

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 20

Number 8

April 1983

Emergency Support Vessel Iolair



Contents

Editorial

- 106 Editorial
- Cyril Sharwood retires
- 107 Researching at the National Postal Museum
- 108 Archie Page
- 109 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection CX:
 - The Penny Lilac of 1881
 - LPR3 – Post Office Railway Postcard
- 110 British Special Stamps: 98. Christmas, 1974
- 111 New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme
- New Stamp Books
- Regional Postcards: Revised Sale Periods
- 112 British Engineering Achievements
- Stamps Issue 25 May 1983
- 114 Postcard Stories: 2. The Sound of Bow Bells
- New National Postal Museum Postcard
- 115 Posting Boxes
- Forthcoming Events
- 116 Book Reviews
- 117 Replacement Stamp Rolls
- Postage Due Part 7
- Letters to the Editor
- 118 Commemorative Covers

Super Stampex 83 has run its course. In a time of fairly widespread economic depression there were some fears for the exhibition's popularity. In the event all concerned were delighted by its success both in terms of attendance and the quality of exhibits. Its organisation was, as usual, very professional; our congratulations to the man responsible, the ever popular, Otto Hornung.

Guest of honour at the Stampex banquet was Cyril Sharwood, Post Office Overseas Marketing Manager for philately, who was awarded a gold medal, by the Stampex committee, for services to philately that stretch back to the early sixties. Cyril retired on 25 March after 43 years service in the Post Office; he will be greatly missed.

In recent editions we have attempted to resuscitate the Letters to the Editor column (which has lain moribund for some time) with moderate success. Its continuing health will largely depend upon enjoying a diet rich in letters.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Cyril Sharwood retires

Cyril Sharwood, the Post Office Overseas Marketing Manager for philately retired on 25 March.

Cyril joined the Post Office when he left school in 1939, but it was not until 1964 that he had his first taste of philately when he was asked to organise the introduction of a First Day Cover section in the Philatelic Bureau.

During the last 13 years he has been responsible for the marketing of Post Office philatelic products overseas as well as representing the Post Office at many of the major stamp exhibitions both in this country and abroad. He was very closely connected with 'London 1980', having been a member of the organising Committee as well as serving on a number of other committees responsible for overall management of the Post Office stand at the exhibition.

He confesses that although he has retired from the Post Office he cannot find himself



abandoning the philatelic world and he hopes that he will be able to continue to meet his many friends at philatelic gatherings in the future, before finally turning to his hobbies of gardening and walking in the English countryside.

Researching at the National Postal Museum

By W Raife Wellsted, Curator

Although the Museum receives and welcomes many visitors each year, the vast majority come to look and do not try to see behind the main displays. However, over the past 2 or 3 years there has been a growth in the numbers who wish to study some facet of the Museum's collections in more detail, and, to facilitate their work and our ability to assist them. This article is intended to give some pointers on what to see and how to see it.

To begin with, what is there to see? The displays fall in 5 categories: The Phillips Collection, The Berne Collection, the long term exhibitions and the special short term displays. These are the items which are readily available for all visitors to see. In addition there are the Frank Staff Collections of 'Transatlantic Mail' and 'The Story of the Penny Post'.

The Phillips Collection is the main foundation of the Museum and is a complete display of the Stamps of Queen Victoria. It is on permanent display and starts with the Rowland Hill proposals and carries through to 1900. Sections of this

collection are described in each issue of the Philatelic Bulletin.

The Berne Collection is the collection which comes from the UPU and is mounted in the slides up to 1975-6 for a series of selected countries. We show all the Commonwealth Countries, Western Europe and other countries which tend to be in demand e.g. USA, Japan and Israel.

The displays on the two lower floors which last for about 6 months and in the main gallery which are much shorter, are usually connected to some historic event or stamp issue. These are notified in the Philatelic Bulletin when they occur.

The Frank Staff Collections of Postal History are also in the slides and, as with all these items, no advance notice is required to view them. What I really want to do is give some idea of the wealth of additional information which exists in the Museum and how to get at it!

The one golden rule to be observed is to give the Museum some warning of what you want to see and when you want to see it. It is impossible, for reasons of space, to store all the Museum's



Exhibitions in London 1851-1951

material in the one building and, for reasons of security, to send one man to collect it. So for ease of service, a minimum of 24 hours notice is advisable or, better still, a preliminary visit to find out exactly what is available.

The 'behind the scenes' collections themselves fall into five main categories: Artwork and Essays, Registration Sheets, Issued Stamps, The De La Rue Records and The Postal History Collections.

All of these are in a varying state of completion and work is going on continuously to catalogue and record all the material that is held. All the Artwork has been prepared for commemorative issues since 1953 and many of the earlier designs are available. However, these are not kept in the Museum Building and although the references for research and location can be inspected, the original Artwork would take 24 hours to retrieve.

