

Philatelic Bulletin

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Editorial

BPE with all its pleasures is almost with us again. We will be in our usual spot where our customers may buy from the very full range of items available.

Mention of Exhibitions reminds us that the International-London 1980 will be here sooner than we think. We have started the ball rolling by issuing the first miniature sheet which will help to finance the Exhibition.

LONDON 1980 will be held at the Earls Court exhibition centre from 6 to 14 May 1980. This will be the best stamp exhibition ever staged in the United Kingdom. There will be about

4,000 frames of stamps (each holding sixteen standard album leaves — 22 cm by 29 cm), covering not only the competitive entries but also many outstanding invited exhibits, including part of the famous Royal Collection of Her Majesty The Queen.

There will be over 200 trade stands, featuring not only a wide range and the best of the world's stamp dealers, publishers and auctioneers, but also a large number of overseas postal administrations.

Overseas dealers visiting LONDON 1980 will be pleased to learn that every effort is being made to ease Customs formalities.

Visitors to the exhibition with very young children will find creche facilities available; for older children a special section will show them how to derive more pleasure out of stamp collecting.

The exhibition is being organised by a dedicated team headed by George South, who is currently President of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Vice-Chairmen of the Organising Committee are Ronald Butler, currently a Vice-President and Honorary Librarian of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and Sidney Leverton, Vice-Chairman of the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council and a leading dealer in the stamps of Great Britain.

The displays are being organised by a Philatelic Committee, which is also actively engaged in selecting an international jury and overseas commissioners. To ease the tasks of the commissioners, and those exhibiting two Commissioners-General have been appointed.

Information about LONDON 1980 will be published in the world's philatelic press, but if you are interested in any specific details please enquire of The Secretary, London 1980, PO Box 300, London WC2R 1AF.

Christmas Stamp Book

A new stamp book with a 'Christmas' cover is to be issued on 15 November 1978. The book will cost £1.60 and will contain 10 7p and 10 9p definitive stamps.

The Country Definitive Issues of 1958

The current series of articles on the 'Country' definitive postage stamp issues of 1958, coincide with the special exhibition entitled, 'Stamps of the Realm', now on view in the National Postal Museum.

The Northern Ireland Definitives of 1958

Formation of advisory committee for Northern Ireland

Following HM The Queen's approval in July 1956 of the issue, in three values, of a new special definitive series of stamps for Northern Ireland an *ad hoc* advisory committee was formed in October.

Represented on the new committee, under the chairmanship of the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Senate, were The Queen's University of Belfast, the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (Northern Ireland), the Museum and Art Gallery of Belfast, the Belfast College of Art and the Irish Linen Merchants' Association.

At its first meetings, on 6 and 14 November, the committee agreed that about five Northern Ireland artists should be invited to submit 'rough' or preliminary designs for the new issue. The committee also agreed for the guidance of the artists five symbols representative of Ulster exclusively. These were the Red (right) Hand of

Ulster; the Arms of Northern Ireland (without supporters); the six-pointed Crowned Star with the Ulster Red (right) Hand on it; the Flax Plant, with or without leaves; and a field-gate with typical Ulster pillars. It agreed, too, that the Red Hand of Ulster should be included in every design, and the letters 'ER' if practicable; but that the artists might combine two or more of the symbols should they wish to do so.

The invitations to the artists selected were sent out at the end of December. Each artist was invited to submit three or more designs; but these had to be submitted by 7 February 1957, the closing date for the competition.

By the close of the competition twenty-four preliminary designs had been submitted and at its meeting, on 27 February, the committee selected eight as possible choices for bringing to completion. This initial shortlist included early versions of the three designs which were subsequently adopted: designs by William Hollywood (fig 1), Leonard Pilton (fig 2) and T Collins (fig 3). The other five were two other designs by William Hollywood (figs 4 and 5) and three other designs by Leonard Pilton (figs 6-8).

