

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 34 Number 11

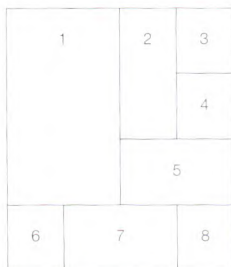
JULY 1997 • 85p

Bulletin

Post Offices stamps • Perfins
• New Scottish aerogramme



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover photographs 1) The Post Office at Castle Bolton, Leyburn; 2) Posting box, Eton, Windsor; 3) Great Tew, Chip-ping Norton; 4) Killecrankie, Pitlochry, Scotland; 5) Darley Dale, Matlock; 6) Knowle, Budleigh Salterton; 7) Great Tew; 8) Kilberry Inn, Tarbert, Scotland. Photographs by Michael Taylor. Royal Mail's new Post Offices stamps are featured on page 324.

Issues Note some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Gatwick airport, Glasgow, Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (Lombard Street, Trafalgar Square and Victoria Street), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York.

1 July

Issues Scottish aerogramme: Nature of Scotland • Country definitives Northern Ireland and Scotland 20p, 26p, 37p & 63p printed by Walsall in gravure • Country definitives Wales 20, 26, 37 & 63 (pence) printed by Walsall in gravure. No p (pence) sign after value • All The Queen's Horses stamp cards

1 July

Withdrawal 2nd class NVI in sheets – blue fluor (issued Nov '95) and extended phosphor (Dec '96); Scottish aerogramme: Edinburgh Festival

7 July

Withdrawal £1 and £2 machine books, £1.48 (4 × 37p) and £2.52 (4 × 63p) books, all issued 8 July '96

8 July

Issue All The Queen's Horses stamps and presentation pack

8 July

Withdrawal Olympic stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards

14 July

Withdrawal £2.60 W H Smith promotion book (10 × 1st)

22 July

Withdrawal Country stamps (N Ireland, Scotland and Wales) 19p, 25p, 30p and 41p and pack containing these stamps

29 July

Issue £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 High Values printed by Enschedé (recess/intaglio and silk-screen)

5 August

Issue Sub-Post Offices stamp cards

5 August

Withdrawals Women of Achievement stamps, pack and stamp cards • Stamp books: 10 × 1st Harrison & Walsall and 10 × 2nd Harrison & Questa (issued 6 August 1996)

12 August

Issues Sub-Post Offices stamps and presentation pack • National Postal Museum Post Offices post-cards. *Note: available only from Museum and Bureau*

23 August

Issue 'Flights of Genius' Philatelic Numismatic Cover. *Note: Available only from British Philatelic Bureau*

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum • **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, rest of world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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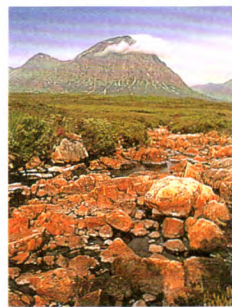
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Technical details

Printers Joh Enschedé
Stamps

Process Photogravure

Size 35 x 37mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 20p ●
two bands others

Paper OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free

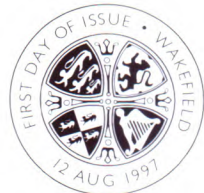
Gum PVA



post offices



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Presentation pack and

stamp cards A presentation pack (price £1.85) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices. The pack, written by Martin Jackson, tells the story of Britain's most southerly post office at The Lizard.



The village brass band played as local builder Richard Yaddy laid the foundation stone laid. Lizard post office opened for business exactly a century ago, and for all bar the last nine of that 100 years it was run by three succeeding generations of his family. When his son Richard Henry Taddy became the inaugural sub-postmaster, mail came the ten winding country miles from Melton by pony.

Royal Mail news New Post Offices stamps

• Definitives update • New NPM postcards • Philatelic Numismatic Cover

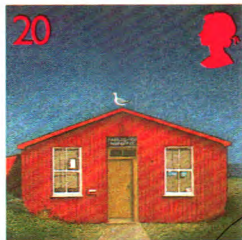
Post Offices Stamps featuring four post offices go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 12 August 1997. The issue, commemorating the centenary of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters, features offices in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The **20p** stamp (inland 2nd class basic rate) features the office at Haroldswick on the island of Unst in the Shetlands, north of the Scottish mainland. The office is the most northerly post office in the British Isles. A receiving house for mail is recorded at Haroldswick as far back as 1827, the current office has operated from its present location since the early 1930s. The office has been run by the Gray family for the past 26 years, serving about 120 houses in the area and a RAF camp with approximately 200 personnel.

A special handstamp testifying to the office's most northerly position was introduced in 1972 and is still applied to mail at the Scotland & Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre in Glasgow (see below). A special Haroldswick handstamp was also used in July 1978 on the issue of the Horses stamps, one of which featured a Shetland pony.

The **26p** denomination (inland 1st class and EU basic rates) depicts the office at Painswick in Gloucestershire. It is located in Westhaven House, New Street – reputed to be the oldest building in England to house a post office; it dates from the early 15th century. The timber-framed frontage is the only surviving example of its type in the village. The interior of the property contains hand-moulded ceilings, a stone Tudor fireplace and, in the shop area, an ancient stone staircase and large inglenook fireplace with a bread oven. Visitors are welcome to look at the inglenook fireplace and winding stone staircase at the back of the shop and browse at a variety of gifts, souvenirs, maps and local guidebooks. Westhaven House became a post office on 8 May 1933.

Affixed to the outside of the building is a replica of a firemark which, in the 19th century, indicated that the building was insured against fire by the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society. The replica firemark, and a model of Painswick PO, were shown in the *Bulletin* in February and November 1990.



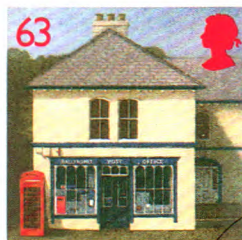
Haroldswick, Shetland, Scotland



Painswick, Gloucestershire, England



Beddgelert, Gwynedd, Cymru/Wales



Ballyroan, County Down, Northern Ireland

The designer The stamps are the work of Devon-based Terrence Millington, his first stamps for Royal Mail.

Michael Taylor



The Post Office at Tassagh in Northern Ireland.

is a listed building and the external appearance is very similar to how it would have looked at the turn of the century: a typical post office or shop of the period.

The office at Beddgelert, near Caernarfon in north Wales features on the **43p** stamp (basic airmail letter rate). This office scooped the coveted national award for the UK's Best Post Office in 1995, having previously been voted the Best Post Office in Wales. The sub-postmistress and her husband personally deliver newspapers and groceries to pensioners who are ill and also arrange collection of their pension books so their customers do not have to go without their money. Beddgelert is one of Wales's most famous villages – noted for its picturesque nature, and the legend of Gelert – the pet hound of Prince Llewellyn.

The **63p** value (airmail letters, second weight step) features the office at Ballyronney, near Newry, Northern Ireland, housed in a beautiful example of neo-classical architecture. It

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SUB-POSTMASTERS A century ago hardly any sub-postmasters received any rent allowance, despite having to provide all the fittings, fuel, and stationery required for their work, the cost of putting up telegraph wires, even the letterbox outside their offices! There were no allowances for working Sundays, Good Friday or Christmas Day, nor annual holidays or sickness relief. The average sub-postmaster earned about two pence an hour (about £1 at present rates). The founder and first President of the Federation was Joseph Ranns (1856-1910) who, after six years as sub-postmaster at Upper Kirkgate Town Sub Office in Wakefield, decided to fight for changes in the system. He believed that his appointment as a sub-postmaster would be 'a direct road to success in commercial life', a worthwhile adjunct to his business as a stationer. He soon found that the working expenses of the office were decidedly more than the income from all sources. Ranns represented the town sub-postmasters before the Tweedmouth Commission on Post Office Establishments in 1896, two other sub-postmasters, from Kent and Scotland, aired the grievances on behalf of the country offices. The committee's report brought disappointment to sub-postmasters, offering no increase in pay or provision for annual leave at public expense. The new National Association of Sub Postmasters, formed at a meeting in Wakefield on Easter Monday 1897, branded the report as 'unjust'. Their dissatisfaction led to an inquiry, led by the Postmaster General and the Secretary to the Treasury, which in March 1898 ruled that provincial sub-postmasters should be paid for work on Sundays and public holidays, get increased allowance for providing accommodation for postmen, annual leave, and the cost of removing tele-

graph poles if they needed to move to a bigger office. In 1899 the 915 head post offices were supplemented by some 19,718 sub-offices, run by 14,292 men and 5,426 women; by 1912 over one-third of the sub-postmasters had joined the Federation. Today it is the longest-established body representing staff in the Post Office and the only organisation recognised by the PO to negotiate on behalf of sub-postmasters. The Federation has over 100 branches covering the whole of the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

SUB-POST OFFICES Post Office Counters Ltd are rightly proud of over 19,000 sub-post offices throughout the country – from the most northerly in Haroldswick, to the most southerly on The Lizard, Cornwall, to the most easterly at North Lowestoft, Suffolk and the most westerly at Garrison, near Enniskillen in Northern Ireland. Offices are sited on remote islands, in country villages, and amongst the back-streets of our industrial cities and towns. Some are in unusual premises, such as an old church (Belstone, near Okehampton, Devon), a pub (Thurcaston, Leicestershire) and even a shipping container (Llanelli Hill near Abergavenny, South Wales). All provide a much appreciated local service.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 12 August, price 25p.

