

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 22

Number 9

May 1985



Contents

- 153 Editorial
- 154 The Essays of Queen Elizabeth II: Part 3
- 156 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection CXXV:
 - Treasury Competition — Entries
 - Forthcoming Events
- 157 Letters to the Editor
- 158 Facets of Postal History:
 - 7. 'The Train Standing at Platform One . . .'
- 159 Safety at Sea Stamps Issue: 18 June 1985
- 161 Britain's 'Official Stamp' that never was
- 163 Withdrawn Items
 - The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists
 - British Philatelic Trust
 - New Postcards
- 164 Philatelic Counters
 - Brighton Festival: The Royal Mail Concert
- 165 National Postal Museum News
 - British Philatelic Federation Congress Medal
- 166 British Composers Stamps
 - Stampex 1985
 - Book Reviews
- 167 Posting Boxes
 - Manpex '85
 - Forces Covers
- 168 Commemorative Covers

Stop Press

British Composers Stamps

The cylinder numbers printed in the selvedge edge of a sheet of stamps, appear on one half of the printing cylinder with a dot, and on the other half without a dot.

Due to printing difficulties, only the 'NO DOT' sheets of 31p 'British Composers' stamps will be issued.

Editorial

This month we are taking a temporary break from local stamp issues and the Railway Letter service to look at other collecting areas, and are pleased to include two special articles. The first, by Norman Williams looks at Britain's closest attempt to issue an official stamp, the One Penny Black design with VR corner letters, the official stamp that never was. The second by Don Staddon, in contrast, continues the series he began last year, looking at the essays of Queen Elizabeth II. To coincide with the 1985 Europa issue, which appears on 14 May, he examines earlier Europa stamps as well as other international anniversary issues.

In recent weeks we have had an extremely full postbag, and it has been very interesting to receive readers' views and comments. Several suggestions have been received for new series in the Bulletin, and we hope to introduce the first one next month. This will feature thematic collecting, an area that has long been neglected but is now deservedly growing rapidly in popularity. If you have any constructive comments or suggestions to make, we would still like to hear from you.

One question which is often asked in our postbag concerns the positioning of stamps on first day covers. Starting from the top right hand corner of the envelope, should stamps be in ascending or descending value order? There is no correct or incorrect way to prepare first day covers, as long as the Post Office requirements under the handstamping rules and regulations are fully met. However, ten years ago, the standard method of preparing first day covers employed by the British Philatelic Bureau was changed so that stamps were affixed in ascending value order, starting from the top right hand corner of the envelope.

This change was adopted for a practical reason. The top right hand corner of envelopes being the most vulnerable part, is most likely to receive damage in transit through the post. Although the least damage spoils a cover, (every attempt is made to avoid any!) such an arrangement was felt to be in the best interests of collectors, with the highest value stamp being protected in the middle of the envelope.

CHARLES GOWEN

The Essays of Queen Elizabeth II

Part 3 Don Staddon

In writing these articles as a collector my intention is to whet your appetite with an overview of the superb collection of modern GB essays stored in the National Postal Museum London. I have not undertaken to study any one set of stamps in depth or to probe into the reasons behind the decisions that were made.

If this is a matter of interest, and I hope it is, there are more qualified people capable of taking up the opportunity, especially The Post Office staff concerned.

The Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1984. It was the subject of four stamps issued on 15 June.

This suggested to me that the subject of international co-operation would be an appropriate theme, with examples covering not only CEPT but also the Paris Postal Conference Centenary (1963), International Telegraph Union (1965), European Free Trade Association (1967), and the Universal Postal Union (1974).

The first British stamps of Queen Elizabeth II devoted to the subject of EUROPA (CEPT) were issued in September 1960 but I found more interest in the essays for the 1961 Conference set of three issued in September of that year.

A design for the 4d value by Michael Goaman incorporated the symbolic 'Doves' emblem by T

Kurpershoek. In essay 'D' prominence was given to 'EUROPA' in large capital letters. For reasons of space these had to be broken up into three combinations of two letters.

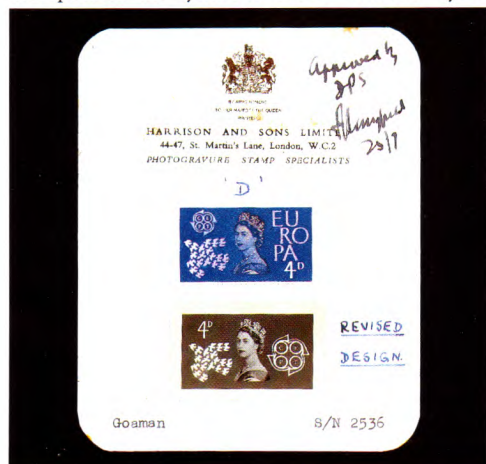
In a revised design by the same artist 'EUROPA' was removed and the size and positioning of the CEPT symbol and the value were altered, giving a more balanced appearance. The revised design was accepted for the finished stamp.

In May 1963, the Paris Postal Conference Centenary was commemorated by a single 6d stamp. One unadopted design by Mary Adshead was of sufficient interest to have an essay commissioned along with an essay of a design by Reynolds Stone which was accepted. This stamp brought to an end the elaborate or 'busy' designs typical of many British commemorative stamps for ten years from the Coronation in 1953. Thereafter the designs appear more simplified and less prone to embellishment.



Reynolds Stone Pa

The two stamp ITU Centenary set in November 1965 gives an idea of what I mean. One of the unadopted designs showing a dish aerial would surely be very appropriate even for the 1980's. Even the approved designs have contrived to show a complex subject in a clearcut and simple fashion.



More essays from Harrison & Sons show three unaccepted designs for the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) issue in February 1967. One design was by Peter Wildbur and the other two by Nicholas Jenkins.

Note the imprint showing the names of the stamp designer and printer. This was typical of the period.



Europa returns as the subject of the 9d value in the April 1969 set of five stamps on anniversaries. This stamp commemorated the 10th anniversary of CEPT. Three essays are shown here of which the third was accepted.



Moving on five years, several interesting essays are to be found for the Universal Postal Union issue of June 1974. The first essays have the 3½p depicting an airmail blue van and postbox of 1930, the 5½p a 1937 flyingboat, the 8p Bleriot's aeroplane and the postmark for the first official airmail which celebrated the coronation of King George V, and the 10p the Peninsular & Orient steamer Peninsular of 1888.



The final essays show a number of significant changes. Firstly the values were moved round and the designs now appear in chronological order. All inscriptions now have the initial letters in capitals, and the flyingboat has been substituted.

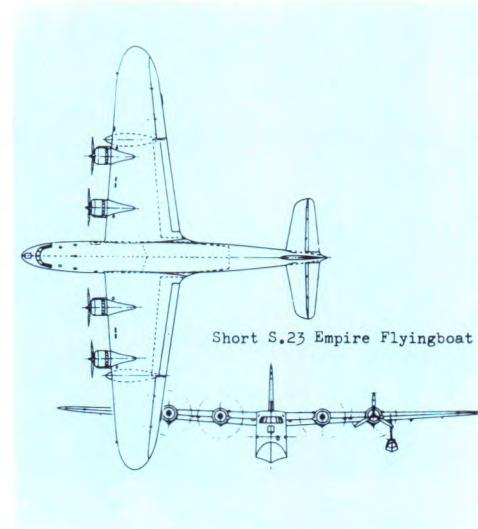
This final choice was the subject of comment at the time.



