss of luminescence. CSA phosphors are softer, and can be slightly 'plastic'.



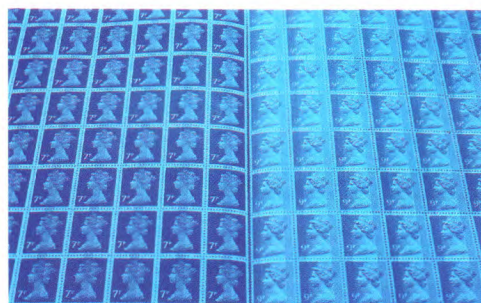
1 Routine measurement of phosphor brightness



3 The Tektronix WP1200 computerised system in use for measuring phosphor decay characteristics



2 Laboratory assessment of duration of afterglow



4 Visual effect of short wave UV on definitive stamps



5 Synthesis of novel phosphor in Post Office laboratories



6 First stage of manufacture of TAP stamp phosphor at Harrisons. The chemical reaction



7 Granulation of TPS stamp phosphor 'lava' at Harrisons

In 1969 Thomas De La Rue were commissioned to print a special issue, 'Post Office Technology' by off-set lithography, the phosphor bars to be printed by letterpress.

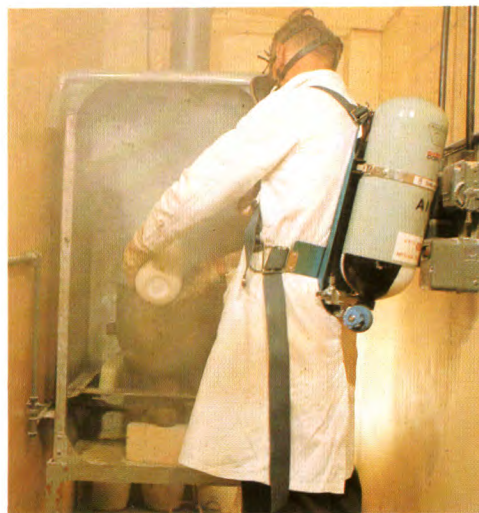
It was found that a new phosphor possessed physical properties more suited to the lithography plus letterpress combination. The activator is called 'sulphanilic acid', the phosphor being manufactured by Derby Luminescents Ltd of Enfield, who have made large quantities of Post Office phosphors over the years. The manufacturers called it 'DSU', the Post Office simply 'SA'.

The following year, 1970, a further issue was printed by De La Rue, the 'Ninth British Commonwealth Games'. Again, the phosphor used was SA printed by letterpress.

Reference to Table 2 (July Bulletin) will show that SA has an emission wavelength (ie colour) almost identical with that of TPA, but from Table 3 we see that the duration of afterglow is longer, at least for a given initial intensity.

The question will doubtless be asked — 'Why confuse the picture with technical details that cannot be researched without specialised equipment?' The answer is that there are a number of collectors interested in the historical account of their stamps, and, why they were produced in a particular way. The others can always ignore the finer points if they so wish!

Now one big drawback to printing phosphor lines is cost, both in time and money. It is necessary to produce and proof cylinders; these must be cleaned and refurbished at intervals. The phosphor powder, normally synthesised on site by Harrisons for their own stamp production by methods similar to those used in Post Office



8 For comparison with illustration 6, this illustration shows the production of DLMA address coding phosphor at Derby Luminescents Ltd, Enfield

laboratories (see fig 5) must be milled to a fine powder and sent away to be converted into a printing ink. (See figs 6 and 7.) For comparison, the manufacture of address-code phosphors, at Derby Luminescents (Enfield) is shown. (See fig 8.) After return from the ink manufacturer, laboratory tests are necessary; the ink must be stirred carefully before use, and diluted to viscosity required. Also, one printing unit is required which would otherwise be available for a colour. It is therefore tempting to put the phosphor into the coating mix so that the paper coating applied to enhance print quality is itself phosphorescent. Unfortunately, the phosphors so far described would be destroyed by combining with the mix, so a research programme was undertaken to synthesise the material *in situ*. This led to the issue in 1969 of the 1/6d definitive with phosphor in the coating; continuing with the 10p high value stamps. Some 50p stamps were also printed on this paper.

