

Philatelic Bulletin

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National Postal Museum 10th Anniversary Exhibition

An exhibition currently on show commemorates the opening of the National Postal Museum by HM The Queen on 19 February 1969. It features a selection of remarkable Great Britain material acquired over the past 10 years, together with a comprehensive display of the 'Seahorses' high value stamps 1913-1934, including designs, progressive die and plate proofs, colour trials and imprimatur sheets.

Editorial

Readers of this column will know that we have on many occasions urged all those GB collectors whose competitive spirit runs high to enter the National Class at Stampex if for no other reason than that there is a Post Office Trophy for the best display of modern GB stamps.

We remember suggesting that if only 1% of our readers submitted an entry the judges would be under some pressure but in spite of all our efforts the figure fell below even that modest target. Nothing, however, detracts from the achievement of Oswald Bailie of Ballymena who won our Trophy for his display of the 1929 PUC issue, and to whom we extend our congratulations. The PUC is obviously a subject popular with the judges for we well recall Dr Jean Alexander winning the Trophy with a presentation of the same issue. (It was good to see her recently on the first of the BBC TV philatelic programmes.)

Lest we be accused of not practising what we preach we entered the Philatelic Bulletin in the Literature Class at Stampex, albeit with some trepidation. By its very nature the Bulletin cannot be stuffed full of original research, although we are sometimes immodestly proud of the esoteric features we are able to publish from time to time. A study of the prospectus revealed that as many as 40% of the marks are awarded for original research and it was this that caused us doubt. We were, therefore, reasonably satisfied, although far from complacent, with the award of a bronze silver medal.

National Postal Museum Stamped Pictorial Envelope

Readers may like to know that Mr Stuart Rose, CBE FSIAD, was the designer of the new NPM stamped pictorial envelope issued on 12 February last. Mr Rose was also responsible for the design of the 1953 Coronation Airletter.

King George V Photogravure Sixpence— So nearly a Stamp

We are particularly pleased to introduce the first of a two part article by Mr Marcus Samuel, the well known philatelist and writer. Mr Samuel, who has been writing professionally since 1933, worked with a firm of philatelic auctioneers for 15 years. He was Editor of Great Britain Philatelist from 1961-1965 and of Philatelic Journal of Great Britain from 1966-1972. He assisted in the setting up of the National Postal Museum and in the preparation of its publication, The British Postage Stamp of the 19th Century. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, Mr Samuel was awarded the Society's Tapping medal for an article which appeared in the London Philatelist.

In stamp catalogues it may be noted that the 1934-36 photogravure issue of Great Britain is apparently incomplete — there is no stamp of the 6d denomination. The following is the story of how the Post Office and the printers tried and failed to bring this stamp to life.

During the whole of the reign of King George V the 6d Stamp Duty on Agreements not otherwise specifically charged with any duty could be paid by means of a 6d postage stamp, this being one of the 'unified' series inscribed 'Revenue' as well as 'Postage'. It was laid down that the instrument was not to be deemed duly stamped unless the adhesive stamp had been cancelled in such a manner that it could not be used again. The general method of cancellation was for the signatory to write his name or initials and the date across the stamp in ink. No doubt it was for this reason that all King George V 6d stamps were printed in doubly fugitive inks, from which pen-cancellations could not be chemically removed without destroying the impression of the stamp, and that until the end of 1933 all the stamps of this denomination were printed by the Stamping Department of the Board of Inland Revenue at Somerset House.

In 1934 Harrison & Sons Ltd gained the contract for printing the British postage stamps of denominations up to 1s, by their photogravure process, for reasons of the economy, speed of production, and security of the process and the fine appearance of the stamps. By mid-1933 preparatory work by Harrisons on some of the photogravure stamps was well under way. The designs were adaptations of those used for the then current series which was produced by the letterpress process (surface printed). But serious delays arose from difficulties encountered in applying the rotary photogravure process to the

production of postage stamps on a previously unattempted scale. The urgently needed 1½d photogravure stamp was not issued until 20 August 1934, the 5d, 10d and 1s were not issued until after the King's death on 20 January 1936, and the 6d stamp never appeared at all.