The Registration Sheets are complete except on occasion for new issues. These are constantly being up-dated and all items to the end of 1982 are available for inspection. However, it should be borne in mind that the Museum does not now receive examples of every cylinder produced. We have the earliest provided for general circulation, but no subsequent cylinders. This is particularly true with the Machin adhesives.

The De La Rue Archives are held in the Museum and are available for research. They include all the Crown Agents and Inland Revenue correspondence, orders and despatches.

Archie Page

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death, on Friday 4 February, of Archie Page, Editor of the Philatelic Bulletin from 1965 until his retirement in May 1980.

Archie will be sadly missed by his ex Post Office colleagues and many friends in the philatelic and printing world. After joining the Post Office as a messenger boy in 1934 he served in many sections including telephones and counter services. Archie was one of the supervisors in the early days of the Philatelic Bureau prior to its move to Edinburgh. It was at this time he took over the editorship of the Bulletin and due to his zeal and complete involvement, moulded a magazine which is now read by more philatelists than any similar journal world wide.



Because we now have more researchers than before, it is as well to book an appointment as, on occasion, we do not have enough room to provide the necessary space.

In the case of the other collections, these are held in the strong rooms and will only be available if the Curator or Assistant Curator are present; thus, again, it is important to have planned your visit in advance to avoid disappointment.

As I said at the start, there is a wealth of material available for the philatelic researcher in the Museum. I hope that I have given sufficient information to 'whet' a few appetites, but I must reiterate the 'golden rule' *Make sure you know what you want to see and allow the Museum the time to assemble the material in advance.*

Good hunting! We look forward to helping you when you come to see us.



In later years he devoted a lot of his time to raising money for cancer research by organising philatelic fairs – at which he was very successful – and talking to people about the illness from which he suffered. To his wife Dorothy and his family, we offer our sincerest condolences.

The Penny Lilac of 1881

The application of the 1881 Customs and Inland Revenue Act resulted in the introduction of the 1d lilac which was the first stamp to be issued for both postal and fiscal purposes. Along with one of its predecessor the Penny Red, this stamp, which had a long life of some twenty years, is synonymous with most 'schoolboy' (or 'schoolgirl') collections of Queen Victoria.

The illustration shows a particularly unusual block of these stamps which can be found in the Reginald M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. This is a block of four Penny Lilacs which has been printed on both sides of the paper, the gummed side being shown. The 1881 1d lilac stamps were printed in sheets of 240, consisting of two panels each of 120. The sheet margins were unmarked to begin with but from 1884 control letters were introduced. In 1887 'Jubilee Lines' were introduced, being rules put around the plates in order to protect them, and in the following year four pillars were introduced into the gutter margin between each stamp in the upper and lower panes. Because the 1d lilac was to be used for fiscal as well as postal purposes, it was printed in doubly fugitive ink to prevent the removal of handwritten cancellations without destroying the colour of the stamps.

Visitors to the National Postal Museum can



see this unique block of four of what is a relatively common stamp in volume XXXIX/13 of the Reginald M Phillips Collection. Other unusual varieties including a marginal block of six of the 16 dots printing in the scarce bluish-lilac shade on bluish paper, a strip of three with the frame broken, and a corner pair with the control letter 'O' printed over 'N' can also be seen.

LPR3 – Post Office Railway Postcard

The Post Office underground railway is featured on the third card to be issued by London Postal Region. The railway which was opened in 1927 runs for 6½ miles between Paddington and Whitechapel, serving 6 sorting offices and 2 main line stations. The card shows a train being loaded at Mount Pleasant station.

The first day of sale is 25 April 1983. Mint cards, price 13p each can be obtained by personal application at LPR philatelic counters. Bulk orders for mint cards only are obtainable from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges apply.

A special pictorial handstamp will be applied to all mail posted in the special posting box in London Chief Office, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

Orders for serviced cards, price 44p each including the cost of the card, first class postage and handling charge, and bearing the first day of sale handstamp, should be sent to – C&AS 2, ECDO, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA where normal reposting facilities will apply. Remittances should be sent, if possible by postal order or Giro transfer (Account No 5102006).

98. Christmas, 1974

For its ninth successive Christmas issue the Post Office chose an unusual presentation of the Nativity theme – the scenes depicted by medieval craftsmen on church roof bosses. These are raised or projecting ornaments, usually rounded and figured or foliated, mounted at the intersection of the vaulting ribs in the 'ceiling', intended to disguise the joints. The selected bosses come from the various phases of Gothic architecture which were developed out of the Romanesque style in the latter part of the 12th century and prevailed until the 15th century or later. The stamps, which were attractively conceived and coloured, were designed by the Peter Hatch Partnership.