The Post Office chemists were not satisfied with this coating, designated 'TPS(S)', the 'S' denoting 'soluble'. A large scale field trial brought to light certain shortcomings operationally; it was therefore decided to have a look at melamine based resins as these are tougher and more chemically stable than the urea-based material used for TPA(S).

Unfortunately, the activators found suitable for cyanuric acid formaldehyde phosphors are not nearly so efficient when used with melamine formaldehyde (cyanuric acid being made by heating urea). Attention was therefore turned to materials previously found less efficient for use with urea-formaldehyde resins and amongst these a number of very promising ones were found.

The best proved to be the sodium salt of para-aminobenzoic acid, and this was the one selected for trial with the 4½p definitive on 13 November 1974, the 8½p of 24 March 1976, and the 'Rackets Sports' issue of 13 January 1977. Further issues are in hand using this phosphor-coated paper (designated PABA(S) by the Post Office and HS4 — B4 by Harrisons).

The duration of the afterglow of PAB(S) is

slightly greater than that of TPA (see Table 3); the spectrum of the afterglow is much broader than other phosphors (see Table 2) but the visual colour is not unlike that of TPA, being perhaps slightly bluer to the author. It is likely that this luminescent coating will be used for all definitives, except 2nd tier rate, as soon as the printers have installed new large-scale production equipment. It will also be used for special issues other than the Christmas 2nd tier rate.

AUBREY WALKER

Presentation of Melville Junior Stamp Competition Awards

Postal Headquarters was the setting for the presentation of the 1979 Melville Junior Stamp Competition Awards.

More than fifty per cent of the prizewinners attended with their parents; many travelling long distances to be present. Elizabeth Bullough came from Fife and Neil Robson returning from a holiday, touched down at Heathrow with just over an hour to spare.

The Chairman of the Melville and Youth Committee, Mrs Kay Goodman presided. The Melville awards were presented by Nigel Walmsley, Director of Marketing at Postal Headquarters and Brian Sproat, the Post Office Representative on the 'London 1980' Committee. David Collins, President of the National Westminster Bank Philatelic Society, presented the National Westminster Bank Prize; Sidney Leverton, Chairman of the Stamp Promotion Council and Vice President of 'London 1980', presented the Helene Leverton Award in memory of his late wife; and Yvonne King, representing the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, presented the Cartwright Medal.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the British Philatelic Federation were well represented by Council Members.

A visit to the Postal Museum to view the prize winning entries completed a very happy afternoon.

Postcode Message for Stamped Stationery

Five items of Post Office stationery are to get a new look as part of a major campaign to encourage use of the postcode.

The three sizes of registered envelope will have the word 'postcode' printed on the addressee's and the sender's panels.

First class stamped envelopes — sizes 1 and 2 — will also have 'postcode' printed on the sender's panel, and will additionally have the slogan 'Be properly addressed — use the postcode' printed beneath the flap.

The five 'new' items are now on sale at all philatelic sales counters and by post, from the Philatelic Bureau.

This comes as the Post Office accelerates its £50 million major modernisation plans for Britain's postal system, aiming to complete the bulk of its mechanisation programme by the end of 1982.

Mechanisation will streamline mail handling arrangements, improve reliability and help to contain postal operating costs and prices.

With the modernisation programme brought forward, a major publicity campaign has been launched by the Post Office to encourage the use of postcodes, the key to postal mechanisation.

With this in mind, other items in the Post Office's range of stationery will similarly be given the postcode reminders depending on when current stocks run out. Details will be given in due course.

Rowland Hill Postmarking Arrangements

SANQUHAR, Dumfriesshire, will be a first day of issue office for the ROWLAND HILL stamp only.

Items for reposting should be sent to the Postmaster, SANQUHAR, Dumfriesshire DG4 6DJ.

