

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

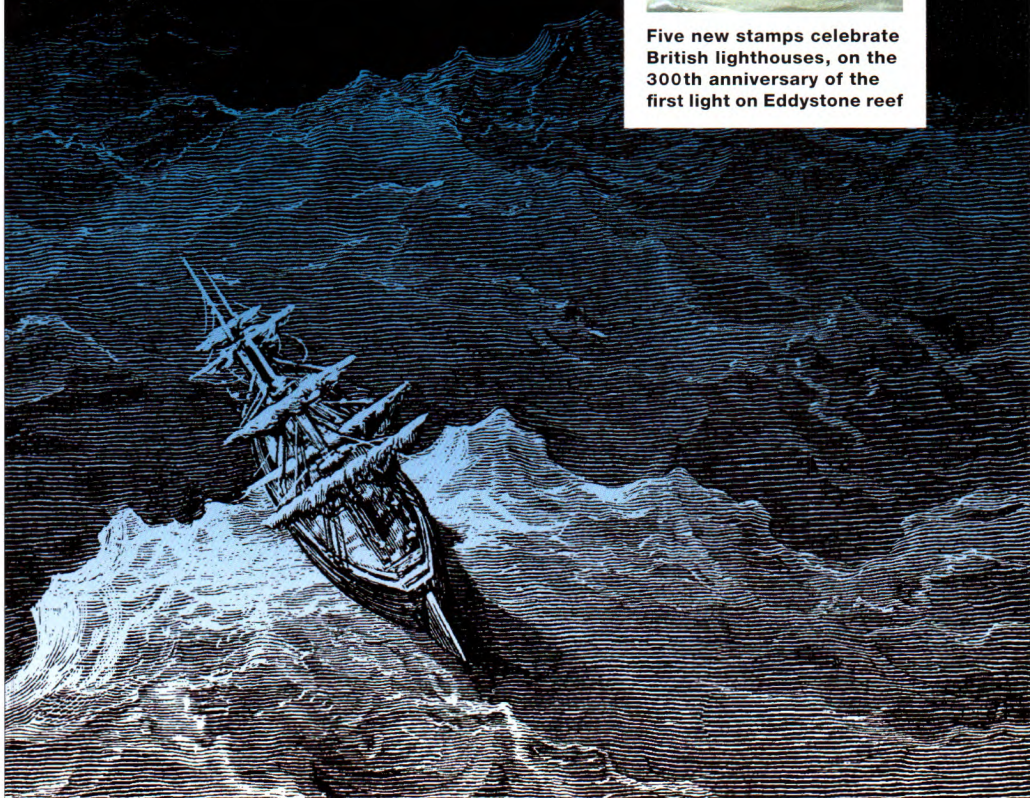
Volume 35 Number 6

FEBRUARY 1998 • 85P

First day covers • Empire air
mail • Lighthouses stamps



Five new stamps celebrate
British lighthouses, on the
300th anniversary of the
first light on Eddystone reef



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The original lighthouse on Eddystone reef, designed by Henry Winstanley, was lit for the first time in 1698. The new Lighthouses stamps from Royal Mail are shown on page 165. Engraving by Gustave Doré, from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

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

2 February	Issue 10 x 1st book (NVI definitives) with Disney holiday promotion
3 February	Issue Diana, Princess of Wales stamps and presentation pack. <i>Note, there are no stamp cards for this issue</i>
3 February	Withdrawal 1st & 2nd class and 37p & 63p stamp books issued 4 February 1997
11 February	Withdrawal Hong Kong stamp book (with pictorial label) and unfolded
16 February	Issue The Queen's Beasts stamp cards
24 February	Issue The Queen's Beasts stamps, presentation pack and philatelic numismatic cover
2 March	Withdrawal Scottish aerogramme: Alexander Graham Bell
10 March	Issue The Stamp Show 2000 prestige stamp book
10 March	Withdrawal Missions of Faith stamps, pack and stamp cards
17 March	Issue Lighthouses stamp cards
24 March	Issue Lighthouses stamps, presentation pack and aerogrammes
24 March	Withdrawal Captain Cook aerogramme



A printer's sample stamp from Glenn Morgan's collection

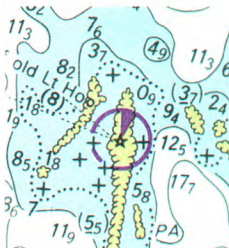
In my view... The Editor meets Glenn Morgan, the National Philatelic Society's busy Librarian, who shares his views on philately, and talks about his collections and interests **171**

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

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Royal Mail news Lighthouses stamps • Current exhibitions at the National Postal Museum • Disney stamp book



The designer The stamps were designed by Dick Davis using illustrations by John Boon. Mr Davis (born 1945) designed the 1986 Medieval Life stamps, first day cover and pack, 1993 Swans FDC and first day handstamps, 1994 Golf FDC and pack, and the covers for the 50p stamp books showing sea charts, issued in 1995. Trained at the Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art, he now works from home on the Isle of Wight.

Lighthouses Five stamps featuring important British lighthouses go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 24 March. The stamps commemorate the 300th anniversary of the lighting of the first Eddystone lighthouse and the final year of manned lighthouses in the UK. All will be automatic by the end of 1998.

The **20p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) features the lighthouse at St John's Point, Co Down, Northern Ireland which was established in 1844. The colours of the lighthouse were changed to black and yellow in 1954. The stamp displays a contemporary chart in the background, and a band that shows the 'character' of the light – 'group quick flashing × 2'.

The Smalls lighthouse in Pembrokeshire, Wales features on the **26p** denomination (inland 1st class and EU basic weight letters). The current tower was built in 1859 by James Douglass and like most lighthouses was automated in the 1980s. The chart is dated 1988. The light's 'character' is 'group flashing × 3'.

The famous Needles Rocks lighthouse on the Isle of Wight, England, is shown on the **37p** value (airmail postcard rate). This was also built in 1859, by James Walker and the stamp shows it as it was at the turn of the century when it was black and white. The chart dates from 1908; the light's character is 'single occulting'.

Shown on the **43p** stamp (airmail letters basic rate) is the lighthouse on Bell Rock (or Inchcape Rock), 11 miles south east of Arbroath, Scotland. It was built in 1811 by Robert Stevenson (ancestor of Robert Louis Stevenson), and marks a dangerous reef. This tower is the oldest rock lighthouse extant in Britain and is shown as it appeared in the mid-19th century. The chart is dated 1842; the light's character is 'alternating white and red'.

The final stamp, **63p** (airmail letters, second weight step) features Henry Winstanley's original Eddystone lighthouse, off Plymouth, Devon, as it looked when first lit in 1698. The chart dates from the mid-18th century; the light's character is 'fixed steady light'. The 300th anniversary of the

Technical details

Printers The House of Questa

Process Offset lithography

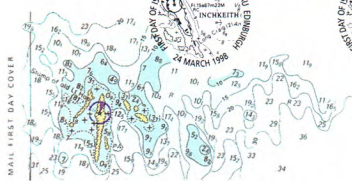
Size 35 × 37mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor One band 20p •
two bands others

Gum PVA



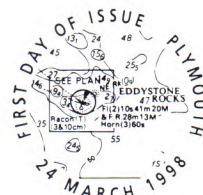
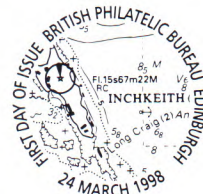
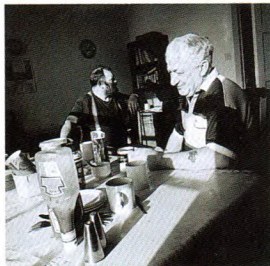
LIGHTHOUSES

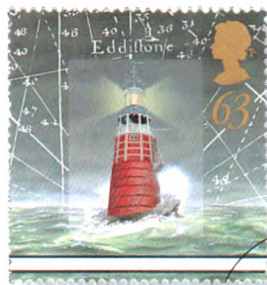
Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Presentation pack and stamp cards A well-illustrated pack (price £2.25) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack has been written by Alexandra Henderson, former Editor of *Scotland on Sunday*. She gives impressions of life on Fair Isle South lighthouse – the last remaining manned lighthouse in Scotland, soon to become fully automatic.

WHEN THE WIND WHIPS UP AND THE SKY TURNS A STEELY GREY, Fair Isle is transformed from a haven of soft green fields to an inhospitable place of cliffs and rocks that beckon menacingly to passing vessels. In the days before lighthouses, countless seafarers – including sailors from the Spanish Armada – perished off these shores. For 106 years, as darkness has fallen over this tiny island halfway between Orkney and Shetland, the stalwarts of the Northern Lighthouse Board have watched over the light that shines from its southern tip and operated the lantern that walks through the impenetrable logs that descend so rapidly here.

But the days of the lighthousekeepers' solitary vigil are almost over. The men of Fair Isle South are the last in Scotland – all remaining staffed UK lighthouses will be automated in 1998. Poignantly, the keepers will go ashore for the final time 300 years after the world-famous Edystone first cast its protective glow along England's south coast.





Queen's Beasts plates

The five 26p stamps were printed by plates 1A (silver) 1B (green) 1C (bright blue) 1D (carmine-red) 1E (vermilion) 1F (lemon) 1G (grey) 1H (grey-black) 4J (black, recess printing) P66 (phosphor).

There are, including the phosphor, 10 passes of which stamps 2, 3 and 4 have all, and stamps 1 and 5 in the strip are missing one colour – grey (stamp 1) and carmine-red (5).