The earliest boss depicted – 'The Virgin and Child' (10p) – comes from the east end of the Lady Chapel in Worcester Cathedral and is dated about 1224, that is, during the first phase of Gothic architecture, known as Early English. The Decorated phase of Gothic flourished in England during the 14th century and there are two bosses from this period – 'The Adoration of the Magi' (3½p), *circa* 1355, from the nave of York Minster, and another version of 'The Virgin and Child' (8p), taken from a boss dated about 1350 in the chapel of the Church of Ottery St Mary in Devon, where Samuel Taylor Coleridge's father was the vicar in 1772. Meanwhile vaults had become more complicated by the addition of intermediate ribs which formed intricate patterns.

Finally, perhaps the most attractive of the four bosses, one from the Gothic Perpendicular period of elaborate fan-vaulting – the traditional family picture 'The Nativity' (4½p), *circa* 1480, in the south transept chapel of St Helen's Church, Norwich.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 × 5) on unwatermarked paper, with single phosphor bands on the 3½p and 'all-over' phosphor on the remaining denominations. The single phosphor band (for second-class mail) was first applied down the centre of the 3½p stamps, but failed to give a satisfactory response in the electronic sorting machines and was subsequently placed on the right of the stamp, between the roof boss and value. The one recorded printing



flaw is a reversed 'Q' for 'O' in the date '1480' on the 4½p stamp.

Quantities issued were: 3½p 234,783,700; 4½p 12,902,200; 8p 11,648,400; 10p 12,046,000; presentation packs, 129,020.

JAMES WATSON

New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme

The University of Edinburgh's 400th anniversary and the 200th anniversary of The Royal Society of Edinburgh, are celebrated jointly with the issue of a Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme on Wednesday 13 April.

The Arms of the University and the Royal Society are featured against a backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. The present home of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in George Street and the Quadrangle of the Old University of Edinburgh in South Bridge, are featured on the other two panels.

Priced 30p of which 26p is for postage, the aerogramme will be available from post offices in Scotland, philatelic counters throughout the United Kingdom and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The aerogramme was designed by Ruari McLean Associates with illustrations by local artist Patricia MacDonald of Musselburgh, and printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd.

New Stamp Books

The second in the Post Office's current series of stamp booklets with illustrated covers will be introduced on 5 April 1983 with contents in line with the new postage rates. The new 50p booklet in the 'Rare breeds' series, with a cover design by Harry Titcombe features the Gloucester Old Spot Pig and will contain 3 x 12½p, 3 x 3½p and 2 x 1p stamps.

The £1.25 booklet, containing 10 x 12½p stamps, illustrated by Stanley Paine shows an LMS Class 4p Passenger Tank Engine, in the series on Railways.

The £1.46 'Postal History' book, again illustrated by John Gibbs, is devoted to the George V 'Seahorse' high value stamps and will contain 6 x 16p stamps and 4 x 12½p stamps.

A new £1.60 'Birthday' book containing ten stamps at the new 16p first class rate will also be available on 5 April and throughout the year. The cover design will feature 'Birthdays' and a special offer printed inside the book will enable regular

customers to send away for a special 'Birthday Box' – a simple card index system of remembering birthdays and anniversaries.

All four booklets will be on sale at philatelic counters and, by post, from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The £1.25, £1.46 and £1.60 booklets will also be on sale at all post offices, and the 50p booklet from vending machines.

Technical Details

The stamps are printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd – the stamps on the Chambon press and the covers on the Libra book-making machine.

The stamps in the 50p book will be printed in one format only with one 1p stamp above three 12½p stamps on the left hand side and one 1p stamp above three 3½p stamps on the right hand side of the pane. Each stamp in the 50p book will be printed with a single central phosphor bar.

The 16p stamps in the first class book will be printed on phosphor coated paper, the 12½p stamps in the second class book will bear a single central phosphor bar.

The 16p stamps in the 'Postal History' book will bear two phosphor bars and the 12½p stamps will have a single side phosphor bar. The lay-out will be 5 x 16p stamps above 1 x 16p and 4 x 12½p stamps.

Regional Postcards Revised Sale Periods

As from 1 May 1983 Regional Postcards will remain on sale for 1 year only at Philatelic counters in their respective Regions.

All previous issues of Regional postcards will be withdrawn as from the above date. The new periods will also apply to sales from the British Philatelic Bureau and the National Postal Museum.

British Engineering Achievements Stamps Issue 25 May 1983



'Works of Human Genius' is the Europa theme chosen for 1983 by the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications.

Engineering is all around us. It provides the standards of living that we enjoy – not just through the creation of material goods, the fridges, cars and washing machines of the engineering industry – but through the creation and control of much of the environment in which we live and work. It provides protection from the great forces of nature and it harnesses those forces to create the comfort and well-being of our lives.

The Post Office has chosen 'British Engineering Achievements' to illustrate the theme in three new commemorative stamps to be issued on 25 May 1983. Designed by Michael Taylor the stamps depict, The Humber Bridge (16p), The Thames Flood Barrier (20½p) and The Emergency Support Vessel – *Iolair* (28p).