Orders for the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Wakefield, price £2.20 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.88 overseas (no VAT), must be received at the Bureau by 12 August. Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers, on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA (Wakefield postmark). The outer envelope should be marked 'FD9713' (Bureau), or 'FD9714' (Wakefield).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) 'first day of issue' handstamps. Sponsored special handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 rest of the world).

Mention was made above of the special handstamp introduced at Haroldswick in 1972. Several variations have been used over the years, the present one introduced from 2 December 1993. Covers to receive this handstamp should be sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ, requesting handstamp No 3154. This is illustrated, with other permanent philatelic postmarks, in each issue of the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Collectors may submit covers bearing just the 20p stamp for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 12 August, the 1st class rule for special handstamps being waived for the day ●





Top Two of the new Welsh country stamps – no 'p' (pence) sign after the value

Above Northern Ireland 26p and Scotland 37p; new Walsall printings (left), former Questa printings (right). Note paler shades of the Walsall stamps.

Definitives update Readers are reminded that new printings of the £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 Castle stamps, by Joh Enschedé Stamps, will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 29 July and at post offices as stocks of earlier printings are used up. They are regarded as variants by Royal Mail and thus no first day of issue facilities will be provided. Specialist collectors will notice subtle differences between the new Enschedé and previous Harrison printings.

New printings of the 31p, 37p and 63p definitives printed in sheets of 200 in gravure (electro-mechanical engraved cylinders) by Harrison & Sons Ltd will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 26 August. Also going on philatelic sale the same day will be rolls (coils) of 500 of the 37p and 43p printed by Harrisons using EME cylinders (the sheet versions of the 43p was released in April), and books of 4 × 37p and 4 × 63p printed in gravure (EME cylinders) by Walsall. The book of 4 × 37p will have a new tourist design cover. The 37p stamp covers the air-mail postcard rate. All these are regarded by Royal Mail as variants and there will be no first day of issue facilities. The stamps, rolls and books will go on general sale at post offices (and other outlets where applicable) as stocks of earlier issues are used up.

Cylinders used for the new Walsall printings of 20p, 26p, 37p and 63p country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are all numbered w1 (colour) w1 (phosphor). The background colour appears paler and The Queen's head whiter on the new printings compared to the former Questa issue. Note that the Welsh stamps do not show the 'p' (pence) sign after the value •

Philatelic Numismatic Cover A pnc entitled 'Flights of Genius' will be available from 23 August – the 50th anniversary of the death of Roy Chadwick, designer of the Lancaster. The cover bears the five Architects of the Air stamps (issued 10 June) cancelled by a special postmark and a Royal Mint £2 coin. These covers are produced jointly by Royal Mail and Royal Mint. Price £12.95, available from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Please note that pncs are not sold at Post Office Counters Ltd philatelic outlets. As these covers are always popular, and editions limited to 40,000, early ordering is advised to avoid disappointment •

Eric Ogden (1923-97) We regret to record the death in May of Eric Ogden who served on Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee, 1972-94. Mr Ogden, MP for the Liverpool West Derby constituency, 1964-83, had many interests including photography, motoring and heraldry. As a regular visitor to Alderney, he was asked by the islanders for help when the only pillar box in St Anne's was moved from one end of the town to the other. He approached Royal Mail for an old box and eventually a Victorian box from the PO store in Ipswich was sent to Alderney and erected outside the island

museum. The box was shipped to Alderney on a Trinity House vessel bound for the Alderney lighthouse. He was an avid reader of the *Bulletin*, especially the articles on posting boxes •

NPM postcards The National Postal Museum issued a set of cards on the subject of Aerial Post on 10 June, coinciding with the issue of the Architects of the Air stamps. There were five cards in the set, not four as originally announced. The designs are:

- 97/9 First UK aerial post, 17 September 1911 from Windsor to Hendon. Gustav Hamel in his Blériot No 2 with bag label No 2 carried by him.
- 97/10 13-14 October 1911. G Higginbotham at Freshfield flying to Southport, with the cachet applied with official permission.
- 97/11 A 1919 RAF aerial mail from Hawkinge, Folkestone to the British Army of Occupation, Cologne. Captain A F Hordern, AFC, the leader of the first aerial mail trip from Hawkinge, 1 March 1919, with a bag label for the return trip dated 9 April.
- 97/12 1919 RAF aerial mail from Hawkinge, Folkestone to the British Army of Occupation, Cologne. The DH 10 which conveyed the first mail bag despatched at night, 14 May 1919 with a bag label from the same flight.
- 97/13 1919 RAF aerial mail from Hawkinge, Folkestone to the British Army of Occupation, Cologne. Checking the weight and location of mail before loading, with a bag label for Cologne dated 17 July 1919.

The cards can be ordered, price £1.25 a set, from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Two sets of cards were issued by the Museum in April. Cards numbered 97/1-4 feature Posting Boxes, 97/5-8 unadopted essays for the 1972 Silver Wedding stamps. Price £1 per set, available from the Bureau •

Bulletin binders and Publications Keep your copies of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and *British Postmark Bulletin* in good order in our specially produced binders. These are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Price £7 Philatelic Bulletin binder (order code PB001) or £6.50 Postmark Bulletin binder (PB322).

For a free sample copy of the *Postmark Bulletin* write to either the Bureau or The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL.

Still available from the Bureau are copies of Bulletin Publications No 3 *Burns Bicentenary 1996* (order code PB217) and No 4 *British Victorian Stamps* (PB323). Price £2.95 each. Note that Publications Nos 1 and 2 are now out of print •



Aerial Post card 97/13 RAF aerial mail from Hawkinge, Folkestone to the British Army of Occupation, Cologne, 1919



Stamp scene Stamp '97 • GBPS Journal • Stamp Show 2000 • Lundy issues • Melville Youth Competition • Literature awards

M.C. Photography Mike Mansfield



Fiona Fullerton, with Frankenstein and Dracula, at the opening of Stamp '97. Actors dressed as Frankenstein, Dracula and other horror characters toured the exhibition to the delight of many of the children – and a few adults as well!

Stamp '97 The third 'Stamp' exhibition at Wembley (24-27 April) was, in the Editor's view, the best so far, attracting over 21,000 visitors. Opened by actress Fiona Fullerton, the displays and trade stands suited collectors of all ages and tastes. For the adult and more serious philatelist there were fine displays of material from the Royal Collection and by 20 leading lady collectors (25 April was designated Ladies Day). Reflecting the fact that this is The Queen's golden wedding year, part of the Royal display was devoted to British royal commemoratives of the present reign, including artists' essays and proofs of the 1953 Coronation stamps, the 1977 Silver Jubilee issue and the 1978 25th anniversary of the Coronation set. One of the most interesting items was an essay by Edmund Dulac for the 2½d stamp in the 1953 set, the design ultimately used for the 183d value. Other displays featured obliteration experiments on the 1840 1d,

including a proof sheet of 12 cancelled with 'Target' obliterations; complete sheets of the 1854 issue of India; early official stamps of India; and essays, proofs and colour trials of the 1938 and 1950 George VI definitives of the Cayman Islands, showing the development of these attractive stamps from the original artist's sketches to the finished stamps.

The exhibits in the Ladies Displays were by Dr Jean Alexander (GB Coil Stamps); Christine Blakey (Bandalette Issues of Belgium); Lady Mairi Bury (GB George V Profile Head Stamps); Hayley Davies (Let's Collect Stamps); Helen Davis (Penguins); Christine Earle (The Grey Goose Wing); Christine Finn (The Post Office Went to War); Sheila Foster (From Vine to Wine and Proverbs); Lesley Hampton (GB Victorian Postal Stationery); Anneliese Hayes (German Feldpost World War II); Rebecca Humfrey (Say it with Flowers and Orchids); Alma Lee (Switzerland – Classic Period); Dorothy Martin (Christmas in Victorian Times); Marie Mitchinson (Gateshead Garden Festival); Margaret Morris (Greenland and Sky Wonders); Jane Moubray (Dominion of Canada – Victorian Definitive Issues); Franceska Rapkin (1936 Olympic Games); Margaret Shaida (Remember the Ladies); Bethany Vaughan (Plants that help us) and Margery Wharton (Falkland Islands).

The four printers of British stamps all had stands with interesting displays and staff on hand to answer questions. The Enschedé stand featured

their forthcoming printings of the Castle stamps, engraved by Mrs Inge Madle who was present to explain her work. She told the *Bulletin* that she made drawings of the four castles from the photographs taken by the Duke of York before starting the engravings. Each design took her about three weeks to engrave. Mrs Madle, who has engraved stamps for Iceland, Isle of Man, Netherlands and United Nations, 'was very proud' to engrave the Castle stamps, finding the task 'very challenging to re-engrave these prestigious and very difficult stamps. I have tried to concentrate on enhancing the detail of bricks and stones in the castles in order to achieve a final result with maximum tactile feel.'

