

December 1993

British Philatelic Bulletin



Royal Mail

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Royal Mail

British Philatelic Bulletin

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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.

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Main Feature

1993 Definitives, Country Stamps and Stamped Stationery Checklist

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The annual comprehensive listing of stamps, books and stationery



New in '93 – £10 Britannia high value and self-adhesive stamp.



The Directors and Staff of Royal Mail wish all Bulletin Readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Royal Mail News

Age of Steam Stamps

Five stamps commemorating Britain's steam railways go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters on 18 January 1994.

The stamps feature scenes on some of our best-loved lines. The **19p** stamp (inland 2nd class basic rate) shows Class 5 4-6-0 No. 44957 and class B1 4-6-0 No. 61342 approaching Bridge of Orchy on one of Britain's most scenic lines – the West Highland. This was built by the North British Railway to reach the west coast of Scotland at Mallaig. The stamps shows the two locomotives working in tandem on a Glasgow-bound train in July 1961.



The **25p** stamp (inland 1st class and EC basic rate) features Class A1 4-6-2 No. 60149, "Amadis", at Kings Cross in February 1961. This locomotive was named after the race horse that won the 1909 Doncaster Cup.

Class 4 2-6-0 No. 43000 on the turntable at Blyth North shed in October 1966 is the subject of the **30p** value covering the basic rate for letters to non-EC European countries. A place of Stygian gloom for some, but heaven for others, the steam locomotive shed was an industrial building with a character all its own.

The **35p** denomination, for overseas postcards, depicts Class 4 2-6-4T locomotive No. 42455 bringing an early morning train from Islam into Wigan Central station. Local trains are as important as the express services. In the industrial north-west, birthplace of many early railways and of the industry they served, the network of suburban services was complex.

The top value, **41p** for the basic airmail letter rate, features Castle class 4-6-0 No. 7002, "Devizes Castle" hauling a Paddington service across the Worcester and Birmingham Canal in Worcester. One of the many achievements of the railway has been its contribution to architecture and the landscape.

All the photographs featured on these stamps are by Colin T Gifford. Mr Gifford has encapsulated the closing years of Britain's Age of Steam. After studying fine art for five years, he spent some time in advertising before moving to a publisher specialising in transport. He is now a freelance photographer and author. Railways have always fascinated him, especially their relationship with landscape and topography. Two of his books, *Decline of Steam* and *Each a Glimpse*, are classics; Mr Gifford is regarded by many as the father of progressive railway photography.

Britain's Age of Steam

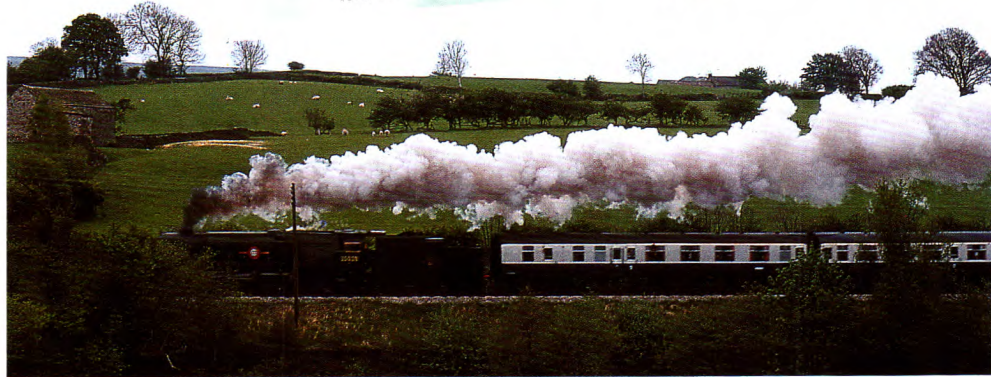
The "Age of Steam" in Britain lasted for 143 years, from the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway on 27 September 1825 to the running of the last scheduled steam-hauled passenger train on British Rail on 4 August 1968. During these years, society saw changes on a scale never before experienced by a nation.

The steam railway took over from canals as the main carrier of freight traffic and from the stage coach as the fastest conveyance for passenger travel. It reigned supreme for all inland transport, serving the nation under six sovereigns, and providing extensive employment opportunities for four generations.





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One hundred and fifty years ago the construction of railways in the United Kingdom experienced an extraordinary upsurge, known as the "Railway Mania". In the five years from 1844, no less than 564 acts of Parliament were passed for the construction of nearly 10,000 miles of railway. Fortunes and reputations were made and lost as railways were financed and promoted, often with fierce rivalry. Employment in railway construction and operation rose dramatically, and the foundations of Britain's railway network were laid. At its zenith in 1913 the railway was one of the largest industries in the country, employing hundreds of thousands.

Among the most notable of the railway anniversaries that fall in 1994 are those of the Midland and North British Railways, both founded 150 years ago, and the West Highland line, opened 100 years ago.

Technical Details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 35 x 35 mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 14

Phosphor: One band 19p; phosphor coated paper plus two bands 25p-41p (bands with fluor).

Paper: OBA free (OBA=Optical Brightening Agent).

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Presentation Pack: No. 244, price £1.85

Stamp Cards: Nos 158 a-e, price 25p each

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, and philatelic outlets around a week before 18 January, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark for the Bureau or York, price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders must be received by 18 January.

Collectors may send stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or York cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark". First Day Posting Boxes will be

provided at most main post offices; covers posted therein will receive standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe, £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Collectors are advised that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Age of Steam stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of Issue", sponsored, and philatelic counter) in use on 18 January. The minimum 1st class rate rule is suspended on this day as this set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 19p Age of Steam stamp; covers bearing other than Age of Steam stamps must bear at least 24p postage.

New To Pay Labels

As announced last month a new set of To Pay labels will be available from 15 February. These can be obtained by collectors from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters. The values will be: 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 25p, £1, £1.20 and £5. These new labels have been produced using a combination of traditional photogravure printing and the latest techniques in CAD (computer aided design).

From a black and white transparency of the original artwork of the St Edward Crown, the first step was the production of a photo-embossed zinc plate. From this a raised impression was made on sandgrain textured paper. The paper was next lit, using low, oblique-angled photographic lights to emphasise the three-dimensional quality of the embossing, and an image made on 35mm black and white transparency film. In this form, the transparency was digitally scanned to give a high-resolution computer-readable image and the different colours, intensities, highlights and shadows added or adjusted electronically. The typography was produced as a separate film overlay and was reversed out of the coloured ground by the printer.

Design by Sedley Place. Original photography by David Burton. Electronic imaging by Tapestry. Printed by The House of Questa.

A presentation pack (No. 32) containing one of each of the new labels will be available, price £8.20. No first day of issue facilities will be

provided.

Before the introduction of uniform postage rates in 1839 it was usual for the person receiving a letter to pay the postage, not the person sending it. With the issuing of adhesive postage stamps in 1840 it became increasingly common for the sender to prepay the postage. So much easier did this make the job of the Post Office that, during the 1850s, it campaigned to make prepayment compulsory. When legislation was not forthcoming, the PO hit upon a most simple method of making its point. Instead of collecting no more than the amount of postage owing, it charged the receiver double the normal rate. These "unpaid" amounts were duly written or stamped on the envelope or parcel and were then exacted by the postman on delivery. This stratagem of eliciting public co-operation in purchasing prepaid postage stamps proved highly successful.



Although the primary objective of the surcharge system was to ensure prepayment of postage, it was also used to collect any underpayments of correct postage. It was not until April 1914, however, that the PO was sufficiently certain that substantial operational savings would be made to give notice that "no surcharge would be paid on delivery of any letter, parcel or other postal packet, unless it bears 'Postage Due' label or labels to the face value of the amount demanded", and to issue its first official labels. Designed by G W Eve, the four denominations were ½d, 1d, 2d and 5d. A year later a higher-value 1s label was also introduced when it became clear that additional revenue was necessary to account for parcels returned from abroad. It was printed in royal blue because it was "pleasing and distinctive in appearance". A 3d label was issued in 1918 and a change in postal rates in 1920 saw the introduction of a 4d label. The paper, ink and method of printing were the same as the corresponding postage stamps, but the watermark always ran sideways.

From 1918 "Postage Due" labels were used for the collection of customs and other charges on mail entering Britain from abroad as well as for surcharges – a system still in use by H M Customs & Excise today. A 2s 6d label in the same design as the "Postage Due" labels, but inscribed "To Pay" was introduced for this purpose in 1924. A 5s label became necessary in 1955, 10s and £1 denominations were first issued in 1963. These remained in use until the decimal "To Pay" labels were introduced in 1970-71: ½p, 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 values. Other values were added in subsequent years, including a £5 denomination in 1973. The design of the new decimal labels, by Jeffery Matthews, continued a tradition of single-colour printing, which was followed again in the Sedley Place designs of 1982.

The typography of the 1982 issue represented a major design change. Gone were the fat, rounded forms of the values and extravagant serifs found on the lettering of the 1971 labels. These were replaced by angular, almost austere double-line figure shaped and functional sans serif letter forms.