It seems clear from an article on the subject that it shows the front view of the Short S.21 'Maia'. This was the lower component of the Short-Mayo composite, a scheme to launch a twin-float seaplane into the air carrying sufficient fuel for an Atlantic crossing with a payload of mail. The seaplane, a Short S.20 Mercury, made its first flight as a composite on 4 January 1938 at Rochester. After some modifications a first Atlantic flight took place on 21 July 1938.

The S.21 was built along similar lines to the S.23 Empire flyingboat but the hull was flared to give a broader beam and a greater displacement. The outer engines were repositioned further out to allow clearance for the seaplane floats. This brought them nearly over the floats. This is clearly indicated on the stamp.

It is interesting to note that the final designs were approved by Counsellor of State in the absence of the Queen. This is unusual because Her Majesty is understood to have all stamp designs submitted to her for agreement before production can commence.



Treasury Competition – Entries

George Dickinson submitted various designs over a period of time, his entry TN 20413 was illustrated in the February 1985 Bulletin. In this month's 'Gem' from the R M Phillips Collection I have chosen his entry TN 20415.

The envelope is of grey wove and bears the inscription, 'This envelope and the stamp enclosed show the various ways the dealers will prepare them for public use'. Attached to the back of the envelope is a pen and ink Essay with 'VR' in a crown with 'One Penny' and 'Post Office' encircling. The paper on which the Essay is shown has wavy lines at the back to represent a watermark.

This item concludes the present series of 'Gems' concentrating on the 1839 Treasury Competition entries, to be found in the R M Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum. All the entries featured in this series of Gems, plus many more in the R M Phillips Collection and Post Office Collections, can be viewed by visitors to the Museum during normal opening hours of Monday to Thursday 10.00 am to 4.30 pm and Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Asst. Curator



Forthcoming Events

Scottish Postal History Society

The Scottish Postal History Society is holding its AGM and Conference in association with the University of Aberdeen Centre for Scottish Studies in Aberdeen on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 May 1985. The Saturday meeting will take place at 10.00 am in The Debater, Marischal College, Aberdeen, where there will be five displays and talks relating to the postal history of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The Society AGM will be held on the Sunday morning in the Gloucester Hotel, Aberdeen, at which entries for the Jimmy Gall Trophy will be shown and the winner announced.

A booking form for the Saturday Conference can be obtained from the Society Secretary, W L Morton, 11 Morven Road, Bearsden, GLASGOW G61 3BU on receipt of return postage, and for accommodation at the Gloucester Hotel from Bruce Walker, 21 Orchard Street, ABERDEEN AB2 3DA.

G M Stamp Fairs

Fairs will be held by G M Stamps at the following locations:

LETCHWORTH: to be held on 12 May and 23 June at The Plinston Hall, Broadway, LETCHWORTH.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: to be held on 18 May at St Josephs Hall, Apton Road, BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

HERTFORD: to be held on 26 May at The Castle Hall, Fore Street, HERTFORD.

SAFFRON WALDEN: to be held on 1 June at The Lord Butler Leisure Centre, SAFFRON WALDEN.

ST ALBANS: to be held on 8 June at The Jubilee Centre, Catherine Street, ST ALBANS.

DUNSTABLE: to be held on 15 June at The Queensway Hall, Queensway, DUNSTABLE.

Admission is 20p at all venues (children free) and further details can be obtained from G A Sinclair, G M Stamps, c/o National Westminster Bank, WARE, Herts.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir,

If I am right in believing that the first low value Machin definitives appeared on 15 February 1971 (industrial action notwithstanding) it would seem that in such a short space of time in some respects philatelists have been, arguably, well served by the Post Office on account of rocketing inflation.

I calculate (I am no statistician) that between the ½p to 75p values there have been no less than 45 values (ignoring regionals and phosphors etc) in 39 different colour tones.

Splendid to look at, but were they all really necessary? Three differently coloured 3p and 3½p values with two each differently coloured 2p, 4p, 5p, 9p, 11½p, 13p 15½p, 17p, 20p and 22p values.

The most frequently used colours are ochre brown (4p, 10p, 11½p and 29p) and purple (9½p, 20p, 25p and 31p).

The most popular colour appears to be green with 9 variations:— yellow green, yellowish green, light emerald, emerald, pale olive, olive, bronze green, myrtle and bright green, followed by six reds, browns and blues, three violets, two purples, and olive greys/drab and blacks finishing up with one yellow, one claret and one drab.

The colour descriptions are not mine, but those of 399 Strand, WC2R 0LX.

LYME REGIS
Dorset

Yours sincerely
H D A Butcher

There is a limited number of colours which are sufficiently different from each other and suitable for use on stamps. This range of colours is used to meet the most heavily used rates and to provide a convenient range of 'make-up' values.

The values available are reviewed whenever postage rates change and new values are introduced as necessary, and 'redundant' values withdrawn. The colours of the withdrawn stamps are then held in reserve for future, more relevant usage. Should a value be re-introduced at a later date to meet a specific postage rate, the colour in which it was previously issued may be in use for a current value. For example, the colour of the 'old' 16½p (withdrawn in March 1984) is currently used for 13p definitives. An important consideration when allocating colours to be the basic postage rates in particular, is that the colours are sufficiently different from each other to avoid confusion for both

customers and Post Office staff.

As we hope we have been able to show it is not just a case of playing 'put and take' with colours, it is more a case of selecting suitable colours from those available for use.

EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I received the March Bulletin today and was most interested in the article 'A Unique Handstamp' on pp 123-4.

In my collection of Australian Air Mails, I have a cover cancelled with this ivory-handled hand stamp. The cancellations are

1 WILTON ROAD HUDSONS PLACE SW1
8DE 34
2 CROYDON AERODROME CROYDON
8DE 34

The chief distinction between these handstamps is that the Wilton Road stamp is 24mm diameter and the special Croydon Aerodrome stamp is 23mm. The cover is backstamped BRISBANE QLD 21 December 1934.

The Post Office Daily List of 30 November 1934 gave notice of the UK-Malaya air mail service being extended to Australia. There was a special notice dated November 1934 advising the public of the direct air mail service to Australia. Postage was at the rate of 1s 3d per half ounce. The approximate time of transmission to Brisbane was 12 days, giving a gain of 20 days. The latest time of posting unregistered mail in the Air Mail letter box outside the head PO London EC1 was 10.45 am on the Saturday (8 December). However, correspondence could be handed over the counter at Imperial Airways, Hudson's Place, Wilton Road, SW1 as late as 11.15 am on the Saturday. As a result of the through air mail service, the previous service to Australia by sea to Fremantle and hence by air, was discontinued.

The Australian PMG's Department Air Mail schedule for December 1934 gives details of the return facilities from Australia to England.

I hope the foregoing will be of interest to you.

In conclusion, may I say how much I enjoy the series 'Posting Boxes', I hope it goes on for a long time yet. In Bray there are 2 Victorian hexagonal boxes still in use, and another one a few miles away at Kilmacanogue. They are, of course, painted green, but have the VR insignia. There are quite a few wall boxes with VR, ER & GR respectively.

Your sincerely
BRAY
Co Wicklow

Your sincerely
David R Taylor

7. 'The Train Standing at Platform One...'

