

British Philatelic Bulletin

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December Digest

The staff of Royal Mail Stamps – in London and Edinburgh – wish all Bulletin readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Most Beautiful Stamp in the World

Royal Mail has recently been awarded the Riccione Grand Prize for Philatelic Art. The 37p Puppy stamp in the 1990 RSPCA set was voted "the most beautiful stamp in the world" by 150 philatelic journalists of the Italian Philatelic Press Association. This is the fourth time Royal Mail stamps have won this prestigious award, previous winners being the 1982 Theatre set, 1984 Christmas issue, and 1991 Dogs.

Barry Robinson, Head of Design, Royal Mail Stamps, commented: "The RSPCA issue was a popular one with the public so we are delighted to win this award for the fourth time. The Italians are known for their style and taste so this award confirms our quality approach to design."

The Nature of Scotland

The first Scottish aerogramme of 1992 (14 April) will feature illustrations from a delightful book *The Nature of Scotland – Landscapes, Wildlife and People*, edited by Magnus Magnusson and Graham White, recently published jointly by Canongate Press of Edinburgh and the Scottish Post Office Board. The 216-page book, to be reviewed here shortly, is available from good book shops, price £19.95.

Country Stamp Plates

The plate numbers so far seen (by the Editor at the National Postal Museum) for the 18p, 24p, 28p and 39p Country stamps issued on 3 December 1991 are as follows:

N Ireland: 18p – Q2Q2; 24p – Q2Q2; 28p – Q1Q1; 39p – Q2Q2.

Scotland: 18p – Q2Q2; 24p – Q2Q2; 28p – Q1Q1; 39p – Q2Q2.

Wales: 18p – Q2Q2; 24p – Q1Q1; 28p Q2Q2; 39p – Q2Q2.

NPM Pearson Hill Cachet

In October (page 26) we illustrated the Museum's Pearson Hill souvenir cover bearing a cachet applied by the Museum's replica Pearson Hill stamp cancelling machine. The cachet originally had the date "AU 30 91"; this has now been amended to "1991". Covers bearing the revised cachet are on sale at the Museum Shop, price 75p. Collectors may order by post – £1 for one cover, 75p for two or more (maximum 10) from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Postal Memorabilia Displays

David Harrop, enthusiastic collector of postal and railway memorabilia, will be displaying items from his collection at the Cafeteria, Wigan Pier, Lanes until the end of the year, and at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool on 26-27 December. A permanent display of some of Mr Harrop's material can be seen at the Manchester Transport Museum, Boyle Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, and at the Brookside Rail & Post Museum at Brookside Garden Centre, London Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire. The Museum is open each Sunday from 10.30am to 5.30pm. For further information contact David Harrop at: 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT SK4 3DQ, Tel. 061-442 1089.

Wintertime

14 January 1992

The 1992 special stamp programme makes its debut with the first in an annual series of "Seasons" stamps. Of the four seasons, wintertime with its winds from the east is the most forbidding. Whilst small birds migrate south for the winter months, we are compensated by the arrival of winter visitors – redwings and various waterfowl. Geese arrive from Greenland and Scandinavia. Fox, crow and magpie do the undertaker's work when birds and other beasts die in the snow. Despite its harshness, winter is regarded by many as the most beautiful time of the year.

The five stamps feature animals and birds associated with the winter season.

The Wintertime issue includes a stamp at the second class rate (18p), to increase the awareness of special stamps amongst the public and to reduce the cost of collecting.



The **18p** stamp (basic inland second class rate) features the Fallow Deer. Smaller than the red, but larger than the roe deer, the fallow is mainly a woodland species. Its browsing habit makes it unpopular with the forester, inflicting damage on mature growth and in faying smooth-barked trees and saplings. In both summer and winter, fallow deer sometimes roam beyond the woodland and prove a hazard to motorists. Fallow Deer love peace and quiet; they are somewhat highly-strung creatures. The doe barks as she comes to feed her calf; when she calls the fawn to her, she bleats. Fallow Deer are unlikely to become an endangered species because of their semi-domestic existence on coun-

try estates. Great care is taken to discourage poaching for venison which always fetches a good price.

The **24p** stamp (basic inland first class and EEC rate) depicts that hunted animal, the Hare. Does help protect their young from predators by dispersing them and visiting each individual member of her family to feed them. Foxes may find one or two, but are unlikely to find them all. Hunting with packs of beagles is often ineffectual. Sadly, the hare is today afflicted by some form of viral disease which may well affect its continued survival.



The Welsh mountain sheep is featured on the **28p** stamp (basic rate for non-EEC countries). one of the smaller native breeds, the Welsh mountain sheep is a hardy little animal that bundles its way up rocky slopes. With the onset of winter the mountain sheep are rounded up and taken downhill to the shelter of the cwm and the stone folds. Here they face the winter weather. When the blizzards come, flocks lie along drystone walls to conserve energy and body warmth. The snow often buries them. Flockmasters and their collies often move the sheep further downhill to wind-proof walls of

straw by hay bales.

The **33p** stamp (airmail postcard rate) shows the Redwing, the smallest (about 8½ inches) and most colourful of the thrush family seen in Britain; it is similar to the Songthrush but with a deeper and richer plumage. With a red wing and a chestnut underwing, this distinctive migrant arrives in large numbers in winter. Its arrival often warns of colder weather to come. The redwing frequents open pasture and light woodland; feeding mainly on worms, grubs, insects, and snails. When the pastures are covered in snow, redwings resort to a diet of berries, holly and ivy, yew and sloes. Many die in thickets of laurel and rhododendron in which they have taken shelter. The fittest survive to return once again to Scandinavia and areas of north-eastern Europe. The redwing emits a low warbling sub-song in winter, with a fuller song in the spring months before it leaves our shores.



The **39p** value (airmail letters basic rate) depicts the fox. Red foxes are evenly spread across middle England and the southern counties. Gamekeepers have little time for the fox which finds it easier to get pheasant poults than birds from the farmer's hen-run. The fox's role is often to maintain the balance in nature; keeping rabbits in check, taking voles and mice, and as a scavenger, cleaning the bones of dead sheep and other creatures. In recent years the fox has come more and more to be found in our towns, often feeding on scraps from overturned dustbins. The wily fox - urban or rural - is one of nature's survivors.

The Designers

The stamps were designed by John Gorham with illustrations by Keith Bowen. Mr Gorham was responsible, with Andrew Davidson, for the popular 1990 Christmas stamps showing country scenes. Keith Bowen designed the 1988 Welsh Bible stamps and wrote about his work in the March 1988 issue of the *Bulletin*. His work has been exhibited at the National Museum of Wales - Museum of the North at Llanberis (May/July 1991) and published in *Snowdon Shepherd: Four Seasons on the Hill Farms of North Wales* (Pavilion Books, London 1991). Mr Bowen lives in north Wales.