During the interim period, to keep up stocks, Harrisons were obliged to make provisional printings of stamps of denominations up to 1s from letterpress plates of the types previously in use. They also received assistance from the previous contractors, Waterlow & Sons Ltd, who made small provisional printings of stamps of the four lowest denominations. Letterpress 6d stamps remained in use until the King George VI photogravure stamp of that denomination was issued early in 1939.

The reason why the King George V photogravure stamp was never issued is revealed in a series of files in the National Postal Museum. These files concern the introduction of the photogravure process for printing British stamps and they contain correspondence between the Post Office Stores Department (hereafter abbreviated to 'POSD'), Harrison & Sons Ltd, the Stamping Department of the Board of Inland Revenue and the Government Laboratory (concerning ink tests). There are also some interesting POSD internal memoranda. This Department controlled the preparation, production and supply of postage stamps during the period under review.

While the facts could have been presented at lesser length in narrative form, it was felt that the official correspondence is of so interesting a nature that readers might like to see verbatim transcripts. Thanks are due to the Curator and staff of the National Postal Museum for their assistance.

It was exciting to find that many of the items referred to in the correspondence have been preserved in the Post Office collection. References will be made to them in the text and two will be illustrated. Even before the design for the 6d stamp had been prepared, the ink proposed for it was being tested by taking prints from experimental plates (generally with six images) which had been made for stamps of other denominations in more advanced stages of production. Proofs of this type are generally imperforate.

Later trial printings were made from cylinders prepared for printing the 6d stamps by rotary photogravure. Perforated blocks of six were submitted to POSD for inspection at various stages. Finally, when the printers believed that a cylinder was ripe for production, they would send several sheets to POSD for their approval. If approved one of the sheets would be registered.

The first reference to a photogravure 6d stamp occurs in a POSD memo dated 24 August 1933 which records the gist of a telephone message from Harrisons. They were confident that they could comply with the requirements for a 6d doubly fugitive stamp produced by the photogravure process. They hoped to have specimen prints ready for tests about the end of August.

On 14 September 1933 Harrisons submitted a block of proofs of the photogravure 1½d design printed in the doubly fugitive colour of the 6d, but on 21 September POSD stated that with regard to tests for the removal of writing ink, it could not be considered that their ink gave satisfactory results. Further proofs in the 6d doubly fugitive colour were submitted by Harrisons on 2 October 1933 (3d design), 22 November (1½d design), 28 November (3d design), 7 December (design unspecified), and on 3 January 1934 Mr Warne of Harrisons visited the Government Laboratory with representatives of POSD with regard to this problem.

On 31 July 1934 Harrisons submitted further proofs in the 6d doubly fugitive ink, on 27 August POSD stated that the approved colour for the photogravure 6d was 'Deep Solferino',

and on 30 August the Inland Revenue wrote to POSD '*The latest sample of the doubly fugitive ink to be used for 6d stamps is regarded as satisfactory*'.

On 12 December 1934 the Department of Postal Services (Mails Branch) wrote to POSD '*I enclose two blocks of stamps (six 5d printed in the 6d colour). The duplicate set is furnished in case it should be desirable to send specimens to His Majesty*'. Both blocks survive in the Post Office collection.

A POSD memo dated 2 January 1935 stated that the 6d denomination would be ready about the middle of February, but on 14 January Harrisons wrote to POSD '*It is proposed to forward on the 15th further proofs of the photogravure 6d stamp showing a sharper effect. Our machine operator thinks it is impossible to give a sharper impression with doubly fugitive ink*'. In a POSD memo dated 18 January it is stated that '*The difficulty arises because the ink for fugitive qualities has to contain water*'.

Note: There are no proofs of the 6d design in the Post Office collection dated before 11 February 1935. The difficulties in printing with doubly fugitive ink arose from the fact that highly volatile inks were normally used to give the best prints by photogravure. The next proposal was that coated paper should be tried. Paper of this type had previously been used for the letterpress 6d stamps printed in doubly fugitive ink from 1913 to 1925.