The postal services have been dependent on the railways for more than 150 years — in fact since 2 November 1830 when the Royal Mail was entrusted to the newly constructed Liverpool and Manchester Railway for the first time. Then, early in 1838, the first 'travelling post office' (a converted horse-box) began successful operations between Birmingham and Warrington on the Grand Junction Railway. Exclusive 'Royal Mail' trains were introduced in 1885, and today there are still a substantial number of TPOs in operation throughout the land.

Postmark collectors have long relished the fact that covers and picture postcards (in particular) of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras are prolific sources of railway station, railway sub-office and TPO cancellations, many of them providing a unique and historic record of the transport of 'mail by rail'. Railway station marks may be found on the fairly common single-ring and double-ring handstamps, on the earlier 'duplex' cancels (those

with circular datestamp and oval barred 'killer' with enclosed numeral combined), and on squared circles and 'skeletons' (the temporary handstamps, usually exceptionally large in size). The associated RSO (railway sub-office) marks were invariably circular datestamps, single- or double-ring.

My postcard illustration shows the imposing façade of Brunel's Paddington Station, which is sharing the Great Western Railway's 150th anniversary this year, with (superimposed inset) the station's first individual postmark, used in the 1870s. Later cancellations included the numeral '049' singly and as a duplex (both unconfirmed) and the fairly common single-ring circular datestamp introduced in 1928. It was on 31 August 1835 that the Great Western Railway was created by Act of Parliament. The imposing Paddington Station was the joint work of Mr Isambard K Brunel and Mr M D Wyatt, and the first section of line was opened between Paddington and Maidenhead.

MALCOLM JAMES



Safety at Sea Stamps Issue 18 June 1985

From the smallest pleasure craft and fishing boats to vast ocean liners and freighters, the human lives and cargoes carried by the world's maritime traffic depend for their safety on a complex international network of navigational aids, communications systems and search and rescue organisations. Centuries of reliance on the sea for defence and commerce have placed Britain at the forefront of developments in marine technology, ensuring maximum safety for ships sailing her waters and using her harbours.

In a significant year for the history of Britain's contributions to maritime safety, 1985 marks the 50th Anniversary of the invention of Radar and the 200th Anniversary of the first insubmersible lifeboat. The Post Office will issue on 18 June four special stamps. The subjects and denominations are; Lifeboat 17p, Lighthouse 22p, Satellite 31p, Buoy 34p.

First Day Cover Service

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'Eastbourne' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover — price 15p — addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing

all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Eastbourne' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh,' as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched. The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.49	£1.30
Deposit account customers	£1.43	£1.25
Service 'B'	£1.34	£1.17

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 7 June 1985.

Technical Details

Designed by Newell and Sorrell, the stamps are printed by the litho process and the printer is Waddingtons Security Print Ltd. The format of the stamps is horizontal, the size is 41 x 30 mm with 14 x 14 perforations, and the paper is unwatermarked, phosphor coated. There are 100 stamps per sheet with PVA Dextrin adhesive.

Reposting Facility

Those customers who wish to send their own stamped and fully addressed covers for cancellation with the 'Eastbourne' postmark, should enclose them in an outer envelope, fully addressed and stamped, and send them to: The Postmaster, 3 Upperton Road, EASTBOURNE, East Sussex, BN21 1AA.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 4 June 1985 price 14p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 162, and first day cover are designed by Newell and Sorrell. The pack will cost £1.25.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, price 15p, also designed by Newell and Sorrell will go on sale the day after the stamps issue 19 June 1985.



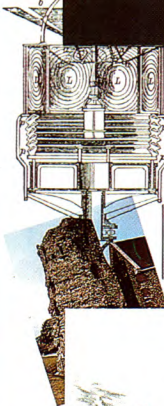


—SAFETY AT SEA—

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



Revolving lantern



earliest lighthouse at Dover, probably in the first or second century AD. Today hardly a stretch of coastal waters is out of range of a light, each recognisable by its individual character described in published light lists and on charts. The key role of the dedicated lighthouse keeper has been supplemented by recent developments in automation and remote control of lights.

Granted its first charter to regulate pilotage in 1514, the Corporation of Trinity House is the Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar, responsible for all fixed and floating sea marks, visual, audible and electronic aids to navigation, including 92 lighthouses. As the Principal Pilotage Authority for the United Kingdom it licenses approximately 600 pilots and exercises a charitable function for the welfare of seafarers. The coastal navigation networks for Ireland and Scotland, with 87 and 188 lighthouses, are maintained by the Commissioners for Irish Lights and the Commissioners of

Modern steel buoys are designed in distinct shapes and colours, indicating navigational rules on an internationally recognised basis. The system of buoyage in any country is given in the Sailing Directions for those waters. Charged with the rights of Tonnage, buoyage and ballastage by Queen Elizabeth I in 1594, Trinity House was instrumental in the development of the recent IALA Buoyage System, now recognised worldwide in place of over 30 different systems. Many lightships have now been replaced by Large Automatic Navigation Buoys (LANB), which operate unattended with electric light and fog signals for six months or more.

The 41p stamp shows a South Cardinal Class I Buoy warning to keep south of the marked hazard with a panel depicting a range of lateral, isolated danger marks, safe water marks and other cardinal marks from the IALA Buoyage System. Essential to safety at sea are charts showing

A floating buoy or buoy



Blue Spire lighted buoy

Conical superstructure of a standard lighted buoy



—SAFETY AT SEA—

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Britain's 'Official Stamp' that never was

L. N. Williams

From a collector's point of view, Official Stamps were a much more simple concept in 1912 than they are now.

They were defined in *A Glossary of Philatelic Terms* (1912), which was compiled by a committee appointed by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain consisting, among others, of such philatelic stalwarts as E D Bacon, W Dornin Beckton and E B Evans. The definition reads: "Stamps specially intended for denoting postage on letters, etc., from Government Offices".

That definition was repeated literatim in the 1933 edition of the *Glossary* by a congress-appointed committee of no less renown.

In those days the catalogues of the stamps of Great Britain had a simple, unqualified heading "Official Stamps". Listed under it were issues overprinted for use by government departments which included Inland Revenue, Office of Works, Board of Education, and the senior branches of the armed forces. Listed also was Royal Household and a Penny Black of 1840 which, in addition to the check letters normal in the lower corners, had one of the letters "V R" in each of the upper corners.

Doubtless it was that definition and those listings which led to the widespread misconception that Official Stamps had been issued in Great Britain. Even so learned an author as A B Creeke Jr. in his *Stamp Collecting* (1913) and the even more learned Sir John Wilson in *The Royal Philatelic Collection* (1952) used the term in connection with issues of Great Britain.

On the contrary, no official stamp had been — and none has been — issued in this country. The nearest approach to such an issue is the "Official Stamp That Never Was": the one Penny Black design with V R in the upper corners — a stamp prepared for use but never issued for postal purposes.

When the misconception came to be generally recognised, catalogue listings acquired an explanatory text beneath the heading "Official Stamps". The explanatory text in modern editions of Stanley Gibbons Part I catalogues reads: "The Official stamps would be more correctly termed Departmental stamps as they were exclusively for the use of certain government departments".

That explanation accorded with the definition

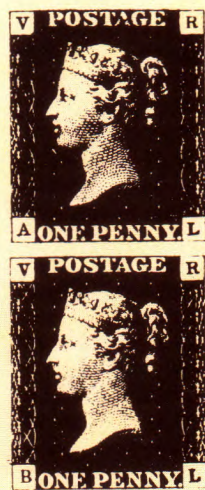
in the new congress-authorised *Glossary*, which had been published in May 1951. It added to the previous definition the words: "When specified for use by a particular department, as opposed to some indication that they are for official use generally, they are called 'Departmental Stamps' or 'Departmentals' ..."