A month later, at its meeting on 25 March, the



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12



Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15



Fig 16

committee considered further the designs they had initially selected for completion, and their new shortlist excluded the design by Leonard Pilton shown in fig 6. At this stage the committee's preferences for the $2\frac{1}{2}d$ (later $3d$), $4d$ (later $6d$) and $1s\ 3d$ values respectively were the designs shown in fig 5 (or, alternatively, that in fig 4), 7 (or that in fig 2) and 1 (or that in fig 3). The design shown in fig 8 was earmarked as a reserve choice. In selecting these seven designs for bringing to completion the committee suggested a number of modifications, and expressed the view that the Red Hand used in all the designs should be identical to that incorporated in the Arms of the Government of Northern Ireland.

Essaying of shortlisted designs

On 11 October the completed designs were studied by the committee who now considered that William Hollywood's design shown in fig 4 would be suitable for the $3d$ value (instead of a

reserve for this value), Leonard Pilton's design in fig 2 for the $6d$ value (instead of a reserve for this value) and (as before) William Hollywood's design in fig 1 for the $1s\ 3d$ value. The committee's alternative choice for the $3d$ or $6d$ values was T Collins' design in fig 3 (formerly a reserve choice for the $1s\ 3d$ value) and its alternative choice for the $1s\ 3d$ value was William Hollywood's design in fig 5 (formerly favoured for the $3d$ value).

The essays subsequently produced of these five designs (which incorporated a number of shading etc improvements and the transposing of the Hand and Flax symbols in T Collins' design) are shown in figs 9-11 (the preferred selection) and 12-13 (the reserve choices).

These were examined by the committee at its final meeting on 24 January 1958, whose preference now became William Hollywood's design in fig 11 for the $3d$ value; again, Leonard Pilton's design in fig 10 for the $6d$ value and T Collins' design in fig 12 for the $1s\ 3d$ value. Its

reserve choice continued to be William Hollywood's design in fig 13.

However, a number of further shading etc improvements to this first set of essays were suggested by the committee, and so a second set, representing its final selection and incorporating these modifications, was produced in March.

These final essays were sent to Buckingham Palace on 20 May and confirmation of Her Majesty's approval of the committee's choice was sent on 23 May.

And so this new definitive series of stamps — the first to be issued for Northern Ireland — was issued on 18 August (the 3d value) and the 29 September 1958 (the 6d and 1s 3d values).

The portrait of The Queen used on all three values was that by Dorothy Wilding.

Featured in all three values were the flax plant, symbolising Northern Ireland's connection with the linen industry, and the Red Right Hand of Ulster, which dates from ancient times and was used in the seal of the O Neills Kings of Ulster, and later incorporated in the Arms of the Province and in the Arms of the Government of Northern Ireland.

Also featured in the design of the 3d value was the six-pointed Crowned Star, representing the six counties of Northern Ireland. The stamp's designer, William Hollywood, had studied at the Belfast College of Art and, at the time of designing the stamp, he was working as a free-lance artist and designer of printed publications etc.

The 6d value had a background representing linen woven with a diamond pattern and flanked by panels containing conventionalised flax plants. Its designer, Leonard Pilton, had studied at the Manchester Regional College of Art and was later appointed Senior Lecturer at the Belfast College of Art, specialising in the teaching of textile design. In 1955 his poster of 'Newcastle, County Down' had been accepted for use by the Post Office Savings Bank.

The special feature of the 1s 3d value was a representation of a five-barred field-gate supported by typical Ulster pillars — the white-washed circular stone pillars for long a characteristic feature of the Ulster countryside. The

stamp's young designer, T Collins — then in his early twenties — came from Portadown and had studied at the Belfast College of Art. At the time of designing the stamp he was about to take up his first appointment as a teacher of arts and crafts in a school in Portadown.

JEAN FARRUGIA

Illustrations

- Fig 1* William Hollywood's adopted design for the 3d value
- Fig 2* Leonard Pilton's adopted design for the 6d value
- Fig 3* T Collins' adopted design for the 1s 3d value
- Fig 4* William Hollywood's shortlisted design for the 3d value
- Fig 5* William Hollywood's reserve design for any of the three values
- Figs 6-8* Leonard Pilton's other, shortlisted, designs
- Figs 9-11* First essays of the shortlisted designs; at one stage the preferred selection for the three values
- Figs 12-13* First essays of the shortlisted designs; at one stage the reserve choices
- Figs 14-16* The issued stamps

New Illustrated Stamp Books

The fourth series of four new stamp books with cover illustrations, will be on sale at the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic sales counters from 25 October, and from other post offices as existing stocks become exhausted.