Eddystone lighthouse will be featured in the March issue of *Leading Lights* – a unique international journal aimed at all people interested in the many facets of lighthouses. For information contact the Editor and Publisher: Peter Williams, The Haven Lightship, Milford Marina, Milford Haven SA73 3AF. Telephone 01646 698055.

Questa will be using a fine screen - 850 dots per inch, as opposed to the more usual 300; this will greatly improve the image on the stamps.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets around a week before 24 March, price 25p. Orders for the cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Plymouth, price £2.64 UK (including VAT) or £2.25 overseas (no VAT), must reach the Bureau by 24 March. Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (for Plymouth postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9805' (Bureau), or 'FD9806' (Plymouth).

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

The permanent philatelic handstamp for Plymouth shows Smeaton's Tower – the old Eddystone lighthouse of 1756, re-erected on Plymouth Hoe in 1882. Covers for reposting should be sent to the Special Handstamp Centre at Cardiff (address above), requesting handstamp number 4673.

Covers may be posted bearing just the 20p Lighthouses stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 24 March; the normal 1st class rule is waived for the day.

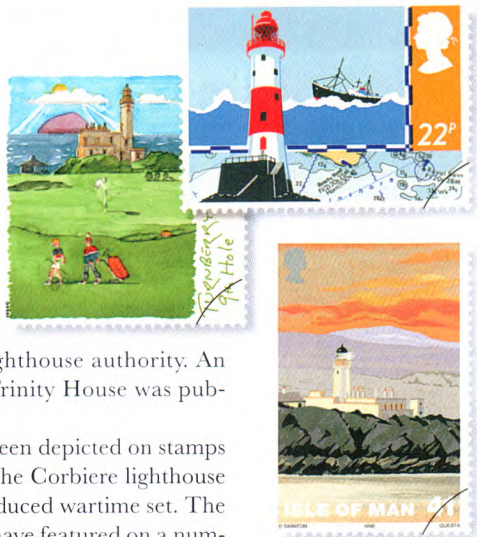
AEROGRAMMES Three aerogrammes featuring lighthouses in England, Scotland and Wales will go on sale at post offices in the respective countries, and at the Bureau and philatelic outlets on 24 March, price 45p each. The Scottish aerogramme featuring Science and Technology, announced here in October has now been cancelled; we regret any disappointment caused.

LIGHTHOUSES ON STAMPS These are not the first British stamps to feature lighthouses although the first set devoted to the subject. Under magnification you can just make out the Roman lighthouse (Pharos) near Dover Castle on the 1951 5s White Cliffs of Dover high value definitive (SG 510). An unidentified lighthouse can be seen on the 1972 Coastguard sesquicentenary stamp (902), and the Beachey Head lighthouse on the 22p value in the 1985 Safety at Sea set (1287). Turnberry lighthouse featured on the 1994 41p Golf stamp (1833) and on the alternative first day postmark for

the Golf set. The Needles lighthouse can be identified on the Isle of Wight first day postmark for the 1992 Tennyson issue.

Nor should postal stationery be overlooked. The Eddystone lighthouse featured on a pre-stamped postcard issued for the Royal Naval Exhibition in May 1891 and the 23rd Scottish aerogramme (April 1986) featured various lighthouses run by the Commissioners of Northern Lights – the lighthouse authority for Scotland. In England and Wales, the Channel Islands and a few overseas territories, Trinity House is the lighthouse authority. An interesting article, by the late Barbara Last, on Trinity House was published in the September 1986 *Bulletin*.

Other lighthouses around the British Isles have been depicted on stamps from Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man, and Ireland. The Corbiere lighthouse was shown on the 1½d value in Jersey's locally-produced wartime set. The three lighthouses on Lundy in the Bristol Channel have featured on a number of local stamps (local carriage labels) from this island in the Bristol Channel •



Free Lighthouse mounts for your Lighthouses stamps

To coincide with the new issue of five stamps depicting lighthouses, Lighthouse (the world renowned philatelic album and accessory manufacturer) is offering a free pack of protective mounts for you to house this new issue. To receive your free mounts send a 2nd class stamp (or international reply coupon from overseas) to cover cost of return postage to: Free Mounts Offer, The Duncannon Partnership, 4 Beaufort Road, Reigate RH2 9DJ •



Queen's flowers To mark the golden wedding of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee arranged for a replica of the 1947 wedding bouquet to be sent to Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace.

The photograph shows, with the bouquet, Margaret David, Head Florist of Longmans Florists of Holborn; Fiona Merrikin, SAC Secretary; and Mrs Janet Owen, Managing Director of Longmans. Mrs Owen's father made the original wedding bouquet.



The four panes in the first of the Stamp Show 2000 prestige books – to be issued on 10 March. Details were published last month.

Orders for Royal mail albums to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT

Royal Mail deluxe album The Royal Mail stamp album, with spaces for all basic stamps and miniature sheets issued since decimalisation is now offered in two volumes. Volume 1 covers 1970-89, Volume 2, 1990-97, price £119.95 and £99.95 respectively. Extra binders, padded with the Post Office crest on the front, are also available at £49.95. Supplements to the album are issued annually •

Orders and enquiries Ray Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield, TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825 766546

Friends of the NPM The Autumn 1997 issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, includes interesting features on printed postage impressions (PPIs), post paid withdrawn ship letters, Post Office Rifles, London to Brighton parcel mailcoach service, the Dead Letter Office, and the NPM's Golden and Glorious and Queen's Stamps exhibitions. Each is well-written and illustrated. In addition there is a report on a visit by the Friends to the Museum and their discussions with the staff. The Friends organise a varied programme of events and visits, including recent or forthcoming trips to the National Army Museum, De La Rue Security Print, South East Anglia Mail Centre, British Philatelic Bureau, Scottish Philatelic Congress, John Parker and the Royal Mail mailcoach, Guernsey Philatelic Bureau and Postal Museum, and the Didcot Railway Centre. *Cross Post* costs £2 to non-members •

National Postal Museum The current displays at the NPM will be of interest to collectors of all ages, beginning on the ground floor with a fascinating display of historic postal vehicles and artefacts. The 'Victorian Posts' exhibition, (ground and mezzanine floors), explains the 19th century postal services. In the main gallery (top floor), visitors can see the 'Golden and Glorious' exhibition, commemorating the golden wedding of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (right, a 1953 Coronation stamp design by G Foster Fletcher in the exhibition), the famous R M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps, and 'All-World' and thematic displays. The well-stocked shop offers a wide range of books, postcards, and souvenirs; mail handed in at the shop receives a unique Maltese Cross handstamp •



The NPM in King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, is open Monday to Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free

Disney stamp book A 10 x 1st class stamp book including a Disney Holiday promotion offer on the covers will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic outlets from 2 February and from post offices and other retail outlets as stocks require. Details were given here last month. The book was printed by De La Rue Security Print (formerly Harrisons) •

Stamp scene Double Geneva auctioned • Spring Stampex • British Library Philatelic Collections reopen

Double Geneva auctioned Selected items from the Consul Alfred Weinberger collection realised nearly £800,000 at a Harmers auction on 5 November. Pride of place was a cover bearing the rare 5c + 5c 'Double Geneva' variety cut the wrong way, tied by red rosette cancellation, with red Geneva postmark of January 1845. Estimated at £60,000, this rare item made £71,500. Enquiries: Harmers of London, 91 New Bond Street, London W1A 4EH •



British Library Philatelic Collections The Philatelic Collections reopen at the new British Library building near St Pancras station on 2 February. The displays of philatelic material will reopen with new exhibitions and material in April •

Enquiries Philatelic Collections, British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. Telephone 0171 412 7635/6

Bristol Postal History Group The main project of this recently formed group is to publish an in-depth study of Bristol postal history based on the book *An Introduction to Bristol Postal History* published by the Bristol Philatelic Society (reviewed here June 1997). A quarterly newsletter will be published; the annual subscription is £5 •

Enquiries Brian Purcell, 98 Charlton Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2EY



Stampex – the British national stamp exhibition – is organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society.

Enquiries 0171 490 1005

Opening times

25 February	12.00-19.00
26th-28th	10.00-18.00
1 March	10.00-16.00

For free tickets (not valid first day) write to: Organisers Office, Stampex, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT

Crèche facilities A free crèche for young visitors will be available at the weekend.

Spring Stampex The first of this year's Stampex exhibitions takes place at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1, 25 February-1 March.

ATTRACTIONS The centrepiece of the exhibition will be a display of Oceania with 200 frames of material culled from members of the British Society of Australian Philately, the New Zealand Society of Great Britain and the Pacific Islands Study Circle. Members of the societies will be on hand to answer questions. At the weekend various societies, including the Malta Study Circle, Society of Olympic Collectors, GB Philatelic Society, Concorde Study Circle, Ceylon Study Circle of GB, and British Aerophilatelic Federation will be holding meetings. Some will provide displays on the Gallery level.

Over 90 leading stamp dealers – from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and the USA, as well as the UK – will have stands. The Crown Agents will be representing their host of overseas countries. The Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of stamps and related material. A special handstamp will be applied to mail posted at the stand, or sent to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB requesting Stampex postmark and stating date(s) required. Covers, bearing at least 1st class postage, should be submitted by the date of the postmark required.