Printing Details

The stamps, printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited, are of horizontal format (41 x 30mm), printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 15 x 14. The 18p stamp is on fluorescent coated paper with one phosphor band, the 24p, 28p, 33p and 39p values are on phosphor coated paper.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 224) will cost £1.75. It was designed by John Gorham with text by *Country Life* columnist Ian Niall. Printing was by Raithby, Lawrence & Company Limited of Leicester.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 140A-E.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 14 January, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Brecon, Powys. The design of the sheep stamp is set in the Brecon area.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 14 January.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer



WINTERTIME Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



them. The fox
The beagle



THE FOX
Well-nourished red foxes are evenly spread across middle England and the southern counties, but it must be said that without the protection of those who hunt on horseback the fox would not be quite as plentiful as it is.

Gamekeepers have little time for Old Charley, as he is sometimes called – in Wales he is the old *cadn*, a leaner, but no less predatory character. From the keeper's point of view the trouble is that the fox finds it easier to hunt than birds from the farmer's point of view. The fox is a great pest to the farmer, as he is to the gamekeeper. The fox is a great pest to the farmer, as he is to the gamekeeper. The fox is a great pest to the farmer, as he is to the gamekeeper.

One of the smaller breeds native to the mountain sheep is that hardy little animal that bundles its way up rocky slopes when ramblers intrude upon it above the tree line. Everything that comes up goes down in the end, and with the onset of winter the mountain sheep are rounded up and taken downhill to the shelter of the cwm and the stone folds. Here they face the blizzard in genuine sheepskin wear that may hang with pendants of solid ice before the worst is over. The polls of the little ewes are often as frosted as the Arctic explorer's fur-lined hood.

When the blizzard comes, the flock lies along the drystone wall to search of them, assisted by his sharp-nosed herding instinct for the whereabouts of a little sheep are moved further downhill of straw or hay bales. A great deal of



envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Wales & The West Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Cardiff, 220-228 Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA (Brecon postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (City of London handstamp); and Northern England SHC, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Durham).

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 15 January, price 21p. This will be on sale for one year.

Snowdon Shepherd Book

Snowdon Shepherd: Four Seasons on the Hill Farms of North Wales, containing many delightful illustrations by Keith Bowen, was published earlier in the year (see April *Bulletin*, page 187). A special edition of this book will be available from 14 January 1992 from the Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters, price £15.99. Each book will be individually numbered, signed by Keith Bowen, and contain a set of the Wintertime stamps. A review will be published here next month.

Stamp Book Quantities

Given below are revised figures for stamp books issued from August to November 1989; these replace the quantities published here in May 1991. Also given are figures for the Harrison NVI books of October 1989; these include detailed postal rate information on the inside back cover. The earlier, 22 August 1989, books gave an address to which to write for postal rate information.

50p	Aeroplanes 1 (2/10/89)	5,083,200
£1	Mills 1 (2/10/89)	5,523,725
56p	4 x 2nd NVI - W (22/8/89)	2,063,500
76p	4 x 1st NVI - W (22/8/89)	3,037,150
£1.40	10 x 2nd NVI (22/8/89†)	3,725,300
£1.90	10 x 1st NVI (22/8/89†)	4,214,850
£1.16	4 x 29p (2/10/89)	401,650
60p	4 x 2nd NVI - H (Nov 89)	2,184,050
80p	4 x 1st NVI - H (Nov 89)	3,005,450
£1.50	10 x 2nd NVI - H (Oct 89)	3,449,650
£2	10 x 1st NVI - H (Oct 89)	5,162,550

Notes:

W = printed by Walsall Security Printers

H = stamps printed by Harrison & Sons

† = total figure for books printed by Harrison (issued 22 August 1989) and Questa (19 September 1989). Separate quantities not available.

Christmas Cylinders

The cylinders, and colours, for the Christmas stamps were as follows:

18p - 1A (steel blue) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (rose-red) 1D (orange-red) 1E (black) 1F (gold); also cylinders 1A1B1C1D1E3F and 1A1B1C1D1E4F.

18p from books - B1A B1B B1C B1D B2E B2F, colours as above.

24p - 1A (bright rose-red) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (vermilion) 1D (slate blue) 1E (yellow-green) 1F (grey-black) 1G (gold)

28p - 1A (reddish-brown) 1B (bistre-yellow) 1C (orange vermilion) 1D (orange-red) 1E (deep dull blue) 3F (grey-black) 1G (gold)

33p - 2A (green) 1B (greenish-yellow) 1C (red) 1D (orange-red) 1E (blue) 1F (grey) 1G (gold)

39p - 1A (orange-red) 1B (greenish-yellow) 1C (orange vermilion) 1D (deep dull blue) 1E (olive-sepia) 1F (black) 1G (gold)

Stampex Awards

Our congratulations to Dr R H Champion and Nicholas de Dulin who respectively won the Post Office Trophy and National Postal Museum medal at Autumn Stampex/BPE. Dr Champion's entry was "Early Copperplate Revenue Stamps 1701-1830"; Mr de Dulin's interesting exhibit was entitled "Mail on the Move". Spring Stampex 1992 will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Westminster from 25 February to 1 March.

New Stamp Books

Seven new stamp books will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters from 21 January 1992; they will be available from post offices and other outlets as stocks of earlier books are used up.

Machine Books

The new 50p and £1 machine books continue the "Archaeology" and "Punch" series of cover designs started in September 1991. The design for the 50p book, by Allan Drummond, features archaeologist Howard Carter (1873-1939) at the tomb of Tutankhamen in Egypt. Carter discovered the tomb, when working with Lord Carnarvon, in 1922. These Archaeology designs mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Arthur Evans, discoverer of the ruins of Knossos in Crete. The theme of Archaeology for the cover designs was suggested by the late L F Newbery, leading collector of stamp books, who died last April.

The design for the new £1 book, by John Gibbs, features cartoons by Sir John Tenniel and Eric Burgin; the designs commemorate the 150th anniversary of *Punch* magazine. Further details of the designs in the current machine book series can be found in the October *Bulletin* (page 33).

The contents of the two books are the same as the 50p and £1 books issued on 10 September 1991, i.e. 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p in the 50p book and 2 x 2p and 4 x 24p in the £1 book. All are printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd in photogravure on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP). The pane in the £1 book has straight edges on the left and right sides.

Olympic Logos

The five new "window books" available from 21 January will bear the 1992 British Olympic and Paralympic logos on the covers. The Royal Mail are official sponsors for the 1992 British Olympic and British Paralympic teams. New instructions regarding use of NVI stamps on mail sent overseas will appear on the inside covers. The books are:

4 x 1st class, printed by Walsall Security Printers.

4 x 2nd class, printed Walsall.

10 x 1st class, printed Walsall.

10 x 2nd class, printed Walsall.

10 x 1st class, printed by Harrison & Sons Limited.



Books of 10 x 1st and 2nd class stamps produced by The House of Questa will appear later in the year – date to be announced.

Collectors should note that these books contain the same stamps as the books issued in August 1991. For the convenience of collectors, all these books are being given a first day of availability from philatelic outlets, but no first day of issue facilities are being provided, i.e. "First Day of Issue" postmarks.