For the 1994 issue Royal Mail has decided to shift the design emphasis from the value to give prominence to the St Edward Crown. This symbol of the link with the monarch is now displayed on all Royal Mail stationery, promotional material and vehicles.

National Postal Museum

On 11 January 1994 the NPM is issuing a set of four postcards featuring material from its Valentine collection. On the same day the NPM will open an exhibition "Victorian Valentines" which will put on show, for the first time, some of the valentine cards acquired by the Museum over the past two years. Details of the cards are as follows:

94/1 Victorian fan valentine by Eugene Rimmel of London.

94/2 Victorian three dimensional valentine. Legend on base reads "loving greetings".

94/3 Victorian embossed and "pierced-work" valentine.

94/4 Victorian tab-operated fan valentine.

Complete sets, price £1, can be ordered from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

For this set of cards the Museum will have two one day handstamps – one on the first day of issue (11 January), and the other on St Valentine's Day (14 February). Cards/covers to



receive these should bear at least 25p (UK/EC), or appropriate overseas rate, and be sent to: London North SHC, Royal Mail, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Please ask for "NPM Special/11 January" or "NPM Special/14 February". The Museum's regular Maltese Cross cancel will also be available (ask for handstamp 1985).

The numbering of the Museum's Uniforms cards, issued 14 September 1993, was incorrectly given in the September *Bulletin*. The cards are numbered 93/11-14, *not* 94/11-14. Our apologies for any confusion caused and our thanks to Mr Keith North of Essex for bringing this to our attention.

NVI Stamps in Sheets

First and second class Non Value Indicator stamps, first introduced in stamp books in 1989, are now available in sheets of 200, printed by The House of Questa. Stamps from these sheets have been available to collectors from philatelic outlets since 5 October. Stamps, in minimum quantities of 100, were made available to businesses in four trial areas from early September; sheets may be put on sale at all main post offices in the future. The trial areas are: Birmingham (postcode districts B1-5, 7-11), Coventry (CV1-3, 5-6), Falkirk (FK1-7, 10), and Milton Keynes (MK1-15),

Collectors requiring these stamps in singles, pairs, blocks, etc may order from the British Philatelic Bureau, or obtain their requirements from any of the 35 Collections, Post Shops Plus, or Philatelic Counters at: Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Gloucester, Guildford, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (Chief Office &

Trafalgar Square), Manchester, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Romford, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stratford-upon-Avon, Truro, Windsor, and York.

Machine Stamp Books

The 50p and £1 books issued on 1 November completed the "Postal History" and "Educational Institutions" series. Also issued that day was the first in a series of £2 books featuring "Postal Vehicles" by Debbie Cook. This depicted a motorised cycle carrier serving the rural area of Sittingbourne, Kent, 1902. The next in this series is scheduled for issue on 26 April 1994 and will feature an experimental motor mail van with an adapted horse-van body, London, 1905. The third design, showing an experimental electric mail van, probably Leeds, 1932, is expected to be issued in September 1994.



Prime Minister Asquith on new £1 book to be issued 25 January.

New 50p and £1 books will go on sale at the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters on 25 January, starting new "Coaching Inns" and "Prime Ministers" series. The order of issue will be:

- 50p Book**
- 1: "Swan with Two Necks", London 25 January
 - 2: "Bull & Mouth", London 26 April
 - 3: "Golden Cross", London 6 June
 - 4: "The Pheasant Inn", Wiltshire 6 September

- £1 Book**
- 1: Herbert Asquith 25 January
 - 2: David Lloyd George 26 April
 - 3: Winston Churchill 6 June
 - 4: Clement Attlee 6 September

Any changes to the order and/or dates of issue will be notified in the *Bulletin*. Please note that the dates refer to issue from the Bureau and other philatelic outlets; the books will be available from vending machines at post offices as stocks of earlier issues are exhausted.

1993 Definitives, Country Stamps and Stamped Stationery Checklist

Each December we publish a listing of definitives, country stamps and stamped stationery issued during the year. We hope this 1993 list will prove helpful to collectors in completing their collections. Please read the following notes carefully.

Notes

National Definitive stamps have been printed by four companies:

- (1) Harrison & Sons Ltd. (H), photogravure, perf. 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum (PVAD)
- (2) Joh Enschedé en Zonen (JE), photogravure, perf. 15 x 14, PVA gum
- (3) The House of Questa Ltd. (Q), offset-lithography, perf. 15 x 14, PVA gum
- (4) Walsall Security Printers Ltd. (W), offset-lithography, perf. 14 or, from April 1993, perf. 15 x 14, PVA or PVAD gum

Country stamps – printed by Questa in offset-lithography, perf. 15 x 14, PVA gum.

The papers used, whether prepared for photogravure or offset-lithography were:

Non-phosphor coated, overprinted with phosphor bands, viz.

FCP Fluorescent Coated Paper, or
OFNP free of Optical Brightening Agent (OBA)

Phosphor Coated Paper, viz.

ACP Advanced Coated Paper, with OBA,
or OFPP ACP free of OBA

Some of the single stamps were issued only in books and can be bought from Royal Mail only in complete books. To help collectors, we quote the relevant British Philatelic Bureau order number (prefixed DB, DC, IS, etc.) as given on Bureau stock lists.

Elliptical perforations are annotated (E); straight edges are indicated SE, followed by L, R, T, or B depending on whether the straight edge is at the left, right, top or bottom respectively of the stamp or pane.

2 February

- £2.40 Greetings (Gift Giving) Book (JB006) containing 10 x 1st-class NVI Greetings stamps, one each of ten designs, H, 2 bands (E).

Presentation Pack No. G2, (JP002), containing Greetings Book pane. Price £2.70.

9 February

- 50p Machine Book (TB021): Postal History No.1 – Airmail handstamps. Contents as in previous Archaeology series viz. a pane of 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p, H, ACP/PVAD. Single stamps are: 1p and 24p, perf. 15 x 14 all round.

- £1 Machine Book (TB022): Educational Institutions No.1 – University of Wales, W Contents as in previous Punch series but now printed by offset-lithography, viz. a pane of 2 x 2p, 4 x 24p and two labels. Single stamps are: W, ACP/PVAD, 2p SEL, 2p SER, 24p SEL and 24p SER, all perf. 14.

- £2.40 Retail Book (UB065), W. Contents 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps. The back cover carries a Rupert Bear advertisement for the February Greetings Book. Contents as in previous W books of 10 x 1st class NVIs but printed on ACP/PVAD paper. Single stamps are: 1st NVI SET and 1st NVI SEB, perf. 14. (see also 16 March).

Aerogramme Pack (QO029), to promote the International Pen Pal Club, price £2 per pack of six aerogrammes.

23 February

- 18p Scottish country definitive, Q phosphor bar right of centre, perforation variety 13½ x 14, (SS183).

Note: This variety also exists on the Scotland 24p, 28p and 31p, the W les 18p and 24p, and the Northern Ireland 18p but, because the change was unauthorised and was not discovered for some time, stocks of these went into general distribution where they were widely dispersed and so could not be supplied to order.

2 March

- £10 definitive stamp (FS100), Q perf. 15 x 14 (E), non-phosphor, PVA gum.

Presentation Pack No. 28, (FP009), containing the £10 stamp. Price £10.30.

Prepaid pictorial "Aircards" (RQ001), four designs, each with a 33p imprinted stamp. Price 75p each, £3 per set.

16 March

£1.80 Retail Book (UB066), W. Contents 10 x 2nd-class NVI stamps as in previous W books but printed on FCP/PVAD paper. Single stamps are: 2nd NVI SET and 2nd NVI SEB, both with centre phosphor bar and perf. 14.

Note: This book was available from retail stores from December 1992.

96p Retail Book, (UB067), W. Contents 4 x 1st-class NVI stamps as in previous W books but printed on ACP/PVAD paper. Single stamps are: 1st NVI SET and 1st NVI SEB, both perf. 14.

23 March

Scotland Aerogramme, (QS031), 150th anniversary of the granting of the Royal title to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Price 44p includes 34p postage paid by imprinted NVI stamp.



6 April – £1 machine book – St. Hilda's College.

6 April

50p Machine Book (TB023): Postal History No. 2 – Ship Mail Postmarks, H. Contents as in No. 1 of the series, viz. a pane of 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p, perforated all round. Single stamps are H, ACP/PVAD, perf. 15 x 14.

£1 Machine Book (TB024): Educational Institutions No. 2 – St. Hilda's College, Oxford, W. Contents as in No. 1 of the series, viz. a pane of 2 x 2p, 4 x 24p and two labels, straight edges left and right. Singles are W, ACP/PVA, perf. 14.

72p Retail Book, (UB068), W. Contents, pane of 4 x 2nd-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVA. Single stamps are 2nd, centre phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14 (E). This was a change of gauge for W stamps.

96p Retail Book, (UB069), H. Contents, pane of 4 x 1st-class NVI stamps on

OFPP/PVAD. Single stamps are 1st, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£1.80 Retail Book, (UB070), Q. Contents, pane of 10 x 2nd-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVA. Single stamps are 2nd, phosphor bar right of centre, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£2.40 Retail Book, (UB071), W. Contents, pane of 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVA. Single stamps are 1st, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E). This was a change of perforation gauge for W stamps.