By way of a footnote, or in parenthesis, I add that the *Glossary* of 1912 and that of 1933 and, indeed, that of 1951, under "Departmental Stamps" merely cross-refers the user to the entry Official Stamps.

Stamps overprinted "Government Parcels" were, in some respects, an exception to the statement that Great Britain has never issued an official stamp. Issues so overprinted were a device to circumvent a statutory provision which ensured that the railway companies received 55 per cent of postage paid on all parcels. To avoid that payment, from 1 July 1883, parcels weighing up to 3 lb. were sent by letter post for free passage. Packets exceeding that weight were sent by parcels post with postage prepaid by the overprinted stamps.

The story of the "Official Stamp That Never Was" has its own fascination.

The first reference to special adhesive stamps for government departments occurs in a Treasury Minute dated 20 February 1840. It recorded that the adhesive stamps used in the government departments were to be distinguished from the stamps in general use "by a further variety of colour".



On 26 March 1840 Rowland Hill wrote a memorandum to Joshua Butters Bacon, head of the printers, stating "One plate of Penny and one of Twopenny stamps will be required to supply the Government Offices. They are to be distinguished from those used by the public by inserting V R in place of the ornaments in the upper corners . . ."

By 1 April 1840 Bacon informed Rowland Hill that one plate for the government stamps was partly done and would be completed that week. The V R plate was nearly ready for press by 9 April and, as recorded in *The Line-Engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain* by E D Bacon (1920) page 80, the plate was finished on 14 April. Printing was begun on the same day and 174 sheets were struck off.

Except that the plate was lettered "A" in the four corners, the lay-out and inscriptions were identical with those of the Penny Black plate — 240 stamps in 20 rows of 12. The only difference in design was that which had been indicated in Rowland Hill's memorandum.

Edwin Hill noticed that the marginal inscriptions included the price at which the stamps for public use were to be sold: "Price 1d. Per Label. 1/- Per Row of 12 £1,-,- Per Sheet".

On 15 April one of Perkins Bacon's employees wrote to Rowland Hill suggesting that the legend be altered to denote that the sheets were for the government offices and not intended for sale. To make the alteration would take about six hours. Nevertheless, the legend remained unaltered.

According to *A History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles* by Hastings E. Wright and A B Creeke (1899) page 201, the printing had begun before the plate was hardened and an impression was registered on 27 April. The plate was then hardened and "a fresh impression was struck and approved on the following 9 May".

Therefore, there were two imprimatur ("let it be printed") sheets. From them some stamps have been removed: 33 from the first; and 15 from the second. A vertical pair from the top right corner of the first imprimatur sheet was once in the collection of the Earl of Crawford. That pair later passed into the collection of "Officials" formed by Colonel Bates.

A block of four from the lower left corner of the sheet, showing the plate letter "A" and part of the inscription relating to the price, is in the Reginald M Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum.

Altogether 3,323 sheets of the One Penny V R were printed. Also a further 148 sheets were spoilt. The good sheets included one sent to Rowland Hill on 18 April. He used some of the stamps for trial obliterations and attempts to remove the cancellations with chemicals.

Thirteen ungummed sheets were cut up and affixed to a circular sent to all postmasters on 7 May 1840 by Colonel W L Maberly, the Secretary to the Post Office. The circular stated: "... I . . . enclose for your information two specimens of the Label Stamp bearing the letters V R at the upper corners, which are to be applied to the correspondence of Public Departments and other Persons formerly enjoying the privilege of Official Franking . . ."

The plate for the Two Pence V R was never prepared. No more is to be heard of or to be found about that value.

The One Penny V R was never issued. The reason does not appear in the records. In *The British Postage Stamp* by Robson Lowe (2nd edition, 1979) page 72 the suggested reason why the V R stamp was not issued is that the Mulready covers and envelopes were so unpopular with the public that some use had to be found for them and some stocks of them were used up in the various tax offices.

In *The Story of the Penny Black* by A G Rigo de Righi (1980) page 23, the late former curator of the National Postal Museum states that large surplus stocks of the unpopular Mulready covers were given not only to tax offices particularly but government departments in general.

Perhaps the reason why the One Penny V R stamps were not issued is indicated by *The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain* by F A Phillarick and W A S Westoby (1881) page 81 in a footnote. They refer to the Post Office Act 1839, which abolished the franking privilege of members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords on the introduction of uniform postage. At that time Queen Victoria also abandoned her privilege of franking so that, from that date onwards, letters emanating from Her Majesty — except those sent by special, private messenger — bore on the outside not her signature as a frank but ordinary postage stamps.

Also it was determined that all other such privileges should cease at the same time. Therefore, account was ordered to be kept in the Government offices of the amount paid for postage by each such office, and an annual vote for the total was included in the estimates for the year.

For some time this abolition of the franking privilege was very strictly enforced. Later a modified form of franking was introduced. Eventually it was superseded by the stamps overprinted "Official" with an indication of source.

A few One Penny V R stamps were used on letters. Those stamps came almost certainly from the circulars which had been sent to postmasters on 7 May 1840. Their use for postage was unauthorised. Very few of the One Penny V R are known on cover.

Only one example has been recorded on cover from which the adhesive and part of the envelope has not been detached. The envelope is addressed to "Mr William Blackwood/Peebles". It is an outer wrapper dated 4 June 1843 from Noblehouse, with backstamps of dispatch, transit and arrival. The stamp, lettered "F C" has been affixed by wafer seal and is cancelled with a black Maltese Cross. At Stanley Gibbons auction on 5 October 1978 that cover realised £12,000.

The idea of issuing the One Penny V R stamps seems not to have been finally abandoned until, on 25 January 1843, Edwin Hill certified that 3,302 sheets had been destroyed. They had been kept in the Treasury warehouse. The plate was destroyed on 6 March 1850.

Thus passed Britain's "Official Stamp That Never Was".

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale during May.

'Europa' stamps and presentation pack on 14 May.

Scottish pictorial aerogramme — 50th anniversary of the introduction of the first scheduled UK inland air mail service — on 28 May.

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

Raife Wellsted, the Curator of the National Postal Museum, has been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the British Philatelic Federation's Annual Congress in Oxford, on 23 August 1985. This is regarded as the world's foremost philatelic honour, and is a fitting tribute to Raife Wellsted for the outstanding contributions he has made to British philately.

His devotion to the study of postal history is reflected in over 30 years membership of the Council of The Postal History Society during which time he was Secretary for 5 years and President twice. His international stature as a postal historian was recognised when after joining the bureau of the FIP in 1982, he became Secretary in 1983 and was elected President in 1984. He has formed several collections, notably of Trans-Pacific Mail, Ceylon Airmails, St Lucia, Cyprus, Gambia and Hong Kong, some of which have been shown successfully at National and International exhibitions. Much of his research,

particularly on the Hong Kong Branch offices and specialist GB subjects, has been published. He was Secretary of the Hong Kong Study Circle from 1962-1975 and then President. Since 1967 he has judged at National and since 1982 also at International Exhibitions.

Raife Wellsted was appointed Curator of the National Postal Museum in 1980. Since then he has devoted his enthusiasm and energies to the promotion of the museum and confirmed both its national and international standing. We would like to add our congratulations to the honour he is receiving in recognition for all his services to British philately.