Cylinder News

The National Postal Museum has received registration sheets of the current machine book panes and stamp rolls as follows:

50p book – B34 B2 and B35 B4

£1 book – B20 B1 and B20 B3

18p roll – R2

24p roll – R1

Mixed Value roll – R6 (4p) R2 (5p)

Some of these registration sheets will be on display in the Museum's Main Gallery until the end of January; others can be seen by appointment.

1991 Royal Mail Stamps Poll

Again we are asking readers to vote for their favourite stamps. Shown here are all the special and greetings stamps issued by Royal Mail Stamps during 1991. Let us know your top three sets and favourite individual stamp (numbered 1-56) on the enclosed voting form. Also please tell us why you like your

favourite set best. We will award 1991 Year-books to the five readers whose comments are the most original and interesting.

The closing date for votes is 31 January 1992 and the results will be published in the *Bulletin*. We look forward to receiving your vote.

A. Dogs



1



2



3



4



5

B. Scientific Achievements



6



7



8



9

C. Europe in Space



10



11



12



13

D. Sport 91



14



15



16



17

E. Roses



18



19



20



21



22

F. Dinosaurs



23



24



25



26



27

G. Maps



28



29



30



31

H. Christmas



32



33



34



35



36

I. Greetings (Good Luck)



42



43



44



45



46

J. Greetings (Smiles)



52



53



54



55



56

Stamping the Mail

Part 2 – Local Posts

TONY GAMMONS

Exhibitions Officer, National Postal Museum

Before March 1680 London, despite being the centre of the postal network, had no “local” service of its own. General Post and Foreign Office letter carriers delivered mail posted outside the capital but for a letter to travel across London private carriers, or porters, had to be used.

In March 1680 the following notice appeared in the Whig newspaper *Mercurius Civicus*: “We are informed some ingenious persons and good Citizens, for the benefit of the City and Suburbs in point of charge and quick conveyance of notes and letters, have projected a method for doing the same throughout for a 1d per letter....”. This was the earliest announcement of what was to be London’s first Penny Post, the brainchild of Robert Murray and William Dockwra. Soon after the service started Murray, in political trouble, was arrested and Dockwra carried on alone. He opened several hundred offices where messengers called for letters every hour and sent them out for delivery from four to twelve times a day. Prepayment of the 1d postage was compulsory and parcels were carried and insured by the service. Triangular handstamps containing the wording “Penny Post Paid”, with Paid upright at the base, and a letter in the

courts found in the Duke’s favour and the service was closed down. The venture had been so successful that within a few weeks the 1d post reopened under the control of the Post Office. Triangular handstamps continued to be used although in the GPO version all the words read

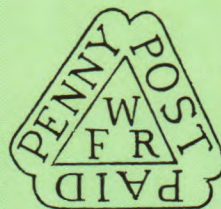


Fig.2 Post Office Penny Post triangular handstamp inwards (Fig 2). 1794 saw great changes in the London Penny Post. The triangular stamps were discontinued and each Receiving House was issued with its own “name stamp”. Another major change was that prepayment was made optional. In 1801 the postage rate was raised to

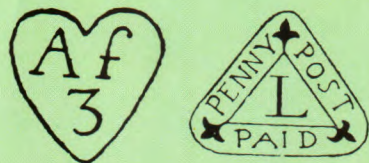


Fig.1 Dockwraa Penny Post handstamps

centre denoting the office of stamping. Figure 1 shows the stamp for the chief office in Lime street together with the “heart shaped” mark used to show the time the letter left the office on delivery. In 1682, with the service beginning to show a profit, the Duke of York (later King James II), who held the postal monopoly, instituted proceedings against Dockwra. The

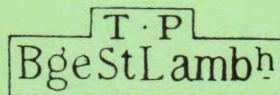


Fig.3 2d Post handstamps, 1801

2d offices were issued with appropriate stamps (Fig 3); the frameless variety coming into use c.1836. The 2d Post came to an end with the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840.

Up to 1764 the Post Office carried letters to Post Towns only and did not undertake to deliver them to the addressee. Villages general employed their own messenger to collect the mail from the nearest post town. Sometimes town Postmasters undertook, as a private ven-

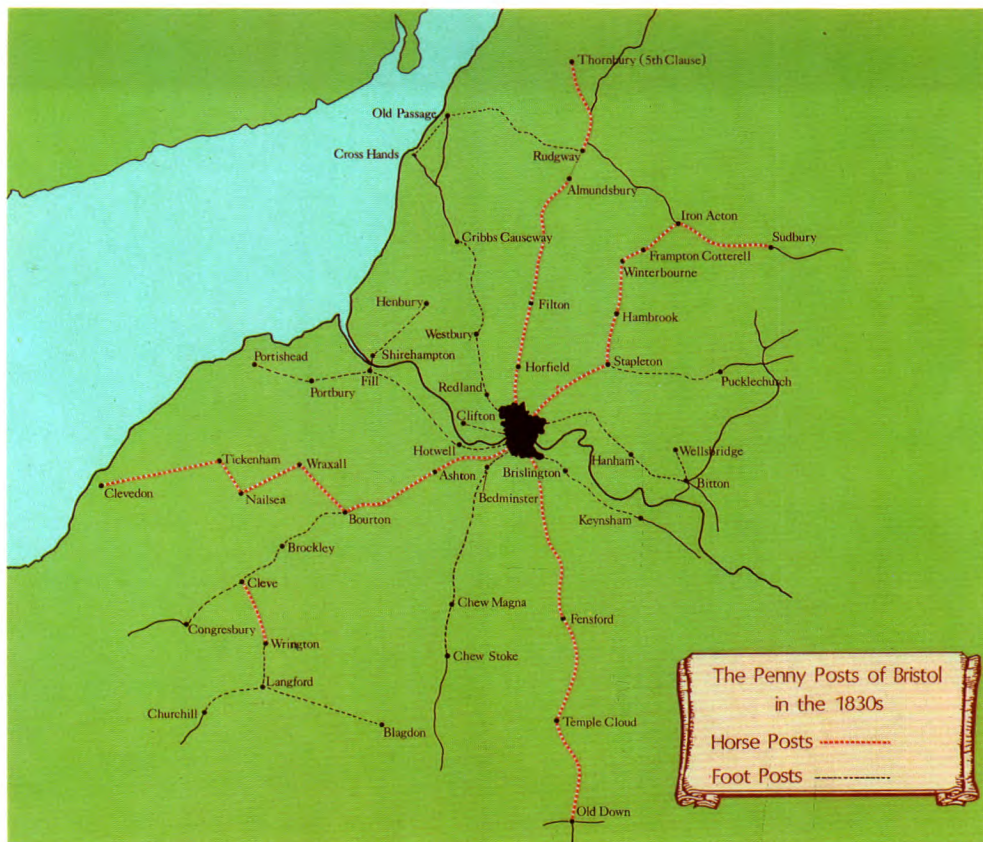


Fig.4 Penny Posts of Bristol in the 1830s

ture, the delivery of letters to the villages receiving for themselves a fixed sum on each letter. In 1764 the Postmaster General was authorised to set up, in any city or town, a penny post of the kind that operated in London and in 1774 the Court of the King's Bench established the rule that within the limits of a post town letters should be delivered free of charge. It was not, however, until 1793 that the first English Penny Posts were opened in Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham. Many of these Penny Posts covered a large area with which people could send a letter for a penny. The limits of the Bristol Penny Post are shown in figure 4. The first real effort to give villages an official service was made in 1801. By the fifth clause of Act 41 Geo.III cap 7, the Postmaster General was authorised to make special arrangements in places "not being post towns" for the collection and conveyance of letters. The posts were known as "Fifth Clause" or "Convention" posts. By 1803 there were 13 fifth clause posts

which had only risen to 52 by 1838 while by the same year the number of penny posts had risen to 1922. Figure 5 shows a letter carried by the