£2.40 Retail Book, (UB072), H. Contents, pane of 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps on OFPP/PVAD. Single stamps are 1st, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

Note: The above five retail (window) books all incorporated new features to improve security and operational efficiency. These include all-round perforations with ellipses at left and right sides, paper free of Optical Brightening Agent, and fluorescent phosphor bands on the lithographed panes.

27 April

6p (DS061) sheet definitive, JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).



8 June – 1p, 5p, 10p Enschedé definitives.

8 June

1p (DS012), 5p (DS056) and 10p (DS104) sheet definitives, JE, all on OFNP/PVA, with two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

15 June

£2.40 Gift Giving Greetings Book reprint, copy change: correction of Thompson to Thomson. The stamp contents were unchanged. (JB 007).

22 June

Scotland Aerogramme, 900th anniversary of the death of St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland. Price 44p includes 34p postage paid by imprinted NVI stamp. (QS032).

28 June

Guaranteed Delivery Envelopes, C4, C5 and DL

sizes, prepaid with octagonal medallion Machin head NVI impression for Special Delivery plus 1st-class postage up to 100g, 350g and 500g respectively. Prices £3.30, £3.80 and £4.20. (RX005, RY005, RZ005).

Registered Plus Envelopes, C4, C5 and DL sizes, prepaid with octagonal medallion Machin head NVI impression for the higher compensation service. Prices £3.90, £4.40 and £4.80 according to size. (RX006, RY006, RZ006).

Note: The above were issued following the incorporation of a new track and trace system for handling priority service mail.

6 July

50p Machine Book (TB025): Postal History No. 3 – Registered Postmarks, H. Contents as in Nos. 1 and 2 of the series, viz. a pane of 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p, perforated all round, on ACP/PVAD.

£1 Machine Book (TB026): Educational Institutions No. 3 – Marlborough College, W. Contents as in Nos. 1 and 2 of the series, viz. a pane of 2 x 2p, 4 x 24p and two labels, straight edges left and right, on ACP/PVA.

27 July

30p (DS301) sheet definitive, JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

2 August

Aircards prepaid with Machin head Great Britain Postage Paid indicator. Ten cards in two sets of five, viz. London views (numbered 2A to 2E) and Stratford-upon-Avon views (3A to 3E). Price 50p each card. (RQ002, RQ003).

Note: No official first day of issue, the cards were available from the Bureau from 2 August.

10 August

£5.64 Beatrix Potter Prestige Stamp Book, (YB007).

Stamp contents, four panes, viz. pane 1, four Peter Rabbit Greetings stamps;

pane 2, three 18p plus three 24p Country stamps se-tenant;

pane 3, three 1st- and three 2nd-class NVI stamps se-tenant;

pane 4, two 18p, two 33p, two 39p and two 2nd-class NVI stamps plus Peter Rabbit label se-tenant.

Pane 1 was on OFNP/PVAD, H, photogravure; the others were on OFNP/PVA, Q, offset-lithography.

The single stamps were:

Peter Rabbit 1st-class NVI, 2 phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E), ex pane 1;

Scotland 18p light green, left phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 2;

Scotland 24p rust, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 2;

Wales 18p light green, left phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 2;

Wales 24p rust, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 2;

Northern Ireland 18p light green, left phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 2;

Northern Ireland 24p rust, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 2;



10 August – Pane 2 from Beatrix Potter prestige book.

1st NVI two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 3;

2nd NVI left phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14, ex panes 3 and 4;

18p national definitive, light green, left phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 4;

33p emerald, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 4;

39p rhododendron, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14, ex pane 4.

Note: Beatrix Potter book sold out shortly after issue.

17 August

35p (D352) sheet definitive, JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

96p Retail Book, (UB074), W. Contents, pane of 4 x 1st-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVA. Single stamps are 1st, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£1.80 Retail Book, (UB075), Q. Contents, pane of 10 x 2nd-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVA. Single stamps are 2nd, phosphor bar right of centre, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£2.40 Retail Book, (UB077), W. Contents, pane of 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVA. The single stamps are 1st, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£2.40 Retail Book, (UB076), H. Contents, pane of 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps on OFPP/PVAD. Single stamps are 1st, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

Note: The contents of the above books of 10 stamps were identical to those in the books released on 6 April 1993. The book of four stamps by W was a new issue. All four books had revised text on the inside cover removing the reference to the validity of NVI stamps for overseas mail.

£2.40 Gift Giving Greetings Book reprint, second copy change, revised rates notice as for the four retail books above and correction of Sorell to Sorrell. Contents unchanged. (JB008).

7 September

72p Retail Book, (UB074), H. Contents, pane of 4 x 2nd-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVAD. Single stamps are 2nd, centre phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

Note: The cover had the same revised text as the four books issued on 17 August.

5 October

NVI sheets of 200 1st-class stamps, Q OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E). (DS243).

NVI sheets of 200 2nd-class stamps, Q OFNP/PVA, one phosphor bar right of centre, perf. 15 x 14 (E). (DS184).

Note: These sheets were released in September on trial in Birmingham, Coventry, Falkirk and Milton Keynes to meet the needs of business users. They were available from philatelic outlets from 5 October.

Christmas Aerogramme (Christmas cards). Price 44p, including aerogramme postage indicated by a 1(st) postage paid impression and the Machin head. (QX017).

Note: The price did not change with the introduction of the new tariff.

19 October

£4.80 Book of NVI 20 x 1st-class Self-adhesives, W, (UB078). Contents, two panes of nine stamps and one of two, affixed to separable parts of the card cover. The stamps are in horizontal format, with two fluorescent phosphor bars and simulated perforations, including ellipses at the left and right sides. Printed on Chancellor paper with acrylic adhesive.

Presentation Pack (AP117) containing one Self-adhesive Book. Price £5.10.

26 October

19p olive green (DS199), H, OFNP/PVAD,

centre phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

25p salmon pink (DS250), H, OFPP/PVAD, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

29p light grey (DS292), JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

36p ultramarine, (DS360), JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

38p red, (DS380), JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

41p stone, (DS410), JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

Presentation Pack No. 30 (DP016) containing one each of the above six stamps. Price £2.20.

1 November

19p olive green, vertical rolls of 500 and 1000 stamps, stock letter BL, H, OFNP/PVAD, one centre phosphor bar, perf. 15 x 14 (E). (DC860).

25p salmon pink, vertical rolls of 500 and 1000 stamps, stock letter CL, H, OFPP/PVAD, perf. 15 x 14 (E). (DC862).

35p old gold, vertical rolls of 500 stamps, stock letter DL, H, OFPP/PVAD, perf. 15 x 14 (E). (DC864).

41p stone, vertical rolls of 500 stamps, stock letter EL, H, OFPP/PVAD, perf. 15 x 14 (E). (DC865).

50p Machine Book (TB027) Postal History No. 4 – Paid and To Pay Postmarks, H. Contents, a pane of 2 x 25p plus two labels. Single stamps are: H, OFPP/PVAD, perf. 15 x 14 (E).



1 November – 50p machine book – Paid and To Pay markings.

£1 Machine Book (TB028) Educational Institutions No. 4 – Free Church of Scotland College, Edinburgh, W. Contents, a pane of 4 x 25p. Single stamps are: W, OFNP/PVA two phosphor bands, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£2 Machine Book (TB029): Postal Vehicles

No. 1 – Motorised Cycle-carrier, H. Contents, a pane of 8 x 25p. Single stamps are: H, OFPP/PVAD, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

Note: The price of all NVI stamps rose by 1p on 1 November and corresponding increases in the price of all current books containing them also occurred on that date.

£1 Retail Book, (UB079), W. Contents, pane of 4 x 1st-class NVI stamps on OFNP/PVA. Single stamps are 1st, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E) as in the book released on 17 August. The rates notice on the inside cover was the former one referring to the validity of NVIs on mail to EC countries.

£1.40 Retail Book (UB082) for Overseas Postcards, W. Contents, a pane of 4 x 35p plus four airmail labels. Single stamps are OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£1.64 Retail Book (UB083) for Overseas Airmail letters, W. Contents, a pane of 4 x 41p plus four airmail labels. Single stamps are OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

£2.50 Retail Book, (UB081) W. Contents, 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps. Single stamps are, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E) as in the book released 17 August. The back cover carries the Rupert Bear advertisement panel.

£2.50 Retail Book, (UB080), Q. Contents, 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps. Single stamps are OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

7 December

Country definitives, 19p, 25p, 30p, 41p for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 19p Q, OFNP/PVA, centre phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E). 25p 30p 41p Q, OFNP/PVA two phosphor bars, perf 15 x 14 (E). Bureau codes – N. Ireland: IS191, IS250, IS300, IS410. Scotland: SS192, SS250, SS300, SS410. Wales: WS192, WS250, WS300, WS410.

Presentation Pack No.31 (CP011), with one each of 12 stamps as above. Price £3.80.

