

Philatelic Bulletin

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News of an important new event in the philatelic calendar. The Stamp Collecting Promotion Council has announced that it is to hold a Stamp Festival at Covent Garden, London, for the week 3-8 May 1982. The SCPC have designated the week National Stamp Collecting Week which includes National Stamp Day – 6 May. This announcement will be good news to thousands of philatelists who have been looking for a special event to commemorate NSD. In prospect the Festival has a lot of appeal; a SCPC stamp display, childrens' competition, stamp fair (including Post Office Sales Point), TV, Radio and Press coverage and ad hoc appearances by Theatrical personalities. The choice of site is also interesting, situated behind the Strand, Covent Garden is in a fascinating part of central London. The complex is full of atmosphere which the visitor will find quite charming. All in all, one for the diary. Full details of opening times and events will be given in next month's *Bulletin*.

News also of the Information Technology Year special stamps to be issued on 8 September. The designer will be Darrell Ireland and the subjects are History of Communications, and Technology Today.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Postal Mechanisation Study Circle

The Postal Mechanisation Study Circle has just produced a supplement to its booklet 'An Introduction to British Postal Mechanisation' by Martin Robinson and Douglas Muir, bringing the information in the booklet completely up to date.

The supplement is available, free of charge, to anyone who has purchased the booklet. Please send a 9" x 6" stamped addressed envelope to the P.M.S.C. Secretary, John Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, PINNER, Middlesex, HA5 3BW.

The booklet, price £1.50 post free, is still available from John Lush.

100 Years of Youth Organisations

On 4 October 1883, a typically unruly band of boys poured through the doors of North Woodside Sunday School Hall in Glasgow. To their surprise, they soon found themselves drawn up in line, drilling and marching to the orders of the young Sunday School secretary, William Alexander Smith, and his two helpers. By the end of the day, the first Company of the Boys' Brigade was born – no longer a dream but the starting point of a worldwide family of organisations that owe their existence to Smith's vision and initiative.

Born in 1854 in the Scottish town of Thurso, Smith later joined his uncle's business in Glasgow where he became a member of the Free College Church, taking active interest in its Sunday School. From a family with a strong military tradition and with practical experience of discipline as a volunteer in the 1st Lanark Rifles, Smith was troubled by the rowdy behaviour and lack of direction amongst boys at the school. For months he sat down after work and planned an attractive means to instill discipline and religion into their lives, with a sense of purpose extending to week-day activities.

Believing that military drill was the ideal means of introducing boys to the benefits of self-control, co-ordination and team spirit, Smith worked out the Object of his Boys' Brigade as: 'The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.' The ideal motto: 'Sure and Stedfast' was found in Hebrews 6:19.

Despite an initial lack of uniform beyond a simple rosette, the North Woodside Boys eagerly took to their new regimen of drill and Bible Class on Sunday mornings. By the end of the first year Smith had a solid nucleus of 30 boys which soon spread to other groups.

With the addition of drums and fifes and a distinctive 'uniform' of pill-box cap, belt and haversack, the movement caught the imagination of boys and Church leaders everywhere. From a local Scottish experiment it gathered momentum to become the leading British uniformed organisation for boys. Smith was forced to admit he had set

in train a greater movement than he had ever dreamed of. In 1887 he gave up business to become full-time Brigade Secretary and by the end of the century there were over 20,000 members throughout the world.

Other Churches and religious groups were quick to adopt the formula. The Free Churches of England formed the Boys' Life Brigade in 1899 with special emphasis on life-saving. In 1926, this joined with the Boys' Brigade and both junior sections for under-12's combined as the Life Boys.

Today there are over 36,000 members of the Boys Brigade in the United Kingdom with a worldwide membership of over 30,000 in more than 60 countries.

In 1893 the Girls' Brigade of Ireland was set up in Dublin, followed by the Girls' Guildry in Scotland in 1900 and the Girls' Life Brigade in England in 1902. In July 1965 all three Christian uniformed movements for girls combined as a single international and interdenominational organisation with the following aims 'To help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life.'