Young visitors were well-catered for in the House of Horrors where over 1000 designed a Horror stamp – the winning designs will be reproduced as a souvenir sheet by Questa. The horror theme extended to the Walsall stand where the exhibition cover showing Frankenstein was on sale, also pairs of labels reproducing unadopted designs of Dracula and Frankenstein for the Royal Mail Tales of Terror stamps. Some £1000 was raised for the NSPCC by the sale of the covers and labels, and a further £6500 at a charity auction.

David Harrop provided his usual display of postal memorabilia, this time including some unusual letter boxes. Films were displayed on a giant video wall, many collectors took the opportunity to have stamps valued by Stanley Gibbons experts or to learn about the hobby in the philatelic workshops organised by the British Philatelic Trust, National Philatelic Society, and Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Royal Mail provided sales and information counters and both the National Postal Museum and its Association of Friends had stands to sell NPM souvenirs and recruit new members.

Stamp '98 will be held at Wembley, 23-26 April 1998. Meanwhile, joint organisers Stanley Gibbons announce a new exhibition this Autumn. Collect '97, described as an international collectors fair, will be held at Earls Court Olympia, London, 24-26 October. This will cater for collectors of coins, postcards, phone and cigarette cards, models, and memorabilia as well as stamps. Enquiries: Stanley Gibbons, 01425 472363 •



A popular souvenir of the exhibition was a model London Transport 1932 AEC Regent double-decker bus bearing a Stamp '97 advertising panel. Produced in a limited edition of 1000, some may still be available, price £7.95 from Stanley Gibbons. Telephone 01425 472363.

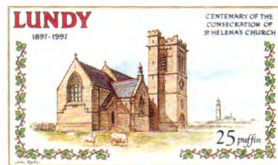
GB Journal The May/June issue of the journal of the Great Britain Philatelic Society contains good articles on the 1859 Twopence Blue Plate 8, Queen Victoria £1 variety, 1958 De La Rue 2s6d Castles offset, and 1900 telegram prepaid with 93 postage stamps; some interesting letters on George V photogravure booklet panes, Edward VII ½d with inverted watermark, plating line-engraved stamps, etc, as well as book reviews, Society news, and adverts from leading GB dealers. The journal is printed on fine art paper with good illustrations •

For details of the Society formed in 1955, contact the Membership Secretary: Andrew Lajer, PO Box 42, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1FF. An article on the GBPS was published here in May 1990.

Dealers interested in taking a stand at Stamp Show 2000 should contact the Exhibition Director for a copy of the brochure: The Stamp Show 2000, PO Box 372, Haywards Heath RH17 7FL. Telephone 01825 791295

Stamp Show 2000 A trade brochure for the next London international stamp exhibition was launched at Stamp '97. The international – The Stamp Show 2000 – will be staged at Earl's Court, 22-28 May 2000. Described as 'a celebration of philately for the millennium', it will be hosted by Royal Mail and organised by P&O Events. The brochure gives preliminary details of some of attractions. There will be a 'whole world' competition, organised under FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) patronage, with approximately 3000 frames. The Court of Honour will feature many rarities, including stamps from the Royal Collection. Young collectors will be catered for by a special stand and Royal Mail's centre-piece stand will probably be the largest ever seen at a philatelic exhibition.

To give the exhibition extra impact, areas will be provided where collectors can participate in lively debate with notable philatelic personalities or watch informative visual presentations. These, along with the many society meetings which will be taking place, will stimulate the visitor and reinforce the attraction of the hobby. There will be a number of philatelic sales points from which visitors can purchase special exhibition-related products and post mail to receive the special exhibition postmark ●



Lundy centenary issues Local stamps (or local carriage labels) have been issued by the island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel since 1929. Two new sets were issued in June. Three stamps, 25p, 37p and 76p were issued on 7 June to mark the centenary of the consecration of the island's St Helena's Church. On 21 June four stamps marked the centenary of the inauguration of the island's North and South Lighthouses. The stamps, of 31p and 52p values, were printed in vertically set-tenant pairs with the design extending across the pair. All stamps were designed by John Dyke and printed in sheets of 20 by Questa. Prices: St Helena's Church set £1.38, FDC and presentation pack £1.85 each; Lighthouses set £1.66, FDC/pack £2.15 each. Postage 90p UK/EU, £1.35

Europe, non-EU countries; £1.90 elsewhere. Remittances payable to 'Lundy Company'. Payment may be made by Visa, Access or Mastercard. Orders and enquiries: Lundy Company, Lundy, Bideford, EX39 2LY ●

Send a stamped addressed envelope to B L Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 4PQ.

Join a philatelic society There are in excess of 460 local philatelic societies and 150 specialist societies in the UK. For help and advice on stamp collecting there is no better place to go than to your local philatelic society or stamp club and if you would like details of your nearest society, or specialist societies catering for your interests, the Association of British Philatelic Societies can help. Send a stamped addressed envelope to the address opposite. Remember to state clearly where you live (for details of local society) and your collecting interests (for specialist societies) ●



Railway Letter Stamps Shown here are new stamps issued by the Bluebell Railway on 29 March and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway on 6 June. For details see March *Bulletin* (page 201 and *Commemorative Covers Review*) and June *Bulletin* (page 297 and *Covers Review*).

Literature awards The Philatelic Writers Society invites applications for two awards. The Nugent Clougher Award, first established by the Postal History Society in 1968 and reorganised in collaboration with the PWS in 1987, is made annually for research work published for the benefit of postal history. The Ronnie Spafford Award, first presented in 1988, is for works of a general nature, excluding those eligible for entry to the Nugent Clougher Award. Entries, which should be predominantly in English, may have been published anywhere within the immediately preceding three calendar years. One copy of a publication for either class should be submitted, with the entry form, by the author, publisher or a member of the PHS or PWS.

Judging will take place at the Society's conference at the Postal Museum in The Hague, 7-9 November 1997. Speakers will be George Henderson, Alex Newall, Charles Boissevain of the Dutch Postal Museum, and Aad Knikman, Editor of *Philatelic* ●

Melville Youth Competition The 1997 Melville National Youth Stamp Competition, named after the great philatelist Frederick Melville (1882-1940), is open to all young collectors from under nine years to 21 years. The entries are judged by accredited national judges who make helpful comments to individual competitors and usually attend the awards ceremony held at Autumn Stampex where the entries are on display. There are trophies, medals and certificates awarded in each class depending on the standard the competitor attains ●

New thematic department Stanley Gibbons has recently opened a new department for thematic collectors, offering extensive stocks for over 100 themes plus regular illustrated listings and a specialist wants list service. Four thematic listings are already available: Birds, Sport, Disney, Art ●

Autumn Stampex The Autumn exhibition will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1 on 17-21 September. Readers who wish to enter the competition should write for entry forms to: Tony Finlayson, Secretary, BPT Exhibition Committee, 86 Clarence Road, Fleet GU13 9RS. Telephone 01252 614827 ●

Further awards details and entry forms from P D Lindley, Paddock House, High Street, Yardley Hastings, Northampton NN7 1ER. Closing date is 8 September.

Enquiries Alex Newall, 338 City Road, London EC1V 2PX

Entry forms are now available from Mrs J M Wood, 6 Beech Grove, Whitley Bay NE26 3PJ.

For a free copy of listings phone Andrew Mansi: 0171 836 8444 or write to Stanley Gibbons Thematic Dept, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX.

Rare Stamps of the World exhibition by James Mackay

SOME THREE YEARS AGO a number of Britain's leading dealers and auctioneers got together with some of their most important clients and formulated the concept of a stamp exhibition which would differ radically from any other, in that *all* the entries would be displayed *hors concours*. This high-powered group of like-minded individuals wished to restore good old-fashioned Victorian values to the exhibition, 'free of competition, judging and politics' as Mrs Caron de Vico of Harmer's put it succinctly. There was a feeling that competitive exhibitions were trammelled with far too many rules and regulations, and this tended to rob collectors of the pure pleasure of showing their treasures and sharing with others the pleasure that comes from beholding some of the most fabled rarities of philately. The result was a spectacular exhibition of Rare Stamps of the World, in London in July 1995.

The organisers of the exhibition as well as the participants were anxious to dispel the notion of 'cheque-book philately', the canard that wealthy collectors regarded their stamps as no more than another investment to add to their portfolio, or that they knew nothing about the treasures in their possession. This is a monstrous untruth which dates back at least to the time of Count Ferrary (who actually had a very deep love and knowledge of his stamps). Speaking to several of the exhibitors in 1995, I was impressed with their detailed knowledge of their subject, and genuine love of stamps.

New concept The 1995 exhibition was conceived and developed in a manner that differed sharply from other shows. About 50 of the world's leading collectors were eventually persuaded to take part in the three-day show mounted at the prestigious Claridge's Hotel in London. The exhibition itself was relatively small in scale, but the elegant ambience and the very stylish and comfortable surroundings helped to establish the friendly, informal atmosphere of the show. The participants flew in from every part of the world and stayed at Claridge's throughout the exhibi-

tion, and were on hand at all times to discuss the finer points of their exhibits with visitors. The admission charge of £10 may seem steep, especially in view of the trend in recent years to waive admission charges altogether, but those who paid their money were richly regarded by what can only be described as the experience of a lifetime, a chance to meet some of the 'big boys' that one otherwise only reads about, and acquire an exhibition catalogue entitled *Rare Stamps of the World* which made a most desirable addition to philatelic bibliography.