DISPLAYS, LECTURE AND AUCTION David Harrop will be providing a display of 'Post Boxes through the Ages'. Also on show will be some of the material from the NPS Appraisal Scheme. If you are interested in exhibiting, Frank Jones and Francis Kiddle will be giving a 'participatory' lecture entitled 'So you want to exhibit' – to be held six times from 11.30 to 13.00 and 14.30 to 16.00 on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Friday Antonio M Torres will hold one of his regular auctions at Stampex, a must for collectors of the Spanish areas.

COMPETITION Marini, album manufacturers since 1913, are organising a Stampex competition to win a full set of their Great Britain luxury hingeless albums worth nearly £400. Competition forms should be completed and handed in on the Marini stand (No 63A) at Stampex.

Buses serve Islington from all parts of London. For details of routes call 0171 222 1234.

TRANSPORT The Design Centre is well served by underground and bus services. The nearest tube station – Angel (Northern line) is about five minutes walk. Car-parking is available at the exhibition centre and nearby.

Autumn Stampex The dates of this exhibition have been changed and are now 30 September-4 October 1998.

ADMISSION Admission will cost £3 on the opening day, £1 other times. The exhibition catalogue, free to visitors, will be available from the end of January by sending 50p in mint GB stamps to the Stampex office. Visitors will also receive a free carrier bag provided by Marini. Over 200 £5 vouchers, which can be spent at any of the dealers at Stampex, will be inserted at random in these bags which will contain free 'goodies' •

In my view... Glenn Morgan, one of British philately's rising stars, talks to the editor about his work and his collections

GLENN MORGAN is one of the rising stars in British philately. As well as undertaking a demanding and responsible job at Midland Bank Marketing, he is the extremely busy Hon Librarian of the National Philatelic Society (NPS), an exhibitor at stamp exhibitions, the author of several books and yet still finds time to maintain a number of interesting stamp collections.

I met Glenn one evening at the NPS where he showed me the improved layout of the library and the vast stock of duplicate material stored in the basement. He took over as Librarian, on the suggestion of the NPS immediate Past President, Richard West, in 1993 and has made the library more user-friendly. Its holdings – always good – have expanded considerably over the past five years. Later I will be writing about the library, but this article is about Glenn, his philatelic career and his views on the hobby.

He started collecting, age nine, in 1965, when his father gave him his 'across the board collection' of stamps, mostly from the early to mid-1930s. He found the stamps fascinating, especially those from countries he hadn't previously heard of: 'it was amazing to be handling items that actually came from those far-away places'. Today's children, he feels, would be less impressed as they have often visited the countries on holiday – part of the 'been there, done that' mentality. Glenn's involvement with organised philately started early when he helped set up a school stamp club, overseen by a teacher 'who allowed us to play stamps'. Glenn recalls swapping with a fellow schoolboy his set of the British 1953 Coronation stamps for three or four 1966 3d Christmas stamps with the gold head slightly shifted. 'I thought they were rather special at the time but he got the better of the deal'.

His family supported his interest in stamps but didn't think it would last. Most of his Christmas and birthday presents were stamp related, often bought from a tiny shop called the Ilford Stamp Agency. He is saddened that children are now



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
PRINTERS

HARRISON & SONS LIMITED

Photogravure Specialists

44-47 ST. MARTIN'S LANE W.C.2



The striking features of photogravure printed stamps are the strength of colour and the greater delicacy obtained by the photographic nature of the process. The accompanying example is intended to show the deep range of tone provided by the process when using only one colour. The complexity of the precision equipment acts as an effective barrier to forgery. Harrisons now print over twenty-eight million stamps a day for the postal authorities of many nations and have probably the largest security works printing by this process in the world.

Glenn Morgan and items from his collection: a favourite, above, 1957 Harrison card showing features of the photogravure process; and right, Walsall labels produced for the Stamp World London 90 exhibition.



less 'exposed' to stamps with the declining number of stamp shops and fewer displays of stamps in stores such as Woolworth and W H Smith.

He believes stamp collecting is a good hobby for adults, not just those approaching retirement. He urges new collectors to acquire as many different stamps as possible to 'see what's going'. He believes many new collectors now gravitate towards thematics, choosing a subject that is linked to their occupation or other hobbies and interests. 'Don't specialise too early', he advises, 'take your time to decide what areas appeal to you most'. He recommends joining a local club as soon as possible to meet other collectors and gain insights as to what the hobby is all about.

Specialised collections Glenn started his first specialised collections in 1969 with the new Guernsey and Jersey independent issues. 'It was exciting', he recalls, 'to start on two new countries'. He later added Manx stamps when postal independence came in 1973. He still has these collections although has not added to them since 1990. In the 1970s he started three collections that still take up much of his time – Printers' sample stamps, Philatelic exhibition souvenirs, and Royal Household mail. A thematic collection of letter boxes on stamps, postmarks, covers and postcards was added in 1980 and, like the other three, now runs to several hundred album sheets. For a while he was also interested in the George VI and Elizabeth II issues of Canada. His latest specialised collection, entitled 'Postal Vending', encompasses testing labels, automatic teller machine stamps; he looks forward to the first British ATM stamps. Glenn also collects stamps including holograms in the design.

'Most of what I collect', he says, 'might be regarded as rather weird stuff but it gives me great pleasure and endless opportunities for research' – evident in his well-received books on Royal Household mail, Letter boxes on stamps, and Exhibition souvenirs. He is currently working on a catalogue of printers' sample stamps. In 1989 he published a useful guide to the attractive cards sent by Royal Mail, since 1963, to children writing to Father Christmas.



PRINTERS TO THE LATE KING GEORGE VI

PRINTED IN PHOTOGRAVURE FOR

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL BY

HARRISON AND SONS LIMITED

TO COMMEMORATE THE CORONATION

OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

TUESDAY • JUNE 2ND • 1953

'If I won the lottery', he says, 'I would like to specialise in Victorian material – a good cross-section of material including proofs and colour trials not just stamps'. He admits that 'sheets and sheets of penny blacks bore me to tears – there is more to collecting than just amassing large quantities of the same basic stamp'.

His policy in acquiring material for his collections is to include anything and everything that is relevant, including items of ephemera: 'Once I have it, I will worry later on how to display it'. Like most collectors he finds mounting up a bit daunting and tends to put it off given a chance but recognises that mounting up is 'what distinguishes a true collection from an accumulation.' He intended spending this winter getting to grips with mounting up. He obtains stamps from various sources, but 'increasingly by exchange with other collectors because of the specialist nature of the material I collect. We look out for material for one another. My work at the NPS library



Harrison presentation card bearing 1953 Coronation stamps

brings me into contact with many collectors.' He buys occasionally from auctions but regularly scans auction catalogues for their 'research value'.

He is, in general, well-organised and keeps a pocket book to record known gaps in his collection, ideas and future tasks. He is starting an inventory of his collection and admits to mislaying items from time to time. Don't we all? Writing-up is now done, using a computer, on acid-free card which he obtains from a specialist supplier, cut to A4 size so it easily feeds through his laser printer. Pages are stored, in exhibition protectors, in 'magazine rack boxes' which he also buys from a specialist supplier although, he says, they are similar to those on sale at Smiths.

Glenn reckons to spend four or five hours a week on his collections, about one-fifth of the hours he devotes to his NPS library duties – often busy till late at night, after a long working day! Some weekends are also spent working at the library for the benefit of NPS members.

Literature Although he maintains his own working library, he tends to keep less literature now as he has ready access at the NPS. He looks through every philatelic journal that arrives at the NPS – several hundred titles! – particularly at the book reviews. He enjoys the British magazines, has subscribed to this *Bulletin* for 30 years, and studies the *Postmark Bulletin* so he can send in covers for postmarks of relevance to his exhibition, letter boxes and other collections. He admires the writing of prolific authors Jim Mackay and Norman Williams, also the superb attention to detail in the works of Jim Negus. He keeps photocopies of articles, carefully annotated as to source and date, of particular value.

Societies Glenn is no longer involved in local societies as he concentrates on his NPS work. He is a member of the Royal and values his membership of 10 specialist societies. 'Meeting like-minded people with the same level of interest in the hobby', he says, 'often leads to lifetime friendships. The sharing of knowledge and the opportunity to see some wonderful displays are just two good reasons for joining societies.' Like Chris Harman (In My View, May 1997), he is wary of becoming over-specialised at the expense of enjoying the hobby.

As Librarian and Vice-President of the NPS, he, not surprisingly, sings its praises and invites more collectors to join. 'It is a friendly society', he says, 'with good meetings and members, wherever they live, can benefit from the auctions, exchange packet, the magazine, and borrow books from the library by post'. 'Geography', he continues, 'doesn't come into it, it is not just a society for those living in London and the south east.' He doesn't see the Royal Philatelic Society as the forbidding place it is sometimes portrayed. 'Why should it be?', he says, 'at the end of the day all collectors share the same interest and join societies for that reason.' Sadly work commitments prevent him attending as many RPS meetings as he would like.

Exhibitions and museums Glenn's first taste of stamp events were the Saturday stamp fairs held



Printers' sample stamps, ancient and modern

at the Wykeham Hall in Romford. In 1969 he went along to the BPE which seemed huge in comparison. He recalls looking at the exhibits and the newly issued Guernsey and Jersey stamps on the stand of J Sanders of Southampton. He still enjoys exhibitions, and is sad that 'Stampex bashing has become a popular activity in recent years; it is still a good exhibition, important as our national exhibition for those wanting to enter international competitions.' He describes the new 'Stamp' exhibitions at Wembley as 'great – different, innovative, and popular with a new breed of collector. It is complementary to Stampex, catering for a different audience'. He welcomes the growing number of exhibitions – 'all important in bringing the hobby to the public, especially in areas where there are few stamp shops'. He praises the dealers for supporting so many shows. He is looking forward to the ABPS exhibition in Hove in November, and didn't hear a bad word about its predecessor at Newcastle in 1996.