Sanquhar Post Office dates from the 1760s and is the oldest in the country. A picture of the office is shown on the Rowland Hill presentation pack.

Miniature Sheet

It was planned to issue these four stamps as a miniature sheet, but because of the change in postal tariffs, and the fact that they take longer to produce, the issue date of these miniature sheets has been deferred until October. Firm dates of issue will be announced as soon as possible.

Rowland Hill Centenary First Day Cover Service

The following services for first day covers will be provided.

Two special pictorial handstamps will be available: Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, depicting a profile of Queen Victoria's head — similar to that used originally on the 'penny black' stamp of 1840 — and London EC, illustrating the Maltese Cross design.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, or, London, EC as requested, and despatched for a charge of 68½p. Deposit account customers will be charged 64p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 57½p per cover.

Service C

For bulk orders of 50 or more covers, all to the same address, under the conditions of Service A, the charge is 66p per cover.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms are available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices.

New Stamps Honour Rowland Hill Centenary

Sir Rowland Hill — the 'father' of the postage stamp — will be paid a special tribute by the Post Office, when a set of four commemorative stamps will be issued to mark the centenary of his death.

It was announced earlier that these stamps would be available at post offices from 22 August, but because of the change in postal tariffs, this date may have to be postponed by a week or two.

Under the proposed new postal tariffs, a portrait of Sir Rowland Hill will grace the 10p stamp; a Bellman — an early nineteenth-century postman — is featured on the 11½p; the 13p illustrates the London Post of 1801-1840 with a postman of the time; and the 15p depicts a Victorian lady and her child posting a letter.

Printing Details

Designer: Eric Stemp

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Format: Vertical

Process: Photogravure

Size: 30 mm × 41 mm

Perforation: 14 × 15

Sheet Size: 100

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked. Pre-treated with phosphor.

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Values and Colours

- | | |
|------|---|
| 10p | greenish-yellow; slate black; deep green; new blue; rosine; cinnamon; gold. |
| 11½p | greenish-yellow; slate black; new blue; rosine; cinnamon; sepia; gold. |
| 13p | greenish-yellow; slate black; new blue; rosine; cinnamon; sepia; gold. |
| 15p | greenish-yellow; slate black; deep green; rosine; cinnamon; sepia; gold. |

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date of the postage stamps, price 8p each.

Presentation Packs

Presentation packs, price 59½p, containing all four stamps will also be available.



Rowland Hill

UNIFORM
Penny Postage
A PETITION
here for Signatures
ONLY ONE DAY
PRESENTED ON FRIDAY



POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVER



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

UNIFORM
Penny Postage
A PETITION
Lies here for Signatures
ONLY ONE DAY
PRESENTED ON FRIDAY

Rowland Hill
BRITISH POST OFFICE MINT STAMPS



The Postcard Story

5. Town and Country View

Postcard collectors call them 'topographicals' and they were the most common of the millions of picture postcards published, purchased and posted during the heyday of the postcard craze — the Edwardian era.

Street scenes, people and transport, famous (and not so famous) buildings and monuments, country and seaside views, national and local events — these are the broad divisions of the vast range of topographical postcards which, in long-preserved family albums or in bundles tied with pink ribbon, have survived the past 75 years or more. Virtually every town and village had its own photographer and sometimes printer, too. Publishers sent their own photographers and artists out into the highways and byways to record the rural and urban delights of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Some photographers, like Judge's of Hastings, Frith of Reigate, Abraham of Keswick and the French 'Anglophile', Louis Levy, became household names, so prolific was their work, while the principal publishers such as Raphael Tuck, Salmon and Valentine contributed the professional touch to what had become an important industry with their innumerable series of view cards.

A visit to London was never complete unless one bought picture postcards to send home, hence there were hundreds of different versions, 'real photograph' and coloured art studies, of the Houses of Parliament (and of course 'Big Ben'), the Tower and Tower Bridge, the Monument, Mansion House and the Bank of England, Buckingham Palace, St Paul's, Trafalgar Square, Marble Arch and all the other landmarks so much a feature of the London scene. Countrywide castles, cathedrals, town halls and village churches were the postcard 'stock-in-trade' of the local stationer.