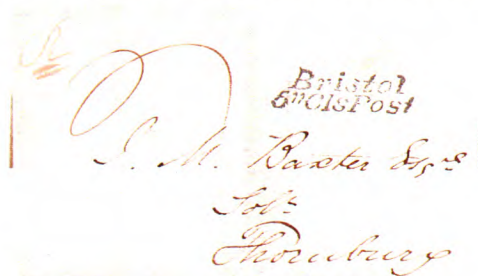


Fig.5 Bristol Fifth Clause Post handstamp

Bristol fifth clause post (Thornton on the Bristol map). As with the London local post all of these local posts ceased on the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage.

Part 1 of this article (*The Early Days*) was published last month.

Greetings (Memories)

28 January 1992

The fourth issue of Royal Mail Greetings Stamps will be released on 28 January 1992, comprising 10 first class NV1 stamps each with a different design making up a composite picture. The stamps will be sold in a book, including 12 Greetings labels, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters, and post offices, price £2.40.

The theme of the designs is "Memories"; the stamps feature memorabilia such as a locket, key, picture cigarette cards, old toy car, Ordnance Survey map, compass, pocket watch, nibpen, marbles and seaside bucket and spade. Stamp collectors will particularly welcome the inclusion in one design of a Victorian Penny Red stamp on cover.

Attached to the stamps will be 12 labels bearing the messages "With Love" (2 labels), "Best Wishes" (3), "Sweet Memories", "Congratulations", "Forget-me-Not", "Happy Birthday" (3), and "Thank You".

The design of the front cover of the book

features labels and pressed flowers. For the first time, these Greetings stamps will also be available in a presentation pack.

Technical Details

The stamps have been designed by Trickett and Webb and printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Ltd. The stamps are horizontal in format, size 41 x 300mm, perforated 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum. The pane consists of 10 stamps, in two rows of five horizontally with selvege along the top and bottom only. The labels will be printed three across and four deep continuing on from the stamps, also with selvege at top and bottom. The overall size of the finished book is 69.5 x 95mm.

The stamps are printed on non-phosphor paper overprinted with two phosphor bars.

First Day Facilities

The Royal Mail first day cover, designed by Trickett and Webb, features a "Memories" label and pressed flowers. It will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices, price 21p, approximately two weeks before the stamps are issued.

The usual first day posting boxes will be provided at main offices and pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be available for the Bureau and Whimsey, Gloucestershire. Applica-





tion forms for the Bureau's first day cover service are available from the Bureau, they should be returned by 28 January.

Customers wishing to post their own covers under the reposting facility should send them, on the day of issue, in an outer cover endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Mid-

lands Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Birmingham, Royal Mail Street, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA (Whimsey postmark). Details of other pictorial postmarks will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 29 January, price 21p.



1991 Definitives, Country Stamps and Stamped Stationery Checklist

Each December we publish a listing of definitives and country stamps issued during the year. We hope this 1991 list will prove helpful to collectors in completing their collections. At the request of readers we have added stamped (postal) stationery to this listing. Please read the introductory notes carefully.

Notes

Definitive stamps are printed by four companies:

(1) Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, perf. 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum, on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands, Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) or Non-phosphor paper.

(2) Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, photogravure, perf. 15 x 14, PVA gum, on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands.

(3) The House of Questa Ltd, offset-lithography, perf. 15 x 14, PVA gum on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands or Phosphor Coated Paper (PCP).

(4) Walsall Security Printers Ltd, offset-lithography, perf. 14, PVA gum on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands or PCP. These printers are indicated in the listing by H, Q and W respectively.

Country stamps - all printed by Questa in offset-litho; perf. 15 x 14, PVA gum, on fluorescent coated paper with phosphor bands or PCP.

Some of the single stamps are issued only in books and can only be bought from the Post Office in complete books. To help collectors we quote the relevant British Philatelic Bureau order number (prefixed DB, DC, IS, etc). These numbers are given on the Bureau stock list.

ACP = Advanced Coated Paper

PCP = Phosphor Coated Paper

H = Harrison & Sons Ltd

E = Joh. Enschedé en Zonen

Q = The House of Questa Ltd

W = Walsall Security Printers Ltd

5 February

10 x 1st class Greetings stamps showing Good Luck symbols, H, 2 bands (ex £2.20 Greetings

book) (JB002)

£2.20 Greetings Book (JB002)

Note: Selling price increased to £2.40 from 16 September.

12 March

Scottish Aerogramme - Rugby World Cup. Price 42p — includes 32p postage paid by imprinted NVI stamp (QS027)

Note: Selling price increased to 44p (34p postage) from 16 September.

19 March

17p dark blue, Q, centre band (ex £6 "Alias Agatha Christie" prestige book) (YB002)

22p flame, Q, PCP (ex £6 prestige book) (YB002)

33p emerald, Q, PCP (ex £6 prestige book) (YB002)

17p dark blue, Q, centre band pane of 6 with surrounding selvedge showing perforated outline of a body and murder weapons (ex £6 prestige book) (YB002)

17p dark blue, Q, centre band pane of 6 with surrounding selvedge showing plan of first floor of "Styles" (ex £6 prestige book) (YB002)

22p flame, Q, PCP pane of 9 with surrounding selvedge (ex £6 prestige book) (YB002)

Mixed pane containing 6 x 22p, 2 x 33p and "The Queen of Crime Agatha Christie" label, Q, PCP (ex £6 prestige book) (YB002)

£6 "Alias Agatha Christie" Prestige Book (YB002)

26 March

10 x 1st class Greetings stamps featuring Smiles (designs as issue of 6 February 1990 but with 1ST indicator replacing 20p) H, 2 bands (ex £2.20 Greetings book) (JB003)

£2.20 Greetings Book (JB003)

Note: Selling price increased to £2.40 from 16 September.

April

NVI Retail Book, W, 4 x 2nd class dark blue — as

issue of 7 August 1990 but with modified locking tab and adhesive seal (68p) (UB031)
 NVI Retail Book, W, 4 x 1st class flame – as issue of 7 August 1990 but with modified locking tab and adhesive seal (88p) (UB032)
 NVIRetail Book, W, 10 x 1st class flame – as issue of 7 August 1990 but with modified locking tab and adhesive seal (£2.20) (UB034)

NVIRetail Book, W, 10 x 2nd class dark blue – as issue of 7 August 1990 but with modified locking tab and adhesive seal (£1.70) (UB033)

Notes: (1) April is the date of issue quoted on the British Philatelic Bureau stock list. There was no specific first day of availability of these books; the books of 4 and 10 x 1st book went on sale at post offices and retail outlets from March onwards as stocks of earlier books were used up. Books of 10 x 2nd class went on sale early June. (2) Selling prices increased to 72p (4 x 2nd class), 96p (4 x 1st class), £1.80 (10 x 2nd class) and £2.40 (10 x 1st class) from 16 September.