In 1923 the first overseas company was formed in Jamaica and with the junior 'Explorers' the movement today can boast over 80,000 members in Britain with a worldwide figure of over 184,000 sharing and following the motto: 'Seek, serve and follow Christ.'

Originally the secular Scouting movement was seen merely as a training scheme for the Boys' Brigades. The hero of Mafeking, General (later Lord) Baden-Powell, author of 'Aids to Scouting' (intended for soldiers but quickly picked up by Youth Leaders) was invited in 1903 to preside at the annual Boys' Brigade London Display. His first article on 'Scouting for Boys' appeared in June 1906 in the *B.B. Gazette*. But what was intended as a training aid for outdoor activities with existing organisations sparked off a new movement that was to outstrip them all and become the world's largest voluntary movement for boys.

After the first camp at Brownsea Island in 1907 and the publication of the complete series of 'Scouting for Boys' in 1908, Patrols formed

spontaneously all over the country. In 1910, Baden-Powell left the Army to devote all his time to the Boy Scouts Association (renamed the Scout Association in 1967) which already had over 100,000 members.

Today there are over 640,000 Scouts in the United Kingdom, including Cub and Venture Scouts, Air and Sea Scouts with an estimated total world membership of 15 million embracing 120 countries.

As 'Scouting for Boys' appeared in fortnightly parts, girls all over the country borrowed their brothers' copies and formed their own groups as Girl Scouts. Realising that over 6,000 girls were registered as *Boy Scouts*, Baden-Powell chose a new name, *Girl Guides* and in 1910 the *Girl Guides Association* was formed with the Founder's sister as President. Now, with *Brownie Guides*, *Guides* and *Ranger Guides* this non-political movement open to girls of all races and religions is the largest voluntary movement in the UK with over 890,000 involved. The *World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts*, formed in 1928, has over 7½ million girls and women from 98 countries taking part in the movement and its running.

In the early days, Baden-Powell had thoughts of one giant and universal movement for youth. But William Smith held firm to the Church based tenets of the Boys' Brigade, forseeing, wisely, that with a choice of Brigade, Scouts or other clubs and the inevitable growth of government sponsored Youth Service, young people were more likely to find an organisation suited to their individual needs.

The two great leaders remained friends and after the Founder of the B.B. died in 1914, Baden-Powell paid tribute to his vision: 'To other movements coming after his, the work is light. His was the spade work – his was the inspiration ... which has brought men and movements speeding after him.'

And as the Boys' Brigade prepares to celebrate a centenary of Youth Service, it can look back with pride to the words of King George VI on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee:

'When the Boys' Brigade was founded 60 years ago, your Founder, Sir William A Smith, builded

better than he knew, for he started not only a great movement, but one from which all our present widespread youth training was destined to spring.'

SUZANNE WOLSTENHOLME

Special Issues for 1979

ISSUE AND DATE	VALUE	NUMBER ISSUED
British Dogs	9p	49,790,000
7 February 1979	10½p	15,010,000
	11p	14,280,000
	13p	13,930,000
Flowers	9p	50,010,000
21 March 1979	10½p	15,080,000
	11p	14,490,000
	13p	13,980,000
Direct Election to the European Assembly	9p	47,510,000
	10½p	15,870,000
	11p	15,400,000
9 May 1979	13p	14,820,000
Horse Racing	9p	56,350,000
6 June 1979	10½p	20,440,000
	11p	19,880,000
	13p	19,280,000
Children (IYOC)	9p	54,990,000
18 July 1979	10½p	18,950,000
	11p	18,400,000
	13p	17,690,000
Rowland Hill	10p	74,720,000
22 August 1979	11½p	18,210,000
	13p	17,200,000
	15p	18,470,000
Police	10p	50,870,000
26 September 1979	11½p	17,190,000
	13p	16,670,000
	15p	16,170,000
Rowland Hill	59½p	5,230,000
<i>Miniature Sheet</i>		
24 October 1979		
Christmas 1979	8p	304,780,000
21 November 1979	10p	146,200,000
	11½p	26,300,000
	13p	25,450,000
	15p	23,980,000