Photographic street views showing people and contemporary fashions, early motor cars, horsedrawn buses and trams, and the first motor-buses and electric trams, are all a part of our social history and are keenly sought today. Railway trains, ships and aircraft are now specialised categories, but railway stations, docks

and harbours, and aerodromes (remember Croydon?) are basically topographical subjects. The early days of aviation — Blériot's cross-Channel flight, the flying displays at Hendon and elsewhere, the *Daily Mail* air races and the birth of the Royal Flying Corps — are of immense historical interest to the postcard collector.

Local interest in picture postcards is sustained by the demand for early views of the collector's own town, village or suburb. So many places have changed out of all recognition that a fascinating 'personal reminiscence' collection can be built up of country lanes which have become busy roads, churches and public houses which may or may not still be standing amidst completely changed surroundings, 'period' streets and buildings which have been entirely replaced by uniform concrete and glass. The local cinema may have disappeared, and the only memory of the local grocer and his personal service may be a picture postcard!

The scenic beauties of the English lakes, the Scottish Highlands and the Trossachs, the Welsh mountains and Irish pastures are common on picture postcards — they require colourful contrast and fine printing to do them justice. All too often the most majestic vistas appeared dull and flat. Another interesting type of topographical card was the 'multi-view' which owes its origins to the 'gruss aus' (greetings) cards which, as mentioned in a previous article, flooded into this country from the Continent in the 1890s and early part of this century. Multi-view cards were devised to show three, four, six or eight, even ten or more miniature views of a town, artistically arranged and linked on the one postcard.

Perhaps the most lively topographicals of the picture postcard's 'golden age' were those depicting the Edwardian seaside — piers and pierrots, proms and promenaders, paddling and trips on paddle steamers, donkey-rides and cautious mixed bathing, and the seaside hotels with an 'x' marking the window of the room 'where we are staying'. Those were the days when 'having a lovely time, wish you were here' really meant just that!

MALCOLM JAMES

Top Award for Stamps Designer

Britain's top award for postage stamp design has been awarded for the second time to David Gentleman, for works including the popular 'Twelve Days of Christmas' set of 1977.

The Phillips Gold Medal is presented to the person making the greatest contribution to Post Office stamp design over a five-year period. This latest award covers the years 1974 to 1978.

It was established by the late Reginald M Phillips, of Brighton, who donated his priceless collection of stamps to form the basis of the National Postal Museum and also founded the philatelic unit at Sussex University. The medal is retained by the winner.

David Gentleman (49) designed the Fire Service stamps issue in 1974 and the British Pioneering issue in 1976 as well as the Christmas 1977 set based on the traditional song about the gifts showered upon a young lady by her true love. He has designed in all 22 issues of stamps for the Post Office and was awarded the first Phillips Medal for the years 1965-1969.

His work has been chosen for its versatility and quality and for the amount of thought that went into his designs.

Born in London, he studied at Hertford Grammar School, St Alban's School of Art and the Royal College of Art. He is married with three children, and lives in Camden Town, London.

Presentation of the medal to Mr Gentleman was made by Mrs Elsa Phillips, widow of Reginald M Phillips, on 29 June at Sussex University, Brighton.

Professor John West, the first director of Sussex University's philatelic unit and now vice-chancellor of Bradford University, is responsible for awarding the medal. He was assisted in the judging by Kenneth Chapman, editor of Philatelic Magazine and past-president of the British Philatelic Association, Richard Negus, a past-president of the Society of Industrial Artists and Brian Sproat, head of the Post Office stamps division.