14 December

4p deep turquoise, (DS044), JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

20p sea green, (DS205), JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

50p sand, (DS504), JE, OFNP/PVA, two phosphor bars, perf. 15 x 14 (E).

Royal Mail are grateful to DGA Myall for

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

Posting Boxes

145. Victorian Boxes

Two interesting early boxes this month. Our first photograph, submitted by the Rev. Graham Bell shows a box in Framlingham, Suffolk. Mr Bell writes: "the 'novelty' about this box is its location in Mount Pleasant, though in a small Suffolk town and not its famous namesake!"



The second photograph, from Diana Cooke of Cambridge, New Zealand shows a Penfold box at Cambridge. Ms Cooke tells us that "our post office has Edward VIII over one door and George VI over the other."

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies sent in by readers for this "Posting Boxes" feature – enough to last for the next few years. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.

Readers interested in letter boxes are reminded of the existence of the Letter Box Study Group – details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.

1993 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 during 1993. Let us know your top three sets and favourite individual stamp (numbered 1-51) on the enclosed voting form. Also please tell us why

you like your favourite set best. We will send 1993 yearbooks to the first five readers whose voting forms are drawn from all received by 28 January.

The closing date for votes is 28 January 1994 and the results will be published in the *Bulletin*. We look forward to receiving your vote.

A. Swans



1



2



3



4



5

B. Marine Timekeepers



6



7



8



9

C. Orchids



10



11



12



13



14

D. Europa – Art in the 20th century



15



16



17



18

E. Roman Britain



19



20



21



22

F. Inland Waterways



23



24



25



26

G. Autumn



27



28



29



30



31

H. Sherlock Holmes



32



33



34



35



36

I. Christmas



37



38



39



40



41

J. Greetings (Gift Giving)

42

43

44

45

46



47



48



49



50



51



Stamps of the Four Kings

4. George V Profile Stamps

JAMES MACKAY

While public criticism of the Downey Heads was at its height Sir Bertram Mackennal was approached, late in 1911, to design more satisfactory alternatives. His first step was to take the profile of the King, which he had sculpted for the obverse of the coinage, and set it into a clay maquette comprising an upright oval frame with a crowned scroll at the top and a wreath of heraldic laurel and oak leaves at the sides. The words POSTAGE and REVENUE were carved across the top while the words ONE PENNY were placed at the foot, flanked by value tablets. The Mackennal clay tablet, which was to serve as the basis of the 1d and 2½d stamps, has a classic simplicity about it: all of the essential ingredients were combined in a simple bas-relief.

Sculpture was not the only novel approach to stamp design adopted in this issue. A photograph was taken of the maquette and a print was sent to the King himself for approval on 21 February 1912. Thereafter photography was to play an increasingly important part in the design and production of British stamps. Subsequently it was decided that the coinage profile was too small, so the profile which Mackennal had sculpted for the Coronation medal was substituted. This gave the design of the 1d and 2½d stamps a more balanced appearance, but Mackennal's coinage effigy was retained for the other denominations.

Photographs of the Mackennal coinage and medal heads were sent to J A C Harrison who engraved the master dies. Altogether, there were to be four different profiles of the King used in the series of 1912-26. The Coronation medal head was used for the 1d and 2½d. A slightly smaller version of this, known as the intermediate medal head, was used for the denominations from 5d to 1s, and a smaller version, known as the small medal head, was used on fiscal stamps. The original coinage head was used for the ½d, 1½d, 3d and 4d stamps. George W Eve produced the frame designs, adapting his original dolphins design for the new ½d and 1½d, and modifying other designs which had been in the pipeline since 1911 and

had originally been intended for use with the Downey portrait.

J A C Harrison engraved all of the dies for this series, the plates being made at the Royal Mint. A second die for the 2d stamp was ordered in September 1921 and stamps from this die can be distinguished from their predecessors by the more prominent white inner frame-line and the line round the word TWOPENCE. An increase in postal rates in June 1920 raised the inland letter rate to 2d, and improvements in the design of this denomination were required for operational reasons. By mid-1922, however, peacetime conditions had returned sufficiently for the Post Office to reduce the letter rate to 1½d, so there was relatively little requirement for the 2d stamp after that date.



½d and 6d Mackennal Designs (Letterpress)

The series from ½d to 1s was letterpress-printed. Harrison and Sons printed all denominations except the 6d which was produced at Somerset House using doubly fugitive ink. The Stamping Branch of the Board of Inland Revenue at Somerset House also made occasional printings of the other values, but these can only be distinguished from the Harrison printings if the control letter is present in the sheet margin. The stamps were perforated 15 x 14 on paper with the Royal Cypher watermark. Harrison's contract expired at the end of 1923 and from 1924 till the end of 1933 the stamps were printed by Waterlow & Sons. Waterlow printings are readily distinguishable as

they used the Multiple Block Cypher watermark. Somerset House continued to print the 6d value, but also made a printing of the 1½d in 1926, distinguishable by the control E.26. No 7d or 8d values appeared in the Waterlow series, these denominations having been phased out during the First World War. Apart from a wide range of shades, especially in the wartime printings, there are watermark variants in the stamps from coils and booklets.

The four highest denominations, from 2s6d to £1, were designed by Mackennal and marked a considerable break with tradition. Hitherto letterpress had been used for all high values but, in deference to the wishes of the King himself, intaglio (recess-printing) was now revived. The design showed Britannia in a chariot drawn by three sea-horses and reflected national pride in the largest navy the world had ever seen. The versatile J A C Harrison line-engraved the master die from which the secondary dies (in which both the value and the “Union Jack” had to be separately engraved) and plates were manufactured. The stamps were printed by Waterlow Brothers & Layton (no connection with Waterlow & Sons, with whom they later merged).

The £1 stamp was obsolete by 1915, so all examples of this denomination were produced by Waterlow Brothers. In December 1915 the contract passed to De La Rue and three years later it was won by Bradbury Wilkinson who continued to print the 2s6d, 5s and 10s stamps till the end of 1933. Slight differences, notably in the size of the stamps, enable collectors to distinguish the work of the three printers.

Alternative to Letterpress

The ten-year contracts on both low and high values were due to expire at the end of 1933. Harrison & Sons eventually secured the job of printing the low values while Waterlow & Sons, who had printed the low values till then, were awarded the high value contract as a consolation prize. As early as November 1932, however, the Post Office began considering an alternative to letterpress on grounds of economy and aesthetics. Although photogravure was a more expensive process, it was felt that the vast improvement in appearance of the stamps outweighed the additional outlay. Harrison & Sons had, in fact, been printing photogravure stamps for overseas countries since 1923.

A solid background was substituted for the lined ground to bring out the special tonal



½d, 2d, 4d, 5d Photogravure (5d shows cylinder number and control)

qualities of the new process. The results certainly did justice to Mackennal's sculptured profiles, but the retention of the rather fussy frames was perhaps less felicitous. Attempts to produce the 6d stamp by photogravure, using the doubly fugitive ink, proved unsuccessful and the printing of this value was scrapped, although a few examples exist with a “cancelled” overprint. The 1½d stamp appeared on 20 August 1934 and the other denominations at various times till 24 February 1936 – more than a month after the King's death.

To bring the Seahorses into line with the deeper colours of the low values the dies were re-engraved, deepened and cross-hatching substituted for horizontal lines behind the King's head.

© James Mackay 1993

Christmas Cylinders & Colours

19p P8 (phosphor) 1A (also 2A) (new blue) 1B (yellow) 1C (magenta) 1D (salmon) 1E (bright emerald) 1F (grey-black)

25p 1A (yellow-orange) 1B (brown-lilac) 1C (steel-blue) 1D (lake-brown) 1E (light green) 1F (grey-black) 1G (black)

30p 1A (cerise) 1B (bistre-yellow) 1C (dull blue) 1D (brown-rose) 1E (pale green) 1F (grey-black) 2G (black)

35p 1A (deep turquoise-green) 1B (lemon) 2C (vermilion) 1D (dull ultramarine) 1E (Indian red) 1F (bluish grey) 1G (black)

41p 2A (reddish purple) 1B (lemon) 1C (purple) 1D (light blue) 1E (salmon) 1F (bright green) 3G (black)

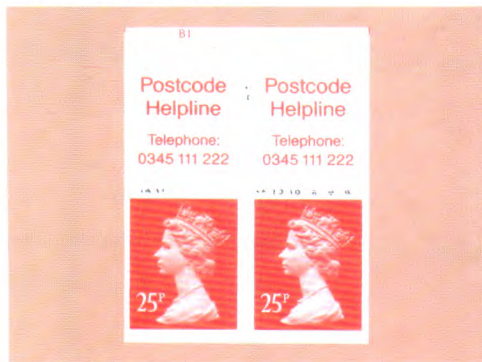
Decimal Stamp Books-12

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

New Machine-vend books

The 50p, £1 and £2 books mentioned here in September were issued on 1 November. They contain two, four or eight of the new 25p salmon pink stamp with elliptical perforations printed on OBA-free paper. The value is a new type, incorporating the redesigned figures by Jeffery Matthews. Pane make-up for machine-vend books has to be in multiples of four units in order to achieve an even thickness in the finished books and avoid jamming problems. Accordingly, the 50p book has two labels. These give the telephone number of the Postcode Helpline which will tell you any postcode in the country. A similar message is printed on the inside covers of the retail (window) books, with the additional information that the line is open only from 9am to 5pm.