Details are as follows:

- 10p Farm Buildings, Wales.
Designer Norman Battershill.
- 50p Commercial Vehicles,
Guy Electric Dustcart.
Designer John Ireland.
- 70p Country Crafts,
Wheel-making.
Designer Eric Stemp.
- 90p British Canals,
Caledonian Canal, Laggan Lock.
Designer Ronald Maddox.

Stamps for Pleasure

17. British Architecture

Architecture is defined as the art or science of building and construction — 'enclosing space beautifully and suitably for mankind's every purpose'. It has three main divisions or groups — Ecclesiastical, ie churches and cathedrals; Civil, houses and public buildings; and Military and Naval, fortifications and ships. British stamps so far issued cover all these categories (ships will be featured in a forthcoming article), with the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey especially featured. Gibbons' catalogue numbers are quoted below.

An album page could be devoted to Parliament — the original buildings as engraved by Hollar in 1647 are seen on the 2s 6d stamp issued in 1965 for the 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament (664). He ruled England for a year or more, but was slain at Evesham in 1265, the year of his short-lived Parliament. The present Houses of Parliament in Westminster (officially the Palace of Westminster) were built, following a disastrous fire, between 1840 and 1850 to the designs of Sir Charles Barry, RA, in a Gothic/Tudor style. The Clock Tower, with Big Ben for its bell, was completed in 1857 (630, 939/40 and 988). The famous hammer beam roof of Westminster Hall appears on the 6d Parliamentary Conference stamp of 1961 (629).

Westminster Abbey is featured on two stamps issued in 1966 for its 900th anniversary (687/8). The 2s 6d shows the exquisite fan-vaulting in the ceiling of Henry VII's Chapel in the Abbey. (A history of Westminster Abbey appeared in the *Bulletin* for May 1978 under 'British Special Stamps').

The set of 'British Cathedrals' issued in 1969 (796/801) included some fine old medieval buildings. Durham has a noble cathedral, basically 11th-century Norman, while York Minster is Britain's largest medieval cathedral, displaying various phases of Gothic. St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, is famous for its Crown tower, and Canterbury Cathedral was completed in 1184, after two previous churches on the site had been destroyed by fire. The Perpendicular Gothic nave and transepts were rebuilt between 1379 and 1400. Sir Christopher Wren, the

Renaissance builder, modelled his new St Paul's Cathedral on the lines of St Peter's, Rome — the work occupied him from 1675 to 1710. In contrast, Frederick Gibberd's modern Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool was built 'in the round', of concrete and steel.

The indomitable Wren designed numerous other buildings in what is now the Greater London area, including the Greenwich Royal Observatory, founded in 1675 (978), and part of Hampton Court Palace, built originally by Cardinal Wolsey (1057). St George's Chapel, a gem of Perpendicular work within the precincts of Windsor Castle (978), the chapel of the Knights of the Garter, was erected by Edward IV. The Palace of Holyrood House (Edinburgh) (1055) originated as an abbey and was rebuilt in 1760-69. Another Edinburgh building, captioned 'Charlotte Square' on the stamp, was designed by Robert Adam in 1791 (975).

Inigo Jones, who enjoyed the patronage of James I, created elegant buildings in the style of Palladio of Venice — his classic St Paul's Church, Covent Garden (936) and the Prince's Lodging, Newmarket (937), are included in the set of four stamps issued for the 400th anniversary of his birth in 1973. Another 'period piece' is the group of buildings known as 'The Rows' in Chester (976), the ancient city founded by the Romans. The streets have first-floor galleries or verandas running along their length, and the stamp is one of five (the others are described elsewhere here) issued in 1975 for European Architectural Heritage Year.