Abnormal Perforations from Stroke and Rotary Perforators

Firstly, I must disclaim any suggested expertise in the perforating art. My knowledge, such as it is, has been gleaned even as Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz; through the good offices of the young men who have kindly dispensed of their abundance; the young men in this instance being engineering experts at Harrisons and other printers. Particular thanks to Dave Kingsman, perforating engineer at Harrisons, who supplied the materials for the photographs of the bent pins.

I must congratulate L N Williams on his learned discourse on perforating. Even the engineers at Harrisons admitted grudgingly that 'it is not a bad effort'.

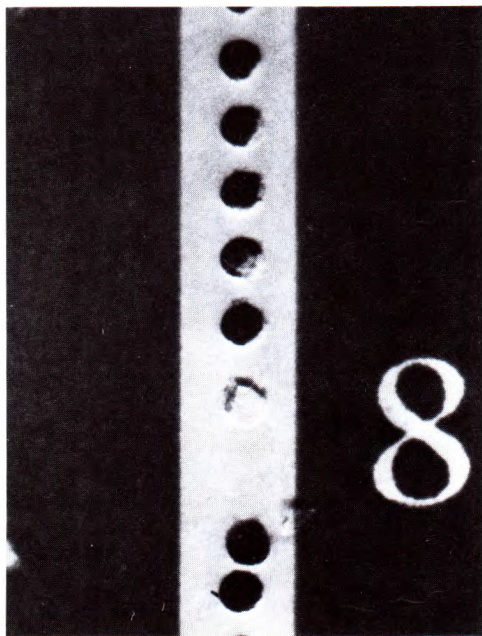
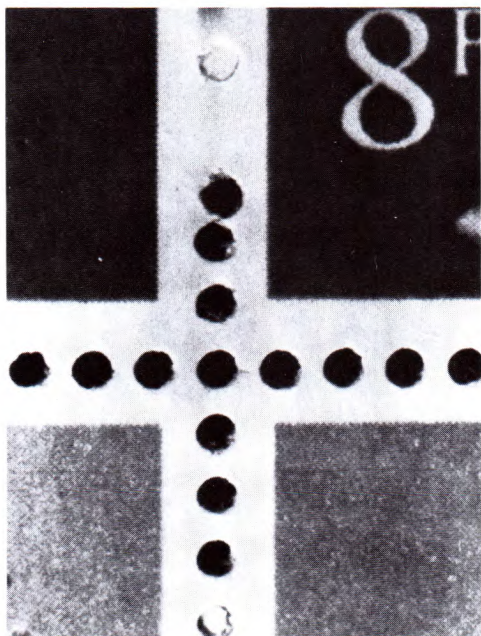
However Mr Williams errs in one respect. He assumes that perforating pins are made of 'needle steel'. Such hard, brittle steel was indeed used by Harrisons at one time, but experience dictates changes, and it transpired that brittle steel resulted in an unacceptable number of pin fractures. A slightly more flexible steel was therefore adopted which would accept a measure of bending before