He attended the international exhibitions in London in 1970, 1980 and 1990 and particularly enjoyed the Alexandra Palace exhibition as by then 'I had reached a level in the hobby when I knew people there – it was a great social event as well as a fine exhibition'. He hopes at the Stamp Show 2000 to see some aspects of stamp printing demonstrated, citing the printing of Jersey first day covers by Questa at the 1980 exhibition. He also hopes to see postal artefacts as well as stamps – 'it would be great if there was a real mail coach on show' – and displays of material from the Royal Collection, British Library and National Postal Museum. He enjoys seeing material he cannot own, like seeing great works of art.

Since 1992 he has acquired the taste for visiting overseas internationals and learned a great deal from the Genoa exhibition, but was rather disappointed with the Hafnia exhibition in Copenhagen. He uses these trips 'as an excuse to go sight-seeing as well as visiting the exhibitions'.

He thinks the strength of our National Postal Museum is the wide range of material on display but criticises the opening hours which coincide with the time 'the average person is at work'. He has done much research in Post Office Archives and praises the helpfulness of the staff. He hopes to continue his research there on Royal Household Mail for a second edition of his book, and also wants to study the files on stamp vending machines, for example those for the 1957 Scout stamps issued in coils.

Glenn's favourite overseas postal museum is in Helsinki, Finland which 'displays many artefacts, is not stamp heavy, has sensible opening times, a good shop and cafe, a great library, a philatelic counter offering the full range of stamps, and a generally unstuffy atmosphere.' He awards it nine out of 10, with a score of six for our NPM.

Royal Mail Glenn recognises the work done by Royal Mail in promoting the hobby but also the misunderstandings between collectors and Royal Mail. He believes Royal Mail makes far less money from the hobby than most collectors like to think, and that both the philatelic community and Royal Mail would benefit from more collectors within the organisation – 'You need a better balance between collectors and non-collectors who would feed off each other's ideas' and suggested that Royal Mail and Post Office Counters staff should be better trained in the requirements of collectors. But it is not all gloom and doom and he praises Royal Mail's efforts at generating more interest in the hobby through newspaper supplements. He likes the Royal Mail stamp year-books and finds the Boots labels 'a most interesting new development'. He buys the labels in quantity – to study and to use on his personal mail. He reads the *Bulletin* and enjoys the good mix of articles, even the occasional feature that 'strays from the British scene'. 'It covers', he says,

'all areas that a Royal Mail publication should; a blend of new issue information and readable historical articles.'

Promoting the hobby Like many active philatelists, Glenn is concerned about the image of the hobby and its lack of appeal to younger people. He feels the British Philatelic Trust 'is not relevant to most collectors, serving just the dedicated people that know of its existence. It comes across as just a financier of organised philately.' He accepts this is an important function, but 'the funds must be used sensibly and philatelic organisations should not see the BPT as simply a source of revenue for pet projects'. He is pleased that it is 'starting to make an impact in increasing interest in the hobby; feedback seems to be quite strong and I look forward to seeing future development in this area.' He hopes that there will, before too long, be further TV programmes about stamps. He enjoyed the 'In the Post' series, broadcast about 20 years ago, and has donated video tapes of the series to the NPS library.

Philatelic greats and personal achievements

When asked who he regards as the greatest philatelists, Glenn responded quickly with the name of Fred Melville who founded the NPS (as the Junior Philatelic Society) in 1899 and had a great influence through numerous newspaper and magazine articles and books on stamp collecting. The NPS is currently undertaking research on Melville in preparation for its centenary next year and hopes to find out more about this great philatelist. Most of his papers went to America at the beginning of the war and are now in the Smithsonian Library in Washington. Glenn also cited Robson Lowe who had died just a few weeks before our interview and 'had become a legend in his own lifetime' and the late R A G Lee 'who gave good advice to many new collectors, including myself'. He singled out the late Harry Becker of Manor Park, London – an 'everyday collector' who encouraged Glenn in his formative years as a collector.

Glenn praises types of collectors rather than individuals, favouring those who undertake re-

search and publish their findings for the benefit of all collectors. He is pleased that many more ladies are now involved in philately and delighted that Sheila Foster won a gold medal at Autumn Stampex.

Several events have given him much satisfaction in his philatelic career including his first award for a Wartime Channel Islands exhibit in the early 1970s, and the publication of his *Royal Household Mail* book in 1992. However, he says, the reward from these was rather short-lived compared to the pleasure he gets from seeing the NPS library develop. He is rightly proud of concentrating on one main task and doing it well.

As well as stamps, Glenn has 'dabbled' in postcards, model vehicles and other Post Office related material. He also collects banknote samples which ties in with his interest in security stamp printers. He gets great pleasure from the uniqueness of his collections, believing collections should reflect their owner's character and interests. He relishes the opportunity of making new discoveries. He reckons he was destined to be a collector of something, 'it just happened to be stamps'. His philosophy is clearly that whatever he does he wants to do it well or not at all.

To conclude the interview I asked what was the favourite item in his collection, and if marooned on a desert island which philatelic book and luxury item would he like. Under pressure he selected a card printed by Harrisons for the 1957 Stampex. He was less reticent over his chosen book – the NPS edition of *Fundamentals of Philately* by LN and M Williams – 'this', he says, 'should be on every collector's shelf'. For a luxury he would like a very fine line-engraved stamp and a good magnifying glass. What more could a collector ask for? •



The Empire Air Mail Scheme expanded



by Richard Beith

IN THE JUNE 1997 ISSUE of the *Bulletin*, the origins of the Empire Air Mail Scheme (EAMS) were discussed and the introduction of Stage 1 of this innovative system in late June 1937 described. The whole point of the Scheme was to link the inhabitants of the British Empire, by means of a flat rate, 'all-up', first-class letter service with no air mail surcharge. Of course, this could only be carried out where Imperial air routes existed. For example, there was, as yet, no regular air service to Canada.

Stage 1, linking the United Kingdom with Eastern and Southern Africa had been a great success. In Stage 2 this cheap air mail service was extended to the Middle East, India and the Malay peninsula. Countries served included Aden, Bahrain, Brunei, Burma, Ceylon, Dubai, Egypt, India, Labuan, Malay States, Muscat, North Borneo, Palestine, Seychelles, Straits Settlements and Trans-Jordan. Stage 2 was inaugurated 60 years ago this month, on 23 February 1938. The British postal rates remained at one and a half old pennies per half ounce for a letter, one penny for a postcard. The volume of unsurcharged mail posted for the first despatch from Southampton was such that two of the four-engined Short S.23 c class flying boats were needed to carry the mails to Karachi, the British registered G-ADVE *Centurion* of Imperial Airways and the Australian registered VH-ABB

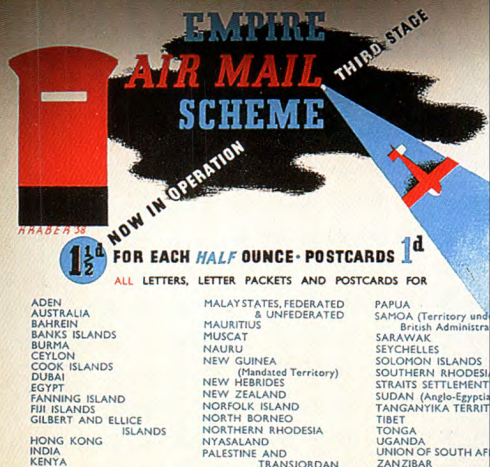
Pr. Edward I.
(B176)
Marion I

Crozet R

Coolangatta of Qantas. The Australian plane continued with the mails from Karachi to Singapore. The first unsurcharged mails for Egypt, which had not been served under Stage 1, were carried on the s.23 G-ADVB *Corsair*.

Contemporary newspaper accounts in the Southampton paper, *Southern Daily Echo*, tell us that letters were expected to be delivered in Alexandria in three or four days, in Calcutta in about a week and should reach Singapore in 10 days. A total of four tons of mail were carried on the two flying boats. The first inward flights to the UK bearing Stage 2 'all-up' mail were operated by VH-ABA *Carpentaria* carrying mails from India (Service CW1) and G-AEUC *Corinna* carrying mails from Singapore (Service IW631 from Karachi).

continued on following page



EMPIRE AIR MAIL SCHEME

THIRD STAGE

NOW IN OPERATION

1½d FOR EACH HALF OUNCE-POSTCARDS 1d

ALL LETTERS, LETTER PACKETS AND POSTCARDS FOR

ADEN	MALAY STATES, FEDERATED & UNFEDERATED	PAPUA
AUSTRALIA	MAURITIUS	SAMOA (Territory under British Administration)
BAHRAIN	MUSCAT	SARAWAK
BANKS ISLANDS	NAURU	SEYCHELLES
BURMA	NEW GUINEA	SOLOMON ISLANDS
CEYLON	(Mandated Territory)	SOUTHERN RHODESIA
COOK ISLANDS	NEW HEBRIDES	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
DUBAI	NEW ZEALAND	SUDAN (Anglo-Egyptian)
EGYPT	NORFOLK ISLAND	TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
FANNING ISLAND	NORTH BORNEO	TIBET
FILIPIN ISLANDS	NORTHERN RHODESIA	TONGA
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS	NTSALAND	UGANDA
HONG KONG	PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
INDIA		ZANZIBAR
KENYA		

NOW GO BY AIR

NOTE THE POSTAGE RATES

Letters and letter packets 1½d. for each half ounce
Postcards 1d.