On 11 February 1935 Harrisons sent essays for the photogravure 6d to POSD. The covering letter is difficult to interpret, but in the Post Office collection there are six imperforate blocks of six of the essay in purple which are annotated as having been received on 11 February. They were printed from small plates (6 set), a procedure often used in the experimental stages of production. One block is stated to be on esparto paper, another on 'paper coated without air' and the remaining four on uncoated paper printed in Harrison's and Coates' inks respectively.

On 27 February 1935 four more impressions of the 6 set block were supplied, printed on coated Royal Cypher watermarked paper, and on 6 April POSD wrote to Harrisons '*I have to inform you that proofs of the 6d photogravure stamp on*

Proof submitted 27.2.35. on coated paper.

D.B.
28/3/35



Fig 1

coated paper are approved and a block of six is enclosed for your guidance. These stamps should be returned when the registration sheet has been approved. The supply of paper has now been delivered and it is understood that the work of coating is in hand. A Warrant is being issued for the printing of 300,000 sheets'. The approved block is still in the Post Office collection. It is initialled 'DB' and dated '28/3/35' in manuscript. (See fig 1.)

No further action appears to have been taken until 16 December 1935 when Harrison's wrote to POSD. 'We beg to advise you that under separate covers, we are tomorrow sending per our van four sheets, 480 set, of the 6d photogravure

stamps for approval of cylinder and printing. Whilst agreeing there might be a slight deviation from the 6 set essay, we have to state that this is the very best obtainable result from fugitive ink.'

Technical difficulties encountered during months of experimenting are then described and the letter ends 'We therefore feel at this stage, we must ask your permission to run. Before doing so, please have the fugitiveness tested in your laboratories.' A perforated block of six of the 6d essay in the Post Office collection, dated as above, is annotated 'Block from sheets. Very best result obtainable. Defects evident.'

(To be continued)

The Postcard Story

1. 'A Postcard is Invented'

When, following the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, a new Post Office Act was passed, the new Postmaster-General, Henry Bishop, described his introduction of the postmark thus: 'A stamp is invented that is put upon every letter . . .'. It was not until more than two hundred years later that the Austrian Post Office could say, with justifiable pride, that 'A postcard is invented' — Austria issued the world's first postcard on 1 October 1869.

The idea of a plain postcard bearing an imprinted postage stamp was first mooted in 1865 by a German postal director, Dr Heinrich von Stephan, who was the principal founder, ten years later, of what is now the Universal Postal Union, an agency of the United Nations. His suggestion, however, was 'lost in the post', and the invention of the postcard is credited to one, Dr Emanuel Herrmann, 1839-1902, a civil servant and teacher of economics, whose letter to a Vienna newspaper outlining the form and shape of a proposed postcard was published in January 1869.

His letter evidently attracted the attention of the Austro-Hungarian postal authorities who placed the new postcards on sale at post offices throughout the Empire in the following October. The cards were of thin pasteboard, slightly smaller and squarer (about $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$) than later cards, and buff-coloured with the inscription 'Correspondenz-Karte', printed 2-kreuzer stamp bearing the head of Emperor Francis Joseph I (in yellow), the arms and a decorative ruled border.

The arms and inscription were changed on the postcards sold in Hungary, 'Levelező Lap' replacing 'Karte' — all the cards had a ruled space for the addressee's name and address on the front, and space on the back for the message. The 2-kreuzer charge was a concessionary rate for inland (ie within the Empire) postage only, and literally millions of the cards were sold and used in the following months.

Herrmann was promoted to high office in the Ministry of Culture and Education, and later became Professor of Economics at the University of Technology in Vienna. There is no evidence



that his idea was acknowledged by the authorities and, as a civil servant, he was probably barred from receiving any financial reward. However, in December 1977, Austria issued a stamp for the 'Tag der Briefmarke' ('Day of the Postage Stamp') bearing Herrmann's portrait appropriately inscribed 'Erfinder der Correspondenz-Karte'. Belated recognition!