British Philatelic Trust

As the result of increasing activity the Trustees of the British Philatelic Trust have been considering Trust plans for the future and measures best suited to meet the needs of philately and stamp collecting in the United Kingdom.

At the Trustees' meeting at the end of February it was decided to seek more permanent accommodation for the Trust. At the same time it was considered desirable, whilst retaining Trust independence, to achieve a closer relationship with other national philatelic organisations in order to further their development and generally to improve facilities for philatelists and collectors.

Informal discussions have been taking place with the British Philatelic Federation and with the National Philatelic Society with a view to these bodies sharing in new Trust accommodation, and administrative service arrangements. Included with these it is the intention to provide library and meeting room facilities for the benefit of collectors.

Further announcements will be made in due course.

New Postcards

South Western Postal Region

SWPR will issue a new postcard on 6 June, the second in a series of 4 to be issued in 1985, marking the 150th Anniversary of the Great Western Railway, with a Post Office/Railway theme.

The card — SWPR 26 — will depict "The Cheltenham Flyer" circa 1932, when this train broke the world record with an average speed of over 70 mph.

The card will cost 14p and orders up to £18.00 will cost 18p extra for postage and handling, while

orders over £18.00 will cost £1.28 extra.

Fully serviced cards bearing a 17p definitive stamp cancelled 'First Day of Sale' will cost 46p. Alternatively SWPR are offering a fully serviced card with a 29p 'Cheltenham Flyer' stamp affixed which is cancelled with a special hand-stamp commemorating the speed run. The cost will be 58p.

Orders and remittances should be sent to the Philatelic Officer, The Head Post Office, Kings Square Branch Office, GLOUCESTER, GL1 1AA. Payments should be made by National Girobank transfer to account number 216 7018 or by postal order or cheque made payable to 'The Post Office'. Orders should arrive no later than 6 June 1985.

Telecom Technology Showcase

A new postcard, ephemera No 11, will be issued on 24 July 1985 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Greetings Telegram. The postcard will feature a colour reproduction of a poster from June 1935, advertising the new Greetings Telegram service introduced on 24 July 1935. The price of mint cards is 10p, and it will also be available with a first day of issue cachet at 40p.

A second new postcard, ephemera No 12, will be issued on 19 November 1985 for Christmas 1985. It will depict in colour an illustration taken from an information leaflet published towards the end of 1935. The price of the card is 10p. A limited number of serviced cards will also be available, bearing the 17p value from 1985 Christmas stamp issue, cancelled with a special handstamp.

Further details of serviced cards can be obtained from the Telecom Technology Showcase. Orders by post for mint cards should add 40p for postage plus a handling charge of 1p per card. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to British Telecommunications plc, should be sent to Telecom Technology Showcase, Baynard House, 135 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON, EC4V 4AT.

Philatelic Counters

A new philatelic sales counter will open in the Silver Street post office, Durham, on 3 June 1985. The hours of business are 9 am — 5 pm on Mondays to Fridays, and 9 am — 12 noon on Saturdays. A special one day only handstamp, depicting Durham Cathedral, will be used to cancel mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the office.

For customers who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply; covers should be sent in an outer envelope, bearing the correct

postage, addressed to: The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, 33 Claypath, DURHAM, DH1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed, 'Philatelic Counter Handstamp'.

The philatelic sales counter at the Crown Street Branch Office, Crown Street, DARLINGTON, Co. Durham, DL1 1AB, has changed its opening hours. The revised hours of business at the counter are now 9.30 am — 12.30 pm and 1.45 pm — 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30 am — 12.30 pm on Saturday.

The existing philatelic sales counter at 63 Corporation Road, MIDDLESBROUGH, TS1 1LA will be moving to the Branch Office, 59 Grange Road, MIDDLESBROUGH TS1 5AT and will operate from 3 June 1985. The hours of opening are 9 am — 5.30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, Wednesday 9.30 am — 5.30 pm, and Saturdays 9 am — 12.30 pm. A special one day only pictorial handstamp will be used to cancel mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the office.

For customers who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply; covers should be sent in an outer envelope, bearing the correct postage, addressed to: The Head Post Office, Postal Operations, 2 Canon Park Way, MIDDLESBROUGH, Cleveland, TS1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed 'Philatelic Counter Handstamp'.

Brighton Festival The Royal Mail Concert

To commemorate the 'British Composers' stamps issue, a Royal Mail Concert will take place at The Dome, Brighton, given by the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Sir Charles Groves, performing each of the four works depicted on the stamps, on 18 May 1985.

To mark this musical event a pictorial handstamp will be available, illustrating a music stand, to be applied to mail posted in a special posting box situated at The Dome. For those customers who are unable to visit The Dome, normal reposting facilities will apply; covers should be sent in an outer envelope, bearing the correct postage, addressed to The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, 51 Ship Street, BRIGHTON, BN1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed, 'Royal Mail Concert Handstamp'.

Tickets for the concert are available from: The Dome Box Office, 29 New Road, BRIGHTON, BN1 1UG. Telephone Brighton 682127.

National Postal Museum News

A major exhibition

On 2 May 1985 the National Postal Museum will open a major exhibition, 'The Centenary of Overprinted Stamps in 1885 for British Levant'. This will show part of the Museum's collection of stamps overprinted for use in overseas territories and will feature, on the ground floor, the following countries, Cyprus, Levant and the Oil Rivers Protectorate. The exhibition continues on the mezzanine with Bechuanaland, Morocco Agencies and British Occupied Italian Territories, ending with panels on Bahrain, Kuwait, Muscat and Qatar. Relevant maps and Postal Notices will also be shown. The exhibition will close on 26 July 1985. The Museum will be issuing two postcards (SS 31 a & b) for this exhibition. They show maps of the territories depicted on the panels and will be on sale from 2 May 1985. The cost will be 20p each with 18p post and packing. The Museum's Maltese Cross handstamp will be in operation.

On 7 May 1985, for National Stamp Day, the Museum is putting on a Thematic display in the Main Gallery entitled 'European Music Year' to coincide with the 'Composers' stamp issue (14 May 1985). The display will include material from previous British stamp issues together with postmarks, postcards and ephemeral material on various composers and musicians. A postcard will be issued for this display. It depicts the 9p stamp of Ralph Vaughan Williams issued as part of the British Anniversaries set of 1972. The card is on sale from 7 May-14 June 1985, price 20 pence each and 18p post & packing. A special Museum handstamp 'European Music Year' will be in use from 7 May-14 June 1985. A 'National Stamp Day' postmark will be in use on 7 May 1985 only. Pre-release facilities will be available for all the postcards, under the usual terms and conditions.

Association of Friends of the Museum

The inaugural meeting of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum was held on 10 April 1985. A full report on this meeting will follow in a future issue.

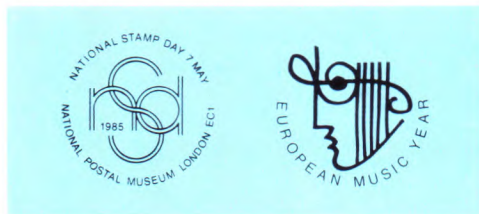
Why is the Association being formed? The Board of the Museum has felt for some time that a supportive body such as is now envisaged, would be a guide to the Curator and staff of the Museum, and ensure that the width of appeal of the exhibitions falls in line with the requirements of philatelists and postal historians, as well as the general public. This is the main reason for formation. However, with the plans to introduce a Museum presence in the Postal Regions, it will also be useful to have a number of collectors in the areas who can assist the National Postal Museum staff in the planning of displays.