There is no longer any special fee to pay for air carriage to the countries. Blue air mail labels or other special markings indicate air transmission must not be used.

Do not save up your correspondence for these countries if posting on any particular day. There are frequent services post any day—the earlier in the week the better.

Opening of the First Unsurcharged Air
Mail Service between Alexandria & Karachi

The Secretary,
I.T.C.A. Ltd.,
MacLeod Road,
Finlay House,
KARACHI.

The completed Empire Air Mail Scheme was well advertised in post offices throughout the Empire. The attractive leaflet above was produced by our own GPO and includes a list of all countries served. Note the advice given regarding air mail labels. Quite a change from today when all letter mail for mainland Europe (and the Irish Republic) needs an air mail etiquette to ensure that it is not delayed.

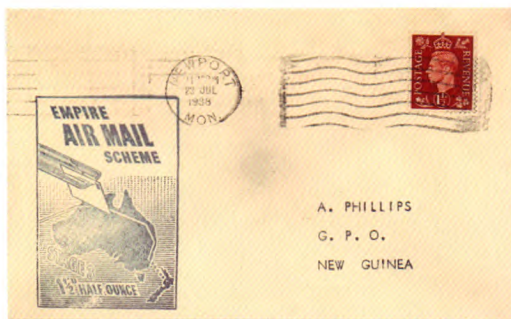
Left, a cover flown from Alexandria in Egypt to Karachi on the first eastbound 'all-up' service. Addressed to The Secretary of the Indian Trans-Continental Airways, it was franked at the modest rate of 15 mills, postmarked in Alexandria on 1 March 1938 and backstamped in Karachi on 4 March.

Opposite page, mail being unloaded from the S23 *Cambria*



Right, a typical Stage 3 cover posted in Newport, Monmouthshire, in good time (23 July 1938) and addressed to a well-known air mail dealer of the period, Mr A Phillips (of Newport), at the GPO in New Guinea. It has a transit cancellation from Townsville, Queensland on 5 August and reached Rabaul, New Guinea, on 11 August 1938.

The cover below from Wellington, New Zealand, to the UK would only be transferred to a flying boat once it had reached Australia. Note that the New Zealand Post Office stuck to the same 1½d rate; in Australia a much higher 'all-up' rate of 5d was used.



The final development, Stage 3, eventually took place in July 1938 with the extension of the scheme to include such countries large and small as Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong, New Guinea, New Zealand, etc. Note that the first EAMS despatch to Hong Kong did not leave Southampton until 1 September 1938.

The first EAMS mails for Australasia left Southampton on 28 July 1938 on the Imperial Airways s.23 G-AEUA *Calyпсо*. From this time on, there

Sources

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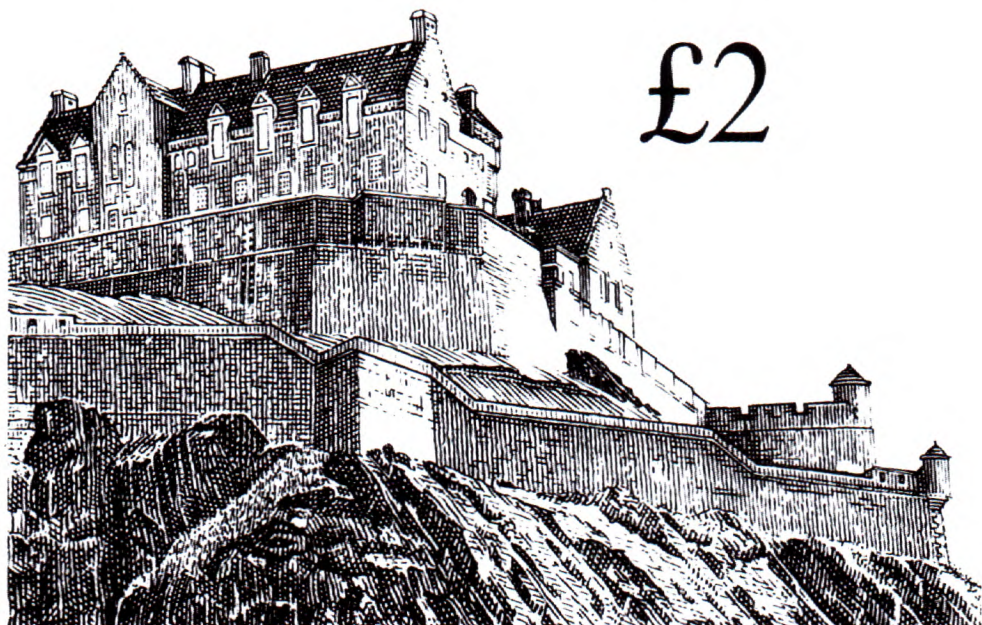
were eight flying boat services a week from the UK to Egypt, three a week to Central Africa with two continuing to South Africa and five to India with three continuing to Australia; quite an enterprise! Of course, to reach the more exotic locations, the mail had to be transferred from the main IA/Qantas route on to local feeder services, always assuming that they existed at all. Not only were some of the 'exotic locations' waiting for connecting services to be developed, the Dominion of New Zealand itself was not yet given a regular connecting service to Australia. Thus, although the New Zealand authorities celebrated the opening of Stage 3 in July 1938, mail from the Old Country was only flown as far as Australia, crossing the Tasman Sea by ship. It was not until 30 April 1940 that a regular air service for mails was initiated from New Zealand to Australia using the improved s.30 flying boats.

As the months went by the popularity of the EAMS continued to increase to such an extent that as Cassidy points out: 'In August 1939, Imperial Airways Limited announced that passenger bookings had been curtailed. The EAMS had been too successful, generating a bigger volume of mail than predicted and there was a shortage of aircraft to move it'.

However, the Empire Air Mail Scheme was to come to an abrupt end, being withdrawn on 2 September 1939, one day after the German invasion of Poland. The EAMS was replaced with a surcharged air mail service operated from the UK at an all-in cost of 1s 3d per half ounce. The noble ideal of minimal postal charges by air within the Empire was dead for ever ●

The current high values by Mrs Inge Madlé of Enschedé

Illustrations courtesy Stamp Magazine



EDINBURGH CASTLE



CAERNARFON CASTLE



CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE



WINDSOR CASTLE

IN OCTOBER we illustrated part of the drawing by Mrs Inge Madlé of Enschedé, used when engraving the £5 Windsor Castle stamp. New printings of the four Castle stamps were released on 29 July. We are pleased now to show all four drawings by Mrs Madlé •

Decimal stamp books 37 Specialist report by D G A Myall

Plus ça change... or déjà vu

The 1953 1d and 1998 20p,
26p and 37p Wildings



Cylinders for the November books of 10 In November, the reign of the gold 1st-class NVIS came to a close and the books of 10 by De La Rue (Harrison) and Walsall were re-issued with the normal flame-coloured stamps. However, they were not exactly the same as those seen before the gold issues; in the meantime, both printers have gone over to gravure printing from EME cylinders. The cylinder number seen in the Walsall books is w1; the phosphor number is also w1 but it does not appear in the issued books. The De La Rue numbers are B14/B12. These are the same as those used for printing their gold version; a tribute to the longevity of gravure cylinders.

Re-birth of the Wildings Which is your favourite of the seven designs used for the pre-decimal small definitives with The Queen's head derived from a portrait by Dorothy Wilding Ltd? This may be a curious question to pose in an article dealing with decimal stamp books, but bear with me. My own favourite was the wreath of floral emblems used on the 1d value, among others – all that scope for flaws and retouches. In fact, it was the big, beautiful flaws, such as the 'shamrock', 'thistle', 'rose' and 'daffodil' flaws on the 1d (no national favouritism here), that led to my relinquishing my collection of Commonwealth stamps to specialise in the GB stamps of the present reign, with consequences which could not have been foreseen. I have concentrated on the Machins but I still retain a strong attachment to the Wildings. This is evidently shared by Royal Mail, who bring them back in a modified form.

They have chosen George Knipe's design used for the 5d, 6d and 7d for re-use with 20p, 26p and 37p decimal values substituted and, of course, in the colours currently applicable instead of the brown, purple and bright green of the originals.

The new stamps appear in the first of three special prestige books, one to be issued in each of the years leading up to the London 2000 exhibition at Earl's Court. The three Wilding stamps mentioned contained the value in words and this feature has been retained but there is no currency indicator. Unexpectedly, the new stamps, like their predecessors, also carry the words POSTAGE and REVENUE, indicating their validity for excise purposes. However, since the prestige book will be the only source of these stamps, I do not expect them to be used for other than postal purposes, if that. There are four panes in the book, with a total stamp content of £7.49. For details of their content and layout, see the announcement in the January *Bulletin*.

Prestige books have always been a source of the unusual but the latest is more radical than most. Maybe they will act as a kind of counterweight to the ubiquitous Machins and generate renewed interest in the Wilding issues. Together with the original three values, the new stamps would make an interesting few pages for a short display. Remember, there are in fact four new single stamps because the 20p value exists with either left or right phosphor band. The three original Wilding stamps exist with and without phosphor bands, and were printed by Harrison in photogravure. The new stamps exist only with phos-

phor bands (it is a different formulation) and were printed by Walsall in gravure from EME cylinders. Your display could direct attention to these similarities and differences to show how matters have developed in the last 30 years or so.