By this time the British Post Office had long ceased licking its wounds over the fiasco of the Mulready letter sheets and envelopes issued on 6 May 1840, simultaneously with the Penny Blacks and Twopence Blues. The decorative Mulreadys, showing Britannia and the British lion flanked by Laplanders, Chinese and Red Indians, were speedily ridiculed out of existence, the envelopes in 1841 and the letter sheets in 1844. Virtually the only official postal stationery then available was the stamped (embossed) envelope, and the idea of a postal card was seized upon with alacrity. It was proposed in Parliament and authorised by Gladstone himself.

The first official British postcards were issued on 1 October 1870, exactly a year after the Austrian forerunners. They were similar in size, shape and texture to the Austrian cards, bearing a rather drab imprinted halfpenny stamp of Queen Victoria in violet, her profile portrait being adapted from that of the contemporary stamps, and printed, like the stamps, by De La Rue. They were an immediate success and began to be used in tens of millions — by commercial houses, clandestine advertisers and the general public who sent greetings, made appointments

and broke them with equal facility, seemingly uncaring that their messages could be read by anyone handling the cards. At first they were solely for inland use.

In 1872 the $\frac{1}{2}d$ postcards began to be sold in dozens for $6\frac{1}{2}d$ in deference to the stationers who complained that the 'free' cards, sold at the face value of the stamp, were competing unfairly with their trade, and in 1875 the first foreign cards were issued, stamped $1\frac{1}{4}d$. There were numerous minor variations of card quality and size until 1883 (when the 'oblong' card, approximately $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$, was introduced) and subsequently when, in 1889, a 'British Empire' card, with a full-length portrait of The Queen, on the imprinted stamp, was issued: a similar card for home consumption was put on sale in 1892, a modified version in 1899.

Meanwhile, in May 1890, Britain's first commemorative postcard was issued and sold at the Guildhall in London on the occasion of the Exhibition for the Jubilee of Penny Postage. It was the prelude to the picture postcard in Britain.

MALCOLM JAMES

Direct Elections to European Assembly Stamps Issue

9 May 1979

To mark the occasion of Direct Elections to the European Assembly, four postage stamps, values 9p, 10½p, 11p and 13p will be issued on 9 May 1979. The subjects of the stamps are the flags of the member countries of the EEC on different colour backgrounds.

First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, including a choice of two handstamps: Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and London SW.

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 SW, as re-

quested, and despatched for a charge of 62½p. For deposit account customers the charge will be 58p.

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 51½p 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 60p per cover.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 30 April 1979.

Commemorative Covers

Salvation Army Scottish Centenary

A new cover to commemorate the founding of the Salvation Army in Scotland in 1879 will be available from 21 March.

It will illustrate the centenary logo, 1879-1979, on an outline map of Scotland, and bear an 11p 'Wildflowers' — Bluebells — stamp, cancelled with a special handstamp, and costs 55p. In addition, the cover with all four 'Wildflowers' stamps affixed and cancelled is available at £1.

Orders should be sent to: Major Ken Daws, The Salvation Army, International Headquarters, 101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EP.

Rotary Club Cover

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of their founding, the Wellington Rotary Club are to issue a commemorative cover on 26 March 1979. The cover, which will bear the 11p Bluebell stamp from the forthcoming flowers issue, will be cancelled with a special handstamp which will show the Rotary badge.

Orders for the covers, priced 50p each, should be sent to: G G Steggle Esq, The Rotary Club, Tower House, Wellington, Telford, Salop TF1 1PY. A posting box will be sited at the same address.

British Wild Flowers Wallchart



A wallchart illustrating the flowers depicted on the British Wild Flowers postage stamps to be issued on 21st of this month, will be available simultaneously with the stamps. The size of the wallchart is 25" x 36", and apart from the colourful pictures, contains a wealth of background

information. They are available, price £1.75 each (post free) from the Philatelic Bureau, or by personal application at philatelic counters, price £1.50. Bulk orders of 50 or more, from the Philatelic Bureau only, are obtainable at £1.50 each (post free).