What do members of the Association gain? Benefits for members will include, two journals each year, which will contain definitive articles and enable research work by members to be published; all postcards issued by the Museum; publicity information on all Museum exhibitions; the facility to buy publications sold by the Museum at a reduced price; extended hours to undertake research; and special meetings at the Museum outside normal opening hours.

How can a person join? The annual subscription will be £8.00 per annum and the first year began on 1 April 1985. If you wish to become a member of the Association please write to the Secretary of the Association, Friends of the Museum, c/o the National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1LP.

British Philatelic Federation Congress Medal

The 1985 British Philatelic Federation (BPF) Congress Medal has been awarded to Herbert Grimsey, the BPF Secretary. He has made a substantial contribution to philately for over 40 years, and this award is a fitting tribute for this. Although possibly best known today as BPF Secretary, his philatelic career has included work with the National Philatelic Society, the British Philatelic Association, Stampex, the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council, and the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.



British Composers Stamps

Colours and Cylinder Numbers

17p: Bright Yellow green, bright purple, new blue, slate, black, gold.

22p: Greenish yellow, bright magenta, new blue, grey black, black, gold.

31p: Greenish yellow, magenta, new blue, grey black, black, gold.

34p: Greenish yellow, bistre, turquoise, slate, black, gold.

17p: 2A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2E, 1F

22p: 1A, 1B, 4C, 1D, 1E, 1F

31p: 1A, 2B, 1C, 2D, 1E, 1F

34p: 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F

Stampex 1985

We are pleased to announce the winners in the prize draw organised by the British Philatelic Bureau for visitors to the Post Office stand at Stampex 1985. The winners' names are Mrs D Riley, Mr J Pedder and Mr A R Poole, who each received a copy of the 1984 Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook.

Book Reviews

1985 British Philatelic Federation Yearbook

The 1985 BPF Yearbook and Philatelic Societies Directory follows its established format with all entries being fully updated.

In addition to all the information on the BPF itself, the Yearbook also lists philatelic organisations worldwide — federations, societies, bureaux and permanent exhibitions, available lecturers, all signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, winners of the Congress Medal and of the Awards of Merit. All previous Philatelic Congresses are listed, along with the names of individuals and societies represented at the Douglas (Isle of Man) Congress in June 1984. Included again this year are lists of philatelic periodicals, overseas philatelic organisations, clubs and periodicals dealing with postcard collecting, also sources of films and slides, and charities dealing with philatelic material. Finally, lists of Federation members by category, dealer and collector, are included at the end of the Yearbook.

Copies are provided free to all members, but may be purchased for £4.00 post free in the UK or Overseas (seamail), or £6.00 (airmail), if payment is made by cheque in Sterling on a UK Bank, or by remittance directly into National Girobank Account Number 585 3451; otherwise the equivalent of £2 extra is required if paying by cheque in the currency of origin. (Cheques in Sterling payable overseas cannot be accepted.)

Orders should be sent to: The British Philatelic Federation, 314 Vauxhall Bridge Road, LONDON, SW1V 1AA.

Collect British Stamps (36th Edition)

From 31 May this new edition of Stanley Gibbons popular publication will be available from the usual philatelic outlets and all Post Office philatelic counters (including Taunton), at £2.50. It includes all issues up to and including the Composers stamps. This checklist with stamps illustrated in full colour, remains an ideal guide for collectors of GB stamps wanting easy-to-follow listings. The supplement to this edition lists GB stamp books including some of the early issues of 1985. The new 4p blue with side band and 34p with two bands included in the Times prestige stamp book issued on 8 January have been incorporated into the Machin listing. The new edition comprising 112 pages with over 800 illustrations is also available from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 5 Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH plus 30p extra for postage and packing (75p overseas surface mail) as well as to callers at the Stanley Gibbons 399 Strand shop. It will also be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges will apply.

Great British Errors

The 1985 edition of this catalogue of errors is now available from B Alan Ltd, the firm which specialises in this material. The new edition contains details of missing colours, imperforates, artwork proofs, drawings, essays, airmletters, and airmletter errors. The period covered in the British section of the catalogue is mainly Queen Elizabeth II material. It also includes for the first time a section on special books and packs issued by The Post Office for presentation to other Postal Administrations. The Great Britain section costs £1.00, and there is also a Commonwealth section available at 75p. These can be obtained direct from B Alan Ltd, and for orders by post, please add the appropriate return postage. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: B Alan Ltd, 184-6 Portland Road, LONDON, SE25 4QB.

Posting Box



No 71 For this month's subject we offer our thanks to Mr J B Metcalfe of Wigan, Mr R F R Gardener of Sunderland and The Letter Box Study Group, all of whom sent separate photographs of this interesting wayside posting box situated on the Brodick/Blackwaterfoot B880 road, Isle of Arran.

The St Martins le Grand magazine of 1909 shows this box being emptied by the local postman. The present box was installed during the reign of King George VI sometime from 1937 onwards. Of particular interest is the fact that the 1909 illustration shows a postman standing upright to empty the box. But because the road has been built up over the years, it is now necessary to bend down in order to open the door. Thank you gentlemen all.

Manpex '85

We are sorry to report that Manpex '85, the National Exhibition being organised by the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies for October, has had to be cancelled. This was due to circumstances beyond the organisers' control and lack of support.

Forces Covers

Fleet Air Arm Museum 21st Anniversary

To mark the 21st anniversary of the foundation of the Fleet Air Arm Museum on 28 May 1985 a commemorative cover will be available illustrating

the front elevation of the Museum, the Concorde hanger, a Buccaneer aircraft, and a Wessex 3 helicopter together with the badge of HMS 'Heron' (RNAS Yeovilton). The cover will have a 17p 'British Composers' stamp affixed cancelled with BFPS 1964 pictorial handstamp. The charge will be 95p.

In addition, the cover bearing a 31p 'British Composers' stamp cancelled as above but signed by Vice Admiral Sir Donald Gibson KCB DSC JP, Founder and Trustee of the Fleet Air Arm Museum, and Commander D C B White OBE MRAeS RN (retd.), Director of the Museum, will be available, price £2.15.

Signed by Commander White only, the cover with a 22p 'British Composers' stamp affixed will cost £1.40. Orders with remittances made payable to 'FAA Museum' should be sent to: RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL, together with a 7" x 5" stamped and addressed envelope.

Tercentenary 1685 — 1985 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the above event. The issue coincides with the presentation and consecration of a new 'Regimental Standard'.

The cost of the cover bearing a 17p stamp cancelled with BFPS handstamp No 1866 on the 18 May 1985 is £1.20.

A limited number of covers have been signed by General Sir Robert Ford GCB CBE., 'The Colonel of the Regiment', and are available at £2.00 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the 'Philatelic Officer, 4/7 RDG,' should be sent to him at 4/7 RDG BFP041, together with a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

300 Years of Fusiliers in London

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the historic links between the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the City of London. These links have existed since 1685 when James II raised the Royal Fusiliers in the Tower of London. (The Royal Fusiliers merged with three other famous Fusilier Regiments in 1968 to form the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.)