Castles and fortresses (or their remains) abound in Britain, and four of the best-known appeared on the high-value stamps first issued in 1955 — Carrickfergus, Caernarvon, Edinburgh and Windsor (536/9). Carrickfergus Castle, a few miles north of Belfast, is notably picturesque; Caernarvon in North Wales, famous as the birthplace of the first Prince of Wales in 1284, also appears in its separate entities in the 'Investiture' issue of 1969 (802/4), and, intact once more, on the 11p stamp of the 1978 'British Architecture' series (1056). This series also marks the 900th anniversary of the oldest and most important

part of the famous Tower of London, the White Tower (1054). The Tower's 90-foot high battlements and 15-foot thick walls guard the priceless Crown Jewels.

Edinburgh Castle dominates the celebrated Princes Street in that fair city, Scotland's capital, while Windsor Castle, on the bank of the Thames opposite Eton, is famous as the principal residence of the reigning sovereign.

Rural architecture is represented by two attractive issues — cottage-style buildings of the four regions in 1970, Fife harling (roughcast), Cotswold limestone, Welsh stucco and Ulster thatch (815/8); and the Village Churches of 1972 with their variety of towers (904/8). Factory chimneys provide a grim background to the school building in the late L S Lowry's 'Children Coming Out of School' (750).

Some striking examples of modern architecture are seen in the set of 'University Buildings' issued in 1971 — the Physical Sciences Building,

University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; the Faraday Building, Southampton; the Engineering Department, Leicester; and the Hexagon Restaurant of Essex University (890/3). 'Gracious living', modern style, is epitomised on one of the 'Geographical Congress' stamps of 1964 — 'Flats near Richmond Park' (651), while that of an earlier decade is depicted by the Georgian buildings and the 'Nash' terrace, Regent's Park, shown on the Post Office Tower stamps (679/80). The mighty Tower itself displays the combined talents of the architect and the engineer.

The National Theatre on London's South Bank is the most recent example of modern architecture on a stamp (979). Designed by Denys Lasdun, it contains three separate auditoriums, Olivier, Lyttelton and Cottesloe, a complex of bars and buffets, restaurant, bookshop and permanent exhibition. Book early!

JAMES WATSON

The Melville Junior Stamp Competition

The 'Melville' is the only national stamp competition in the United Kingdom aimed solely at the young collector. Although both our other national exhibitions, 'Stampex' and 'BPE' have a junior section, this section is only one small part of the whole exhibition.

The first 'Melville' was held in 1950, and has been held in the Spring every year since then. It was founded in memory of Fred Melville, a very keen collector and philatelic journalist in the first half of this century. When he died in 1940, his many friends wanted to perpetuate his memory by issuing a revised edition of his major works, but due to the war, this was not possible until 1949. The balance in hand after the successful publication, was used as the foundation of the Melville Memorial Junior Stamp Awards, to mark Melville's interest in young collectors.

The competition is divided into four age

groups, under 13 years, 13-16 years, 16-18 years, and 18-21 years. Each group has its own marking system, so there is no question of competition between the sections. A Cup (held for one year) is given to the winner in each class, and medals in silver, bronze/silver and bronze are awarded to entries of a sufficiently high standard. As the 'Melville' is a national competition, only exhibits of a fairly high standard should be entered, and it is therefore desirable for Societies, Federations or Associations affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation (through who entries must be submitted) to hold a local competition in the first instance. The first two or three in each group could then be entered in the Melville Competition. The final date for entries is 3 March 1979.

Further details and entry forms may be obtained from Mrs F Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AL.

The carol — a song of joy, accompanied originally with dancing — is generally performed to celebrate the Nativity. Children and adults alike share the occasion to sing and dance, particularly in the home, and, since Victorian times, around a 'Christmas Tree'.

This theme is beautifully illustrated in four postage stamps, values 7p, 9p, 11p and 13p, which make up this year's Christmas issue.

Faith Jaques, who will be remembered for the 1s 3d Tercentenary of the General Letter Office stamp (1960) as well as the 6d and 1s 3d VII Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (1961) stamps, is responsible for the designs.

The Christmas first day cover and presentation pack were designed by Angus Hamilton with illustrations by Faith Jaques.

The cost of the presentation pack is 50p, and blank first day cover 8p each.

Subjects and Colours:

- 7p: Carols around the tree—mid 19th century: bistre-yellow, yellowish-green, bright magenta, blue-black, deep dull blue, gold.
- 9p: Waits—early 19th century:

bistre-yellow, yellow-olive, bright magenta, new blue, blue-black, gold.