BBC repeats I had a lucky purchase in November. One of the BBC prestige books I bought from my local post office had two copies of the first pane of stamps, the one with the six country issues, making the face value of the stamps in the book £8.04 instead of the intended £6.15. Collation errors are not unknown with prestige books, although those affecting the value of the stamp content are rare and it is the first time I have known one in a book assembled by Harrison/De la Rue. The three or four past occasions when the content value has been affected were all printed by Questa. Their market value is usually around £300 or more.

The components of prestige books, viz: covers, interleaves and panes, are printed in sheets of 12. They are collated in the desired order and the mass is then stitched before being cut into individual books. There must, then, have been another 11 books with the extra pane but, judging from past experience, they are unlikely to surface. The late Len Newbery used to say that he was sure that many errors lie unrecognised in collections. Make sure that this one doesn't!

ChocExpress again Now you can say it with chocolates as well as flowers. A special version of the Flowers Greetings book which went on sale on 5 January includes an offer of a box of six Belgian chocolates for £3.95 (a discount of £1) and a cover from the book. The chocolates can be sent on your behalf with your personal message on a greetings card. The front cover of the book of 10 pictorial NV1s carries a picture of the box with the message 'Send some 1st class chocolates' and the yellow strip message reads 'See reverse for special offer' so they should be easy to spot.

This is not the first time that ChocExpress products have been promoted by stamp book sales. The name is a trade mark used in the mail order division of Thornton's, the well-known



Plate number in a Walsall 10 x 1st book, November 1997

confectionery firm. In 1995, a book of 10 ordinary 1st-class flame NV1s had a promotional cover by which a box of four Thornton's chocolates could have been obtained for four of the stamps and one of the covers. They arrived with literature featuring the ChocExpress name and further special offers.

The books are again printed by Walsall in lithography. Plate numbers seen are W11 W14 W17 W10 W9 W14 and W11 W14 W17 W10 W9 W15. It is very likely that there will be several more. Maybe this very successful series warrants printing by gravure.

Another Disney scratchcard book Yet another 'repeat' book will be issued on 2 February. This is a retail book containing 10 flame NV1s and another chance to visit a Disney attraction. The original offer was made in February 1996, also with a book of 10 1st class stamps. On that occasion, each purchase of the book entitled one to a separate scratch card, with prizes including 25 trips to Disneyland. This time, the back cover is used as the card and pictures five animals with scratch surfaces. Among the prizes available are 15 trips to the new theme park in Florida which opens next May. The book is the first to have D instead of H under the barcode. The new initial results from Harrison's change of name to De la Rue Security Print on 8 September last year •

The Philatelic Hound of the Baskervilles James Negus

The drawings of Sidney Paget (1860-1908) are easy to spot, reproduced so frequently since they first appeared as the Holmes stories were being published in *Strand Magazine* a century ago. Such a one is on Benham's cover (L39) for the 1993 complete set headed *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and captioned from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*: 'There's our man, Watson! Come along'. This example is signed by Dame Jean Doyle, Sir Arthur's daughter.



Commemorative covers As the monthly *Commemorative Covers Review* shows, dealers prepare covers for all British new issues that are suitably illustrated with high-grade artwork. They sometimes include further useful background information on a filler card. A large number exist devoted to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes in general and recently they have appeared specifically celebrating the Hound.

Collectors preparing exhibits for competition under FIP regulations will already know that these items are not permitted (the stern admonition is not to favour 'items created to please collectors, eg decorated FDCs'). If, like me, you are simply making a collection for private enjoyment (and do not dwell too much on the outlay involved), these commemorative covers are most appealing. They are often available signed by famous people, commanding a premium at issue and tending to rise thereafter. They can sometimes have very small editions, too.

A particular interest of mine is to trace the source of the decorative artwork on these covers. Sidney Paget's drawing (above) was used for the official cover of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society and (without series number) for *Radio Times*. Benham's postcard series for the same stamps had one value per card: that for the Hound (BPC44) has the dramatic climax where 'Holmes emptied five barrels of his revolver into the creature's flank'.

When *Tales of Terror* appeared in 1997, Bradbury for its Hound cover reproduced a montage of Paget drawings, each with identifying caption; the 'five barrels' is one of them. Steven Scott also produced two covers specifically for the Hound. One has the first edition book cover of 1902 (mentioned in January under presentation packs) and the other shows an advertising handbill from 1901 (the story 'now appearing' in the *Strand*). Benham's cover (BS15) has a splendid Hound three-quarter face (original drawing?) with extensive notes printed on the reverse. This same cover can also be found earlier as an FDC from Guernsey with the Basil Rathbone stamp of 6 November 1996. Benham noted the Hound again on one of its *Terror* FDCs by featuring a large portrait of actor Ian Richardson: he is said to have played Holmes on TV in 1983.

Opposite Yet again the 1939 film surfaces as a postcard illustrating the film poster: this bears a Guernsey Rathbone postmarked 1 May 1997 double-dated with a GB Hound cancelled with the Princetown special postmark of 13 May 1997. The other side of this card, the 1939 film poster, is shown overleaf.

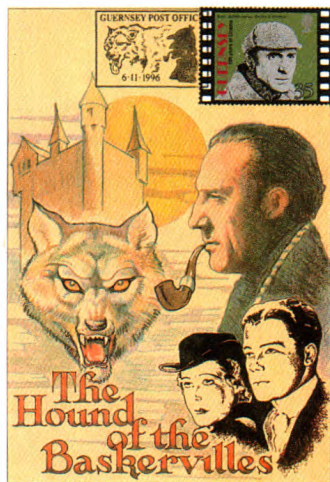
continues his survey of Holmesian philatelic material

Dramatisations are indeed a good source of illustration for commemorative items, yielding pictures of actors, poster advertising, lobby cards and film stills. Maurice Tanner (Maximum Original Co) has followed this style with a tie-in between the Guernsey Screen Detectives and British Tales of Terror stamps for FDCs featuring the Hound. The illustration for the Terror stamp alone has drawings of Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee (the latter playing Sir Henry Baskerville) from the Hammer film of 1959. The same artwork (credited to Stuart Smith) formed postcard no 84 in the Maximum Original Co's regular series of maximum cards for each new British issue. Another FDC is double-dated (GB 13 May and Guernsey 22 May 1997) and links Cushing's Hammer portrayal with Rathbone's film of 1939. The same artwork in smaller size was issued as a postcard and supplied as filler card for the FDC.

The Sherlock Holmes stamps of 1993 were brought into use by the Cambridge Stamp Centre for a series of covers in a single design specifically captioned *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. There were 19 covers, each with a different signature from 'those connected with the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle from stage, screen and radio', though several eminent non-theatrical people also contributed. The covers, distributed by instalments between September and December 1995, each bore a single 24p from the set – so not necessarily the one for the Hound – plus an uprating 1p Machin stamp. The covers are undressed, the signatures cacheted, and on the back is a certifying handstamp that the quantity prepared was only 15 sets. As such it is obviously a scarce issue.

It was also remarkable for its inaccurate advertising (repeated in good faith in the October 1995 *Commemorative Covers Review*, for example) and I set the record straight. The film still in black and white which decorates the cover is clearly not from Basil Rathbone's 1939 *Hound of the Baskervilles*, as claimed. In fact it was taken from an earlier film of the same title (Gainsborough Pictures, 1932) with actors (left to right) Robert Rendel (Holmes), and Frederick Lloyd (Watson). The third figure is Wilfred Shine, playing Dr Mortimer. The advertisement's assertion that this was Moriarty was what first alerted me, since Holmes's arch-enemy does not, of course, appear in the story. Lastly, though the cover producer later confirmed the still is from the Gainsborough film, they dated it 1931. I prefer to adopt 1932 from the standard reference books.

All the covers have a special postmark of 5 May 1995, possibly sponsored (by Westminster Collection Ltd) solely for the purpose. It has the familiar silhouette of Holmes and is labelled for his rooms at 221B Baker Street (applied at the handstamp centre at King Edward Building). I note that the same Gainsborough-type cover has recently been used again for a further series ('about 15'),



Original poster art by Stuart Smith for the 1939 film, on a Hound postcard from 'Guernsey Postcards' (Maximum Original Co). Here a profiled Rathbone is joined by Wendy Barrie (as Beryl Stapleton) and Richard Greene (Sir Henry Baskerville) from the poster. The first day postmark on the 35p Guernsey Rathbone is the Hound and Holmes silhouette of 6 November 1996. Other combinations of stamps with the several available special postmarks were produced by this prolific company. Full cast lists for films are a notable addition to covers and cards.





Postcard illustrating the 1939 film poster (reverse shown on previous page)

*Has anything escaped me?...
I trust that there is nothing of
consequence which I have
overlooked?*

The Hound of the Baskervilles

this time with the 43p Tales of Terror issue of May 1997. A special postmark is the Cambridge Stamp Centre's Dartmoor type, mentioned earlier, and covers are signed ones.