Bath Postal Museum

On 29 July the Bath Postal Museum is presenting an Exhibition on the 'Life and Work' of Sir Rowland Hill. This will be on display until the end of October. It will consist of exhibits from the Collections of Mr Frank Staff, author of the well-known book on The Penny Post, Mr John Forbes-Nixon who specialises in the stamp issues of this early period, and Mr Maurice Hewlett who specialises in Rowland Hill. The Stamp Promotion Council have kindly agreed to augment this with their own exhibition on Sir Rowland devised by Mr Tony Lancaster. For this special occasion the Trustees are organising a Competition open to school children and students. This will take the form of an Essay based on Sir Rowland's achievements and illustrating what information has been gleaned from seeing the Exhibition, which for further understanding will be illustrated with appropriate cartoons by our Art Director, Mr George J Brown. School parties of up to 18 or so in number can be accommodated, by appointment, until the end of October. The secretary will be pleased to make appointments and the cost, per person, for groups of 10 or more, will be 15p.

In addition the museum is combining with the City of Bath to celebrate the issue of the Rowland Hill stamps. The beautiful Royal Mail-coach will again be seen driving through Georgian Bath, and there will be a small reception at the Pump Room where the Post Office Exhibition will be on display.

Cotswold Covers are producing the commemorative covers which will cost £1 plus postage for advance orders, and the designer of the cover and the special Post Office handstamp, Mr George J Brown, will be pleased to sign if requested. Also the cachet 'Posted at Bath Postal Museum' will be applied to all items posted in the Victorian Wall Box belonging to the Museum.

New Exhibition: 'The Life and Work of Sir Rowland Hill 1795–1897'



SIR ROWLAND LE GRAND.

Fig 1: Punch's silent comment on Hill's great achievements at the time of his retirement from the position of Secretary to the Post Office in 1864.

The name of Sir Rowland Hill is synonymous with that of *Postal Reform* and the story of this great man's invaluable contribution to the design and production of the world's first postage stamp — the famous *Penny Black* of 1840 — forms one of the most interesting and historically important sections of the world-famous R M Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum.

Not so well known, and largely forgotten in the hundred years that have passed since Hill's death, are the other important contributions to British history made by this remarkable man.

At the time of his death in 1879, his fame did not depend only on what he had done, important as it was, to bring the Post within everyone's reach. In part, it was for some of the other con-

tributions he had made to the Victorian Age — an age of progress in so many ways — in fields as diverse as educational reform and public transport. Such was Hill's fame in 1879 that shops were closed and people lined the streets of London on the day of his state funeral at Westminster Abbey in silent respect for this great man.

To remind people today of some of this, and improvements he made to the Post Office, in addition to his *Postal Reform*, during his long administration, the Museum has mounted a special exhibition devoted to the many and varied aspects of his life and work. Here, this story is traced through Hill's early years as a teacher and inventor; his search for new fame and fortune in the 1830s; his work for *Postal Reform* from 1837 and its implementation in 1840; and his work as a postal official from 1846-1864 (fig 1).

Featured in the exhibition — with items drawn from Post Office archives and personal relics lent by the Hill family — is a water colour of *Bertrams House* (fig 2), Hill's home on Hampstead Green in north west London, painted in 1901 shortly before it was demolished. This is the only known picture of the house where this *Reformer Extraordinary* died on 27 August 1879.

JEAN FARRUGIA



Fig 2: Bertrams House Reproduced by courtesy of the London Borough of Camden, from the Local History Collection.

National Postal Museum Exhibition

This new exhibition will be on view at the National Postal Museum from 15 August until the end of the year. Available at the Museum during the period of the exhibition, and for as long as stocks last, will be its special commemorative booklet 'The Life and Work of Sir Rowland Hill 1795-1879' (price 50p) and its companion 5-card set of postcards (40p). These items will also be available at all Philatelic Counters and at several post offices throughout the country. *Orders by post* (accompanied by an additional 10p per order) should be addressed to: The British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BB.

Commemorative Covers

Metropolitan Police Philatelic Society

A special philatelic cover will be available through the Metropolitan Police Philatelic Society from 26 September 1979, to coincide with the issue of four postage stamps commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Police Force.

The cover, bearing all four stamps, will depict the Coat of Arms of the Force and two policemen in uniforms of 1829 and 1979.

A special cancellation, which will include the words 'New Scotland Yard' together with the date 26 September 1979, and an illustration of a helmet badge, will be applied.