14 May

Definitives Presentation Pack containing one of each of 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p (light tan), 17p, 20p (sea green), 22p, 26p, 27p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p, 37p, 50p and 75p stamps. Pack No. 24, price £4.55 (DR001)

14 May

Scotland 22p Q, PCP on paper supplied by Coated Papers Ltd (CPL), PVA gum (SS224)

Scotland 26p, Q, PCP on CPL paper, PVA gum (SS263)

Scotland 37p Q, PCP, on CPL paper, PVA gum (SS371)

Wales 22p Q, PCP on CPL paper, PVA gum (WS223)

Note: Previous printings, also by Questa, had PVA Dextrin gum.

25 June

50p Machine Book: Aeroplanes 4 – British Aerospace BAE 146, BAE ATP and BAC Concorde (contents as Aeroplanes 3, issued 4 September 1990, viz: 2 x 17p left band and 1 x 17p right band) (TB007)

£1 Machine Book: Mills 4 – Howell Mill, Llandeusan, Anglesey (contents as Mills 3, issued 4 September 1990, viz: 3 x 22p 2 bands, 2 x 17p right band, straight edges at left and right of pane) (TB008)

July

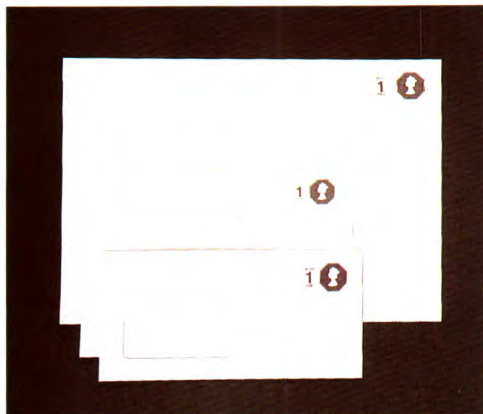
£1.24 Retail Book, W, 4 x 31p PCP – as issue of 17 September 1990 but with modified locking tab and adhesive seal (UB042)

Note: July is the date of issue quoted on the British Philatelic Bureau stock list. There was no specific first day of availability of this book; it went on sale at post offices and retail outlets from early June as stocks of the earlier book were used up.

23 July

Scottish Aerogramme – Centenary of An Comunn Gaedhealach. Price 42p – includes 32p postage paid by imprinted NVI stamp (QS028).

Note: Selling price increased to 44p (34p postage) from 16 September.



30 July

DL size (110 x 220mm) stamped envelope, 1st class indicator, 27p (RX001)

DL stamped envelope, 2nd class indicator, 22p (RX002)

C4 size (229 x 324mm) stamped envelope, 1st class, 38p (RZ001)

C4 stamped envelope, 2nd class, 32p (RZ002)

C5 size (162 x 229mm) stamped envelope, 1st class indicator, 37p (RY001)

C5 stamped envelope, 2nd class, 31p (RY002)

Notes: (1) These envelopes are not available at post offices: they are specifically intended for sale to small businesses ordering from the Royal Mail Supply Dept at Hemel Hempstead. Collectors can obtain supplies from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters. (2) Selling prices increased from 16 September – 2p 1st class, 1p 2nd class, except C4 1st class – increased by 3p.

6 August

1st class (22p) NVI flame, Q, PCP, PVA gum

(ex £2.20 retail book) (UB041) *Note: Previously OVA Dextrin gum (7 August 1990)*

Pane 4 x 2nd class (17p) NVI, bright blue, W, centre band, perforated on all sides (ex 68p retail book) (UB035) *Note: Previous pane of 4, issued 22 August 1989, had straight edges at top, right and bottom*

Pane 10 x 2nd class (17p) NVI, bright blue, W, straight edges top and bottom (ex £1.70 retail book) (UB037) *Note: First issue of 10 x 2nd bright blue printed by Walsall, no new single stamps involved*

Pane 10 x 1st class (22p) NVI, flame, Q, PCP, PVA gum (ex £2.20 retail book) (UB041) *See note above re previous printing*

NVI Retail Book, W, (4 x 2nd Class – bright blue, 68p) (UB035)

NVI Retail Book, W, (10 x 2nd Class – bright blue, £1.70) (UB037)

NVI Retail Book, Q, (10 x 2nd Class – bright blue, £1.70) (UB040)

NVI Retail Book, W, (4 x 1st Class – flame, 88p) (UB036)

NVI Retail Book, W, (10 x 1st Class – flame, £2.20) (UB038)

NVI Retail Book, Q, (10 x 1st Class – flame, £2.20) (UB041)

NVI Retail Book, H, (10 x 1st Class – flame, £2.20) (UB039)

Notes: (1) Selling prices increased to 72p (4 x 2nd class), 96p (4 x 1st), £1.80 (10 x 2nd), and £2.40 (10 x 1st) from 16 September when 2nd and 1st class rates were increased to 18p and 24p respectively. (2) The 1st class books contain the same stamps and panes as the books issued on 7 August 1990 but have a new Freepost address in London (previously Newcastle upon Tyne) to which to write for postal rate information on the inside back cover of the book.

10 September

6p lime green, H, ACP (DS060)

18p light green, H, centre band (ex sheets) (DS182)

24p rust, H, ACP (ex sheets) (DS242)

28p slate blue, H, ACP (DS283)

34p purple, H, ACP (DS344)

35p old gold, H, ACP (DS351)

39p rhododendron, H, ACP (DS390)

Definitive New Issue Pack (No. 25) (£2.15) (DP014)

2p green, H, ACP, straight edge left (ex £1 machine book) (TB010)

2p green, H, ACP, straight edge right (ex £1 machine book) (TB010)

24p rust, H, ACP, straight edge left (ex £1

machine book) (TB010)

24p rust, H, ACP, straight edge right (ex £1 machine book) (TB010)

Pane 24p x 2, 1p x 2, H, (ex 50p book) (TB009)

Pane 24p x 4, 2p x 2, H, (ex £1 book) (TB010)

50p Machine Book (Archaeology 1) (TB009)

£1 Machine Book (Punch 1) (TB010)

Note: The 50p and £1 books issued on 10 September contained inaccurate postal rate information; books with corrected details went into distribution in late October/early November and were distributed to Bureau standing order customers on 19 November. Bureau codes: TB011 (50p), TB012 (£10).