The cover depicts Fusiliers of 1685 and of today. Bearing a 17p Famous Trains stamp, the covers will be cancelled on 11 June 1985 with a special pictorial handstamp incorporating the Tower of London, BFPS No 1867. The cost of the covers will be £1 each. A limited number of covers signed by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General D M

Woodford, CBE, and the Deputy Colonel City of London, Major-General B C Webster, CBE, will also be available at £1.50 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to City of London HQ, RRE, should be sent to:— The Philatelic Officer, RHQ RRE, HM Tower of London, LONDON EC3N 4AB together with a 9" x 5" stamped envelope.

Bomber Command Museum Appeal

The four stamps commemorating 'British Composers' will be used on an RAF Museum Special Cover to be cancelled with BFPS 2128 handstamp on 14 May 1985.

The cover will mark the 128th Anniversary of the Royal School of Military Music and depicts a trumpeter in full dress uniform against a background of Kneller Hall. The cover will be signed by the Commandant, and the Director of Music. Proceeds will be devoted to service charities and covers can be obtained from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON, NW9 5LL, at £3.00 including postage and packing; for overseas orders please add 50 pence.

70th Anniversary of Gallipoli Landings

A special cover commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings on 1 May 1915 is now available illustrating the beaches at Gallipoli and the Victoria Cross awarded to Lance Corporal G Parker (Royal Marine Light Infantry). The cover has a 17p Insects stamp affixed, cancelled by BFPS handstamp 1868 depicting the Royal Marine badge. The cost is 95p.

In addition, the cover bearing a 31p 'Insects' stamp, cancelled as above but signed by Lt Colonel M C L Wilkins OBE, Commandant General Royal Marines, and Major General F N Grant CB Royal Marines, Royal Marine HQ, is also available price £2.15.

Alternatively for the cover with a 22p Insects stamp affixed, and signed by Major General Grant only, the charge is £1.40. Orders with remittances made payable to 'FAA MUSEUM' should be sent to: RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL, together with a 7" x 5" stamped and addressed envelope.

The King's Regiment Tercentenary 20 June 1985

A philatelic cover, illustrating a group of three military figures, Musketeer of the Princess Anne of Denmark's Regiment 1685, a Grenadier of the 63rd Regiment of Foot 1758, and a Kingsman of the King's Regiment 1985.

Bearing a 17p 'Safety at Sea' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp number, BFPS 1886, the cost is £2 including postage and packing. For overseas orders please add current postage rate. A limited number of covers as above, signed by the Colonel of the Regiment will be available price £3.25 including postage and packing.

Orders with remittances made payable to, 'The King's Regiment Stock Account', should be sent to:— Captain J Heason, RHQ (I) The King's Regiment, TA Centre, Ardwick Green, MANCHESTER, M12 6HD.

Commemorative Covers

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestras

The Western Orchestral Society are promoting their own philatelic cover to coincide with the 'British Composers' stamps issue to celebrate the 80th Birthday in January this year of Britain's most distinguished living composer, Sir Michael Tippett OM.

This handmade cover will incorporate a gold die-stamped frame with a high quality colour photograph of Sir Michael, set behind clear acetate for protection, within the frame. An informative insert card will be included.

A pictorial one-day handstamp has been designed to complement the cover and will be used on 14 May, first day of issue, of the stamps.

A limited number of 250 covers will be signed by Sir Michael Tippett OM. The signed covers will be numbered on the reverse.

The price is £3.65. Those signed by Sir Michael are £5.65 each. Orders should be sent to: Western Orchestral Society, 2 Seldown Lane, POOLE, Dorset BH15 1UF. (Prices include return postage and packing).

High Wycombe — 700th Mayoral Anniversary

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the establishment of the Mayoralty in High Wycombe, to coincide with the issue of the Composer stamps on 14 May 1985.

The covers have been designed and printed by Messrs Harrisons and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd, who also printed the Composers stamps. Bearing the 17p value from the Composers issue cancelled with a special High Wycombe handstamp on 14 May, the covers will cost £1.25 each. This price is inclusive of postage and packing; the covers will also be available to local purchasers from the Council Offices at £1 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance should

be sent to the Anniversary Co-ordinator Mayor's Parlour, Wycombe District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, HIGH WYCOMBE, Bucks HP11 1BB.

RNLI 'Safety at Sea'

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution are to produce a commemorative cover for the 'Safety at Sea' stamp issue on 18 June 1985.

Well-known artist and stamp designer Clive Abbott has agreed to donate the design and artwork for the cover, which will depict an Oakley lifeboat as shown on one of the stamps.

The RNLI headquarters are situated at Poole and a special life-boat display is to be arranged in conjunction with the Post Office during the week of the stamp issue at Poole Town Quay. A pictorial special handstamp is to be used to cancel the commemorative covers, which will be available with the full set of four stamps or with the life-boat stamp only.

Proceeds from the sale of these RNLI official covers will go towards providing the huge sum of money required each year to maintain the life-boat service voluntarily supplied by the men and women of the RNLI.

The cost of the covers is £3.50 with a full set of stamps, or £1.50 with single value. 300 copies signed by Clive Abbott will also be available at £4.50 each. Orders with full remittance, including 30p post and packaging per order, should be sent to arrive by 10 June, to RNLI Philatelic Agents, 33 St. George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent CT1 2XX.

Borough of Mossley Centenary

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the centenary of the granting of Mossley's Charter. The cover depicts the Mossley Coat of Arms in full colour, and bears a 17p Insects stamp cancelled with the Oldham Philatelic Counter handstamp on 12 March 1985.

The price of the cover is £1.80 including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Mrs S Senior, 13 Strawberry Lane, Mossley, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE OL5 0RJ.

Welsh £1 Coin

Two special philatelic covers have been produced to commemorate the release into circulation of the Welsh £1 coin on 22 April 1985. The first cover depicts a representation of a leek, the national emblem of Wales, and has a £1 stamp affixed cancelled with a Royal Mint pictorial handstamp on 22 April 1985. The second cover depicts a daffodil, long associated with Wales, and bears a 17p Welsh

country definitive stamp again cancelled with a Royal Mint pictorial handstamp on 22 April 1985. The prices of the covers are £5.15 for the one bearing a £1 stamp, and £4.15 for the one bearing the 17p stamp. Both covers include the new Welsh one pound coin in mint uncirculated condition. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: the Royal Mint Coin Club, Freepost, PO Box 500, CARDIFF CF1 1YY. For orders under £10, a handling charge of £1 is applicable; for orders over £10, no charge is made.

University of Lancaster 21st Anniversary

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the first 21 years of the University of Lancaster. The specially designed cover printed in the University's colours of Lancaster red and Quaker grey, shows a collage of the University campus and the dates 1964-1985. It contains a filler card bearing the coat of arms of the University together with a brief account of its early years. The cover bears a 17p Famous Trains stamp depicting the Flying Scotsman, cancelled with a specially designed handstamp on 27 April 1985. The price of the cover is £1.20 including postage and packing. (They are also available at the University of Lancaster at £1 each). Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to: 'University of Lancaster', should be sent to The Information Officer, University of Lancaster, Bailrigg, LANCASTER LA1 4YX.

The Elgar Society and Elgar's Birthplace

To coincide with the 'British Composers' stamps issue of 14 May depicting the works of famous composers, 500 numbered commemorative covers have been designed for the Elgar Society and Elgar's Birthplace.

The cover illustrates the birthplace and portrait of Sir Edward Elgar whose work 'Sea Pictures' is the subject of one of the stamps. The official Post Office handstamp applied at Worcester will be used to cancel the covers. Worcester is the location of the Birthplace Museum.