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'Hull' and 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover – price 14p – addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all three stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Hull' or 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.03	89p
Deposit account customers	98p	85p
Service 'B'	89p	77p

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 16 May 1983.

Printing Details

The stamps are printed photogravure on unwatermarked, phosphor coated paper by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd. Format is horizontal: size 41 mm × 30 mm: perforations 15 × 14: number per sheet 100, and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

Values and Colours

16p – orange-yellow, violet-blue, black, grey, silver.

20½p – greenish-yellow, magenta, new blue, black, grey, silver.

28p – orange-yellow, vermilion, venetian red, ultra marine, black, grey, silver.

Cylinders Used

16p 2A 1B 1C 1D 1E.

20½p 3A 1B 2C 1D 1E 1F.

28p 1A 1B 2C 1D 2E 1F 1G.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the three stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 13p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack number 144, designed by John Gibbs, containing all three stamps, will be available from 25 May 1983, price 84p.





**British
Engineering
Achievements**
Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



**British
Engineering
Achievements**
Royal Mail Mint Stamps



114 25 5 1983

2. The Sound of Bow Bells

When you have visited St. Paul's Cathedral and have admired Wren's masterpiece, especially the beauty of its massive dome, take a stroll along the ancient thoroughfare of Cheapside, which extends from the north-east corner of St. Paul's Churchyard to the busiest road junction in the City of London, bounded by the Mansion House, the Royal Exchange and the Bank of England. On the right, just before you reach Poultry, you will see the tall, graceful spire of Bow Church, in full, St. Mary-le-Bow, the adoptive church of the City of London which was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, after the Great Fire. The tall steeple, some 235 feet high is considered to be his best work – indeed, it has been esteemed the finest Renaissance campanile in the world. It houses the famous Bow Bells with their distinctive peal.

According to an old tradition, to be born within the sound of Bow Bells entitled one to be called a 'cockney' – a true native of London – supposedly derived from the French, *coquin*, a rogue or rascal. And it was the sound of Bow Bells which urged the legendary Dick Whittington (and his famous cat) to 'turn again'. There was, of course, a real Richard Whittington (c.1358-1423) who came from Pauntley, Gloucestershire, to London at the age of 13 and became a prosperous merchant. He was knighted and was four times Mayor of London, leaving all his great wealth to charity. There is no doubt that he drew some kind of inspiration from the bells of Bow.

For Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) the Great Fire of London (1666) resulted in a bonanza



of creative work and financial reward. Besides the construction of a new St. Paul's (which took him 35 years), he built numerous other buildings and rebuilt or restored more than 50 other churches within the City precincts, including St. Mary-le-Bow, where he retained the Norman crypt and Saxon works. Sadly that building, with the exception of the famous tower, was destroyed by bombing in World War II. My card, published by Hartmann and postmarked 1908, shows Cheapside and the approach to St. Mary-le-Bow. Today, however, there are no horse-buses!

MALCOLM JAMES

New National Postal Museum Postcard

A new NPM postcard SS14 featuring the Royal Mint (circa 1830) and inset the Wyon medal and the 'penny black' will be on sale from the Museum sales counter on 18 April 1983, price 20p, or by post at 36p from the National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1LP.

The introduction of this postcard coincides with an exhibition to be held in the Museum

illustrating the relationship between the Royal Mint and The Post Office. At the same time the Maltese Cross handstamp will be re-introduced in the Museum. The card will be withdrawn from sale on 6 May.

A further postcard SS15 featuring a KGV 'Seahorse' design will be available from 6 May 1983.

Posting Boxes



No 46. This month's photograph of a posting box was sent to the Bulletin by Mr Fred Fuzzens of Windsor. The box, bearing the cypher of Edward VII, is situated at the Norman Gate of Windsor Castle. Her Majesty and those attending the annual Garter Service would have to pass it on their way to St George's Chapel. Originally the box was painted in bronze when maintained by the Ministry of Works, but now that The Post Office is responsible for its upkeep, the traditional 'red' is used. Thank you Mr Fuzzens.

Forthcoming Events

Joint Meeting at Shrewsbury

The Welsh Philatelic Society will be holding the last of its 'provincial' meetings of the 1982/83 season with a Joint Meeting with the Shropshire Philatelic Society, on 16 April 1983.

The meeting will take place from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Beauchamp Hotel, The Mount, Shrewsbury, and two members of each of the participating Societies will present displays:-

Letters from Newtown to India - D Lang

Bishops Castle - Michael Scott Archer

'Mainly Welsh' - Dennis Salt

A further theme - A N Other

If interested in attending, or in obtaining particulars of the Societies, contact the Publicity

Officer of the Welsh Philatelic Society: D Daunton, 21 Torkington Road, WILMSLOW, Cheshire, SK9 2AE, (0625 528840), or the Secretary of the Shropshire Philatelic Society: R E Pearce, 'Colina', Lea Cross, SHREWSBURY, SY5 8HY (0743 860204).