16 September

33p emerald, W, PCP, straight edge top (ex £1.32 retail book) (UB043)

33p emerald, W, PCP, straight edge bottom (ex £1.32 retail book) (UB043)

39p rhododendron, W, PCP, straight edge top (ex £1.56 retail book) (UB044)

39p rhododendron, W, PCP, straight edge bottom (ex £1.56 retail book) (UB044)

Pane 4 x 33p with straight edges top and bottom, W (ex £1.32 retail book) (UB043)

Pane 4 x 39p with straight edges top and bottom, W (ex £1.56 retail book) (UB044)

£1.32 Retail Book, W, (4 x 33p, plus airmail labels) (UB043)

£1.56 Retail Book, W, (4 x 39p, plus airmail labels) (UB044)

18p Vertical Roll, H, (Code XL500) (DC851/DC051)

24p Vertical Roll, H, (Code YL500) (DC852/DC052)

1 October

18p Mixed Value Roll, H, 2 x 4p, 2 x 5p, ACP (DC855/DC055)

Note: This roll was issued on Tuesday 1 October; the 2 October date was announced by Royal Mail Stamps in error.

8 October

Christmas Aerogramme. Price 44p – includes 34p postage paid by imprinted NVI stamp (QX013)



19 November

18p light green, E, single band (ex sheets) (DS183)

3 December

N. Ireland 18p light green, single band (IS181)

N. Ireland 24p rust, PCP (IS241)

N. Ireland 28p slate blue, PCP (IS282)

N. Ireland 39p rhododendron, PCP (IS390)

Scotland 18p light green, single band (SS182)

Scotland 24p rust, PCP (SS241)

Scotland 28p slate blue, PCP (SS282)

Scotland 39p rhododendron, PCP (SS390)

Wales 18p light green, single band (WS182)

Wales 24p rust, PCP (WS241)

Wales 28p slate blue, PCP (WS282)

Wales 39p rhododendron, PCP (WS390)

Country Stamp Pack (No. 26) (£3.60) (CP010)

Please Note:

1. Listed above are all items issued or notified to the Editor by mid-November. Any subsequent issues will be listed later.

2. This annual list replaces the Six Month Digest this month; the Digest will return in January.

3. The Editor regrets he is unable to engage in correspondence regarding the contents of this annual listing.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: December Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 January.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent books of the new Greetings (Nostalgia) stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the March *Bulletin*.

1. Which animal features on the second class Wintertime stamp?
2. Pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks are being used for the Bureau and which Welsh town for the Wintertime issue?
3. What was the date of issue of the 1991 Christmas aerogramme?
4. Which British stamps are included the latest "Our World" book?
5. How many special and greetings stamps were issued during 1991?

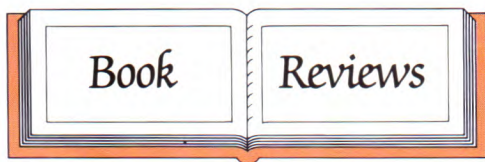
The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail Stamps and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the September competition were:

J E Kenney of Leicestershire (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); M E White of Hampshire; M A Latchford of Australia; S Grisard of France; D Jackson of Berkshire; and G Joensen of Norway (Christmas presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Jane Thomson; 2. Wales; 3. Park Hotel, Cardiff; 4. Shakespeare; 5. 1990.

Our thanks to all who entered.



The third volume in the **Our World: Images of Nature** series was published in October and contains chapters on nature conservation and stamps from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Sweden, the United Nations and the United States. The book, produced by Australia Post, has text in English, French, German and Swedish. Its theme is commitment to scientific study of natural phenomena and conservation of the environment. A World Conservation Strategy was adopted in 1980 in an attempt to ensure the Earth's continuing capacity to sustain development and to support life in all its variety.

The Australian stamps (issued 14 February 1991, S.G. 1279-82) feature birds of the Australian Wetlands – Black Swan, Black-necked Stork, Cape Barren Goose and Chestnut Teal. Like so many wilderness regions, wetlands are threatened by the incursion of people. Canada's contribution comprises the Heritage Rivers System stamps (20 August 1991). This co-operative programme, involving federal, provincial and territorial parks agencies, was established in 1984 to give national recognition to the important rivers of Canada. The Swedish stamps (6 October 1990, S.G. 1537-40) depict meteorology. In recent years information from weather satellites has become increasingly important, providing accurate data and a fresh perspective. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute's method of classifying clouds has attracted considerable international interest.

For many years the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe has been active in tackling the many environmental challenges facing the world: air and water pollution, prevention of industrial accidents, waste management, and protecting plant and animal life. The work of the Commission features on the four United Nations stamps (15 March 1991, S.G. 594-7). The United States stamps feature marine mammals (3 October 1990, S.G. 2542-5) – Killer Whale, Sea Otter, Northern Sea Lion, and Common Dolphin. The intelligence of marine mammals has assisted in protecting them from the ravages of hunting, pollution and competition with fisheries.

The British set comprise the five Roses stamps of 16 July 1991 (S.G. 1568-72). Designed by Yvonne Skargon, they feature *Rosa Silver Jubilee*, *Rosa Mme Alfred Carrière*, *Rosa moyesii*, *Rosa Harvest Fayre*, and *Rosa chinensis* – just some of the most attractive of thousands of varieties of this most popular plant. The stamps commemorated the ninth World Congress of Roses held in Belfast in 1991.

This handsome 16-page book is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and postshops, price £7.50. It can be ordered, together with volumes 1 and 2 (1989 and 1990) for the special price of £18.

The **Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook** was first produced in 1984 and proved very popular with collectors not only for the information it gave about the special issues but for its fine design and lavish production. The 1987 Yearbook was awarded first prize in an annual design competition organised by *Print Buyer* magazine (see January 1989 *Bulletin*). The early Yearbooks are now highly prized – the 1984, 1985 and 1986 editions are now catalogued at £85 each by Stanley Gibbons (*GB Concise Catalogue*, 1991 edition). The 1991 Yearbook, published on 12 November, maintains the high quality of its predecessors. A chapter is devoted to each of the eight sets of 1991 special stamps: Dogs, Scientific Achievements, Europe in Space, Sport 91, Roses, Dinosaurs, Maps, and Christmas – with details given of the designs, designers and the subject matter. The stamps are supplied on a stock card and can be mounted on the relevant page if desired.

In the chapter on the Dogs stamps, the skill of George Stubbs (1724-1806) is detailed. His remarkable powers of observation enabled him to suggest with telling accuracy the illusion of motion. Many years elapsed before stop-motion photographs provided an answer to the question that had troubled many artists: were all four hooves of a galloping horse in the air at the same time, for instance? Stubbs had only the evidence of his eyes and his specialised knowledge of anatomy to guide him. Every picture tells a story and there is an interesting story about Stubbs's painting on the 31p stamp. This painting was produced in 1792 for one Thomas Vyner of Lincolnshire – a first rate judge of breeding hounds and an accomplished horseman. In the mid-19th century the painting was taken to Australia by a member of the family. When it returned to Britain in 1972, the canvas

was ripped by a forklift truck. Great skill was needed in restoration before it could hang proudly in the Tate Gallery.

For the Scientific Achievements stamps, Royal Mail took the unusual step of dividing the designs between two artists – John Harwood (who painted the medals on the 1990 Gallantry stamps) and Peter Till. Mr Harwood specialises in sleek, impeccably-finished artbrush work, reflecting one of the predominant methods of illustration used in advertising. Mr Till's line-drawing technique deliberately echoes the engraving style of the last century.