- 11p: Carol singers—early 18th century: bistre-yellow, new blue, bright magenta, blue-black, yellow-brown, gold.

- 13p: Boar's head carol—late 16th century: bistre-yellow, orange-vermilion, bright magenta, blue-black, bright blue, gold.

Printing Details:

Printer: Harrison & Sons Limited

Process: Photogravure

Format: Horizontal

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked, PVA Dextrin

Phosphor: All over phosphor (9p, 11p, 13p)
one phosphor bar (7p)

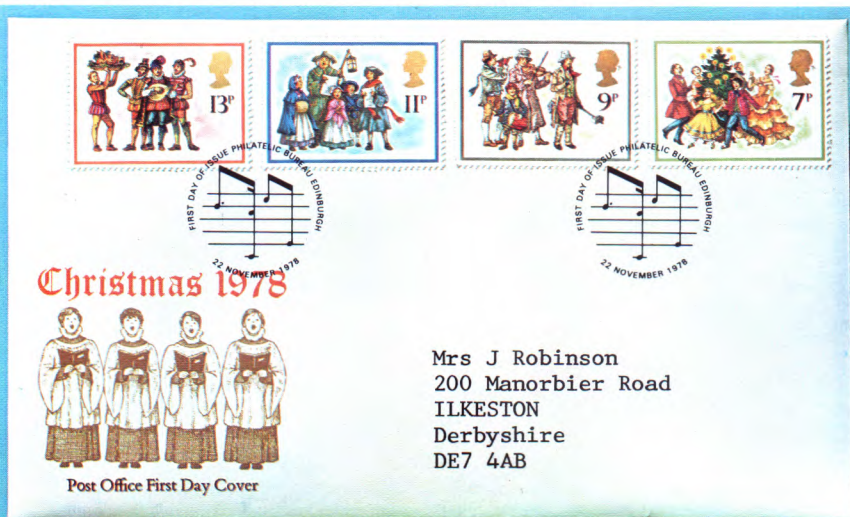
Sheet Size: 100

Size: 41 mm × 30 mm

Perforation: 15 × 14

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four Christmas stamps will be available by early November from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters, and selected main post offices, price 7p each.





The following services for first day covers will be provided.

Two cancellations will be available: Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, depicting musical notes and Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed, showing the treble clef.

Service A

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and given all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled with either postmark. The charge is 58p, or for customers with deposit accounts 53½p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers, bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 48p per cover.

Service C

For bulk orders of 50 or more covers to the same address, under the conditions of Service A, the cost is 55½p per cover.

Customers who specifically require the Bethlehem postmark, should send their orders to the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Section), Llanelli, Dyfed, SA15 1AA. All orders for cancellations other than Bethlehem only, should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, EH3 9BB, to arrive not later than 13 November 1978.

First day of issue cancellations will be given to covers bearing the Christmas stamps posted in special philatelic posting boxes in main offices throughout the United Kingdom.

Book Review

Railway Station Postmarks

By D P Gowen. £3.00 by post from The Railway Philatelic Group, Stable Becks, Grasmere, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9PX.

Postmark devotees rightly complain that the vogue for collecting used stamps often results in partly franked items appearing in albums while

important pieces of postal history find their way into waste paper baskets along with discarded covers.

Railway postmark collectors are doubly disadvantaged. So many rail cancellations were back stamped that even if front covers were preserved entire, the vital rail mark vanished into the bucket. This may account for the relative rarity of specimens predating 1900.

All the more reason for ensuring that if you feel disposed to collect in this field you first get well briefed and discover exactly what to look for. Which is where Mr Gowen's book really comes into its own.

Illustrating more than 200 marks and clearly listing no less than 500, this very attractively produced little book will be found as instructive to the beginner as it is informative to the expert.