Originally the exhibition was intended as a one-off, but due to the overwhelming response from both participants and visitors it was decided to repeat the exercise after the interval of two years. The result is the second Rare Stamps exhibition which takes place at Claridge's on 22-24 July. Once again a consortium of the country's leading dealers and auctioneers has arranged a unique assemblage of the finest, the rarest and the most interesting pieces, drawn from the cream of the great collections around the globe. The exhibition is much larger than previously and occupies the Mirror Room, the French Room and the Small Dining Room.

Laden with pathos Pride of place goes to the Royal Collection, from which HM The Queen has lent material for six frames. Her Majesty has also lent the stamp album which once belonged to the Tsarevich, murdered with the rest of the Imperial Family in 1918. There can be few philatelic items more poignant or laden with pathos than that little album.

The National Postal Museum's exhibit concentrates on essays and proofs pertaining to the issues of King Edward VIII, not only the definitives, but also the abortive issues celebrating the accession and coronation.

Although the forthcoming exhibition is much larger than its predecessor, only a handful of those who contributed to the 1995 show have been included on this occasion, in order to give other leading collectors the opportunity to exhibi-



From the Royal Collection

rare George V high values of Ceylon (left), the Straits Settlements (far left) and Kenya and Uganda, as well as proofs of George VI stamps from Cyprus, Gibraltar and Hong Kong.

The exhibition opens at noon on 22 July and at 10am on 23 and 24 July, closing at 6pm daily. The admission is again £10, but includes a sumptuous full-colour catalogue. A case-bound edition, limited to 250 copies, is also available at £20.

it their rarities. Last time Gerald Sattin exhibited military mail but this time he will be showing some remarkable examples of richly ornamented and bejewelled writing implements. Robson Lowe, doyen of the British stamp trade, will show a further selection from his incomparable collection of historic letters.

Samir Amin Fikry (Egypt), Surajit Gongvatana (Thailand), George Kramer (USA) and John Sussex (Portugese East Africa) are returning with further selections from their specialised collections. Joseph Hackney, who exhibited Ceylon, New Zealand and Persia last time, is concentrating this year on gems from Barbados and the Holy Land. Norman Hubbard, one of America's leading philatelists, showed Chile last time but will now be displaying Uruguay, while Dr. Alan Huggins is diversifying from British postal stationery into material from the Cape of Good Hope. Alfred Kugel showed military postal history last time but now concentrates on unique covers pertaining to the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, while Hugh Wood (British post offices abroad) now shows rarities from Jamaica and St Helena.

Swiss cantons Among the newcomers this year we welcome Peter Jennings with a display of pioneer airmails and John Taylor showing material

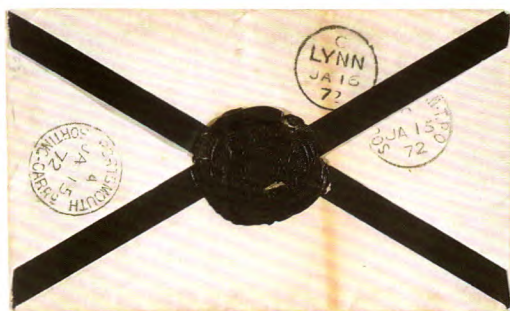
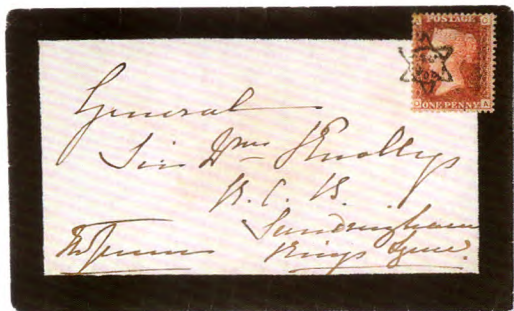
from Antigua. Alma Lee, one of Britain's foremost lady philatelists, will be giving a reprise of her recent display at Wembley with a mouthwatering selection of stamps and covers from the Swiss cantons. Cyril Metliss is contributing a selection of rarities from Gibraltar, while Ritchie Bodily, non-exhibiting Chairman of the 1995 exhibition, will this time give a display of Hong Kong. Professor Barrie Jay is featuring early British postal history.

The versatility of the philatelic 'greats' is astonishing. Seow Chuan Koh of Singapore displayed material from Malaya and the Straits Settlements in 1995, but this year he will be concentrating on rarities from Thailand and New Brunswick. Similarly, in 1995 Dr Buranosombati Pichai of Thailand showed Straits Settlements but now he is bringing coals to Newcastle by exhibiting his remarkable collection of British rarities. Thailand, incidentally, is well represented in the show, with displays from Miss Y Nirandara (early Burma) and Mrs B Indusophon (Cape of Good Hope). If anything, the keynote of the Claridge's exhibition is the universality of the hobby.

Some 14 leading British dealers and auctioneers will also be taking part, offering visitors gems from their stocks ●

New TPO finds

Examples of two interesting postmarks have recently been discovered at the NPM. Tom Norgate reports



OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS the National Postal Museum has purchased a collection of eight volumes of postal history material relating to railways and Travelling Post Offices. This relates to England, Scotland and Wales and covers a period of over 107 years from 1841 to 1948.

Amongst the wide range of cancellations covering most of the network several interesting items have been identified. Although a great deal of work has already been published, examples of two postmarks have now been discovered which had previously not been recorded on live mail.

The first item was also of interest because it was sent in 1872 by Queen Victoria at Osborne on the Isle of Wight to General Sir William Thomas Knollys at Sandringham and is signed 'The Queen' on the front in her hand. Sir William was Treasurer and Comptroller of the Household of the Prince of Wales from 1862 to 1877.

The Penny Red stamp is cancelled by the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage star, a form of cancellation normally reserved for mail from the Queen's residence at Osborne. On the reverse is the single ring backstamp of the Portsmouth

Sorting Carriage. More significantly there is also a part strike of a South Western TPO single ring handstamp dated Jan 15 72. This had not previously been recorded used on an item of mail, though it was known to have been issued. These markings confirm the route of the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage to Southampton carrying mails from Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, to be transferred there to the South Western TPO for onward transmission to London.

Subsequently, a further example of this marking, dated 3 December 1871, sent from Andover to Wallingford, Berkshire has also been located in the same collection. Similarly, the handstamp is applied as a transit marking on the reverse of the envelope.

The study of TPO-related material is a popular field and it does seem surprising that use of this handstamp has not previously been recorded in 125 years.

The TPO collection can be viewed at the National Postal Museum by appointment •

Tales and Legends Shown here are some of this year's Europa stamps, on the theme of Tales and Legends. The British set, issued on 13 May, features Tales of Terror – Dracula, Frankenstein, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, and The Hound of the Baskervilles.



Perfins combine the discipline of pure philately with the study of postal history and the stories of the companies using these perforated stamps. By James Mackay

WHAT COMBINES the skills of the philatelist and postal historian with the study of commerce? The answer is perfins, an acronym denoting stamps perforated with initials (although, in fact, many other devices have appeared on them as well). There was a time, not so very long ago, when beginners guides advised collectors to discard such 'punctured stamps' as damaged and therefore not worthy of a place in the album: but a discerning few realised the significance of the perforations as a form of security endorsement and avidly collected them. One of these early aficionados was the philatelic bookseller and publisher, F Hugh Vallancey, who produced a book entitled *British Stamps Perforated with Firms' Initials*. By the time the second edition appeared in 1948 the collecting of 'spilfs' or 'perfins' (to use the terms originally used in Britain and America respectively) was well established, though it was not until 1957 that the Security Endorsement & Perfin Society was founded. Forty years on, the Perfin Society goes from strength to strength, produces a lively quarterly bulletin, and encourages members to identify the initials found on stamps, as well as research the history of the firms themselves.

Perfin collecting thus combines the discipline of pure philately (sorting and classifying the basic stamps), with postal history (identifying the postmarks, often on loose stamps, as well as on covers, cards and printed matter) and socio-economic history by delving into the stories behind the companies and institutions which made use of these perforated stamps.

Security endorsement Just as Britain invented the adhesive postage stamp, so too was the system of security endorsement a British invention. In the 1860s the cost of sending any piece of mail, whether it was a letter or a circular, was a penny – not a large sum, you might think, but its spending power was nearer a pound in our modern debased currency. Before the advent of postal orders in the 1880s stamps were sent through the post as a form of currency, and could be sold back to the Post Office (less a small discount). This facility, however, tempted office boys and mailroom staff to pilfer stamps which could be readily converted into cash. Petty pilfering was something that firms had to live with but occasionally cases of wholesale theft emerged.

One such example of grand larceny occurred in the summer of 1867 when an employee of Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co was detected stealing stamps, including large quantities which had been sent to this mail order firm by way of remittances. Consequently this company wrote to the Post Office, on 23 October 1867, seeking permission to print the firm's name on the back of stamps intended for use on company mail. At the same time, however, permission was sought to perforate incoming stamps



Perfins on Victorian 1/2d, 1d and 3d stamps

In case of non-delivery, to be returned to—
 THE SECRETARY,
 GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY,
 PADDINGTON, LONDON, W.