British Wild Flowers

My thanks to William A Tait of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Professor William S Lacey of the University College of North Wales and L G Atkins of Cuxton, Rochester, for putting me right on the botanical family for the

bluebell — Liliaceae (not Campanulaceae, the harebell sometimes called bluebell) in my January article. I am also told that pinks belong to the Caryophyllaceae.

JAMES WATSON

British Special Stamps

52. Sir Francis Chichester's World Voyage, 1967



An event which captured the admiration and acclaim of the British and Australian public was the completion by Sir Francis Chichester, pioneer aviator and yachtsman, of his epic, single-handed voyage from England to Australia and back in *Gipsy Moth IV*. The late Sir Francis, who was by profession a publisher of maps and guides from an office in St James's, London, was knighted by The Queen virtually as he stepped ashore.

The single 1s 9d commemorative stamp (presumably at that time the airmail rate to Australia) issued for the occasion showed the *Gipsy Moth IV* in typical rough seas off the southern tip of South America — Cape Horn. The stamp was designed by Michael and Sylvia Goaman, the husband and wife team who had previously designed the Botanical Congress stamps of 1964 and other issues. *Gipsy Moth IV* is now on permanent display at Greenwich.

Harrison and Sons printed the stamps by photogravure on paper without watermark and with three phosphor bands, in sheets of 120 (6 × 20). There is a listed variety — a broken ribbon at the back of The Queen's hair which was constant on stamp 3 in row 19.

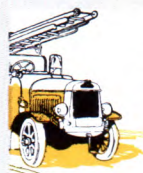
The quantity sold was 10,060,867.

JAMES WATSON

New Illustrated Stamp Books



10p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Two at 1½p
Two at 1p
One at 7p



50p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Two at 1p
Three at 7p
Three at 9p



70p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Ten at 7p



90p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Ten at 9p

The sixth and last of the present series of four stamp books with cover illustrations, will be on sale at the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and philatelic sales counters from 4 April 1979, and from other post offices as existing stocks become exhausted.

Details are as follows:—

- 10p Farm Buildings,
Sussex
- 50p Commercial Vehicles,
Leyland Fire Engine
- 70p Country Crafts,
Basket Making
- 90p British Canals,
Leeds and Liverpool Canal, East Marton.

Forthcoming Events

Wiltshire and District Philatelic Federation Convention — 1979

On Saturday 7 April the Wiltshire and District Federation Convention will take place in the Victoria Rooms, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, from 10 am-5 pm, admission 20p (10p for juniors). Competition entries will be on display, an auction is to be held, and many philatelic dealers will be represented. Programmes are free.

North of England Philatelic Association — 30th Convention

The Newcastle Philatelic Society will host the Convention at the Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Saturday 7 April 1979 from 10.15 am-5 pm.

The event also commemorates the 75th Anniversary of Philately in the North East, and special covers are to be carried on the Scottish and Newcastle Exhibition Dray drawn by two Cleveland Bay horses from the Brewery to the Civic Centre. 1979 is also the 50th Anniversary of the 1929 Newcastle Exhibition, for which 'Exhibition Ale' was originally brewed.

The covers, each bearing a 9p Shire Horse postage stamp and franked for the occasion with a special handstamp, will cost 35p each. The covers will also include a cachet announcing that they were carried on the Exhibition Dray.

Full details may be obtained from Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 4RY. Please send a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

NEPA competition entries will be on display. The Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter and a number of dealers will also be in attendance.

March Exhibition in Gibbons Gallery

The exhibition in Stanley Gibbons' Romano House Gallery, Strand, London WC2, features a

fascinating display of Dr P G Cronk's 'Great Britain ½d — £5 stamps'.

Comprising ten frames, the exhibition begins with five frames of ½d stamps of the period 1902-22. The wide variation of design and shades are shown, together with examples of some of the uses to which the stamps were put. Following is a frame of 1d stamps with Royal Cypher watermark (1912-1924) which illustrate the many shades and varieties of the wartime era.

Four frames of high values from 1867 to the Machin issue of 1969 complete the exhibition. Here the emphasis is on showing how the designs evolved and how the stamps were used in practice.