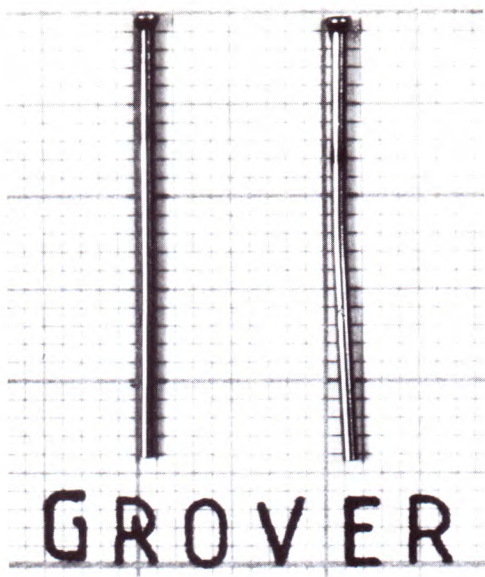
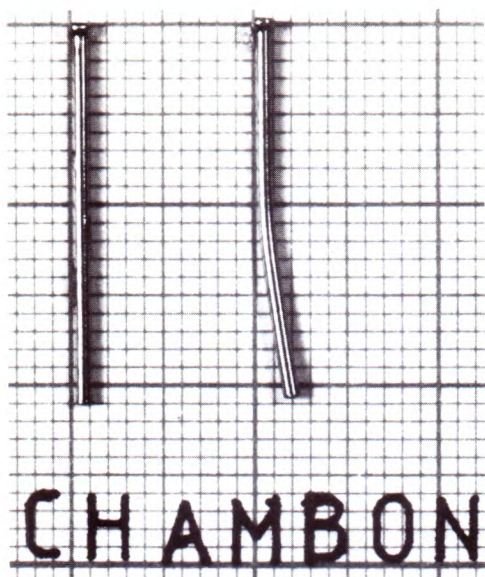
fracture, after which failures were reduced to an acceptable level.

On a new Grover perforating block, the pins enter the guide plate by about 2 mm (80 thousandths of an inch) and they can bend by 25 to 30 thou. (up to 0.75 mm) before fracture. Since there is only 17 thou. inch between holes, it can be seen that a bent pin could damage adjacent holes if bent between the die and stripping plate.

A broken pin in the Grover could be retained by the stripping plate for a short time before falling clear, resulting in misshapen or torn holes. A bent pin may damage an existing hole.

On the Jumelle, the Kampf rotary perforator pins are slightly shorter than on a Grover, protruding about 1.5 mm (60 thou.) from the drum. These can bend by about 20 to 25 thou. (over half a millimetre) at the tip before fracture, again considerably more than the spacing between adjacent holes. It is possible, but unlikely, that a broken pin could be retained for a short period by the 1 millimetre foam covering on the pin-drum. It is



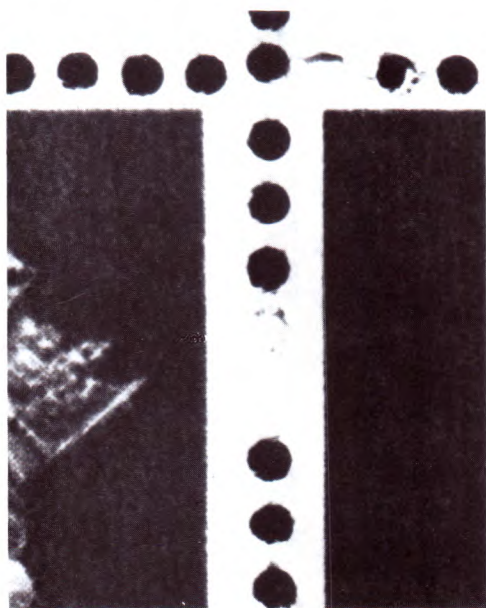
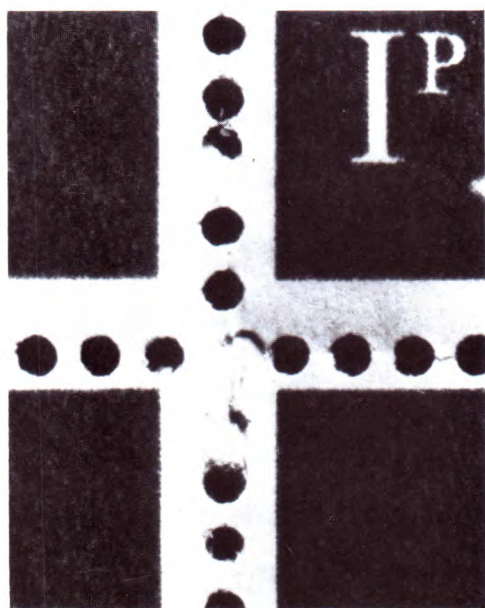


probable that no more than two revolutions of the perforating drums would occur before a bent pin fractured completely and became detached. Before breakage it can damage adjacent holes.