Mrs Jane Bell
 Station Hill
 Wigton
 Cumberland

from customers with the letters S C (the initials of Sampson Copestake, the senior partner) as a security precaution, to prevent them being used or sold by employees.

Wrapper with GWR perfin.

Two days later, the PO gave written permission for underprinting, but ignored or overlooked the request to perforate stamps. Copestake's went ahead and procured stamps perforated S C from Joseph Sloper, erstwhile painter and decorator turned inventor. In 1858 he had devised a machine for perforating cheques, promissory notes and other types of security with words or initials as a safeguard against fraud. Sloper's machine was used to apply the words PAID or CANCELLED to cheques. The idea of applying this principle to stamps, however, did not arise until late in 1867.

On 2 January 1868 Copestake wrote again to the PO seeking permission to perforate stamps, and this time enclosed some specimens of Sloper's handiwork. The PO responded immediately by refusing permission on the grounds that this might be used to remove the obliterating marks, thus enabling people to re-use stamps.

Guilty Sloper himself protested at this decision, pointing out that the punctures across the face of the stamp actually helped the postmark ink to bite more deeply into the paper. The matter dragged on for several weeks till fate played into Sloper's hands. In February 1868 John Howarth, provision dealer of Cross Street, Manchester, was found guilty of handling 7820 stamps worth £35. 19s 2d which he had received from errand boys and junior clerks in exchange for bread and cheese, and sent to prison for five years. Sloper sent a cutting from this case to the GPO with a covering letter cogently arguing the advantages of perforating stamps. This time the

matter was seriously considered by senior officials and on 13 March Sloper was given the go-ahead.

As his perforating machine was covered by a 14-year patent, granted in 1858, Sloper effectively had a monopoly until 1872, and in those few remaining years his business developed dramatically. From 1872 onwards he had to face competition from other stationers, especially those who were also postmasters or held a licence to vend stamps. Eventually Sloper was compelled to open his own post office (in King William Street, EC) to compete on equal terms. Rival firms cut their costs, relying solely on the poundage granted by the PO for their profit, but this loophole was closed in March 1883, by which time it was estimated that Sloper and his rivals were selling stamps worth more than £10,000 a year. Sloper died in 1890 but the business continued to flourish under his sons. Other firms came and went, but Sloper's continues to this day, and still perforates stamps for those companies and organisations that require such a security endorsement.

Now elusive The heyday of the perfin was around the turn of the century. Perfins are elusive and now much sought after on the line-engraved stamps and the higher denominations of the Victorian surface-printed stamps, but they are most frequently met within the Penny Lilac and the lower values of the Jubilee series. They are also plentiful in the Edwardian and early Georgian issues, but following the introduction of postage meters in 1922 the use of adhesive stamps by many companies was drastically reduced. In more recent times, moreover, the advent of ppis (Postage Paid Impressions) has cut back the requirement for perfins still further. Indeed, it is now to be wondered that there is still a need for perforated stamps. Yet several local authorities, hospital management boards, banks and insurance companies continue to use perfins, mainly for the adhesive stamps affixed to bulky packets.

Paradoxically, as perfins went out of everyday use, they began to attract the serious attention of collectors who discovered that there was very much more to them than merely some perforations across the face of the stamp.

The first and obvious question was whose initials appeared in the perforations. Where the stamp was still adhering to its original card or envelope (the latter bearing a name and address on the flap), identification was no problem. Loose stamps, or stamps on piece, might be identified by the postmark which would then direct the enquiry to the relevant commercial directory, and from such sources as local newspapers a history of the firm might be built up. It is this aspect that appeals to the detective in many collectors.

Students of perfins soon discovered that there was a great deal to the technical aspects of such stamps. The earliest examples had letters with fine holes, often with the letters in the corners in order not to puncture Victoria's head. Later perfins were less deferential and by the end of the 19th century holes had become much larger. While holes are usually round, examples with square holes, or holes shaped like a spear-head, have also been recorded, indicating different manufacturers.



Above Top, GRAPHIC and
Crown perfins. Below, Crown
and Heart perfins on Queen
Victoria and Edward VII
stamps.

The classification of perfins relies not only on the lettering of the inscription but on the number of holes per letter. Thus the perfin MH & Co (used by Michener, Hodsden & Company of Cannon Street EC) would be described as 25.12/12.8.6, the diagonal denoting the beginning of a second line. Collectors also distinguish the different styles of ampersand; in the earliest Sloper perfins this had a flat top and square back, but later the top rose to a point.

Then there is the question of how the stamp was perforated. In many cases firms used a small hand-operated press to perforate stamps one at a time in coil strips, but sometimes a multiple perforator was employed, capable of dealing with a block of stamps at a single strike. Evidence for this arises when students find examples of a particular perfin in which there are minute differences (usually defective pins causing 'blind' spots). From pairs and strips it is often possible to plate these multiples.



Pictorial perfins Apart from perfins showing initials, there are many examples showing crosses, stars, armorial devices (a favourite with municipal authorities) and even trade marks. Some collectors like to match the perfin with the appropriate coat of arms or trade mark as shown on firms' letter-headings and stationery. Stamps perforated with a crown over the initials BT (Board of Trade), SO (Stationery Office) or OW (Office of Works) are keenly sought after, and really deserve the same status as the better known Departmental Overprints. Official perfins, without a crown, are also just as collectable, and may be found with HMSO, DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), PB (Petroleum Board), CA (Crown Agents) and other initials of government departments. Also much sought after are perfins of the railway companies, especially in the pre-grouping era before 1923.

Though usually found on definitive stamps, perfins were also applied to commemoratives and, indeed, have been recorded on stamps as recent as the 1995 Christmas issue if not later. Mounting and displaying perfins can be a problem, though the simplest solution is to insert them face downwards in stockbooks with black pages, or in black Hagner sheets, with small slips of paper or card alongside identifying the user (where known). Alternatively, the first stamp of a particular perfin may be inserted face down, followed by all the different stamps, face upwards, recorded with that particular perfin. Perfins still attached to their original envelope, card or wrapper, should be kept intact and mounted in the normal way, with perhaps a diagram of the perfin alongside •

Above Top row and middle row left and centre, Edward VII and George V issues. Middle row right and bottom row, modern perfins on Machin decimal issues.

The Perfin Society Readers interested in joining the Perfin Society should contact the Secretary, Dave Hill, 'Paardeberg', Marzion TR17 0EH or telephone 01736 710709. Membership is currently £5 (UK) or £8 (abroad).

The Nature of Scotland

The latest Scottish aerogramme illustrates a wide diversity of wildlife. By James Mackay

THE LATEST Scottish aerogramme, which goes on sale on 1 July has been produced by the Pure Design team of Edinburgh and lithographed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited for Royal Mail. Scotland has about a third of the surface area of Great Britain but less than a tenth of its population. Consequently there are vast areas with little or no human population, and even the Greater Glasgow conurbation is close to some of the wildest and most rugged scenery the country can provide. This land of contrasts and an astonishing diversity of scenery and terrain is the habitat of a wide range of wildlife. The last wolf was killed early in the eighteenth century and the last Great Auk taken at St Kilda in 1844. It is still the haunt of the red squirrel, the pine marten and the wildcat, all of which have shown a steady increase in numbers due to afforestation in recent years.



The aerogramme has seven full-colour pictorial panels. Upper left on the front is a view of the majestic cone of Buachaille Etive Mor which rises more than 1000 metres above the sombre and desolate Glen Coe, scene of the notorious massacre of Macdonalds by the Campbells in 1692.

Below this is a photograph, by Laurie Campbell, of Bogbean, a plant commonly found among the lochans of the Western Isles. The Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) has a creeping stem with alternately arranged large three-pronged leaves and spikes of white or pink flowers. The bitter-tasting stem was commonly infused by the Hebrideans and used as a tonic or febrifuge.

On the middle panel there is a fine picture of a Red Deer by Neil Benbie. *Cervus elaphus* (to give it its scientific name) is found all over the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Originally a forest-dweller, it was driven into open moorland centuries ago, and is now about a third smaller than its medieval counterpart, judging by the remains of the latter found in peat bogs. That this stunting is not due to deterioration of the

stock is proved by the fact that Scottish Red Deer, turned loose in the thick forests of New Zealand, are now the largest specimens of the breed to be found anywhere in the world. The stag in the picture has a magnificent set of antlers. The main shaft is called the beam and the first

or lowest tine the brow-tine. The second is the bez-tine and the third the trez-tine, while the branched summit is the crown or surroyals.

The back of the aerogramme shows a veritable carpet of Scottish Bluebells (*Campanula rotundifolia*), a characteristic sight in the woodlands of the north and west with the arrival of spring. Laurie Campbell also took the photograph of the Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellate*), a common sight in the Western Isles, especially in the breeding season when the birds nest in the reeds around the lochans. It is a seabird, a strong swimmer with a beak well adapted to catching fish. It takes its name from the reddish patch on its throat in summer plumage, and this distinguishes it from its larger cousin the Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) which is also found in the Hebrides. Scotland may not boast large and colourful lepidoptera, but the aptly named Peacock Butterfly (*Aglais io*) is a common sight in high summer.