Dr P G Cronk started collecting stamps at the age of seven. He gradually concentrated his attentions on the King Edward VII and King George V issues of Great Britain although he also takes an interest in the Commonwealth issues of the same period. He exhibits annually at Stampex and BPE and in 1974 won a silver-gilt medal at Stampex for his entry of Seahorses.

Railway Philatelic Group

The 11th Annual Convention of the Railway Philatelic Group will be held on Saturday 7 April 1979 at Buckminster Road Baptist Church Hall, Leicester, between 1.30 pm and 5 pm.

Basildon Philatelic Society

'Stamp Day '79' will be held on 7 April from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm in the St Martin's Church Hall, Town Centre, Basildon. Displays of stamps and philatelic items will be presented by the Basildon Philatelic Society, the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies and the Post Office. Eight philatelic dealers will be in attendance and there will also be raffles and refreshments, etc.

Book Reviews

Introducing Postal History

A J Branton

Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd 95p

An old saying has it that while it is possible to be a stamp collector without being a philatelist, it is impossible to be a philatelist for long without becoming a postal historian.

Collecting postal history can cost a lot of money. How much depends on a variety of factors, not least how much 'history' the collector is prepared to delve into and invest in.

One thing is quite certain. It is a branch of philately into which only the most reckless spirits plunge without taking sound advice.

This Gibbons Guide contains all the advice you need, but be warned! Once you get into postal history you will not want to get out. The interest within the covers of this slim volume will soon convince you of that.

Islands Postal History Series

James A Mackay

No 3 **Lewis** Price £3.00 + p&p 25p

No 4 **Skye & the Small Isles**
Price £3.00 + p&p 25p

No 5 **Arran & Cumbrae**
Price £1.50 + p&p 15p

(O'seas postage etc: Nos 3 & 4 £1.00, No. 5 50p)

Available from the author at 11 Newall Terrace,
Dumfries DG1 1LN.

These handbooks are the 3rd, 4th and 5th in a ten-book series of Islands Postal History by the same author. They are entertainingly written and well illustrated. Mr Mackay is of 'Island' stock and knows his way about the territory.

He has a nice eye for the oddities of history, as when telling of the 1914 postmistress of Brodick whose ancestry was German. At the outset of World War I she was promptly replaced and twenty-five years later her successor was disclosed to be of Italian extraction. He suffered the same fate.

Depopulation, that scourge of distant islands, continues to the present time and the author convincingly describes how often poor facilities have been 'justified' by falling population and falling populations 'explained' by poor facilities.

As was said about this author in an earlier review, 'He proves Postal History doesn't have to be dull'. Mr Mackay's books combine readability with expertise and do so very nicely too!

Postal Markings of Scotland to 1808

Bruce Auckland

By post from William Carson, 42 Park Circus,
Ayr KA7 2DL Price £6.00 plus 25p postage

This book covers the period 1603 to 1808 and its author describes it modestly as a 'guide for collectors' but it is very much more than that. It is the result of a lifetime's research into Scottish postal history by an acknowledged authority.

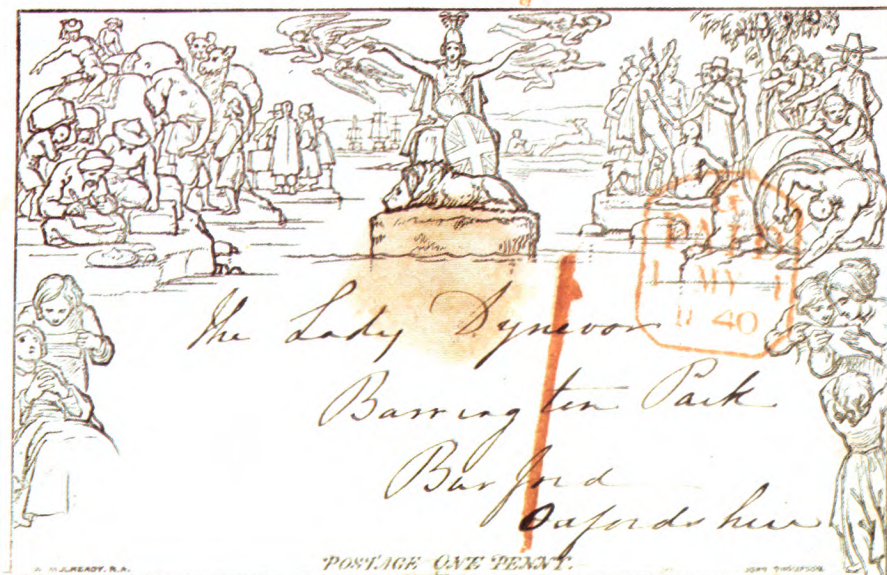
The study begins at 1603 because that was the year of the 'Union of the Crowns' which gave rise to the earliest beginnings of a unified postal service. It ends at 1808 because postal markings were then largely superseded by name-stamps with mileage marks.