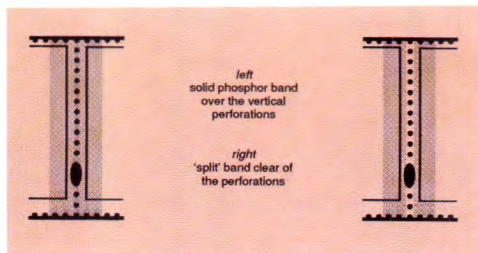
50p booklet pane

Cylinder B1 was used for the stamps and labels in the 50p book and B3 for the stamps in the £2 book. These were printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd (H&S) without phosphor bars. The direction of printing was sideways to the right and the marginal perforation is type I (imperforate). The £1 book was printed in lithography by Walsall Security Printers Ltd from plates W1 W1. Two plates are commonly used in lithographic printing of the Machin design in order to achieve the required tonal depth. In fact, the Walsall stamps are noticeably deeper in colour than those from Harrison. The Walsall stamps

also have two C phosphor bars from 8mm "split" bands. Split bands were first seen on Walsall's books of 10 x 1st issued last April. Instead of printing a solid 8mm band down the vertical perforations to form the bars on each stamp automatically, separate bands measuring 4mm or even less are printed clear of the perforations.

On the books I have seen, the bars do not extend into the binding margin and, in fact, do not reach the top edge of the stamps. Collectors who include shortbar phosphors will thus recognise two different stamps from this pane. It is possible that books from other positions in the primary sheet† will have the bars extending right through the margin. The marginal perforation seems to be a new type and I will give further information in my next article.

† A primary sheet is a convenient means of referring to the printed output from one complete cylinder or plate combination.



New overseas window books

Two window books containing stamps for the revised overseas postcard and airmail letter rates effective from 1 November went on sale on that date. They follow the pattern of the books for the previous rates, complete with four airmail labels, known as etiquettes, and panes of four stamps, but with new barcodes which are blue instead of black. The £1.40 book is barcode 126 and contains four 35p old gold stamps from plates W1 W1. The £1.64 book is barcode 127



£1.40 overseas window book.

and contains four of the new 41p stone stamps also from plates W1 W1. Of course, the same plates are not used for both values; it is the practice to number plates separately for each value but to start at number 1 each time. The stamps in both books have the now standard elliptical perforations and are overprinted with two C phosphor bars from 8mm split bands.

New NVI window books

Three window books containing 1st-class NVI stamps also went on sale on 1 November. One was printed by Questa and two by Walsall. The Questa book has 10 stamps overprinted with two C phosphor bars from solid 8mm bands. The plate combination seen is Q1 Q1/Q1 although, since Questa colour plates are made in pairs, Q2 Q2/Q1 should also exist.

Walsall have also printed a book of 10 stamps with two bars but this time they are from split 8mm bands. The plate combination seen is W25 W14 W20. More obviously, the back cover carries the Rupert Bear advertisement first seen on their books of ten with straight edged panes last February. The covers are identical except that the price "only £2.40" has been removed from the back. The other Walsall book contains four stamps and is identical to the book issued last August except that it carries the former rates notice referring to validity of NVIs on mail to EC countries. Even the plate combination is the same, viz. W11 W22 W15.

Prestige book errors

Booklet errors are popular with collectors and some are quite expensive, a sign that they do not occur all that often when the quantities printed are taken into account. Most seem to affect the prestige books and there is good reason for this. First, the contents are sheet printed rather than being printed continuously "in the web". This has been the root cause of such errors as phosphor printed on both sides of the paper and phosphor omitted. The recent change to fluorescent phosphor overprints has reduced their incidence but the se-tenant pane of nine in the Beatrix Potter book has been discovered without phosphor. Second, the parts of the books are assembled by hand and human errors are always liable to occur. An interesting example, also in the Potter book, has the first pane inserted inverted. But perhaps the most mixed up book ever known is the one I now describe.

It is convenient to abbreviate book contents to FC (front cover), L1 etc. (interleaf 1 etc.) and P1

etc. (pane 1 etc.) and to state the makeup consecutively from front to back. Thus the makeup of a normal Potter book is: FC, L1, P1, L2, L3, P2, L4, P3, L5, P4, L6, BC. That in my book is: FC, P2, L1, P1, P3, L2, L3, L4, P4, L4, L5, L6, BC. Note that, not only are the elements in completely the wrong order but one interleaf is duplicated.

Worldwide Postcard book variety

The book containing a pane of four 33p stamps to prepay the former worldwide postcard rate exists officially in two versions: one was printed on paper gummed PVA and was from plate combination W1 W1 W1; later, the stamps were printed on paper gummed Dextrin and was from combination W2 W1 W1. At the same time the wording on the yellow strip at the right of the book was changed from "For letters up to 10g" to the more accurate "For Worldwide Postcards" In September, books with panes gummed Dextrin and from combination W2 W1 W1, were found with the former cover, referring to "letters" instead of to "postcards" These are not particularly rare but worth looking out for.

Self-adhesive book

A comment in my October article referring to the perforation gauge of the new stamps fell a victim to copyfitting editing and lost some of its impact. The gauge of the horizontal (landscape) stamps was officially stated to be perf.14, indicating that all four sides are the same. In fact, the perforation is $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ (to the nearest quarter) and reproduces the perf. $14\frac{1}{4} \times 14$ of the vertical (portrait) design. (This is the usual gauge although some printers have varied it in the past.) My comment was intended to explain why there are two different gauges on our stamps. It is more difficult to tear paper across the grain than with it. Try it with any piece of paper; you will find that it tears more easily in one direction than at right-angles to it. To compensate for this phenomenon, the perforations of normal Machin stamps remove slightly more paper from the short sides than from the long ones. This requirement does not, of course, apply to the self-adhesive stamps which are peeled off individually and are not detached by tearing. You see how faithfully the true perforations have been simulated!

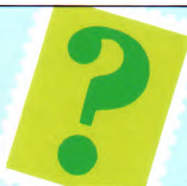
Questa 10 x 2nd

Combinations Q1 Q1 and Q4 Q4 have now been confirmed in books with the original rates notice referring to EC validity.

© D G A Myall 1993

Competition

SPONSORED BY:
STANLEY GIBBONS



Win 1840 Penny Black

This month's competition is sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, stamp dealers of The Strand. The prizes, supplied by Stanley Gibbons, comprise:

★ 1st Prize: A used 1840 1d Black with a black Maltese Cross cancel and good margins – housed in a superb presentation wallet complete with a short history of the stamp.



★ 2nd Prize: 2 x SG Great Britain Standard Albums (1840-1992) with attractively designed binders and selected stamp illustrations.

★ 3rd Prize: 3 x 1993 *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogues* including information on watermark varieties, FDCs, booklets and much more.

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Stanley Gibbons is synonymous with philately and the Company has been at the forefront of collecting since 1856.

The Specialist Dealing Department has an international reputation for its comprehensive stocks of Great Britain and British Commonwealth material, encompassing all aspects. All items are covered by the Gibbons guarantee of authenticity and listings of new stock are regularly despatched to clients worldwide.

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To enter this month's competition answer the questions below and send your answers with your name and address on a postcard to: December Bulletin Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 28 January 1994.

1. What is the name of the locomotive featured on the 25p Age of Steam stamp?
2. How many values in the new set of To Pay labels to be issued in February?
3. In what year was Stanley Gibbons founded?
4. How many sets of Tennyson stamp cards were issued?
5. How many special and greetings stamps were issued in 1993?

The answers to all these questions will be found in this month's *Bulletin*.

The competition is not open to employees of Royal Mail or Stanley Gibbons.

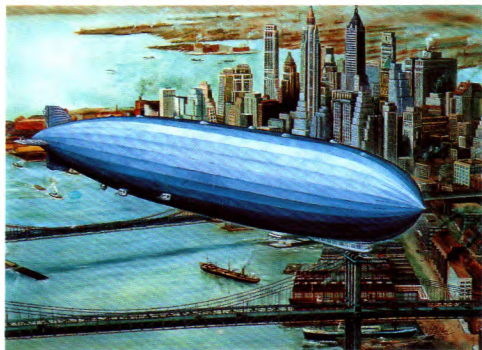
The winners of the September competition were: M Tritton, Mrs R Adams, B Lakin, J Cardona, J Sexton (1st prizes); J Schreuder, H Locke, W Palmer, B Haley (2nd prizes); and R White, E Swales, A Nicoletta (3rd prizes).

The answers: 1. The Final Problem; 2. Emil Fuchs; 3. 77 The Strand, London WC2R 0DE. 4. Edmund Blampied; 5. 16 March 1993; 6. James Mackay.