Midland Philatelic Federation Convention

Coventry Philatelic Society will host the Convention to be held at Sibree Hall, Warwick Row, Coventry, on Saturday 14 May 1983. There will be exhibition entries from member societies, dealers' stalls and The Post Office will provide a philatelic sales and display counter.

Further information can be obtained from Dr E R Clark (Publicity Officer MPF), 122 Coniston Road, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 9DU.

Solihull Philatelic Society

The Solihull Philatelic Society are holding their third Spring Stamp Fair and Exhibition on Saturday 23 April 1983 in the Exhibition Hall at Solihull Central Library, Homer Road, Solihull, from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

This year the display of stamps, postal history and thematics is being provided by members of the Society. Along with a Post Office sales counter, many of the country's leading philatelic dealers will be in attendance. To old friends and newcomers alike the Society extends a cordial invitation to visit Solihull in the Spring again.

In addition to the Stamp Fair and Exhibition, Solihull with its ample car parking, good restaurants, shops and parks all situated close to the town centre, has something to offer all members of the family.

Forest Philatelic Society

This year the FPS will host Essex Stamp Day, on behalf of the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies, taking place on Saturday 9 April 1983 at Bancroft's School, High Road, Woodford Green, Essex, from 11 am to 5 pm. Entries for the Inter-County Competition (Dawes Cup) and the Essex Competition (Stokes Cup) will be on view, and there will be a number of dealers' stalls.

Middlesex Philatelic Federation Convention Day

The Convention will be held on Saturday 28 May 1983 at the Highgate School (main Dining Room), Bishopswood Road, Highgate, London. Arrangements have been made for children to visit the Convention and many exciting events

have been organised. A number of dealers will be present, and there will be side shows, raffles, displays of stamps, postal history and thematic. Admission is by programme, price 20p, available at the door.

Streety Philatelic Society

The Streety Society will hold a stamp fair on Saturday 16 April at the Community Centre, Foley Road East, Streety, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. It will open from 11 am to 4.30 pm and a number of dealers will be in attendance.

Leytonstone, Wanstead and District Philatelic Society

A stamp fair organised by the Leytonstone, Wanstead and District PS will take place in the Christ Church Hall, High Street, Wanstead, on Saturday 14 May 1983 from 10.30 am to 5 pm. There will be dealers' stalls, 100 lots for auction, information stand, junior competition. Admission is free.

Book Reviews

The Railway Sub Offices of Great Britain by A M Goodbody

Railway Sub Offices and their datestamps have long exercised a curious fascination over postal historians, railway philatelists and other collectors of postmarks. In common with other institutions which are peculiarly British, they are misunderstood by all foreigners and most natives. Many columns of print have been taken up with a discussion as to what the initials RSO actually stood for. And yet the introduction, and eventual abolition, of Railway Sub Offices were events well documented in the Post Office records. They were, moreover, the logical consequence of the way in which the British Post Office conducted its business and sought to increase its efficiency.

Dr Goodbody first lists the 2200+ RSOs designated in the Post Office Guides. These are listed under counties. In a second alphabetical list, he describes the 600+ known RSO datestamps and their dates of use.

Published by The Railway Philatelic Group, the book and its companion volume 'Railway Station Postmarks' by D P Gowen are available from the Publications Officer: A J Lowe, Stable Becks, Grasmere, AMBLESIDE, Cumbria LA22 9PX at £3.00 each plus 25p p&p.

Collecting Modern First Day Covers

The 2nd edition of this catalogue, publication date of which is 15 February 1983, concentrates on the commemorative issues of GB from the introduction of decimalisation to present day. The catalogue goes into more depth by listing *all* special handstamps in use on the day of issue. In addition, there is a two-tier price structure: one price for Post Office or commercial covers; and one price for the 'official' cover (produced by the sponsor of the handstamp).

The catalogue also has comprehensive listings for CDS and slogan postmarks – both are becoming increasingly popular amongst collectors. For example what could be more appropriate than the British Motor Cars FDCs postmarked at any of the following sub Post Offices: Longbridge (home of the Mini-Metro); Halewood (home of the Ford Escort); Ford, Austin; Royal Automobile Club in London; and so on.

The main criticism of the first edition was the lack of illustrations. This edition includes 8 pages in full colour plus approx 500 illustrations of postmarks.

The catalogue is intended to appeal to the widest number of people who have an interest in GB FDCs price £2.95, and is available from stamp dealers. However in case of difficulty, it is available from A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER LE2 6FJ, at £2.95 + 30p (p&p).

British Philatelic Federation

The 1983 BPF Yearbook and Philatelic Societies' Directory follows the established format with all entries fully up-dated and some extended.