Between those dates Scotland witnessed years of turmoil and unrest when bold spirits forsook the pen to raise the sword and Government often regarded the public post as a licence to spy. At such times prudent men resort to private messengers and the resulting shortage of early postal items comes as no surprise to historians.

However, it does raise serious problems for today's collectors. They will be ill-advised to try to identify and authenticate the rare specimens which have survived without first ascertaining how very expertly Mr Bruce Auckland has covered the ground.

As an illustrated 'dictionary' of early Scottish marks a collector will find this book invaluable. As an authoritative work of reference an advanced student will find it indispensable.

An Extraordinary First Day Cover



Most readers of the Philatelic Bulletin will be familiar with the facts that while both the Mulready covers and the Penny Black were put on sale on 1 May 1840, neither were officially valid for postage until 6 May. The reason, of course, was to allow adequate stocks to be available in the hands of the public before 6 May.

Some people, even in those days before the birth of philately, tried to be clever and jump the gun; there are, in fact, two or three covers franked by the new 1d adhesive stamp, known with genuine dates of usage *before* 6 May, notably, one sent by the Postmaster of Bath to a friend on 2 May 1840.

At first sight, therefore, the 1d Mulready cover, illustrated above as this month's 'gem', seems to have gone one better, bearing as it does

a London 'PAID' marking with a very clear 1 May 1840 date.

Not so. This Mulready cover, although it *was* used on 1 May (and is probably the earliest dated example known), did not perform its proper function, that of serving as an item of pre-paid postal stationery. The Post Office, quite correctly, ignored the 'POSTAGE ONE PENNY' franking printed below the design and treated this Mulready letter-sheet as an ordinary entire letter on which the postage charge of 1d was collected in cash from the sender at the time of posting. The evidence for this is not only the 'PAID' marking but the handstamped '1' in red alongside it. Nevertheless, a very rare and interesting postal history 'gem'.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

Posting Boxes

We continue the series of reproductions of posting boxes supplied by The Letter Box Study Group.



No. 8: The First Wall Letter Boxes. Although pillar boxes were introduced into the British Isles in 1852, by 1857 the need had arisen for a box suitable for the smaller communities. Towards the end of that year the first wall boxes, cast by Smith & Hawkes of Birmingham, appeared and one of these is shown here, still in use, at The Mall, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Forces Covers

Forward Vehicle Depot Recklinghausen 'Rhein-Ruhr Posta 79'

A Commemorative Cover, bearing a 9p definitive postage stamp cancelled with a special handstamp (BFPS 1634), will be available from 10 March 1979 for the participation of FVD RAOC RECKLINGHAUSEN at the International Philatelic Exhibition, 'Rhein-Ruhr Posta 79'.

The cover depicts a quartered design which includes the Recklinghausen town coat-of-arms in the top left and the RAOC badge in the bottom right. The other two quarters include the RAOC colours. Priced at 50p the cover is obtainable from Major R R Holland FVD, Recklinghausen BFPO 44. Orders accompanied by cheque or postal order, made payable to the Philatelic Offices, should include a stamped and addressed envelope for return.