Last but not least is the close-up of the keen eye and strongly hooked beak of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos fulva*); most of the 420 breeding pairs in Britain are to be found in the Scottish Highlands and the Hebrides. To see one of these great birds, with its powerful, stately soaring flight, is one of the most thrilling experiences. They build a huge eyrie of sticks in the tops of the tallest trees or on narrow cliff ledges and produce four white eggs mottled brown •

The new aerogramme will be on sale at all post offices in Scotland, the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, price 45p. Also still available from the Bureau is the Alexander Graham Bell aerogramme issued in March – see Dr Mackay's article in the March *Bulletin* (pages 212-13).



Close to Glen
Coe, Buachaille
Etive Mor rises to
more than 1000m.

BY AIR MAIL
par avion
Royal Mail



Great Britain
Postage
Paid

Aerogramme

Air post-adhair
Litir-adhair

The delicate
Bogbean is common
among the lochans of
the Western Isles.



The Red Deer
symbolises for many
the grandeur of
Scotland's natural
environment.



Sender's name and address / Ainm is seòladh an sgrìobhaiche
Please show postcode / Cleachd còd a phuist.

Postcode/
Còd a phuist

An aerogramme should not contain
any enclosure / Na cuir càil am broinn
na litreach seo.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
Buachaille Etive Mor: The Image Bank.
Bogbean Flower: Laurie Campbell.
Red Deer: Neil Berridge.
Wild Hyacinths: courtesy
Scottish Natural Heritage.
Red Throated Diver: Laurie Campbell.
Peacock Butterfly: The Natural History
Photographic Agency.
Golden Eagle: Interface.



Designed by Pure Design, Edinburgh
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

THE NATURE OF SCOTLAND



Wild Hyacinths (or
bluebells) carpet the
west coast woodlands
as spring unfurls.



The 700 pairs of
Red Throated Divers
on Shetland make up
70 per cent of the
British population.

Scotland: a land of contrasts, beauty and
wonderful diversity of wildlife. A precious
environment which deserves preserving
for future generations to enjoy.



There are around
420 breeding pairs
of Golden Eagles in
Britain - almost all
are in Scotland.

Peacock Butterflies
are one of the first
to take to the air
in spring.

The Wilding definitives

What to look out for, by Matthew Hinton. Part 1, Tudor watermark issues



The five basic designs of the Wilding series



THE WILDING SERIES of pre-decimal definitives can be grouped by watermark, as this leads to a reasonably chronological account of their progression. The first of these watermarks, in use between 1952 and 1954, is the Tudor Crowns. It is not a great work of art, but it does represent an important period in philately.

The set consists of the following 17 values: 1/2d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10d, 11d, 1s, 1s3d, and 1s6d. It was released in six stages between December 1952 and February 1954.

Watermarks and perforation Detection of watermarks can be carried out in a number of ways. Some of the battery-operated detectors can be quite expensive, so I would recommend using an aerosol detector, which costs just a few pounds and is very effective. Accessory stockist Vera Trinder Ltd, of Bedford Street, London WC2, can supply these as should your local stamp dealer. I would only recommend that the aerosol is applied to used stamps, to ensure that the gum is not harmed. The stamp is placed face down on the black lid of the can and then sprayed with the liquid contained within. The watermark becomes instantly visible every time!

There are differences between the way the sheets of some values are perforated. The original perforating drum perforated sheets such that only one hole appeared in the left selvage, however later sheets are often perforated right through the selvage. This does not affect the stamps themselves and is, therefore, not of great interest

to collectors of single stamps. Cylinder blocks, however, are affected. The 2½d, 8d, 9d, 10d, 11d, 1s, 1s3d and 1s6d are the values which can be found with up to three different versions.

The 3d and 6d can be collected partially imperforate, and the 1½d from booklet panes exists completely imperforate.

Debut The first values to appear were the 1½d green and 2½d carmine-red on 5 December 1952. Design briefs for the Wildings were very strict and, judging by the similarities between the submitted essays, the panel commissioning the work might as well have designed it themselves. The portrait of The Queen by Dorothy Wilding had to be used, hence the name of the series, and the legend POSTAGE REVENUE and country emblems were to be included. It didn't seem to matter how they were positioned, as long as they were there. The four national emblems – rose, thistle, shamrock, and leek – are positioned differently. The 1½d incorporates them as part of a rather mystical oval around The Queen's head, whilst on the 2½d they are less prominently positioned, crammed into the bottom left-hand corner of the frame.

Varieties There are plenty of flaws on the 1½d, but just one of them is unique to the Tudor watermark stamp – a small flaw on the stem of the daffodil to the top left of the oval. This occurred on cylinder 9 dot, R18/1, which means sheets with the number '9' (followed by a dot, or



Booklet panes Six of the ½d stamp, far left, and 1d with labels.

The Tudor Crown watermark

full stop) in the left sheet margin, and on the 18th row down, first column from the left. It can be acquired quite cheaply, unlike another major flaw, which also exists on other 1½d Wildings. Here a 'butterfly flaw' can be seen (cyl 6 dot, R19/1) to the left of the daffodil just below and to the right of the diadem. It gradually became more prominent as new printings of the value were produced. The stamp can also be obtained in a deeper shade of green. The 1½d Tudor Crowns was also printed in coils (rolls), detectable by the watermark being sideways. This is not to be confused with booklet stamps which sometimes show the watermark apparently inverted. Of course, 'inverted watermark' actually means that the stamp has been printed on the paper upside down, and I think that it makes the fairly common variety seem a little more interesting if you imagine it in this way.

The 2½d value is renowned for its two versions – the second, issued in books in May 1953, has the originally broken diadem cross retouched. Specialists may consider there to be three versions, as the stamp can be collected with the cross even more broken than usual. There are plenty of flaws to collect on the 2½d Tudor Crowns, and some are quite noticeable. One variety is unique to this stamp: the circle around the value is broken just above the 'E' of POSTAGE on cyl 8 no dot, R20/2. It is interesting that, on the retouched version, the inverted watermark stamps are more common and cheaper than the correct versions. Make sure you check your collection!

Additions to series On 6 July 1953 the 5d brown, 8d magenta and 1s bistre-brown were released, seven months after the original values, with further denominations – ½d orange-red, 1d ultramarine and 2d red-brown – on 31 August 1953. The 1d and 2d share the design of the ½d and 1½d. The 5d, 8d and 1s were in new designs, later used for other values.

The 1d is known in a vertical strip of four with the upper two stamps perforated twice, both vertically and horizontally. On the 2d value, an interesting variety is the humourously nicknamed 'tadpole flaw', where an otherwise dull white dot makes the stem of the thistle above the 'A' of POSTAGE appear as a tadpole! It occurs on cyl 4 dot, R17/6. It was later retouched on cyl 3 dot.

2 November 1953 was the release date of the 4d ultramarine, 1s3d green and 1s6d grey-blue. All were modifications of earlier designs – the 4d being the reverse of that used for the 2½d (and later the 3d), ie solid lettering on pale background, whereas the 1s3d and 1s6d had 'reversed out' rather than solid lettering and flowers. On the 4d value The Queen can be seen with scars on her cheek and neck on R1/4 and R16/9.

On 18 January 1954 the penultimate trio – the 3d deep lilac, 6d reddish purple and 7d bright green – were issued. Whilst the design of the 6d and 7d is essentially the same as that of the 5d, the 3d is similar to the 2½d. The 3d is known in a lower right corner block of six showing the perforations shifted downwards.



The two types of 2½d: broken and repaired diadem cross

Finally, 8 February 1954, the 9d, 10d and 11d stamps went on sale, printed in bronze-green, Prussian blue, and brown-purple respectively. The design used was the same as that employed on the 8d value. The so-called 'snooker variety' can be seen on the 9d value from cyl 1 no dot R8/6 – comprising a small break in the frame at the top right – hence the nickname!

The ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d and 2½d Wildings in this series also emanate from booklets. These are worth looking out for in panes with the cylinder number visible in the selvage. Another interesting way to collect the books or panes is by obtaining copies with varieties in the labels which are joined to the 1d stamps in panes of six (three stamps and three labels). For example on panes with labels inscribed MINIMUM INLAND PRINTED PAPER RATE 1½d the spacing between RATE and 1½d varies between 14 and 16mm. There are several other examples.

Wildings are wonderful stamps although collecting unmounted mint examples can be quite expensive now. I would suggest collecting lightly mounted mint examples or copies with trimmed perforations when a perfect copy would be expensive. This keeps costs down greatly, and I hope very much that you will be able to build up a collection of some of the items I have described ●

Editor's note The work of society photographer Dorothy Wilding (1893-1976) was the subject of a special exhibition in London in 1991. The exhibition and accompanying book were reviewed in the *Bulletin* July and November 1991. A feature entitled 'The Wilding Designs' was published here in April 1986.

Eminent early collectors 5

Maitland Burnett, by Ron

Negus FRPSL

ALTHOUGH only an active adult collector himself for just over 10 years, Maitland Burnett made a significant contribution to the development of British philately. In an obituary notice, the Keeper of the Royal Collection, Sir Edward Denny Bacon, wrote of him that 'for the decade from 1875 to 1885 no one occupied a more prominent and important position in philatelic circles'.