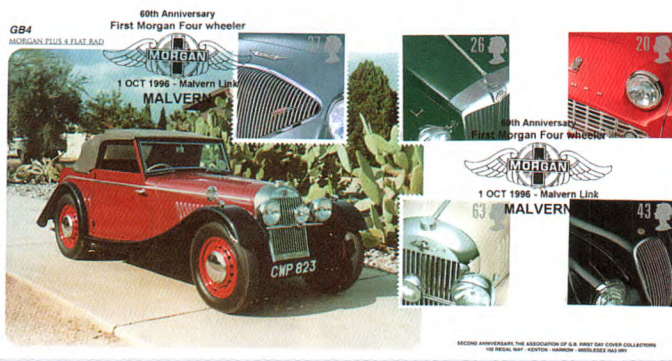
In conclusion, Benham had another rather special FDC for the 1993 Holmes stamps, with decorations relating to the Hound. The 'silk' picture (as for all Benham covers mentioned) is this time surrounded by a frame printed in 22 carat gold. It has in foreground a fine picture of a slaving beast dwarfing a moonlit Baskerville Hall. I do not recognise the source for this one, but the postmark, the Black Dog, Crediton, already mentioned, is quite the most vivid of the ones available in my opinion.

Picture postcards Some collectors will not wish to include picture postcards with this thematic. If they are thinking of high-grade competition, they will know that FIP rules forbid their inclusion. Others may well regard the postcards in any case as not truly 'philatelic' in nature. But for personal pleasure I would recommend their acquisition, especially if your interest in the Hound of the Baskervilles broadens into collecting Sherlock Holmes material in general.

My own introduction to regarding picture postcards more seriously came directly from the Holmes stamps of 1993. I read of the chance to buy a complete collection of all the special postmarks from an advertisement of Arlington Supplies (Marion and Henry Murray). The price was very considerably less than it would have been for 25 separate FDCs, each bearing the complete set of stamps. Arlington's collection was of a single stamp and its postmark, but each on a postcard instead of an expensive commemorative cover. The postcards were all different, the illustrations coming from Granada TV's acclaimed serial transmitted between 1984 and 1994 and starring Jeremy Brett as the current 'definitive Holmes'.

Since then I have sought out many other modern postcards about Sherlock Holmes, of which the Hound is featured on several. Those not mentioned earlier include: Karizzma Holmes series 1, card KSR14, 1990 – among the montage of Paget drawings; same series, card KSR20 – poster for 1939 (Rathbone) film; Karizzma Granada TV Holmes, card KHS31, 1991 – scene from the Hound episode screened on 31 August 1988; Hammer Films 40th anniversary, card HA1506, 1996 – poster for the 1959 (Cushing) film; Cadds Printing, unnumbered card, 1994 – drawing based on Paget's 'There's our man, Watson'; Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Co, no number or date – a further re-drawing of Paget's 'There's our man', larger format than Cadds Printing. These may show why picture postcards are interesting source material for the illustrations that recur among the philatelic souvenirs. ●

GB first day cover collecting by Derek Williams



valued at £4000. Not so strange when you consider that the set included a £1 stamp, an awful lot to spend in those days.

There wasn't another commemorative issue until the King George v Silver Jubilee in 1935 and the next was another two years later for the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. There was one in 1940 marking the centenary of the first adhesive postage stamps, but due to the unwelcome intrusion of the Second World War, no more until the Victory commemoration in June 1946.

So in those first 22 years from the 1924 British Empire Exhibition there were only seven commemorative stamp issues (some say only six as the first two were identical other than the date on the stamps). The pace hotted up slightly after that, three in 1948, then 11 between then and 1961, but still an average of less than one a year.

But more and more commemorative stamps were issued. One set in 1962, five in 1963, four in 1964, nine in 1965 and 1966 and with the increase in the number of stamp issues more specially printed envelopes were produced to stick them on to and plain covers began to go out of fashion.

So in the 22 years between 1924 and 1946 there were seven issues, in the next 20 years 42 issues and about 150 in the 20 years after that. With them has come a proliferation of illustrated covers, some of them very attractive. The field for collectors has grown enormously, and is becoming more and more fascinating to the collector.

First day covers now offer what seems an infinite variety to study and collect, also the collector can actually create his own first day covers which are unique to himself. It really is a very different hobby from stamp collecting for many reasons. A major difference is the importance of the postmark, another is that mint stamps are of no importance at all. After all, if the stamps on it haven't been cancelled, it isn't a FDC.

The most well known FDCs are those produced by the Royal Mail, and many collectors start off by subscribing to the Royal Mail service just as I did. Then, like me, after filling an album or two, they discover that there is a world of FDCs out there, covering every kind of interest you can think of.

There are so many different kinds. In addition to the Royal Mail covers there are many attractive ones produced by specialist cover producers. There are hand painted ones produced by individuals for their own collections that sometimes find their way onto the market, and even a series with cigarette cards related to the subject of the issue on them. Then there are many produced by clubs, charities, associations and all sorts of businesses for publicity. And that's just the envelopes.

But it is the postmark that everything else depends on. The first day of issue date is of paramount importance of course, and then there are all the different types of cancellation. The most collected are probably those with special handstamps (including Official Covers – see below), counter date stamps and slogans. There are others, but it is not possible to cover everything in a short article.

Counter date stamps CDS covers offer an enormous number of possibilities, lots of collectors looking for a connection between the name of the post office and the stamp issue. There are many types, in the case of a famous person being commemorated it could be that person's place of birth or perhaps the school he or she went to. With an architectural stamp issue it could be a post office close to one of the buildings illustrated. If birds or animals are on the stamps it could be a post office in or near a famous wildlife area or even a zoo, or just a name that fits such as Barking if there is a dog on the stamp. An example of this is a cover bearing a full set of the 'Cats' stamp issue cancelled with 'Lion Green' CDS illustrated opposite, left.

Special Handstamps Anyone can sponsor a special handstamp on payment of the appropriate fee, but it remains the property of Royal Mail, and available to everyone by way of the reposting facility. A subscription to the *Postmark Bulletin* brings you all the information you need to have these handstamps used on your envelopes, which you have to send to the relevant handstamp centre for reposting. One important use is on official covers.



Lion Green CDS (counter date stamp), left, and the Official Cover produced by GBFDC for the recent Great Tudor issue.

Below left, an example of an issue related slogan from a 'Communications' issue cover.

Official Covers There is some argument as to what an 'Official Cover' is, but the generally accepted description is one where the envelope has been produced by the same person or group sponsoring a handstamp to go with it. Royal Mail FDCs are therefore 'Official Covers', but although some of them are very attractive, they are not so popular with the more dedicated collector as they are serviced in extremely large quantities. We all like to think our collection is a bit special.

A good example of a collectable Official Cover is the one illustrated above right, produced by GBFDC (the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers) for the recent 'The Great Tudor, Henry VIII and his six wives' issue. The famous hat he wore is pictured in the postmark, and the shields of his wives shown on the envelope. Two hundred of these were produced as illustrated, for sale to Association members only.

Slogans These have always been very popular cancellations, but unfortunately Royal Mail no longer offers the reposting facility. This makes obtaining a particular slogan a very hit or miss

operation. None the less many collectors still collect them, posting large numbers of envelopes in order to get a few good impressions. Some collectors simply try to get as complete a collection of slogans as possible, others just collect those with an interesting or amusing connection with the stamps.

There are lots of other kinds of FDC such as autographed covers, TPOs (Travelling Post Offices) and meter marks, and of course there are theme collectors just as there are in mainstream philately. As I said at the beginning of this article, the variety is incredible. All 19,000 odd post offices in this country have a counter date stamp, sorting offices, TPOs etc must be added, then goodness knows how many firms have meter marks. Add all these up and stir in slogans then multiply the total by the number of stamp issues there have been and the result is mind boggling! ●

The British Postmark Bulletin is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Annual subscription £10 UK/Europe, £21.75 elsewhere. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL.

Competition Win a 1913 Seahorse £1 catalogued at £700



1st prize GB George V 1913 £1 green Seahorse, a good used, well centred example of handsome colour cancelled by part oval pinks. SG 403, cat £700. GB Select-Direct selling price £245

2nd prize GB George V 1913 10s Seahorse, dull grey-blue, a good mint example, well centred. SG 417, cat £225. GB Select-Direct price £67.50

3rd prize GB George V 1913 5s rose-red Seahorse, a good fresh mint example centred East plus few nibbed perfs. SG 416, cat £150. GB Select-Direct price £50



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Almost 40 years in the trade means they must be doing something right. And in addition to normal discounts off catalogue value you benefit from picking a further 33% worth of stamps absolutely free of charge – and the catch? There isn't one – if you can afford to spend just £12 nett or more, you can pick a further 33% worth of stamps. And all of this is in addition to normal discounts from SG catalogue price. So: pick £16 worth, send just £12; £20 worth, send £15; £40 worth, send £30.

They have over 1,000 collectors participating in this approvals service. With discounts like these no wonder their service is so popular. So, if you haven't tried their GB Home Approvals Service before, drop them a line and request their free 200 offer. Tell them if you collect *used* and *mint* and any other countries collected too.

Reply to: **Omniphil Home Service, Bulletin Free QV 200 Offer, PO Box 29 Stroud GL6 6RW**

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: February Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 20 March. Entries must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

The winners of November's competition were C Reich of Queensland, Australia; N Summers of Essex; and A Sidell of Hertfordshire

The answers 1) Robson Lowe; 2) Australia and Canada; 3) Terence Millington; 4) Acheson's Deflocculated Graphite; 5) 1937. Our thanks to all who entered.