Royal Air Force Cover

The Royal Air Force began a new series of flown covers on 1 March, based on aviation paintings and notable aviation anniversaries to be commemorated during the next four years. The first cover depicts a painting — by Terence Cuneo — of the de Havilland aircraft DH 9A used for the first regular UK airmail service from Hawkinge to Cologne on 1 March 1919. Two versions of the cover are available: a British version, bearing a 7p definitive postage stamp cancelled with a special Commemorative handstamp (BFPS 1919) and flown to Cologne, while a German version with a 50 pfennigs stamp affixed, cancelled with a German handstamp of similar design will be flown to Hawkinge.

Produced jointly by the Royal Engineers and the Royal Air Force, the proceeds will go to Army charities and the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund. Each cover costs 50p, plus 7p return postage, and orders should be sent to: The PRO, Royal Air Force Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, London NW9 5LL.

British Forces Headquarters — Hong Kong

As from Sunday 4 March the new location of British Forces HQ, Hong Kong, will be in HMS *Tamar*. The new HQ will be opened by HRH The Prince of Wales. To commemorate the event a cover has been designed, together with a special handstamp to be applied on 5 March. The cover depicts a drawing of the new HQ and

the BF Joint Service Flag with the wording, 'Opened by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales' and 'Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong'. A 9p definitive postage stamp is affixed. The covers are available from the Philatelic Officer, HQ, British Forces BFPO 1, price 50p and a stamped and addressed envelope for return.

The Proud Collection

9. Advertising Surrounds

The use of the stamp as a means of drawing attention to adverts has been used very rarely in Great Britain. Two examples are illustrated, one where the surround has been printed on the envelope and the other where it is in the form of an adhesive label.



Reproduced by kind permission of Mr Edward Proud

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'.

31 May 1979 (C)

Fifty Years of Service Rotary Club of New Malden Surrey Charter Anniversary 31st May 1979. Special posting box at the New Malden BO, 150 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4ER.

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'.

Until further notice

Croydon Has a Mechanised Letter Office Please Use Postcodes. To be used at Croydon. 1st and 2nd class.

(This die will be in use when no other slogan is in operation.)

Until 30 April 1979

1879-1979 Electric Lamp Centenary Newcastle Upon Tyne. To be used at Newcastle Upon Tyne. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 22 April 1979 (P)

The Pageant of the Horse 22 April 1979 Doncaster Racecourse South Yorkshire County Council. To be used at Doncaster. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 31 March 1979

1979 Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition Earls Court March 6-31. To be used at the following offices EDO, (E17), Paddington, SWDO, NDO, ECDO, MP and NWDO. 2nd class.

Until further notice (P)

Bath Europes Floral City. To be used at Bath. 1st class.

Until 16 March 1979

National Postal Museum Opened by HM The Queen 19 February 1969. To be used at the following offices, Edinburgh, ECDO and WCDO. 1st class.

Until 31 August 1979 (P)

Winchester Cathedral 900 1079-1979. To be used at Winchester. 1st class.

Repeat Campaigns

Until further notice

Holiday at Bridlington Free Colour Guide from Dept 100 Information Centre. To be re-used at York. 2nd class.

Until 15 January 1980

The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum at The All England Club. To be re-used at SWDO.

This Slogan was originally in use at Wimbledon SW19 but has now been transferred to SW1.

Powys Cynllun Fframwaith Gweler Y Wasg Ar Llyfrgelloedd Lleol Nawr.

Powys Structure Plan See Local Press and Libraries Now.

To be re-used at the following offices:

Newtown — Until 17 March 1979 (English)

Llanidloes — Until 17 March 1979 (Welsh)

Llandrindod — 5-17 March (English)

Knighton — 5-17 March 1979 (Welsh)

Builth — Until 17 March 1979 (Welsh)

Brecon — Until 17 March 1979 (Welsh)

All 2nd class.

Until 26 June 1979 (P)

Come to Sunny Weymouth and Portland. To be re-used at Weymouth. 1st class.

Until 31 December 1979

The British Deaf Association Cares. To be re-used at Carlisle. 1st and 2nd class.

P denotes Pictorial

C denotes Circular

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