1979 Stamp Programme

The dates of issue of next year's stamps will be:—

7 February 1979	British Dogs
	9p <i>Old English Sheepdog</i>
	10½p <i>Welsh Springer Spaniel</i>
	11p <i>West Highland Terrier</i>
	13p <i>Irish Setter</i>
21 March	British Spring Flowers
	9p <i>Primrose</i>
	10½p <i>Daffodil</i>
	11p <i>Bluebell</i>
	13p <i>Snowdrop</i>
9 May	Direct Elections to European Assembly
6 June	Horse Racing
18 July	UN Year of the Child
22 August	Centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill
26 September	Police
21 November	Christmas

We will announce further details of the subjects and denominations as they become available.

Forthcoming Events

British Philatelic Exhibition 1978

The 13th Annual BPE will take place in Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W1, from 18-21 October.

Hours of opening: Wednesday to Friday 10.30 am — 8 pm, Saturday 10 am — 6 pm.

Northex Stamp Fair and Competition

This event organised jointly by the Stockport and East Cheshire Philatelic Society and Stamp Fairs, will take place on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 November 1978 in the Brabazon Room, Manchester (Ringway) Airport.

Full details may be obtained from:— Mr J C Frost, 76 Valley Road, Bramhall, Stockport, Greater Manchester, SK7 2NL (please send SAE for reply).

The closing date for competition entries is Saturday 14 October.

Thames Valley & District Philatelic Federation

The Oxford Philatelic Society will be hosts to the 4th Annual Convention to be held at Elms Court, Botley, Oxford, on Saturday 14 October 1978 between 11.30 am and 4.30 pm.

Postal Mechanisation Study Circle

The Annual General Meeting of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle will be held on Saturday 21 October (during BPE) at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, Marylebone, London, W1, starting at 11 am. For further details, please contact the Secretary, Mr H J Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3BW.

Chester and District Philatelic Society will hold its annual Stamp Fair and Exhibition in the Chester Town Hall on Saturday 14 October 1978, from 11.00 am till 5.00 pm. The programme will include a display of the Society's competition winners, dealers' stands, and a Post Office philatelic sales counter. Refreshments will also be available. Prices of admission 10p — Children and OAPs 5p.

Lanark Philatelic Society

The Annual Exhibition of the Lanark Philatelic Society will be held at Motherwell Town Hall between 11-18 November 1978. The Exhibition will be open on Saturdays between 10 am — 5 pm and on other days between 2 — 7 pm.

Dorchester & Weymouth Philatelic Society

will hold its Eleventh Annual Exhibition on Saturday 4 November 1978 in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, from 11 am till 6 pm.

This year the Exhibition, to be opened by Mrs Kay Goodman FRPS(L), will include entries from the Wessex Philatelic Federation Thompson Cup Competition.

Several dealers will be in attendance and the Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter. Refreshments will be available, and car parking facilities can be found in the town's car parks, three minutes walk from the Corn Exchange.

Cheltenham Philatelic Society will hold its annual stamp fair at The Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, on Saturday 4 November 1978 from 10 am till 5.30 pm. A number of dealers will be offering a wide range of philatelic material for sale. Admission charges: Adults 15p, Children 5p.

The Coventry Philatelic Society will hold its annual Stamp Fair and Exhibition of Aero-philately on Saturday 18 November 1978 at the Sibree Hall, Warwick Row, Coventry, between 10 am and 5.30 pm. In conjunction with the Aero-Philatelic Club, the programme will include talks, displays and discussions on this interesting aspect of philately. The Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter.

Coloured Codemarks

In mechanised sorting offices letters are fed to coding desks where operators, seated at a keyboard similar to that of a typewriter, copy the postcode. This causes two rows of harmless, almost invisible, phosphorescent dots to be printed on each envelope. Letter sorting machines then read this pattern of dots and sort the letters automatically at high speed at all stages of their journey. (This process was more fully described in 'The Postcode and the Philatelist', Philatelic Bulletin August 1977).

These luminescent marks for address codes are assuming increasing importance as more mechanised offices are introduced and the use of automatic letter sorting machines spreads throughout the country. Originally great emphasis was put on the use of a substance for code-marking envelopes that would be translucent or transparent, but it is now becoming apparent that there are disadvantages in this. Firstly, some of our customers, not noticing the almost invisible marks, often assume that the postcodes are not being used. Secondly, there are certain operational checks that have to be made on some code-

marked items which currently require the use of special ultra violet viewers to make the dots easily visible. Also, there is a problem with envelopes which are re-used, eg window envelopes containing accounts or forms which may be returned merely by refolding the contents to show the return address, or items redirected to new addresses, where envelopes bear codemarks related to the first address and, if not noticed by the coding desk operators, may be re-coded. The double codemarks are liable to confuse the machines and result in the letter being rejected for manual handling.