Stamp Scene

Bath Postal Museum

The Museum has recently produced a new postcard – reference number 27 – commemorating the Around the World Flight of Graf Zeppelin LZ-127, August 1929. The 21,000 mile circuit was completed in 12 days, 12 hours 20 minutes actual flying time, excluding stops taken at Friedrichshafen, Tokyo, Los Angeles and Lakehurst (New Jersey). Philatelists and postal historians paid for much of the venture by sending vast quantities of mail to be carried on the airship. The card reproduces a painting of the airship in the Museum. Price unused 15p, plus postage. All orders/enquiries about the Museum's displays and postcard series should be addressed to: Stephen Howard, Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, BATH BA1 5LJ, Tel. 0225 460333. The Museum is registered as a Charitable Trust.



Salvation Army Philatelic Circle

The First Annual Meeting of the Salvation Army Philatelic Circle was held on 18 September at the Citadel, Gillygate, York. Over 30 members attended, from as far afield as Northern Scotland and London.

A permanent exhibition showed over 250 album sheets of Salvation Army philately of the world; Salvation Army and the Armed Forces; Dutch Indies and Indonesia, and over 230 different picture postcards of General Booth, his life and times, home, travels and family. Some interesting illustrated talks were given and reports were presented on the progress of the Circle, and on a proposed specialists' societies' association.

Next year's meeting will be at the same venue on 22 October. All enquiries concerning the Salvation Army Philatelic Circle should be sent to: Harry Hayes, 11 Chatsworth Drive,

Towthorpe Road, Haxby, YORK YO3 8QS, Tel. 0904 764660.

Arnold Machin FDCs

Arnold Machin, OBE, RA is a patron of Mid-Staffs MENCAP – a local charity whose aim is to help mentally handicapped people. He authorised and personally signed a limited edition of 100 numbered covers bearing the 10p, 20p, 50p stamps franked with "Stafford First Day of Issue 17 Jun 70" postmark. Price £10 including postage & packing.

Also available are a limited edition of 500 numbered mint sets of the decimal definitives issued 5 March 1969. The 2s.6d, 5s, 10s and £1 stamps are mounted on white card with a gilt edge and personally signed by Arnold Machin. Price £12.50 post paid. Orders/enquiries: Mid-Staffs Mencap, SDVS, 131-141 North Walls, STAFFORD ST16 3AD, Tel. 0785 44270.



Mr W A Wiseman, holding the Royal Mail Trophy, with Julie Dunwiddie, Royal Mail's Manager Direct & Overseas Sales, Philatelic Service

Autumn Stampex 1993

Our congratulations to *Bulletin* contributor Douglas Myall on the award of the National Postal Museum medal for his recent book *The Complete Deegam Machin handbook* (reviewed here in September). The Royal Mail Trophy was awarded to Mr W A Wiseman for his splendid exhibit "Army Paid (Stamped) Mail 1807-1914 & Army Official Stamps 1896-1904". The entry featured the variations in the ARMY OFFICIAL overprint, the use of the stamps and items of considerable historical interest.

There were some excellent exhibits of British Stamps – GB Postal Stationery Postcards Queen Victoria Issues 1870-1901 (A Bowers); The Penny Lilac (A M Gilbert); George V ½d (Miss E

L Curtis); The Black Plates ("Engineman"); 1½ Letterpress Definitives of 1912-34 (A B Jones); and GB Embossed Document Stamps from 1694 (Dr R H Champion).

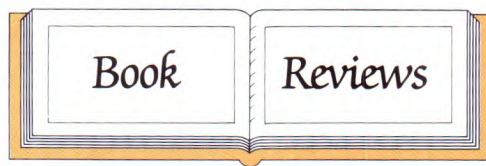
The Postal History class included "200 years of British Parliamentary Postal History" (Dr D Trapnell); "Provincial Namestamps" (N E Lyon) and "Floating Post Offices of the Clyde" (E Tawn). Mr Tawn also exhibited "Scottish Airmails" in the Aerophilatelic Class. The International Class included outstanding exhibits by G S Ryan (English Municipal Revenue Stamps) and Lady Mairi Bury (The Profile Head Study of George V Watermark Royal Cypher).

The dates for Spring and Autumn Stampex 1994 are: 1-6 March and 11-16 October respectively.

Railway Letter Stamps

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway announces new issues for 1994 – four 25p stamps on 18 January, day of issue of the Royal Mail's "Age of Steam" stamps. The four NYMR stamps will show a British Railways loco, and one each of the GWR, Southern Rly and North Eastern Rly. Printed by Questa, in sheets of eight – two panes of four. Sheet price £2, FDC £2.75. Five 25p stamps will follow on 22 April, marking the 21st anniversary of the first public trains on the reopened NYMR. The issue will comprise a horizontal strip of stamps, the first and last showing locomotives, the middle three carriages, forming a train. To be printed in sheets of 10, comprising two strips of five. Orders/enquiries about all NYMR issues to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA. Postage 35p on all orders.

Correction: The date of issue of the Lambton tank stamp was 10 November *not* 9 November as given in the November *Bulletin*.



The Local Posts of the Midland Counties to 1840

The Birmingham Penny Post, one of the three original provincial penny posts in England, was established in August 1793. To celebrate the bicentenary, the Midland Postal History Society have produced their largest and most ambitious work so far, as a fitting tribute. This hefty tome covers almost half a century, ending with the postal reforms of 1840 which introduced Uniform Penny Postage. The core of the volume deals in great detail with the penny posts of Birmingham and the ten Midland counties, illustrating over 350 postmarks and summarising their usage.

In 1764 the Post Office took over the system of cross-posts which had been established by Ralph Allen of Bath. The following year, an Act gave the Postmaster General the powers "to establish an office to be called the Penny Post Office in any City or Town, and the suburbs thereof". The next clause stipulated that when such a penny post were established, no one would be permitted to collect or deliver letters without a licence from the postmaster, implying that if no official penny post were established, private individuals would continue to operate their own services.

The introductory section of this book discusses the unofficial local posts which flourished in many provincial districts long before the official penny posts were established. Significantly, despite the powers to establish penny posts, the authorities were reluctant to implement them, Dublin was the first, but not until 1773; and the fact that it was inefficient and ran at a loss deterred other towns from following suit. Oddly enough, Edinburgh got a penny post the very same year and this proved to be a lucrative venture for its promoter, the flamboyant Peter Williamson who ran it until it was taken over by the Post Office 20 years later. It then operated as a separate business, in parallel with the General Post, until the reforms of 1840.

The London local posts were similarly run as a separate venture. Credit must be given to the young Francis Freeling who, though dubious of the practical benefit of local posts in the



NYMR railway letter stamps – 18 January 1994

provinces, realised that they could only be run effectively if they were combined with the General Post.

This book also discusses the Fifth Clause posts (so-called because they operated by the guarantee of local landowners and businessmen, under the fifth clause of the Act of 1801) and incidentally provides the most succinct account of these services which often perplex the postal historian.

More than three years' research and the expertise of a score of postal historians have gone into the production of this stupendous book. Though primarily of interest to Midlands students it deserves a wider audience, as the ideal approach to this fascinating subject. 368 A4 pages, reproduced from typescript. Spiral bound, card covers. Price £17.50, case bound £32, postage £4. Available from: John Calladine, Dunley House, Cranham, Glos, GL4 8HQ.

James Mackay

A new edition of the **Specialised Machins Catalogue**, published by Alan Wilson Ltd is now available. It is four years since this major publication hit the streets and made an immediate impact. The second edition maintains the appeal and coverage of the first and updates the contents to July 1993. The layout has been revised using a desktop publishing system and is a model of clarity despite the small print size used. It is indeed astonishing how much information has been packed into such a small space. There are still 14 sections: General Introductory Notes, 12 covering the decimals, and one for the pre-decimals. The decimal sections are: Singles, arranged according to printer, paper and gums; Errors, including missing and displaced phosphors, imperforate pairs and the popular 17-pin perforation variety; Coils and their leaders; Cylinder blocks; Large format definitives; Stitched booklets; Stitched booklet panes; Folded booklets; Window books; Regionals; Postage dues; and the Castle and Britannia high values.

One of the great strengths of the Wilson catalogue is its comprehensive pricing of every listed item. No one knows the philatelic market better than the author and there can hardly be a major variety which has not passed through his hands. This unique experience enables him to state quantities available of rare items along with other useful information about particular entries, in the form of footnotes. The only omissions of note that your reviewer detected

are the pre-decimal Machin coil leaders. On the other hand, postage dues seem out of place in a work devoted to Machins, a quirk shared by the *Connoisseur Catalogue*.

Because the catalogue serves principally as a dealer's price list, each item carries the publisher's own reference numbers which double as order numbers. This is one of the great disadvantages of catalogue lists published by dealers, as collectors are forced to use a multiplicity of numbers to obtain their wants from various commercial sources. Mr. Wilson records the reason for removing the *Stanley Gibbons' Vol.4 Specialised* numbers which appeared in the first edition, but in fact, one can quote such numbers when ordering from him. He has, however, avoided unnecessary proliferation by incorporating other copyright but royalty-free systems, including that identifying decimal booklets and their panes established by 'The Bookmark' Catalogue and the value settings and shortbar phosphor varieties set out in *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook* (reviewed here in September). These are fully explained in the introductory notes.