In addition to all the information of philatelic organisations worldwide – federations, societies, bureaux and permanent exhibitions, lecturers and details of BPF's own services, this volume lists all signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, winners of the Congress Medal and the 1982 Awards of Merit. A list of all previous Philatelic Congresses is included, with the names of individuals and Societies represented at the Southampton Congress in July 1982. Included again this year are lists of Philatelic Periodicals, and Clubs and Periodicals dealing with Postcard collecting, also sources of films and slides, and charities which welcome philatelic material. New lists are made of overseas philatelic organisations. Finally, lists of Federation members by category (Dealers and Collectors) appear at the end of a volume likely to be well thumbed by Society

Secretaries, individual members and non-members alike.

Copies are provided free to all members, but may be purchased for £3.00 post free in the UK and Overseas (seamail), or £4.50 (airmail) if payment is by cheque in Sterling on a UK Bank, or by remittance to our Girobank Account No 585 3451; otherwise the equivalent of £1 extra if paying by cheque in the currency of origin. (Cheques in sterling payable overseas cannot be accepted.)

Replacement Stamp Rolls (16p).

As the basic first class postage rate is to be increased on 5 April 1983 to 16p, a new JL stamp roll will be introduced on 20 April containing 500 16p definitive stamps, price £80. The stamps printed on phosphor coated paper with PVA Dextrin adhesive, are reeled for endways delivery. The rolls will go on sale at philatelic counters, the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, and post offices where there is a known demand. The stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

Postage Due part 7

We would like to apologize for the confusing caption which appeared at the bottom of page 72 (January). It should read, "Decimal 'To Pay' Label Designs - A selection of the 1971 issues showing differences in design between low and high values".

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir,

In his latest article in the fascinating series 'British Special Stamps' in the January issue of the Bulletin, James Watson repeats an error which has often been made in descriptions of the 10p value of the UPU Centenary issue of 1974.

The flying-boat depicted is not the Short C-class. As the tripod structures clearly visible on the upper surface of the wing indicate, the aircraft is Maia, the lower component of the Maia-Mercury pick-a-back combination.

The error is understandable, because it was made first in the official description of the stamp on the occasion of its issue. We in 'STAMPS' perpetuated it recently in our series 'The Story of British Stamps' and were firmly corrected in letters from readers.

I can't claim that we were the first to put the record straight because the error, and the reasons for it, were dealt with by John C W Field, shortly after the stamp's issue, in 'The Aero Field'.

Yours faithfully,

BRENTWOOD,
Essex.

Allan Daniell
Editor, 'STAMPS'

With regard to the Imperial Airways flying-boat depicted on the 10p stamp, there appears to be some doubt about its classification as a 'C'-class machine as originally designated by the Post Office and currently confirmed in the Gibbons Catalogue. It is apparent from the details of the silhouette on the stamp that the aircraft is indeed the Maia, the carrier of the seaplane Mercury on an experimental mail-carrying flight from Foynes to New York in 1938.

However - and I quote Jean Farrugia and Tony Gammons in their book, Carrying British Mails, published in 1980 - 'The Mercury-Maia composite ... consisted of a small long-range seaplane carried on the back of a converted 'C'-class flying-boat'. Basically, then, the machine depicted is one of the 'C'-class type, renamed Maia for the special flight.

J.W.

BROCKENHURST,
Hants.

Dear Sir,

I should be grateful if you would be so kind as to correct a small error that has crept into Jim Watson's article on the UPU Centenary 1974 (January 1983). Referring to Ros Dease's designs he quotes from my book *Royal Mail Stamps* 'nothing in the issue even attempted to explain graphically what the Universal Postal Union was all about.'

To have made that comment about Ros Dease's set would, of course, have been a complete nonsense, for her designs are highly successful examples of explanatory graphics. No, the comment refers to an earlier issue, with which I was making a comparison. 'The designs of

Rosalind Dease show quite distinctly the great change that had overtaken commemorative issues, since say, the first UPU stamps in 1929'. And it was that issue, with its magnificent but quite irrelevant design by Nelson of St. George and the Dragon, to which I was referring.

On re-reading that passage I must admit to some ambiguity in my writing and I therefore apologise to Jim Watson for encouraging him to miss the point.

Yours faithfully,
Stuart Rose

LONDON,
NW1.

In my article on the above stamps (January 1983 Bulletin) I quoted a comment by Stuart Rose in his book, Royal Mail Stamps, which I now realise referred to the UPU issue of 1929. My apologies to Mr Rose and may I add that it was never my intention to disparage the excellent stamp designs by Rosalind Dease which of course were closely related to the aims and work of the Universal Postal Union.

J.W.

BROCKENHURST,
Hants.

Dear Sir

I note that the new forthcoming 50p stamp booklets are to feature The Bagot Goat, in the Rare Farm Animal series.

Could you possibly give me some background to this animal, as I can find no reference to this at all.

Yours faithfully,
V H Burroughs

LONDON NW6

When King Richard I returned from the crusades in the late twelfth century, he brought with him a herd of beautiful black and white goats which resembled the Schwatthal goats of the Rhone Valley.