Burnett was born in 1844 into an ancient Scottish family. His father sent him to Germany at the age of 15 to continue his education in Frankfurt, where he began to collect stamps. He was attracted by the many issues appearing at that time from the German States. Issues that are classics today from such places as Bremen, Hamburg, and Lubeck, were the current stamps when this young schoolboy was there.

In 1860, Maitland Burnett returned to Scotland and gave his whole collection to his younger sister, Kate. At that point, he lost his interest in stamps and began to travel widely on the Continent. He became an accomplished linguist, and in later life was regarded as an authority on the Flemish language. He chose to make his career in the law and by his mid-twenties had established himself in chambers in London.

New beginning The story is told that Burnett was on a visit to his home in Scotland in 1874 and was searching in his father's library for a particular book. During the search he found the old album which he had passed to his sister so long before, and discovered that there had been no further additions made to it. He decided to take the album back to London with him and to start collecting again. His enquiries about what had been produced during the missing years led him to discover that philately had developed since his schooldays, and literature about the hobby, including catalogues, now existed. Thus stimulated, he began a search for new specimens.

In this search, he was very careful with his selections, of both used and unused, and soon built up a collection that was notable for its completeness. He was looked upon as having the knack of knowing how to distinguish whether any doubtful specimen was good or bad.

Moving as he did in the legal circles in London, where other notable collectors of the day such as Gordon Smith and Philbrick were active, it is not surprising that Maitland Burnett was attracted to the meetings of the Philatelic Society, London. In February 1877, he attended his first meeting of the Society as a visitor, and a month later had been enrolled as a full member.

At the Annual General Meeting in the following May, the Assistant Secretary was forced to resign through ill-health, and the President proposed that Burnett should take over the vacancy. He declined this official post, but did offer to help out whenever he could, and it is recorded that at some subsequent meetings of the society, he took the minutes.

Magazine editor The year of 1879 was the most significant in Burnett's philatelic life. In February of that year, the firm of Pemberton, Wilson & Co, one of the leading stamp dealers of the day, started a new magazine called *The Philatelic Record*. Mr Wilson, the owner of the firm, showed the draft of this new journal to Maitland Burnett and sought his opinion. Burnett offered to become the Editor of the magazine and took over the job from the second issue. His tenure in the editorial chair lasted for the next seven years, and he was responsible for writing much of the content of the paper. With some controversial editorials, he made the magazine a major publication – still regarded as responsible for raising the status of philately in the late Victorian era.

In March 1879, Burnett came to an arrangement with the Philatelic Society, London where-by space was reserved in each issue of *The*



Philatelic Record for publication of the Society's meetings. This gave the fledgling group much needed publicity at a time when it was trying to establish itself as the premier Society, and was actively seeking new members.

As the year progressed, it became clear that the health of the Secretary of the Society, Mr de Joannis, was failing and, in November 1879, Maitland Burnett accepted the positions of both Secretary and Treasurer. He held these positions until 1885 and most of the Society meetings during those years were held in his chambers in Grays Inn. His contribution to the development of the (now Royal) Philatelic Society, London was significant and during his term of office the membership doubled. In 1883, he was presented with a silver inkstand, suitably inscribed, by his fellow members in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Society.

Eventually, however, his love of the Continent proved too strong. In 1885 he decided to make a permanent home in Belgium, and subsequently lived in both Luxembourg and Italy. Before he left England for good, however, he disposed of his collection. Many of the principal rarities it contained were bought by his friend, T K Tapling, who, at that time, was Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, and these are now on display in the Tapling Collection in the British Library. Although he did not continue with his collection after moving abroad, he was made an Honorary Member of the Philatelic Society in May 1888.

Maitland Burnett died at the age of 74 in September 1918 at his house in Rome. His sister, Kate, was with him. He was always known for the orderly manner in which he dealt with his affairs, and just prior to his death he gave Kate a list of all his former contacts so that she could advise them of his passing. In accordance with his wishes, his ashes were returned to Scotland and interred in his family vault in the Manor Valley in Peeblesshire •

Books Stanley Gibbons Catalogue • ABPS publications

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue

The 12th (1997) edition of this popular work was published on 24 April, opening day of the Stamp '97 exhibition. It lists all British stamps from 1840 to the Missions of Faith stamps. It is aimed at collectors who want more detail than that provided in the standard SG catalogue (part 1) but not so comprehensive as the five-volume GB Specialised. It includes regional, postage due, official and postal fiscal stamps, plus first day covers, presentation, collector and gift packs, stamp cards (PHQ cards), booklets, gutter pairs, yearbooks, and Channel Islands wartime issues, also errors, such as missing colours, embossing, or phosphor and uncoated paper are included. The pre-decimal and decimal Machin sections differentiate between stamps with side band at left or right and major gum variants. First Day of Issue postmarks for the Bureau and the alternative office are illustrated and fdc's priced with these postmarks and standard First Day of Issue or, for older issues, operational postmarks.

The section on the current Machin definitives with elliptical perf's has been revised, with listings now divided simply between photogravure (Harrison and Enschedé) and lithography (Questa and Walsall) printings, numbers Y1667-94 and Y1743-59 respectively. This has involved some renumbering, eg the 19p is now Y1673 rather than Y1700. The 1st and 2nd XVI stamps are separately listed (1663a/6) including the panes of four 1st class with commemorative labels and the so-called 'Boots' panes or labels. No distinction is made between the different designs of the commemorative labels – perhaps a footnote could be added in a future edition. The listing, however, distinguishes between the Bank of England pane (1666l) which had the label to the left of the stamps and all subsequent panes (1666la) with the label at right. As always the Decimal Machin indexes, giving source for each variety, are useful, as are the diagrams showing the make-up of se-tenant booklet panes.

Amongst items listed for the first time are 1854 1d red-brown imperf three sides (in horizontal

pair) (SG 17a), 1996 Europa/Famous Women 26p in imperf (1936a), 1997 Greetings with gold, blue-green and phosphor omitted (1955a), and Scotland 11½p phosphor omitted (SG6EY). This country stamp error is valued at £700 so it is worth checking your copies. All prestige books, bar one, are increased in price; the exception is the 1972 Wedgwood book which remains at £75.

312 pages, card covers. Price £12.95 from SG Strand shop, stamp dealers and booksellers, or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Postage £3 UK, £6 overseas. Credit card mail order hotline 0800 611622 •

ABPS publications The Association of British Philatelic Societies announces the publication of a new Specialists Society Handbook which will list all the specialist philatelic societies in the UK and give data about their activities and personnel. It is intended to publish their handbook in alternate years. The third edition of the ABPS Handbook will be published in January 1998 and will contain a completely updated listing of the membership plus much other useful information.

Two useful aids to assist stamp clubs to publicise their activities, just published by the ABPS, comprise an A5-size leaflet which collectors can complete to obtain details of their local philatelic societies and a full colour A4 poster on which clubs can insert details of forthcoming meetings and events for displays in public libraries and other locations. Among other services offered to members are a catalogue of films, videos and slides of philatelic interest, an information sheet on philatelic workshops, seminars and lectures, plus a diary of forthcoming philatelic events at home and overseas for the next three months.

For details of the Association of British Philatelic Societies write to the Membership Secretary: A Bosworth, 34 Richmond Way, Maidstone ME15 6BN. The current ABPS Handbook, reviewed here last November, is available, price £10 plus 75p postage UK, £1.50 overseas, from J N Hammonds, 31 Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham RH12 5TH •

Competition Win Windsor Elite Stamp Album, worth £225

THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION is sponsored by Stanley Gibbons. With over 140 years' experience, leading philatelists Stanley Gibbons have continued to develop new and innovative accessories to assist GB collectors all over the world. Latest in this long line of developments are two new albums aimed at collectors at both ends of the scale. Firstly is the Windsor Elite Album, the most authoritative GB albums money can buy. Four super detailed red buckram binders contain the highest quality printed leaves with spaces for every stamp since 1840 including plate numbers, watermark varieties and more. The complete album set, normal price £225, is available to *Bulletin* readers at the special price of £199.

Another recent edition is the colourful new GB Commemorative Album which houses all commemorative and special stamps, miniature sheets and greetings stamps in two convenient illustrated volumes. Volume 1 covers 1924-85, price £24.95. Volume 2 covers 1986-95, price £14.95. *Bulletin* readers buying both albums will receive a free 1997 Collect British Stamps catalogue (normally £5.95). Packs of cut-to-size mounts are also available (price £34.95 volume 1, £24.95 volume 2).