Yehudi Menuhin, the President of the Elgar Society has agreed to sign covers. The following charges will apply. The cover with the single 34p 'Sea Pictures' stamp affixed will cost £1.80 while that bearing all four Composers stamps will be available at £3.25. The signed covers are £2.50 extra. All prices include return postage and packing in the UK; overseas orders should include an additional £1. Orders with remittances made payable to 'Elgar's Birthplace' should be sent to: Elgar's Birthplace, Crown East Lane, Lower Broadheath, WORCESTER WR2 6RH.

Leicester Philharmonic Society

A special philatelic cover is being produced by the Leicester Philharmonic Society to commemorate their centenary, to coincide with the issue of the Composers stamps on 14 May 1985. The specially designed covers will bear the Composers stamps, cancelled with a specially commissioned handstamp featuring the Society's logo on 14 May at Leicester. The covers are available bearing a single Composers stamp at £2.25 each, or bearing the full set of stamps at £3.75. A limited set of covers are also available at £6.00, signed by Mr Owain Arwel Hughes, the well known conductor. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing, but 50p should be added for overseas orders to cover airmail and payment should be in £ sterling. Remittances should be made payable to the Leicester Philharmonic Society and sent to: 10 Windmill End, Rothley Lodge, Rothley, LEICESTER LE7 7RP.

Girl Guides

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 1st Ruislip Guide Unit, a philatelic cover and special handstamp will be available on 14 May 1985. Bearing a 17p Composers stamp, the cover will cost £1.25 including postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to 'Mrs B James,' should be sent to her at: 4 Pinn Way, RUISLIP, Middlesex HA4 7QJ.

Bristol Channel Hovercraft/West Somerset Railway

An important day for collectors of commemorative covers will be 23 May 1985. On that day the first scheduled hovercraft service in the Bristol Channel will start, as well as the West Somerset's Railway letter service.

Three different covers will be available:

TYPE A

A 'First Run' hovercraft cover, with a printed design and bearing one English and one Welsh 10p definitive. The covers will be flown from Wales to England, will be numbered and signed by the aircraft pilot and train driver. They will then be carried to Taunton on the West Somerset Railway, bearing the Railway Letter Service stamp, and a special inaugural run cachet. They will be cancelled with the Taunton Philatelic Sales handstamp.

Price is £2 each including postage and packing — but extra for air mail!

TYPE B

The West Somerset Railway Philatelic cover, will be carried on the inaugural run to Taunton for the

Taunton philatelic sales counter handstamp. The covers will bear one of the 'Famous Trains' stamps, the West Somerset Railway letter service stamp, inaugural run cachet and a special hovercraft first flight cachet. The covers will be signed by the train driver and the West Somerset Railway's Postmaster.

Price is £1.75 each including inland postage and packing.

TYPE C

The Royal Mail Famous Trains souvenir cover, bearing the two GWR stamps (29p and 34p), West Somerset Railway letter service stamp, inaugural run cachet and first flight cachet. Again, Taunton philatelic sales handstamp. The cover will be signed by the train driver and the West Somerset Railway's Postmaster.

Both the WSR covers will be numbered.

Price is £2.00 each including inland postage and packing.

All three covers will be available in very limited quantities, and you are advised to order now in order to avoid disappointment. Please note that, if for any reason, the WSR does not become a party to the Railway Letter Agreement by 23 May 1985, the first run will be postponed but the covers as described will be available but without the hovercraft first flight cachet.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'John Nash' should be sent to him at, Flat 2, South Road, WATCHET, Somerset TA23 0DX.

The Cookery and Food Association Centenary

The Cookery and Food Association celebrates its Centenary on Sunday 5 May 1985 and will produce a limited edition of 1500 philatelic commemorative covers. The cover includes an embossed gold foil blocked badge of the Association with the dates 1885 — 1985 and the words 'The Cookery and Food Association Royal Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother' surrounded by a gold foil block border. Each cover will be numbered on the reverse and an insert will feature a short history of the Association. The cover will bear a 31p 'Royal Scot Train' Stamp, cancelled with a special handstamp featuring the original Seal of the Association on 5 May 1985, Richmond Surrey. The price of the cover is £2.50 inclusive of postage and packing.

A special limited edition identical to the above, but numbered 1 to 100 and signed by the Association's President, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore KCB, KCVO, DSC., will be available at £10.50 each inclusive of postage and packing.

Overseas orders should add 50p each to the above. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'The Cookery and Food Association' should be sent to The Administrator, The Cookery and Food Association, 1 Victoria Parade, By 331 Sandycombe Road, RICHMOND, Surrey TW9 3NB.

International Gathering of the Clans

Glasgow, for the first time, is acting as Host City to the International Clan Gathering, to be held between 25 May-1 June 1985.

Pilgrim Philatelics have been appointed Philatelic Agents and are producing a special cover to commemorate this event. It will incorporate in the design a high-quality, colour photograph of a Scottish Pipe Band marching in full regalia, set behind clear acetate for protection. A suitable commemorative stamp will be used and cancelled in Glasgow, with a special philatelic changing-date postmark.

In addition, a choice of 72 different Clan Crests, in the form of rubber handstamps can be applied, enabling your cover to be personalised (state Clan required).

These covers are priced at £2.00 each, including post and packing and will be sent under separate cover. Orders to: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd., 33 St. George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent CT1 2XX.

European Music Year

A set of four special philatelic covers is being produced to celebrate European Music Year which is featured on the Europa/Composers stamps being issued on 14 May 1985. Each of the covers will depict one of the British composers depicted on the stamps; these will be Handel's Water Music, Holst's The Planets Suite, Delius' The First Cuckoo, and Elgar's Sea Pictures. Each cover will be cancelled with an appropriate postmark on the day of issue of the stamps.

The price of single covers with the appropriate stamp affixed is £1.50 each; a set of 4 covers each with a single appropriate stamp affixed will cost £5.00. The covers are also available with a complete set of composers stamps affixed at £3.50 each; a set of 4 covers each with the complete set of Composers stamps affixed will cost £12.50. Signed covers are also available and details will be supplied on application. 50p should be added to inland orders to cover postage and packing, and £1 minimum for overseas. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Greenberg and Porter should be sent to: European Music Years Covers, Greenberg and Porter, 13 Fordyke Road, Becontree Heath, DAGENHAM Essex, RM8 1PJ.

Westminster Abbey/Handel

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate Handel's burial in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey. This will coincide with the issue of the Composers stamps on 14 May 1985, one of which celebrates the 500th anniversary of the birth of Handel. The cover features a portrait of Handel and the design is partly gold-foiled. A specially designed handstamp featuring Westminster Abbey has also been commissioned. The price of the cover is £2.25 for those bearing the 17p Composers stamp only (depicting Handel), and £4.00 if bearing the full set of composers stamps. The covers are also available with the full set of stamps, signed by either Richard Baker at £6.75 each or by the Dean of Westminster at £7.50 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to A G Bradbury should be sent to him at 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL. Prices are inclusive of postage, but £1 should be added for orders from outside Europe to cover airmail.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by:

British Post Office
Postal Headquarters
Philatelic Marketing Section
Room 102-104
33 Grosvenor Place
LONDON
SW1X 1PX

to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscriptions (*Inland, Europe and overseas*)

Surface mail £3.50

Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:

British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters price 30p.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £4.00.

Printed in Great Britain by
Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd
for the Post Office