During the 1390s, King Richard II, who had enjoyed a good day's hunting at Blithfield Hall in Staffordshire, presented the Royal herd to his host, Sir John Bagot. The Bagot Goats became part of the Family crest, and remained semi wild in Bagot Park until the late 1970s. The Park was then sold and flooded to form a reservoir to provide water for the city of Birmingham. The remaining survivors of the breed were rounded up and donated to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust by the present Lady Bagot.

The numbers of this very rare breed are slowly increasing and currently stand at about 30 nannies. A small group can be seen at the Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, near Stow on the Wold in

Gloucestershire, every day from May till the end of September.

EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I note with some surprise, an entry in the February 1983 issue (Vol 20 No 6) of the 'Philatelic Bulletin' on behalf of the Royal Navy for their Samuel Pepys cover issue.

There is mention on page 90 of 'Sir John Long GCB KCB CB'.

1 It is not possible to be Knight Grand Cross (GCB), a Knight Commander (KCB) and a Companion (CB) of the Order of the Bath at one time!

2 In the 1983 edition of Whitaker's Almanack, I can find no reference to a 'Sir John Long' in the Baronetage and Knightage section!

As I am interested in the item both in respect of orders of chivalry and philately, I would be most grateful to know where the error lies.

Yours faithfully,
J H Witherow

RICKMANSWORTH
Hertfordshire

Sqn Ldr (Rtd)

I have been in touch with the Philatelic Officer at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, who was responsible for supplying the information about the 'Samuel Pepys' commemorative cover. It would appear that the information was incorrect and Sir John Lang's honour is GCB only. Regrettably his name was incorrectly spelled in the Bulletin as Long, due to a bad typewriter character on the original manuscript.

EDITOR

Commemorative Covers

The Mountbatten Memorial Trust

To coincide with the issue of the 'Maritime Heritage' stamps, a limited edition of covers were printed by the House of Questa in full colour with the famous photograph of Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma KG taken by Bern Schwartz. Lord Mountbatten's personal cypher is depicted on the Broadlands handstamp specially sponsored for the cover. For every cover sold at £3.50 a donation of 50p will be given to the Trust, which was established after Lord Mountbatten's death in 1979 to perpetuate his ideals. A few covers signed by the present Countess Mountbatten of Burma (£15 donation), and by the First Sea Lord, Sir Henry Leach (£10

donation), are still available. Remittances with orders payable to SPCA should be sent to Stewart Petty Charity Appeals, FREEPOST, WEYBRIDGE, Surrey, KT13 0BR.

The Christening of Prince William of Wales

Stewart Petty commissioned the famous New Forest artist Jean Main to design and engrave a single Glass State Goblet to commemorate the Christening at Buckingham Palace on 4 August 1982. To commemorate the event a special handstamp was introduced at London SW1 depicting a state trumpeter and applied to a limited edition of covers showing the Goblet and a 'Royal Wedding' stamp affixed. The Birthright Charity will receive a donation of 50p for every cover sold at £2.50. Remittances with orders payable to SPCA should be sent to Stewart Petty Charity Appeals, FREEPOST, WEYBRIDGE, Surrey, KT13 0BR.

National Anglers Council

To commemorate the 240th anniversary of a 69³/₄lb salmon caught by the 8th Earl of Home at Coldstream in 1743, a philatelic cover is now available price £4.25. Sponsored by the National Anglers Council, the covers bearing all four 'River Fishes' stamps were cancelled at Coldstream. A limited number have been autographed by the present Earl of Home and are available at £5.75 each. A proportion of the profit from sales will be donated to charity. Orders with remittances made payable to Mr. Stan Muscroft, should be sent to him at, 43 Farndale Drive, Guisborough, CLEVELAND, TS14 8JJ.

Scottish Philatelic Congress

The annual Scottish Philatelic Congress takes place at Stirling University on 9 April 1983 between 9 am and 5 pm when visitors can view the Host Society display and the National Exhibition. Over 25 dealers, together with the British Philatelic Bureau, will be present. Admission is free. This year's host, the Alba Stamp Group, which encourages the collection of stamps and allied material connected with Scotland, has chosen to honour Sir William A Smith who founded the Boy's Brigade in Glasgow in 1883.

The commemorative cover, features the Founder, the building in which the Brigade began and the plaque affixed to the building. The special vertical handstamp features a Boy in Brigade Uniform.