The controversial Europe in Space stamps were the work of Jean-Michel Folon who, we are told, is "a large, amiable man, who lives in a large, amiable farmhouse..." One might require a large imagination to appreciate his designs which are explained in the Yearbook.

The Sport 91 stamps, commemorating the World Student Games and the Rugby World Cup, were designed by Sue Huntley and Donna Muir, two extremely versatile artists who brought vigour, freshness and imagination to a popular subject. They studied a dozen or more sports before finally deciding on those most suitable for the stamps. Fencing appealed because of its lyrical quality; diving as it represented personal endeavour rather than team effort. Track and field events seemed symbolic of the whole Olympic ethos and on the 26p stamp Huntley-Muir acknowledge the high percentage of black athletes who have reached the top in British events.

The designs of the Roses stamps were based on wood engravings by Yvonne Skargon who lives in an old house in Suffolk "surrounded by dried flowers, pictures, books and her two cats..." Her well-stocked garden provided reference and inspiration for her work. Her method of working, from sketches often produced long before the wood engravings are made, is fully described.

Professor Bryan Kneale much enjoyed designing the Dinosaur stamps which reminded him of listening, as a child, to a radio adaptation of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*, the story of how a living colony of dinosaurs is found on a remote South American mountain. The same programme may have inspired his brother to write the celebrated *Quatermass* television dramas. Another family connection – his grandson, Tom, lent him all his dinosaur models to help with the stamp designs.

The complicated printing required (see



November *Bulletin*) made the Maps issue one of the most interesting sets of special stamps in recent years. Howard Brown, the designer, considered various approaches to this set, finally deciding to show maps of different periods to show how both the area and the maps had changed. He chose Hamstreet in Kent as "the first military surveys were done in Kent, so that seemed a good starting point ... I was looking for a village that hadn't become too built up, where the routes met in an interesting sort of way... I was looking for lots of details ... to make the place look interesting from a graphic point of view." Fulfilling these requirements certainly put Hamstreet on the map – and in the stamp album.

The delightful Christmas stamps, reproducing medieval illuminated manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, were the work of David Driver – designer of the 1989 Scottish aerogramme featuring works in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. David, Art Director of *The Times*, has been a stamp collector since boyhood. He found *The Acts of Mary and Jesus* selected itself for the Christmas stamps as the paintings had good strong shapes that fitted the format well. The illustrations are only slightly smaller than the originals, so the richness of detail has been preserved.

The Yearbook contains 40 profusely illustrated pages and is supplied with attractive slipcase. Available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and most main post offices, price £19.50.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

192. Postal Fiscals



In 1853 the stamp duties on receipts and drafts for amounts not exceeding £2 in value were reduced to 1d and made payable by means of adhesive stamps, a great simplification and boon, equivalent in its way to the introduction of Penny Postage. The first stamps for denoting these duties (and the first adhesive stamps produced by De La Rue & Co) were the 1853 Receipt 1d blue and Draft 1d brown stamps. The latter was featured in the "Gems" in May 1988. Stamps inscribed for specific fiscal duties were not valid for postage but those not so designated could be used on mail.

An act of 1881 required stamps to be produced which could be used for either postage or revenue purposes. The famous 1d lilac, issued in July 1881, was inscribed POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE. A further act in 1882 authorised the use on mail of Inland Revenue stamps up to the value of 2s 6d.

This month's Gem is a registered cover posted at Kemp Town, Brighton on 4 December 1912 and bearing two Inland Revenue 1d stamps – one of the 1860 design,

the other (smaller) of 1868. It is particularly appropriate that this cover should be in the Phillips Collection as Mr Phillips lived in Brighton for many years, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Sussex, at Brighton, in 1970 (see *Bulletin* September 1970), and opened the Brighton Philatelic Counter in 1972 (*Bulletin* November 1972).

Postal Fiscal stamps are listed by Stanley Gibbons in their *Part 1*, *GB Concise*, and *GB Specialised* catalogues. The stamps are of considerably more value used on cover than in unused or used condition.

This item can be seen on page 24 of volume 43 of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1. The Museum, open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm and Friday 9.30am to 4pm, is a short walk from St Paul's Cathedral and the Museum of London. The nearest underground station is St Paul's. Admission is free.

Two special exhibitions are currently on show: "Maps and the Post Office" (until March 1992) and "Stamping the Mail" (until April 1992).

1990 Special Stamp Quantities

The quantities issued to counters were:

RSPCA

20p	33,735,600
29p	6,098,100
34p	5,990,700
37p	5,784,200
Stamp cards (sets)	132,870

Europa

20p Alex. Pal.	20,427,400
20p Glas. Sch. of Art	21,010,000
29p	5,835,200
37p	5,610,200
Stamp cards (sets)	99,975

Queen's Awards

20p (pairs)	44,503,800
37p (pairs)	9,566,400
Stamp cards (sets)	99,790

Kew Gardens

20p	31,606,100
29p	5,699,500
34p	5,663,400
37p	5,469,900
Stamp cards (sets)	101,455

Thomas Hardy

20p	31,661,000
Stamp card	108,180

Queen Mother

20p	60,826,900
29p	8,694,800
34p	8,683,500
37p	8,504,800
Stamp cards (sets)	131,575

Gallantry

20p VC	13,740,900
20p GC	13,742,400
20p DSC	13,738,400
20p MC	13,688,400
20p DFC	13,738,500
Stamp cards (sets)	96,904

Astronomy

22p	31,555,000
26p	5,971,900
31p	5,915,100
37p	5,747,900
Stamp cards	97,090

Christmas

17p	288,828,200
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22p	169,897,800
26p	14,336,900
31p	14,069,100
37p	15,492,700
Stamp cards (sets)	128,104

The numbers of 1989/90 acrogrammes distributed to counters were as follows:

1989 Christmas	1,026,350
1990 Forth Bridge	93,600
1990 Glasgow	88,500
1990 Christmas	918,700

Student Stamp Designs

Shown here are two more of the stamp designs from the Royal Society of Arts Design Competition for 1990/91. These designs were by Philip Ashcroft of Harrow College. Details of the competition, and some of the designs, were published here in August (page 284) and September (page 13).



We should be interested to hear readers' views on these student designs for Shakespeare stamps. Comments should be sent to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

The theme for the RSA Design Competition for 1991/92 is Summertime; we will feature some of the designs in due course.

JOHN HOLMAN

Letter Box Mystery Solved

The Rev. Jonathan Cruickshank of Windsor wrote concerning the Posting Boxes feature in August: "In answer to your question as to how the George VI box (Type B) came to be outside the Post Office in Portsmouth, New Hampshire USA, it was a present from the Mayor of Portsmouth, England. It was transported by HMS *Southampton* and delivered by the ship's company in August 1985 on a goodwill visit to New Hampshire. At that time I was serving as a naval chaplain in HMS *Sirius* and we had in November 1984 transported and presented a telephone kiosk (Jubilee type made by MacFarlane and Co Ltd, Glasgow) to Portsmouth, New Hampshire as well. The telephone apparatus had been replaced by the ship's crest. The location of this kiosk is just out of sight to the right of your photograph. I believe both events were photographed and recorded in the edition of *Navy News* of that time."