To overcome these problems consideration is being given to the use of visible dots. In this connection, an experiment will commence at Sheffield on 30 October 1978, using special material to which a health cleared blue colourant has been added. The results of this pilot scheme will be used to assess the advantages, and any possible disadvantages, of changing to coloured dots on a permanent basis at all of our mechanised offices.

An illustration of the coloured dots is shown....



47. Battle of Hastings - 900th Anniversary 1966

In retrospect it seems extraordinary that, on that most famous of all historic dates — 1066 — when the Normans invaded us, the destiny of England was to be fashioned by the outcome of a single great battle fought on Senlac Hill, a few miles north-west of Hastings. Norman strategy won the day, William conquered and Harold, last of the Saxon kings, was slain. The whole sequence of events was recorded on the Bayeux Tapestry, and it was this which inspired David Gentleman's designs for the Post Office issue of eight commemorative stamps on 14 October 1966 — the 900th anniversary to the day.

Cathedral of Bayeux, an ancient Norman city in the department of Calvados, France, its place of origin.

Several innovations made this a memorable stamp issue. The six 4d stamps were issued together *se-tenant* in horizontal strips within the sheet; the new, small profile Queen's head was printed in gold foil on the 6d and extra-large 1s 3d; and the printers lavished no less than nine colours — more than contained in the average rainbow — on the stamps.

For the 4d stamps, David Gentleman selected battle scenes showing hand-to-hand encounters



The Bayeux Tapestry is unique. It represents in coloured embroidery — sombre, age-worn reds, browns, dull blues and greens — stitched on a linen background 231 feet long by 20 inches deep, the story of the Norman conquest from Harold's visit to the Norman court to his unfortunate demise at Hastings. It is housed in a salon of the former Bishop's Palace, close to the

between mailed Norman horsemen and the English foot-soldiers. The scenes are not in sequence of events as the artist's intention was simply to depict incidents or groups of incidents of pictorial merit. Thus, in 'Tapestry' order, the Norman ships, 'packed from bow to stern with men and horses' (6d) come first, while the 1s 3d depicts the opening forays of the battle — the

Norman cavalry charging Harold's solid wall of troops, 'so packed that the slaughtered could not fall'.

The sequences shown on the six adjoining 4d stamps are not quite in order, according to the chain of events depicted on the Tapestry. Stamp No 3, showing the death of Harold, belongs between the fifth and sixth stamps (although part of it overlaps stamp No 4), and it revives the age-old controversy as to the means of Harold's death. Historians relate that he died when an arrow pierced his eye — the stamp clearly shows that he was felled by a mounted Norman knight, corroborated by the Latin inscription on the Tapestry.

Earlier I mentioned the innovation of the Queen's head die-stamped in gold on the 6d and 1s 3d stamps (the tenth colour!). The head was also reversed, ie looking to the right, on the 1s 6d stamp, creating a precedent which was not repeated until April 1968 ('British Bridges') and some later issues — a break with a long-standing tradition which originated with the Penny Black!

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (6 × 20) for the 4d stamps or 60 (6 × 10) for the 6d and 1s 3d on ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark multiple crowns. A listed variety, the 'club flaw', occurred on the 1s 3d stamp, where the fallen knight, bottom left, has what appears to be a large black club at his right hand — its location is row 7, stamp 2, on sheets printed from the 'no dot' cylinders.

Harrison's ambitious multicoloured efforts were not entirely trouble-free: numerous examples of missing colours are recorded on all the 4d values, while the 1s 3d is known with the lilac colour omitted. The omissions occurred on both ordinary and phosphor stamps, as also did the inverted watermarks found on all values. The 6d is known with a distinctive yellowish gold head, and both 6d and 1s 3d stamps were also issued with the die-stamped gold head omitted, but as these could also be removed by chemical means, such varieties are not listed in the Gibbons' Catalogues.