The cost of the cover is £1.20, and applications with remittance should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, Room 807, New Scotland Yard, London SW1H 0BG. The closing date for orders is 16 September 1979.

West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police

The Photographic Department of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police have designed a commemorative cover to be available from 26 September, coinciding with the 150th anniversary

of the founding of the Metropolitan Police Force stamp issue.

The front of the cover will illustrate police uniforms from 1830 to the present day, and bear a cachet, 'Posted at Police Headquarters, Laburnham Road'. The cost of the cover, with all four stamps affixed — cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting the badge of the West Yorkshire Police Force — is £1.25. Alternatively, the cover with a single stamp, similarly cancelled, will cost 75p.

Orders should be sent to Sgt J S Sparshatt, Photographic Department, West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police, PO Box 9, Wakefield WF1 3QP. Remittances made payable to West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police. All proceeds will be donated to Police Charities.

Penny Farthing Ride London to Glamis Castle

The Grantham Junior Chamber were responsible for the organisation of a ride for 'penny farthing' cycles — all over 100 years old — from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, to Glamis Castle, Scotland, from 4-15 July. The object — to raise funds for Cancer Relief.

To commemorate the event a limited number of special philatelic covers is currently available at 50p each. They depict, on the front, a 'penny-farthing' cycle and bear a 9p 'Cycling' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, applied at Glamis Castle on the last day of the event.

Orders together with a 9½" × 6½" stamped addressed envelope should be sent to Mr John Earth, The White Cottage, Chapel Hill, Ropsley, Grantham, Lincs NG33 4BN. Remittances made payable to: 'Penny Farthing Ride'.

1979 Mod Nan Eilean

This event, the first Gaelic National Mod ever to be held in the Western Isles, will be commemorated with the issue of a special philatelic cover, depicting the Mod nan Eilean Celtic motif.

The National Mod will be held in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, from Saturday 6 October to Friday 12 October 1979. A choice of cover services with

special handstamps or machine cancellations will be available from Monday 17 September 1979.

All enquiries about the covers should be sent to: Mr Frank Thompson, 91 Cromwell Street, STORNOWAY, Isle of Lewis PA87 2DG, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Welsh Rugby Union

Four glorious years of Welsh rugby are celebrated by the latest Commemorative Cover to be sponsored by the WRU. The cover marks the unique Fourth Consecutive Triple Crown achievement, but the 1976-79 International scores — detailed on the filler card — also include three Championships and two Grand Slams.

The covers were released on 5 May and are on sale at Crown Post Offices throughout Wales until 31 August 1979, price 25p. Serviced covers, bearing a 9p stamp and the Cardiff pictorial handstamp, are available by post from Cardiff Philatelic Counter, 18 Westgate Street, Cardiff CF1 1AD, price 45p (34p if addressed adhesive labels are enclosed).

RAF Covers

The second new series of Royal Air Force Commemorative Covers dedicated to famous Test Pilots has begun with the issue of three covers.

RAF TP6

Commemorates the career of Mr Bill Bedford, OBE AFC, perhaps the world's leading VTOL Test Pilot. It shows him in the cockpit of the P 1127. The cover was cancelled on 19 May 1979 with the Biggin Hill Air Fair handstamp (BFPS 1642) and flown in a Sea Harrier. The covers are available from Group Captain W S O Randle, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, London NW9 5LL, at 50p plus 8p postage on or about 10 August 1979.

RAF TP4

This cover shows Sqn Ldr Ron Gellatly, OBE AFC, the famous helicopter test pilot in the cockpit of the Westland Lynx with the Fairey Rotodyne flying overhead. It will be cancelled

with an Army Air Day special handstamp and should be available from Major M Corry, Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants SO20 8DY, on or about 10 August 1979 at 50p plus 8p postage.