1 Which firm printed the Lighthouse stamps?

2 What are the dates for Spring Stampex?

3 When is the Disney stamp book being issued?

4 Who is Librarian of the National Philatelic Society?

5 Which lighthouse on the Isle of Wight is featured on a forthcoming stamp?

Answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil/GB Select Direct ●

Books New Stanley Gibbons books • Aerogrammes and air letters • Nature of Scotland • Picture Postcard Annual

Stanley Gibbons King George VI Stamp Catalogue

This revived catalogue will be welcomed by the growing number of collectors of George VI stamps – popular because of their limited numbers (compared to Elizabeth II issues) and generally fine designs and printing. The last edition of this catalogue was published in November 1952, months after the King's death; it cost four shillings (20p)! The listings have been extracted directly from the 1998 edition of the SG Part 1 catalogue and re-formatted to a smaller page size (A5 as this *Bulletin*). Stamps are listed under the territory names used during George VI's reign. Some issues which appeared before December 1936, and which continued in use for a considerable time during the reign, are included as are printings of George VI stamps which appeared after 1952. The British listing, including postage dues and Channel Islands issues, amounts to less than 90 basic stamps, averaging about six stamps for each year of the reign. How times have changed! 224 pages, card covers. Price £11.95. Available from SG Strand shop or Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Mail order phone line 0800 611622 •

Stanley Gibbons Collect British Stamps The 1998 edition, covering all basic stamps from the Penny Black to The Queen's Golden Wedding issue is now available from Stanley Gibbons, the British Philatelic Bureau, stamp and book shops, price £6.95. Some prices have been revised since the 1998 Part 1 catalogue was published last September – the 1989 Greetings stamps are now £28 mint (up £3) and 1990 20p Smiles set up £2 mint and used at £28/£22 a set. There are increases for some of the scarcer Machin and Country stamps, the 1929 PUC £1 and, not surprisingly, the 1981 Royal Wedding pair – increased from £1 to £8 mint or used!

A new (3rd) edition of Volume 5 of the SG *GB Specialised Catalogue* covering Elizabeth II special issues is due for publication in February •

Aerogrammes Air Mail Letter Cards Air Letters

This new listing, by QB Software, is a useful guide to the air letters and aerogrammes of Britain, Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man and Ireland. The listings are a mixture of simplified and specialised, including variations in paper colour and typeface. Stamped to order privately produced aerogrammes are listed separately but unstamped private productions and overprints on PO aerogrammes are listed in with the issues as sold over the post office counter. This is irritating and perhaps they could be listed separately in a future edition. Dates of issue are given and the compiler, Dr Paul Adby, provides a value code for each item. Well-illustrated and a worthwhile quick-reference guide for all aerogramme collectors. Price £12.50 postpaid from QB Software, 4 Haslewood Close, Smarden, Ashford TN27 8NY •

Picture Postcard Annual 1998 This 18th edition of a popular reference work contains the usual addresses and dates for postcard clubs, dealers, auction houses, fairs, etc, and a number of interesting feature articles on cards depicting the Panama Canal, seaside piers, and railway comic scenes, and the implications for the hobby of an expanding Internet. There are reviews of the postcard scene at home and overseas; 1997 is described as an expansive year in which cards got excellent coverage in the UK press. Pete Davies provides his regular look at modern cards and he and four others list their favourite cards of 1997. The 26p Enid Blyton stamp card was amongst those selected by Philip Standley. Edward Grainer included a card showing Audrey Hepburn – a change from the plethora of Marilyn cards. For students of postcards there is a useful guide to published checklists of different publishers and themes, an index to the contents of *Picture Postcard Monthly* (1978-97) and the Annual (1980 onwards), and a review, by Paul Embleton, of reference books on postcards. All-in-all another good read from publishers Brian and Mary

Lund. Price £2.95 from collectors' shops and fairs, or by post from Picture Postcard Monthly, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Telephone 0115 9374079. Postage £1 UK, £1.60 Europe, £3.40 USA, £3.80 elsewhere •

The Nature of Scotland The first edition of this lavish book, edited by Magnus Magnusson (of *Mastermind* fame) and Graham White, was reviewed here in February 1992. A revised, paperback version is now available, published by Canongate Press with support from The Post Office in Scotland. Sub-titled *Landscape, Wildlife and People*, it is dedicated to the Scottish naturalist John Muir (1838-1914) and contains many beautiful colour photographs of animals, birds, Scottish scenery and people at work and play. In his foreword, the new Chairman of the Scottish Post Office Board, John Ward, praises the work of the editors and contributors in producing a book that has both 'scholarly authority and popular accessibility'. He refers to the Earth Summits in Rio and New York in 1992 and 1997 and the growing awareness and concern for global warming, biodiversity and sustainable development during the intervening years. He writes of

the Post Office's own efforts in terms of new buildings and its large fleet of vehicles, and a brief history of the postal services in Scotland, by Martin Cummings of the SPOB, is included in chapter 5, 'The Paths of Progress'. Chapter 17 on 'The Playground of the Future' includes pictures of Queen Victoria with her Highland servant John Brown at Balmoral in 1863, as well as today's visitors enjoying mountaineering, rock-climbing, paragliding, skiing, and canoeing. But even those, like the reviewer, who take less strenuous holidays in the Highlands will find much of interest in this book. 248 pages. Price £14.99 from bookshops or the publisher, Canongate Press, 14 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1TE.

Editor's note: Pictorial Nature of Scotland aerogrammes were issued in April 1992 and July 1997. The latter is still available, until 30 June, from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic outlets, price 45p. Supplies may still be available at some post offices in Scotland. Another book – *Operation Survival: A Celebration of People and Nature in Scotland*, published by Mainstream and supported by The Post Office, was reviewed here in January 1997 •

Posting boxes 173

THIS MONTH we feature two very different overseas boxes. The first, bearing the VR cypher and crown below the posting aperture is situated in the Calabash Hotel on the Caribbean island of Grenada. The photograph was sent in by Mr D N Parkes of Brough, East Yorkshire. The second illustration shows the box, inscribed CORREOS, outside the post office at Sanhlius on the island of Menorca, submitted by A Coates of Northallerton, North Yorkshire. He tells us that letters posted in this box fall into a wooden box positioned vertically below the slot •



Post boxes in the Caribbean island of Grenada, left, and Menorca, Spain

For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a stamped addressed envelope to the Membership Secretary: Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Green, Birmingham B20 1ES

Postbag

Stamps for charity Last July we published a letter from Sharon Onion thanking readers who sent her stamps for various charities. Sharon is still keen to receive stamps for the nine animal, children, health and welfare charities she saves stamps for. Contact Sharon at 18 Elizabeth Drive, Park Lodge, Tamworth B79 8DF ●

Bulletin back issues R F Heigl of 2A Greene Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3HG has for disposal consecutive issues of the *Bulletin*, with indices, covering the past 30 years ●

Cover corner

SHOWN THIS MONTH is a cover, submitted by Geoff Isherwood of Cheadle, Cheshire, posted at West Row, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk on 15 February 1971, day of issue of the low-value decimal definitives. The sender has noted on the reverse 'Posted on Decimal Day 15 Feb 1971 at West Row Post Office during the General Postal Strike'. Offices datestamping mail on 15 February 1971 have been recorded here on various occasions since February 1991. It seems that over 100 offices were either open for business or date-stamped FDCs by favour ●



Cover posted on Decimal Day, 15 February 1971, during the General Postal Strike

Events

Now showing 'Golden and Glorious' (Royal stamp issues), 'Post Haste!' (vehicles and artefacts) and 'Victorian posts' exhibitions at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. **Enquiries** 0171 776 3636

21 February Scout and Guide Stamp Exhibition at Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7, 10.00-16.30. Displays, dealers. **Enquiries** P Duck 0181 891 5746

25 February - 1 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1. **Enquiries** Stampex, 0171 490 1005

28 February GB Philatelic Society display – George VI on cover (S Holder) at Stampex, 14.30. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 01189 344151

5-7 March London International Stamp and Cover Show at Royal Horticultural Hall 2, Greycourt Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** T Davis 0181 946 4489 or C Rainey 01268 726687

11 March British Empire King George VI display by J Crawford to Paisley Phil Soc, Ralston Community Centre, Allanton Avenue, Paisley, 19.30

21 March GB Philatelic Society displays – Making Books – Sterling Machins (D Knight) and Parcels, Packets & Papers (Dr M Melrose) at British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1. From 11.00. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 01189 344151

21-22 March Assn of Scottish Philatelic Societies Congress at Falkirk Town Hall, 09.00-17.00 21st, 10.00-16.00 22nd. National and junior exhibitions, British Philatelic Bureau, displays by local societies, etc. Hosted by Bearsden and District Phil Soc

28 March Fleetex, Fleet, Hants

28 March David Morrell Stamp Day, County Museum, Truro, Cornwall ●

STAMPMASTER GB COMPUTERISED STAMP DATABASE AND CATALOGUING SYSTEM

Stamp Details (Format 1)			
Class	GB Commems	Description	The Rose theatre, 1592 D3
Number	3894	Issue	Shakespeare's Globe. Opening of reconstructed Globe Theatre. Designed by C. Walter Hodges.
Cross ref 1		Notes	
Cross ref 2			
Date	8/08/1995		
Face Value	25p	Colours	multicolour
Plate no		Themes	Shakespeare theatre building
Cat Val(mint)	0.25	Perforations	14.5 x 14 Gum PVA
Cat Val(used)	0.25	Paper	OBA-free designer
		Watermarks	None post marks
		Phosphor Bars	2 bars User 4
		Printer	Walsall Sec User 5
		Printing Method	Offset Litho User 6
Close NPM Year Data NPM Stamp Data ◀ ▶			

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