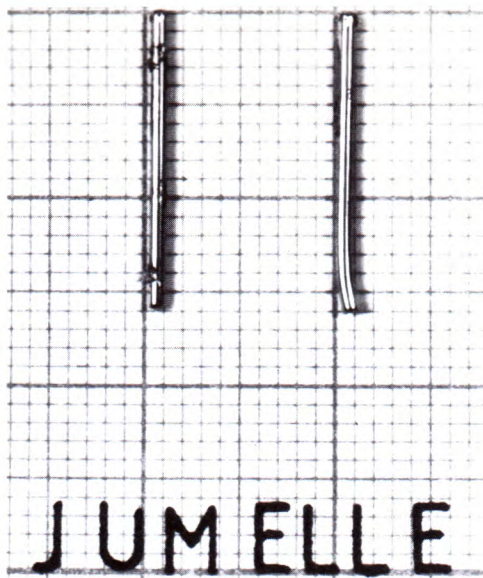
Remembering that a number of sheets, typically six, are perforated together by the Grover, one would expect to see more sheets perforated by this method showing defective holes; also sequential sheets would show an increasing divergence from

the normal. However, because the sheets are examined frequently, the damaged block would be replaced promptly and so minimize the number of damaged sheets produced.

The perforator on the Chambon press is rather different. The block is only 12" long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, and it perforates only 2 rows of stamps at each stroke (depending on the size) before 'stepping and repeating'. A defective pin could therefore



Ip cylinder 12. PCP



These photographs of perforating pins demonstrate the degree of bending often found in practice. Each small grid square equals one millimetre at actual size.

produce more than one abnormal hole in a sheet. It has a stripping plate similar to the Grover and the same reasoning applies regarding retention of broken pins. Examples of bent pins removed from perforators are illustrated. It will be seen that a Jumelle (Kampf) pin tends to bend near the tip, whereas the larger Chambon and Grover pins tend to bend more centrally.

The situation with the Jumelle press and Kampf

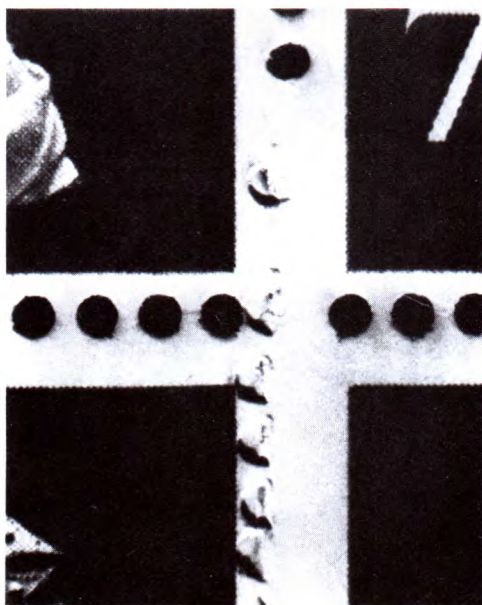
rotary perforator is unlike that with the Chambon or Grover perforators. It is very time-consuming to set up and use automatic precision drilling equipment for repair work, and a pin may break during a print run required urgently by the customer. On such occasions the repair drilling may be carried out by hand, resulting in a slight misplacement of the perforation. This may result in a considerable number of sheets bearing identical misplaced perforation holes.