Unserviced covers cost 30p each plus postage

and packing. Serviced covers bearing a 'BB' stamp, cost 60p each. It is hoped to have a number of covers carried by a team of Boys' Brigade runners. These will have a special cachet and will cost 85p each, the premium of 25p going to the Boys' Brigade for charitable purposes. Serviced covers, whether carried or not, may be sent under cover. The cost of postage and packing on unserviced covers or covers returned under cover is as follows: 1 cover 20p, up to 4 covers 24p, up to 7 covers 28p, up to 10 covers 34p, up to 14 covers 40p, up to 17 covers 46p, up to 21 covers 52p, up to 24 covers 58p. A self addressed label for the return of covers sent under cover would be appreciated. Orders with remittances made payable to Alba Congress Account should be sent to Mr John Potter, 8 Dungavel Gardens, HAMILTON, Lanarkshire, ML3 7PE, as soon as possible. The Congress will be opened by the Brigade President, the Earl of Elgin & Kincardine, probably at noon.

Engineering Achievements – May 1983

To commemorate this new issue of stamps Benham (A Buckingham) Limited will produce a BOCS cover in conjunction with British Petroleum Limited, similar to their 1978 Forties Field Project. The subject depicted on the cover is the IOLAIR – the first purpose-built emergency support vessel in the world. The design, based on the BP shield, will be gold-blocked, with a photograph of IOLAIR overlapping the gold-blocking. The postmark will be sponsored at IOLAIR, Aberdeen and the covers will be flown out to the support vessel. The cost is £3.00 plus 30p postage and packing.

Orders with remittances made payable to Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd should be sent to, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

The Centenary of Seven-a-side Rugby Football 9 April 1983.

Melrose Rugby Football Club, the founder of seven-a-side Rugby in 1883, have commissioned a commemorative cover to mark the occasion.

The cover illustrates two players, one in period rugby costume, the other in modern attire flanking the impressive Melrose stand at the Greenyards, home of the 'sevens'. Included inside the cover is the story of the birth of the 'sevens game' and its subsequent growing popularity worldwide. The cover will bear a 15¹/₂p 'Scottish Salmon' commemorative stamp cancelled with a

special pictorial handstamp depicting a rugby ball surrounded by entwining roses. A donation from the proceeds will be given to the SRU sponsored Disabled Players Fund.

The cost per cover is 80p and orders with remittances payable to 'Melrose Rugby Club' should be sent to: Bill Strachan, Melrose RFC, The Greenyards, MELROSE, Roxburghshire, TD6 9SA. A stamped, self addressed envelope measuring 9" x 4½" should accompany orders.

Commonwealth Stamps Issue

For the issue of the 'Commonwealth' stamps on 9 March 1983 a commemorative cover and postcard have been produced for Abbey Galleries, Whitby depicting Captain Cook's ship HMS 'Resolution' outside Whitby harbour.

With all four stamps and a special '215th Anniversary of Captain Cook's Voyages of Commonwealth Discovery' postmark the cover costs £3. The same cover, or postcard stamped obverse or reverse, bearing the 15½p stamp only is available at £1.25. Prices are inclusive of despatch in a stiffened envelope within the UK.

Cheques should be made payable and sent with orders to: Travers Publications, 64 Corporation Road, REDCAR, Cleveland TS10 1PB.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

On 25 May 1983 the Institution of Mechanical Engineers will offer its own commemorative cover bearing all three 'British Engineering Achievements' stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamp which includes the Institution's 'horse and globe' logo.

Also on that day a new President of the Institution will be elected and a limited number of covers will be signed by both the outgoing and incoming Presidents. The cost of unsigned covers is £2.50 each, and a 9" x 4" stamped addressed envelope should be sent with orders. Signed covers will be available at £5.25 each including return postage and packing.

Orders with remittance made payable to 'Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd', should be sent to I.M.E., Official Philatelic Agents, Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd, 33 St. George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

Bude Surf Life Saving Club 30th Anniversary

To mark this milestone in the Club's history a commemorative Cover will be available. The cover, illustrated by the Crest of The Bude and Stratton Town Council, will be cancelled with a

specially designed handstamp depicting the Club beach rescue reel and its motto in Cornish. The stamp used is the 15½p from the 'Commonwealth Day' set issued on 9 March. The date on the handstamp will be 1 May 1983. The cost of the cover is £1.50 including return postage and packing.

Orders with remittances made payable to Bude Surf Life Saving Club, should be sent to B Sykes, 17 Victoria Road, BUDE, Cornwall, EX23 8RJ.

Gloucester High School

To mark the school's Centenary, the Parents' Association has prepared a commemorative cover which will be available from 3 May 1983. The cover bearing a 15½p 'Information Technology' stamp, cancelled with a special handstamp on that day, will be available for 75p.

Orders with remittance should be sent to The High School for Girls, Denmark Road, GLOUCESTER GL1 3JN, marking the envelope 'Centenary Cover'.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Memmott

Assistant Editor Frank Branch

The Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by:

British Post Office
Postal Headquarters
Philatelic Marketing Section
Room 321
22/25 Finsbury Square
LONDON
EC2A 1PH

to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscriptions (Inland, Europe and overseas)

Surface mail £3.50

Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:

British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters price 30p.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £3.75

Printed in Great Britain by
Cripplegate Printing Company Limited
for the Post Office