This is, as the title makers clear, a work for the specialist collector, but the whole approach is commonsense and practical rather than theoretical. Recommended for anyone who has more than just a passing interest in the marathon Machin series. Loose-leaf, 128 A5 pages with 4-ring binder. Obtainable from the publisher: 18 Bedford Gardens, LUTON, Beds, LU3 1BX, £14.95 post free (overseas outside Europe by surface mail; airmail rates on request). The price includes regular updating by supplements up to the end of 1994. *D G A Myall*

Correction: The price of Nance Fyson's *A History of Britain's Post*, reviewed here in August (page 292) is £7.99 and not £9.95 as stated. The book is available from book shops or Young Library Limited, 3 The Old Brushworks, 56 Pickwick Road, CORSHAM, Wilts, SN13 9BX.

The 1993 edition of Stanley Gibbons **Collect British Stamps** was published on 26 November. This lists all basic British stamps from 1840 to the 1993 Christmas issue. A specially written section gives hints and tips on the decimal Machin definitives and there is a competition to win a £1 Postal Union Congress stamp of 1929. *CBS* is available from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Price £4.95.



Edward VII Stamps and Emil Fuchs

Mr H Jack Haden of Stourbridge writes:

Further to James Mackay's article on the Edward VII stamps in the September *Bulletin*, it may seem strange that while the King is facing to the left on the stamps he faces to the right on the coins. There has long been a tradition that on the coinage of the realm the head of successive monarchs is turned alternatively to right and left. On the stamps the monarch always faces to the left.

Emil(e) Fuchs, who designed the Edward VII stamps, was born in Vienna in 1866, studied at the Royal Academy of Berlin where he was awarded a travelling scholarship for sculpture in 1891 and went to Italy to continue his studies. He came to London 1897 with a high reputation, having been awarded a gold medal at the Munich exhibition in 1896 for his sculpture *Mother's Love*. A versatile artist but primarily a sculptor, he had an ability to give to his portrait works a polished fineness. Hence his being called to take the death-mask of Queen Victoria and later, despite his foreign name, being chosen to design the postage stamps. He executed a number of medals during Edward VII's reign and painted the King in oils, and it was in appreciation of services in an artistic capacity that in 1909 he was made a Member of the Royal Victorian Order, an award the sole prerogative of the Sovereign.

But he did not design the Edward VII coinage. This, and a large number of medals, were produced by George William De Saulles whose great-grandfather Jean Henri De Saulles came to England in 1803 from Fenin in Neuchatel, Switzerland. G W De Saulles, son of William Henry De Saulles, a glass merchant was born in Birmingham in 1862.

He studied at Birmingham School of Art, was apprenticed in 1876 to a Birmingham die-sinker John Wilcox, and moved to London in 1884 to work for John Pinches. He returned to Birmingham to work for Joseph Moore but such were his aspirations for the fulfilment of his talents as an artist and craftsman that he went back to London as die-sinker to the Royal Mint.

In 1893 he was given the title of Engraver to the Royal Mint. He cut the dies for the 1897 coins bearing Queen Victoria's head by the Worcester-born sculpture Thomas Brock (1847-1922). His initials "De S" are under the head of Edward VII who gave him several sittings for the relief portrait. His distinguished career was cut-short by mistreatment of appendicitis; he died at Chiswick in 1903.

James Mackay adds the following information:

While it is traditional for the monarch's effigy to alternate between left and right on British coins, it is not correct to say that on stamps the monarch always faces left. When Queen Victoria died, adhesive postage stamps had been in use for 60 years in Britain, but the portrait of the Queen had never changed in all that time, whereas it had changed three times on the coinage. There was therefore no British precedent regarding a reversal of portraits, as on coins, or the retention of a left-facing profile.

On 26 January 1901, only four days after Queen Victoria's death, Sir Henry Primrose wrote to Sir George Murray at the Post Office: "As soon as may be, we must take His Majesty's pleasure as to the particulars of his image. I am told that, with coinage, it has been customary to reverse the aspect of the profile on a change of sovereign. There is, of course, no precedent with stamps in this country. If we follow the coinage, the head will face outwards on the envelope. Do you think this would look awkward?"

This enquiry sent the officials of the Post Office to the reference collection of specimens distributed by the UPU. This revealed that portraits faced to the right in quite a few instances. The stamps of Austria, Spain, Sarawak, Luxembourg and the USA showed right-facing profiles. Even the Falkland Islands deviated from the normal British practice in portraying Queen Victoria facing right. The obsolete stamps of the world were then examined to see whether any useful precedent could be discovered. Mr Badcock discovered that on the accession of King John in 1855, the stamps of Saxony had reversed the portrait. Ten years later, however, the accession of Leopold II to the Belgian throne had not resulted in any reversal of the portrait. As a result, no useful precedent, one way or the other, could be established. Badcock even found several instances, on the stamps of Holland, Italy and Portugal, where portraits were reversed during the course of the same reign. It was decided,

therefore, to leave the decision in the hands of the man commissioned to design the stamps.

Emil Fuchs had studied under Tilgner in Vienna and Herter in Berlin and was a fashionable portrait painter in his early thirties when he moved from Vienna to London in the closing years of the century. In 1900 the Prince of Wales gave Fuchs several sittings for a portrait and the Prince was evidently so impressed by his work that he had no hesitation in recommending him when the question of a portrait for the stamps was raised. Fuchs first came to prominence in January 1901 when he was staying in the Isle of Wight and was summoned at short notice to Osborne to take the death mask (plaster-cast) of Queen Victoria on the day she died. After his accession, King Edward gave Fuchs a further sitting and a series of verbal commands as to the treatment he wished to be adopted for his portrait and also for the border of some of the stamps. These statements are contained in a PO memorandum of 10 April 1901 which implies that the King himself had some hand in the design of the four stamps that differed radically from the Victorian Jubilee series.

Fuchs prepared three designs for the low-value stamps, but the final decision regarding the choice of design lay with the King himself. In April 1901 Fuchs was a house-guest at Sandringham where he took additional sketches of the King. He was at that time preparing a plaster model of the King's head. De La Rue were instructed to collect the plaster-cast from the artist and this was used to make the master die for the embossed postal stationery. Fuchs subsequently sculpted a profile of the King used for medals.

Mr Haden is absolutely correct regarding the coinage, and as a numismatist I should have remembered that George William De Saulles, not Fuchs, was responsible. He was appointed Engraver at the Royal Mint in 1893 and it was in 1895 (not 1897) that he engraved the dies of the Old Head coinage designed and sculpted by Thomas Brock.

Sherlock Holmes First Day Cover

The following details have been submitted by Mr N Warren of Chepstow, Gwent who hopes "they may be of interest to someone":

I see in the September *Bulletin* that the design of the First Day Cover for the Sherlock Holmes issue includes a fingerprint. This is rather a strange choice as Holmes himself did not seem



to set much store by fingerprints and they are in fact mentioned in only six of the stories:

1. In *The Sign Of Four* the future Mrs Watson shows Holmes a letter. "The envelope, too, please", he says, "Post-mark London. S.W. Date July 7. Hum! Thumb-mark in corner – possibly postman."

2. In *The Man With The Twisted Lip* he observes of another letter: "Posted today in Gravesend by a man with a dirty thumb."

3. In *The Cardboard Box* he says of the container in which two human ears have been received "Nothing distinctive save two thumb-marks at the left bottom corner."

4. In *The Norwood Builder* which is the only case in which a fingerprint plays some part in the solution of a mystery the Scotland Yard detective, Lestrade, says to Holmes, "You are aware that no two thumb-marks are alike." Holmes merely replies. "I have heard something of the kind!" In any event the solution of the crime in this case does not depend on fingerprint evidence as such, but on Holmes' knowledge that the mark in question has appeared since he first examined the scene on the previous day.

5. In *The Red Circle* Holmes vaguely indicates that he may know about the individuality of prints by suggesting that part of a pertinent document may have been torn away because it bore "some mark, some thumb-print, something which might give a clue to the person's identity."

6. In *The Three Gables* the counsel which an anonymous police officer has the nerve to give to the great man is quoted: "I never pass anything, however trifling. Mr Holmes... there is always the chance of finger-marks or something."

All letters to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in "Postbag". The Editor regrets that he is unable to reply personally to letters.