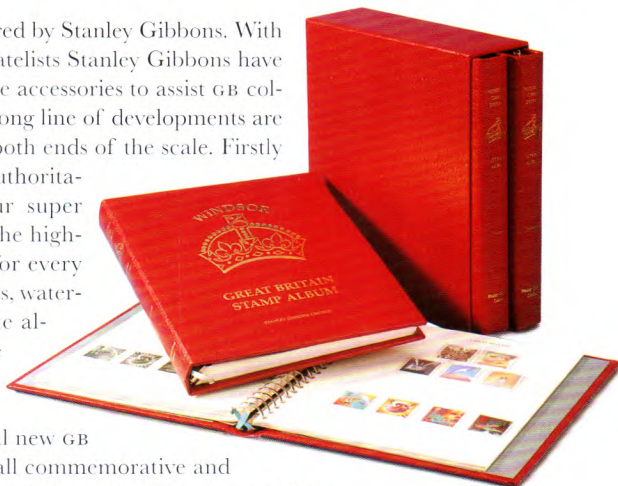
Also worth a mention is Stanley Gibbons latest *GB Concise* stamp catalogue – an invaluable guide to all GB collectors. The latest 1997 edition features all stamps from 1840 to Spring 1997 and contains many price increases and varieties priced for the first time.

For further details and placing orders contact **Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH. Telephone 01425 472363.** Mention *Bulletin* Offer if ordering Windsor Albums at special price or Commemorative Albums for free *Collect British Stamps*. Offer ends 29 August 1997.

To enter the competition, answer the questions below and send, with your name and address on a postcard or back of an envelope to: July Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 22 August. Entries must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded. The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*.

- 1 Where is the Rare Stamps of the World exhibition being held?
- 2 Which post office is situated in Westhaven House?
- 3 How many people visited Stamp '97 at Wembley?
- 4 Which office was held by Sir William Thomas Knollys, 1862-77?
- 5 Who designed the forthcoming Nature of Scotland aerogramme?

The competition is not open to employees, their families and agents of Royal Mail or Stanley Gibbons •



1st prize GB Windsor Album (4 volume set) worth £225

Two 2nd prizes GB Commemorative Album (both volumes plus mount packs) worth £100

Two 3rd prizes GB Concise Catalogue, worth £12.95

The winners of the April competition were B Kassner of Germany (1st prize), B Sibley of Essex (2nd) and V Aves of Sussex (3rd).

The answers 1) Switzerland; 2) Ian Pollock; 3) Margaret O'Shaughnessy; 4) King Harald V of Norway; 5) Libra. Our thanks to all who entered.

Correction The wrong answer was given here in May to question 1 of the February competition. The correct answer is: KVB 103D.

Postbag

Machin debate Like several other collectors in this area, I would agree wholeheartedly with the comments of George Frazer (January Postbag) about the never ending flow of Machins. The suggestion that these provide an attraction to the average young collector is open to question. It is worth noting how many countries make use of interesting features on their definitives, examples are found close to our shores by Ireland and the islands. G W MITCHELL, WHITLEY BAY

Queen's portrait Unlike Jennifer Martin (March Postbag) I would not like to see cathedrals, birds and plants on our definitives. However I do agree with her that we should update the monarch's head from time to time and she rightly cites Denmark and Sweden as countries that do this on their definitives. I would add Luxembourg, Monaco, Spain and Thailand.

The Machin head is long overdue for replacement – it hardly resembles The Queen now. We have had three heads on our coins yet only two on our definitive stamps. Perhaps the 50th anniversary of The Queen's succession (6 February 2002) would be a good time to change? PETER ALLAN, DONCASTER

Good reading I felt I had to write about the article on Mr Goodwyn (April *Bulletin*), particularly the final paragraph of the section on philatelic literature. By coincidence I have recently acquired a copy of *The British Postage Stamp of the 19th Century* by Robson Lowe, and am delighted with it. Following the article, I now feel that my purchase is more than justified. As a pensioner recently starting again in the hobby, I have not the time left to amass a large collection so have decided to gather what I can afford from Queen Victoria's reign. These, with some good literature, will, I feel, make sense of what I am doing. MISS M RUSSELL, MARGATE

I wish Miss Russell well with her collecting and am sure she will find much of interest in Mr Lowe's book – based on the R M Phillips Collection of British Victorian stamps in the National Postal Museum. ED

Letchworth posting box I refer to the photo of the Letchworth Post Office wall box published in March. The spelling error 'Service' was corrected after a few weeks but some months later the plate was removed and the box, now in red livery, was reinstated; the double pillar-box which had initially replaced it having been in service only a few months. Even the cobbles on which it stood have been replaced so that barely a trace of it exists. C LANDER, LETCHWORTH

Human parcel Simon Coombe of Guernsey writes concerning the article in the November 1996 *Bulletin* about Major Palmer who sent himself as a parcel from Guernsey to Alderney in 1940. Mr Coombe sent photocopies of the relevant pages from *Guernsey Through the Lens: Photographs taken before 1914* by Victor Coysh and Carel Toms, and an article by Carel Toms in the *Guernsey Evening Press* (probably 1970s). Both reproduce an illustration featuring Harry Turner who in 1906 resolved to post himself from Guernsey to Sark. Apparently the GPO agreed that a person might be delivered, accompanied by a telegraph messenger. Both are pictured aboard the Sark boat; on arrival Mr Turner and his escort went for a drive, lunched at Dixcart Hotel and later returned to Guernsey, having made island history. According to Mr Toms's article, PO regulations permitted the carriage of 'living creatures' with special permission of the Postmaster General. He cites a letter from the GPO in London in 1942 stating that this service was then 'suspended'.

Stamps for charity In March, Sharon Onion of Tamworth appealed for stamps for various charities. She thanks readers who kindly sent stamps for these good causes and would welcome further donations. Contact Sharon at 18 Elizabeth Drive, Park Lodge, Tamworth B79 8DF.

Bulletin back issues Miss A Baker of 11 Neilston Road, Uplawmoor, Glasgow G78 4AB offers *Bulletins* from June 1967 to date, for the cost of postage until the end of August ●

Posting boxes 167

TWO INTERESTING BOXES this month. The first, photographed by Alan Leicester of Liverpool, is in the village of Frodsham in Cheshire, located on the road leading towards Delamere Forest and opposite the approach road to the railway station. It is a combined phone kiosk and posting box and bears the George V cipher. Similar boxes were shown in Posting Boxes Nos 16 (March 1980), 83 (September 1986) and 133 (August 1992).

The second photograph, by Paul Crowell of Bexleyheath, shows the Victorian Penfold box in Bexley, Kent. Others of the ever-popular Penfold boxes (and modern replicas) have featured in this Posting Boxes series in July 1979, November 1980, August 1981, January, April and September 1988, June, October, November and December 1989, September 1990, February and April 1991, January 1992, July and December 1993, September and November 1995, and March 1997 •



Combined phone kiosk and posting box in Cheshire, above, and Victorian Penfold box in Bexley, Kent.



For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a stamped addressed envelope to the Membership Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BS.

Events

National Postal Museum Re-opening expected early August. For latest information please phone 0171 600 8914.

Now showing Postal Memorabilia displays at City Square Post Office, Leeds and Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln. **Enquiries** D Harrop, 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ

12 July Swipex (South West Inter-federation Philatelic Exhibition) at Peter Chalk Centre, Exeter University, 10.00-16.00. Displays, 27 dealers, National Youth Stamp Group, refreshments, etc. Admission 50p, under 15 free if with adult. **Enquiries** Mary Claydon, 01398 331731

12 July Telford Phil Soc Stamp and Postcard Fair at Civic and Leisure Centre, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Auction at 15.00. Free car parking. Admission charge. **Enquiries** P Morris-Jones, 01952 223926

13 July Northern Cinderpex (cinderella, revenue and poster stamps) at Pudsey Civic Centre, opens 10.00. Parking, near New Pudsey railway station. **Enquiries** T Williams, 01709 548187

24-26 July Rare Stamps of the World exhibition at Claridge's, Brook Street London W1. Includes exhibits from Royal Collection and NPM. **Enquiries** Harmers of London, 0171 629 0218

27-30 August The Picture Postcard Show 1997 at New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat and Elverton Streets, London SW1. Open 12.00-20.00 27th, 11.00-20.00 28th and 29th, 11.00-18.00 30th. Admission £3 27th, £1.50 other days. Organised by Postcard Traders Association. **Enquiries** D Davis 01702 587603

29-31 August 49th International Stamp Fair and 36th 'Europa' International Philatelic Exhibition at Palazzo del Turismo, Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** Comune di Riccione, via Vittorio Emanuele II, 2, I-47036, Riccione, Italy •

ROYAL MAIL SOUVENIR POSTCARD BOOKS



Royal Mail's popular stamp cards, introduced in 1973, are well-known to collectors. Less well-known are the new souvenir postcard books which contain postcards plus interesting information.

Cats Two cards of each stamp design without Queen's head and value. Price £2.95, order code PB079 • **Rugby League** Two cards of each stamp design without Queen's head and value. Price £2.95, PB200 • **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust** Cards reproducing stamps without Queen and value and cards showing WWT centres. Price £2.95, PB236 • **Football Legends** Cards reproducing complete stamp designs on black background plus cards of famous players from Royal

Mail's public poll. Price £2.95, PB246 • **The Great Tudor** Cards reproducing the complete stamps, with Royal badges alongside and cards showing Royal residences. Price £2.95, PB312 • **Architects of the Air** Cards reproducing stamp designs, plus cards showing the five aircraft. Price £2.95, PB321.

Postcard books are available from the British Philatelic Bureau and selected Post Office Counters philatelic outlets.

British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT
UK Telephone order line 0345 641 641



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