RAF TP5

At the Rochester Air Show a cover will be flown by the RAF Vintage Pair commemorating Captain Moll, the Fokker Aircraft Chief Test Pilot, and showing his Fokker Friendship F27 aircraft. It will be cancelled by BFPS 1651 for the Rochester Air Show and should be available early in August at 50p plus 8p postage from Sqn Ldr B MacDonald AFC, RAF Leeming, Northallerton, North Yorks DL7 9NJ. The proceeds from these covers will be devoted to Army and Royal Air Force Charities.

Forces Covers

A commemorative cover will be issued for Plymouth Navy Day 25 August 1979. The cover shows HMS Broadsword and a special handstamp will be used. They may be obtained from The Philatelic Officer, Plymouth Navy Days, HMS Drake, HM Naval Base, Devonport, Plymouth PL2 2BG (cheques should be made payable to The Treasurer, Plymouth Navy Days).

Bruce Castle Museum

A special cover — to coincide with the issue of four postage stamps commemorating the centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill — will be available after the issue of the stamps to mark the use of Bruce Castle, in North London, as a school run by the Hill family between 1827-1877. The building is now used as a museum, housing, among other subjects, an extensive collection of postal history material.

The cover with all four Rowland Hill stamps affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, will be available for £1.25 from the Curator, Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, N17 8NU. Remittances should be made payable to the London Borough of Haringey.

Jockey Club

A series of 8 commemorative covers is being issued by the Jockey Club for the races listed below:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes | Ascot |
| 2. Spillers Stewards Cup | Goodwood |
| 3. Tote Ebor Handicap | York |
| 4. Vernon's Sprint Cup | Haydock |
| 5. St Leger | Doncaster |
| 6. Ladbrokes (Ayr) Gold Cup | Ayr |
| 7. William Hill Cambridgeshire Handicap | Newmarket |
| 8. Mackeson Gold Cup | Cheltenham |

The covers will be sent from a post-box located at each Race-Course and will be stamped with one of the appropriate postage stamps, which will be franked with its own special one-day postmark. Each cover will contain a printed insert which will give details of the race etc.

A strictly limited number of covers will be signed by a well-known jockey with an additional 50 only also signed by one of the personalities connected with the race.

Profits from the sale of these covers will be donated to Jockey Club Charities.

The covers will be available from 'Come Racing Series', 1 High Street, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1NZ, after the meetings as follows:

Ordinary covers	60p each
Complete set	£4.80
Covers autographed by well-known jockey at each meeting	£1.50 each
Set	£12
Autographed cover signed by jockey and a personality connected with each meeting	£3 each
Set	£24

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear 1p in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp' WA10 1HP.

15 August to 8 September 1979 (P/R) (ID)

Military Tattoo Edinburgh. Special posting box at Edinburgh Military Tattoo Office, 1 Cockburn Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB.

29 September 1979 (P/C)

Philatelic Music Circle 1969/79 London SW1 29 Sept 79. Special posting box at Main Foyer, Central Hall, London SW1.

6 October 1979 (P/R)

150th Anniversary Rainhills Trials St Helens Merseyside 6th October 1979. Special posting boxes at Head Post Office, 2 Springfield Street, Warrington WA1 1AA and St Helens Metro Borough Council Town Hall, St Helens, Merseyside.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

International Stamp Exhibition Earls Court London 1980 6-14 May. To be used at the following offices during the periods shown.

Office	1st or 2nd Class	Period of Use
ECDO	1st class	Until 22 Dec 79
WCDO	1st class	Until 2 May 80
SWDO	1st class	Until 2 May 80
Manchester	2nd class	Until 22 Dec 79
Liverpool	1st class	Until 22 Dec 79
Edinburgh	1st class	31 Dec 79-2 May 80
Leeds	1st class	31 Dec 79-2 May 80
Plymouth	1st class	31 Dec 79-2 May 80

Until 4 September 1979 (P)

Kendal Gathering '79 24th Aug-9th Sept. To be used at Kendal. 1st class.

Until 25 August 1979 (P)

Worth Valley Rly. Daily Steam Trains July and August Tel Haworth 43629. To be used at Bradford — Keighley. 1st class.

P denotes Pictorial R Rectangular
C Circular ID Interchangeable Date