1992 Special Stamp Quantities

Wintertime

18p	27,079,200
24p	28,349,900
28p	5,294,100
33p	5,296,100
39p	5,475,400
Stamp cards (sets)	93,020

Happy & Glorious

5 x 24p	57,987,700
Stamp cards (sets)	105,540

Tennyson

24p	29,471,700
28p	5,629,100
33p	5,484,800
39p	5,633,000
Stamp cards (sets)	89,760

Europa

24p Olympic	}	28,283,600
24p Paralympic		
24p Columbus		22,089,700
39p Operation Raleigh		5,138,100
39p Expo		5,134,400
Stamp cards (sets)		83,540

Civil War

24p	27,988,700
28p	5,380,600
33p	5,395,600
39p	5,550,800
Stamp cards (sets)	84,640

Gilbert & Sullivan

18p	25,437,000
24p	28,172,800
28p	5,267,200
33p	5,676,900
39p	5,553,000
Stamp cards (sets)	81,460

The Green Issue

24p	23,400,600
28p	4,959,400
33p	4,957,700
39p	4,957,900
Stamp cards (set)	83,400

Single European Market

24p	27,869,200
Stamp card	94,520

Christmas

18p	338,655,500
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24p	179,784,100
28p	13,591,500
33p	13,687,800
39p	16,289,800
Stamp cards (sets)	93,020

Sherlock Holmes Stamp Launch

Royal Mail's press launch for the Sherlock Holmes stamps was held on 11 October at Granada Studios Baker Street set, in Manchester.



Our first photo shows Royal Mail's Director of Stamps and Personal Mail, Mr Kevin Doherty (left) with Andrew Davidson who designed the Sherlock Holmes issue. The second photo shows members of the Granada TV staff dressed as Dr Watson and the Great Detective outside the door of "221B Baker Street".

The Sherlock Holmes stamps, five 24p values in a horizontal se-tenant strip, are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until May 1994. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

7 Jun	Roman Britain stamp cards (AQ258)
8 Jun	1p Definitive, Enschedé (DS012)
8 Jun	5p Definitive, Enschedé (DS056)
8 Jun	10p Definitive, Enschedé (DS104)
15 Jun	Roman Britain stamps (AS550)
15 Jun	Roman Britain pack (AP114)
22 Jun	Scot Aerogramme (Q. Margaret) (QS032)
28 Jun	Guaranteed Delivery envelope DL (RX005)
28 Jun	Guaranteed Delivery envelope C5 (RY005)
28 Jun	Guaranteed Delivery envelope C4 (RZ005)
28 Jun	Registered Plus envelope DL (RX006)
28 Jun	Registered Plus envelope C5 (RY006)
28 Jun	Registered Plus envelope C4 (RZ006)
6 Jul	50p book – Postal History 3 (TB025)
6 Jul	£1 book – Educational Institutions 3 (TB026)
13 Jul	Inland Waterways stamp cards (AQ263)
20 Jul	Inland Waterways stamps (AS 555)
20 Jul	Inland Waterways pack (AP115)
27 Jul	30p Definitive, Enschedé (DS301)
2 Aug	Air Cards – (London) (RQ002)
2 Aug	Air Cards – (Stratford) (RQ003)
10 Aug	Beatrix Potter prestige book (YB007)
17 Aug	35p Definitive, Enschedé (DS352)
17 Aug	Greetings book – revised (JB008)
17 Aug	10 x 1st class book/H (UB076)
17 Aug	10 x 1st class book/W (UB077)
17 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB075)
17 Aug	4 x 1st class book/W (UB074)
7 Sep	4 x 2nd class book/H (UB073)
7 Sep	Autumn stamp cards (AQ268)
14 Sep	Autumn stamps (AS560)
14 Sep	Autumn pack (AP116)
14 Sep	NPM PO Uniforms cards (NQ919)
5 Oct	Sherlock Holmes stamp cards (AQ274)
5 Oct	Christmas aerogramme (QX017)
5 Oct	NVI sheets 1st class, Q (DS243)
5 Oct	NVI sheets, 2nd class, Q (DS184)
12 Oct	Sherlock Holmes stamps (AS566)
12 Oct	Sherlock Holmes pack (AP117)
12 Oct	Self-adhesive stamp card (DQ001)
19 Oct	Self-adhesive stamp book (UB078)
26 Oct	19p Definitive, olive green, H (DS199)
26 Oct	25p Definitive, salmon pink, H (DS250)
26 Oct	29p Definitive, light grey, E (DS292)
26 Oct	36p Definitive, ultramarine, E (DS360)
26 Oct	38p Definitive, red, E (DS380)
26 Oct	41p Definitive, stone, E (DS410)

26 Oct	New Definitive pack (DP016)
1 Nov	50p book – Postal History 4, H (TB027)
1 Nov	£1 book – Ed. Institutions 4, W (TB028)
1 Nov	£2 book – Postal Vehicles 1, H (TB029)
1 Nov	£1.40 book (4 x 35p stamps), W (UB082)
1 Nov	£1.64 book (4 x 41p stamps), W (UB083)
1 Nov	10 x 1st class book/Q (UB080)
1 Nov	10 x 1st class book/W (UB081)
1 Nov	4 x 1st class book/W (UB079)
1 Nov	19p stamp roll, H (DC860)
1 Nov	25p stamp roll, H (DC862)
1 Nov	35p stamp roll, H (DC864)
1 Nov	41p stamp roll, H (DC865)
2 Nov	Christmas stamp cards (AQ280)
9 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS572)
9 Nov	Christmas pack (AP118)
9 Nov	Christmas stamp book (1st class) (UB084)
9 Nov	Christmas stamp book (2nd class) (UB085)
9 Nov	1993 Collectors Pack (AR031)
9 Nov	1993 Year Book (AY036)
9 Nov	NPM Christmas postcards (NQ920)

Forthcoming

7 Dec	N. Ireland 19p, 25p, 30p, 41p
7 Dec	Scotland 19p, 25p, 30p, 41p
7 Dec	Wales 19p, 25p, 30p, 41p
7 Dec	Country stamps pack
14 Dec	Defs 4p, 20p, 50p Enschedé

1994

11 Jan	NPM Valentines postcards (set of 4)
11 Jan	Age of Steam stamp cards
18 Jan	Age of Steam stamps and pack
25 Jan	1994 Greetings stamp cards
25 Jan	50p, £1 books
1 Feb	1994 Greetings stamps and pack
15 Feb	To Pay labels and pack
22 Feb	Prince of Wales stamp cards
1 Mar	Prince of Wales stamps and pack
22 Mar	Scottish Aerogramme – R L Stevenson
5 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamp cards
12 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamps and pack
26 Apr*	50p, £1, £2 books
26 Apr	Channel Tunnel stamp cards
3 May	Channel Tunnel stamps and pack
31 May	D Day stamp cards

Notes:

W = Printed by Walsall Security Printers;
H = Harrison & Sons; Q = House of Questa.
E = Joh. Enchedé en Zonen.
* = provisional date of issue.

The 2 August date for London and Stratford air cards is the date they were available from the Bureau; there was no official first day of issue.

December Digest

Issued in December

7 December: 19p, 25p, 30p and 41p Country stamps for N. Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Printing: House of Questa, offset-lithography, sheets of 200, PVA gum. Perf 15 x 14 with elliptical perfs on vertical sides. 19p one phosphor band, 25p, 30p and 41p two phosphor bands (with fluor); OBA free paper.

Presentation Pack: No. 31. Contains stamps for all three countries, price £3.80.

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



14 December: 4p, 20p and 50p definitives

Printing: Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, Netherlands, photogravure, sheets of 200.

PVA gum, perf. 15 x 14 with elliptical perforations on vertical sides. Two phosphor bands (with fluor) OBA free paper. (OBA = Optical Brightening Agent)

Note: Available from Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters; stocks will go on sale at post offices as required. No first day of issue facilities.

Withdrawn in December

31 December: National Postal Museum postcards Nos. 92/9-11 (Artefacts), 12 (Machin head), 13-16 (Christmas)

Note: These cards will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau but will continue to be available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum shop. The Museum, in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, London EC1, is open Monday-Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm. The Museum is a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station.

For The Record

The Walsall 2 x 39p stamp book, issued 28 July 1992, was withdrawn from sale at the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters on 27 July 1993. National Postal

Museum postcards Nos. 92/5-8 featuring "People in the Post" (issued 6 May 1992) were withdrawn from sale at the Bureau on 31 August 1993; the cards remain on sale at the Museum shop.

Events

Until March 94. "From Post Boy to Air Mail" exhibition, coinciding with "Collectormania" at the Museum of Science & Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester. Open 10.00-17.00 Mon-Sun. Museum enquiries: 061-832 2244. Enquiries about the Post Bag to Air Mail exhibition to: David Harrop, 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT SK4 3DQ.

26-27 Dec 93. Postal Memorabilia display at Giant Antique and Collectors Fair, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Enquiries: David Harrop, address above.

Post Office memorabilia displays

David Harrop provides permanent displays of historic postal artefacts at:

Crewe Railway Age

View the only vintage sorting office in the north of England; see old letter boxes a parcel cart (once a common sight in our streets) and many other items of postal interest.

Opening hours: Tues-Fri 10.00-16.00

Sat-Sun 10.00-17.00.

Manchester Transport Museum

See a large display of posting boxes, postal scales, carts, bikes, etc, even a GPO clock. This museum houses the largest collection of buses in the north west.

Opening hours: Wed, Sat & Sun 10.00-17.00.

Brookside Garden Centre, Poynton Nr Stockport

Visit this delightful garden centre where you may ride on the fine miniature railway and visit the tiny Heaton Chapel post office set in the grounds.

Opening hours: Sat & Sun 10.00-dusk.



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