Quantities sold (phosphor in brackets) were:

4d 89,197,226 (15,861,960); 6d 12,012,328 (2,820,360); and 1s 3d 5,721,426 (1,646,280); presentation packs, 51,332. JAMES WATSON

Letters

Dear Sir,
The British Post Office Philatelic Bureau's 1979 programme to hand.

It sickens me. Eight issues of special stamps in a year. I won't comment on the subjects.

Why place GB Philately on a par with — well you know which countries and states to whom I refer.

Need the Bureau be so greedy and in so doing stifle the 'goose that lays the golden egg' for them — ie the collector?

Yours faithfully

Walpole St Peter
Wisbech

C H Sexton

Editor's Note

We are sorry to have offended Mr Sexton but as he does not say why he disagrees with the subjects chosen for next year's stamps we are unable to comment.

Eight issues in a year with a face value of £3.50 surely does not justify a charge of greed when one compares the outlay with almost any other hobby. Photography, postcards, beer drinking, squash playing and most other pastimes cannot be enjoyed for so little.

Dear Sir,
Much as I sympathise with Mr Leslie C Chapman's sentiments (letter August 1978), I cannot let him get away with the claim that the bicycle gave us differential drive and free wheeling mechanisms.

The differential gear was invented by a clock-maker to indicate mean and solar time with two hands on one clockface.

Joseph Williamson was the man who devised the mechanism and read a paper to the Royal Society on the subject.

He lived from about 1670 to 1725.

References:

'Clocks and Watches 1400-1900' — Eric Braton

'Old Clocks' — H Alan Lloyd

'Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World' — G H Baillie 1951.

As for free wheeling — this is basically the same as the click mechanism for winding clocks (and watches) that has been in use for several hundred years.

Happy cycling to Mr Chapman.

Yours faithfully

Henfield
Sussex

John L Nelson

Forces Covers

RAF Cover HA29, issued on 30 September to coincide with the 38th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, commemorates Air Marshal Sir Keith Park, Commander of No 11 Group Fighter Command, during the Battle of Britain. The cover, bearing a 7p definitive stamp is cancelled with a special handstamp BFPS 1624, illustrates Sir Keith alighting from his aircraft, at an airfield, prior to inspecting RAF personnel. It is now available from Flight Lieutenant S Ives, RAF, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6JB, price 47p including return postage, to whom cheques and postal orders should be made payable.

RAF Cover HA30 will be available from 10 October to mark the war-time career of Squadron Leader 'Ginger' Lacey DFM — the highest scoring RAF pilot during the Battle of Britain. The cover depicts one of Squadron Leader Lacey's encounters with the enemy, and is affixed with a 7p definitive stamp cancelled with BFPS 1626 handstamp. Price 47p including return postage it can be obtained from Squadron Leader D Lewis, RAF Stanmore Park, Middlesex, HA7 3HH, to whom cheques and postal orders should be made payable.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear 1/2p in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or

the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

18-21 October 1978 (P/R)

British Philatelic Exhibition Seymour Hall London W1. Special posting box at the British Philatelic Exhibition Adjacent Sales Counter, Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London W1.

21 October 1978 (P/C)

Departure of Operation Drake 21 October 1978 British Forces 1600 Postal Service. Special posting box/items for reposting as for handstamp 2 September 1978.

21 October 1978 (P/C)

1778 HMS Victory 1978 Portsmouth 21 October 1978. Special posting box at the Souvenir Shop HMS Victory, RN Dockyard Portsmouth. (Postal applications to Business Manager at the above address).

P denotes Pictorial

C denotes Circular

R denotes Rectangular

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

11 September-31 October 1978

2 January-28 February 1979

1-31 May 1979

1-31 July 1979

1-30 September 1979

1-30 November 1979 (P)

We'd Like Your Company in Wakefield.

To be used at Wakefield. 1st and 2nd class.

Repeat Campaigns

15 October-31 December 1978 (P)

Hastings A Resort For All Seasons. To be reused at Hastings. 1st and 2nd class.

14 October 1978 (P)

Oyez Oyez, It's Hastings Day. To be reused at Hastings. 1st and 2nd class.

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