Maps stamps

The Maps stamps generated a lot of interest. Derek Latham of West Midlands wrote concerning the 39p value: "As a geography teacher and keen philatelist, may I express my congratulations to the Post Office for the stamps issued to commemorate the bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey. However, I would like to correct an error in the description of the 39p stamp given in the August *Bulletin*. The 'red-and-white road' symbol, found towards the centre of the left hand edge of the stamp, and also forming part of the Saxon Shore Way to the north of Hamstreet is not the symbol for a narrow road with passing places, as this is confined to main roads only. Rather it is a combination of the symbol for a drive or unmetalled track and that for a public bridleway." I am obliged to Mr Latham for setting the record straight.

J W H Watts of Gloucestershire made an interesting comment on the NPM Map postcard illustrated on page 275 in August: "The part of Cary's map (1816) shows two interesting alterations from today. South of Rye is shown 'Winchelsea Castle'. This Henry VIII anti-French invasion castle is now known as Camber

Castle. The older name seems more appropriate as it is only about 1¼ miles from, and overlooked by, Winchelsea, whereas Camber is some 3 miles away on the other side of the River Rother. Showing how the coastline has changed (and continues to do so) are the two situations shown of Rye Harbour (old and new). The Old appears to be a little to the east of the present one whereas the New one is shown at what is now Winchelsea Beach (formerly Dog's Hill); what was apparently part of the Pier Head was uncovered when the sea broke through during the storms of August 1930 and 1931."

1971 Postal Strike

Reports continue to arrive of post offices open for business and handling mail during the strike of 1971. W Graves of Lancashire and D Hill of Gloucestershire report first day covers of the decimal definitive stamps postmarked at Garstang, Lancs and Great Barrington, Gloucestershire on 15 February 1971. Mr Latham of West Midlands reports: "the Philatelic Bureau in the main post office in Birmingham agreed to cancel covers posted over their counter on February 15th. I have one such example in my collection which was obtained for me by my father." RC Sutherland of Aberdeen reports Golspie Post Office in Sutherland as open on Decimal Day; he has two covers with complete sets of decimal stamps postmarked there. Listings of offices open during the strike were published in February, May, June and August 1991.

18p Definitive

John Donald of Worthing has written concerning shades he has noticed on the new 18p light green definitive, issued in sheets on 10 September and in coils on 16 September 1991. Stamps from cylinder 4, says Mr Donald, are light green with a pale Queen's face, whereas stamps from cylinder 7 are in lime green with shaded cheek and dark face. Stamps from coils are also in lime green with heavier shading still on The Queen's cheek and a darker face. Readers interested in shades will be grateful to Mr Donald for his observations.

All letters sent to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in "Postbag" or other sections of the Bulletin. Readers' comments relating to stamp issuing policy are brought to the attention of the relevant Royal Mail Manager. The Editor regrets that he is unable to reply personally to all letters – to do so would seriously delay publication of this, and the Postmark, Bulletin.

Commemorative Covers

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

Christmas. Benham have produced a number of covers for the Christmas issue. Their main cover is "the official Futura Books Brother Cadfael Second Omnibus", featuring a "silk" illustration in medieval style of Brother Cadfael on the hills above Shrewsbury. Benham organised a mail coach run through the streets of Shrewsbury on the day of issue. Price £4.99. Another cover commemorates the 500th anniversary of the birth of Henry VIII; the covers bear a special Tudor Rose handstamp used at Greenwich. Price £4.99. In addition Benham have produced small "silk" covers illustrating Nativity scenes from illuminated manuscripts; the set of five covers costs £12.50. A set of five "silk" postcards is available at the same price. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Christmas. To commemorate this year's Christmas issue, showing Illuminated Manuscripts, a special first day cover has been produced. The edition, which will be limited to 750 covers inclusive of 75 signed by the Bishop of Lincoln, were cancelled with a special Jerusalem, Skellingthorpe, Lincoln handstamp on 12 November. The covers cost £5.95 or £8.95 signed, plus 40p per order for postage and packing. Orders/enquiries: C Cooke, 4 The Dene, Skellingthorpe, LINCOLN LN6 5ST.



Rugby World Cup Final. A souvenir cover was produced for the final on 2 November by Royal Mail Twickenham and Covercraft. Price £3.50. Orders/enquiries: Debbie Gill, Customer Care, Royal Mail, 109 London Road, TWICKENHAM TW1 1AA. Remittances payable to "Royal Mail".

Duck Stamps

With the recent launch of "Duck Stamps", the UK joins the United States, Canada, Australia and the USSR in adopting this method of raising funds for wildlife conservation. The UK scheme is particularly modelled on the US federal duck stamp programme which enables hunters to "put something back" into the management of the wildlife resource.



The first in a series of British "Duck Stamps" produced by the Wildlife Habitat (Conservation Stamp) Trust is now available. The £5 stamp, designed by Rodger McPhail, features a flight of pintail, one of our most elegant migratory ducks, over the East Lighthouse at the mouth of the River Nene on The Wash. Issued on 31 August 1991, the stamp can be purchased singly or in sheets of six at face value plus 24p postage (single stamps) or 45p (sheet). The sheet, which measures 6½ x 8½ ins, has a decorative border, by Rodger McPhail. Also available is a "Stamp Sheetlet" described as "single stamp in collector's cover with the UK Habitat Conservation Stamp Programme information", price £5 plus 24p postage, and "Premier First Day Cover – artist signed First Day Cover with special Wildlife Habitat Trust/Euroducks cancellation and Rodger McPhail artwork. Complete with own album and programme/artist information cards" – price £19.95 plus £1 postage. All orders/enquiries to: Wildlife Habitat (Conservation Stamp) Trust, Marford Mill, Rossett, WREXHAM, Clwyd, LL12 0HL, Tel. Rossett (0244) 570881. The Trust is part of the British Association for Shooting & Conservation, founded in 1908. Patron of the Association is HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Our World Images of Nature Book



Shown here is the third volume in the "Our World" series containing stamps showing flowers from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Sweden, United Nations and the USA. The book, published in October, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and post shops, price £7.50. It is reviewed on page 90.

December Digest

Issued in December

3 December: 18p, 24p, 28p and 39p Country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Printing: The House of Questa, offset-lithography; 18p – fluorescent coated paper with one phosphor band, 24p–39p phosphor coated paper. Sheets of 200, PVA gum.

Presentation Pack: Contains stamps for all three countries. Price £3.60.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau, Belfast, Cardiff, and Edinburgh.

31 December: Wintertime stamp cards, Nos. 139A–E, price 21p each. (Wintertime stamps issued 14 January 1992).

Withdrawn in December

31 December: 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamp (issued 10 January 1990).

31 December: Collectors' Packs Nos. 10, 11 and 12 containing respectively Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish 12p, 13p, 17p, 18p, 22p, 26p, 28p and 31p stamps (packs issued 3 March 1987).

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