In conclusion, it will be seen that there are two possible causes of misplaced holes, firstly a broken or bent perforating pin, in which case very few sheets will be seen, and secondly a repair involving hand drilling, possibly resulting in large numbers of sheets or books having identical misplaced holes.

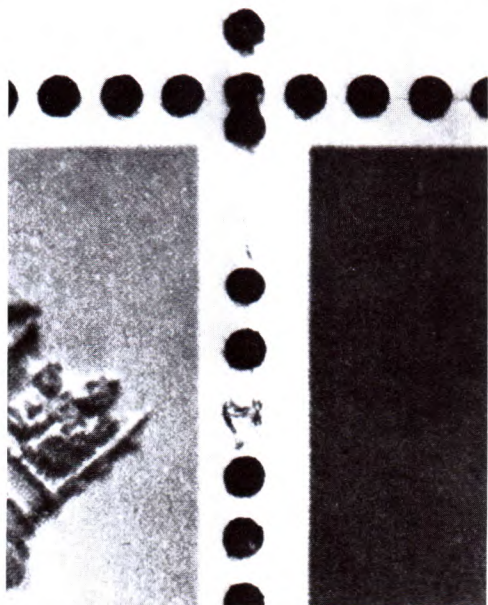
The photographs of stamps showing the effect of damaged perforating pins are taken from examples kindly loaned by Mr J K Leary of The British Decimal Book Study Circle.

All the illustrations are of Jumelle printing, Kampf perforated.

AUBREY WALKER



7p cylinder 20



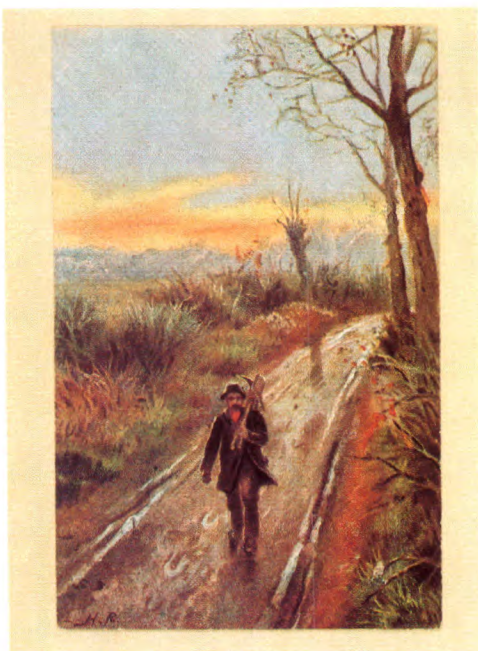
12p cylinder 2

15. O for 'Oilette'

While the letter 'O' suggests a number of possible themes for postcard collectors – Olympic Games, Opera Houses and Singers, Opium Smokers (!), Orchestras, Organs (church and barrel or street) and Ox carts – the name which is foremost in my mind is the ubiquitous 'Oilette' brand of postcard, published by Raphael Tuck & Sons Ltd from 1903 through to the 1940s. The publishers introduced them as 'miniature oil paintings', apparently disregarding the fact that most of the thousands of artist-signed (and unsigned) view cards were based on watercolours, even the so-called 'Oilfacsimis' which simulated the use of oils with a thick layer of 'brush strokes'.

With Oilettes, Raphael Tuck established a sound reputation for quality of production in colour printing, not only in Britain but also in the United States where the firm had offices on Fifth Avenue, in France ('Tuck's Carte Postale'), Germany ('Tuck's Postkarte') and other countries in Europe. The great attraction of the Oilette view cards – even today almost 80 years after they were introduced – was that they represented artists' impressions of actual places which could be identified by local residents or by visitors. Today, for most of us, these cards represent the villages, towns and cities of a bygone age, perhaps almost unrecognisable through modern redevelopment.

Tuck's principal topographical artists were Henry B Wimbush, who covered London, the Lake District, Scotland and the South of England; F W Hayes; Charles E Flower – London, notably the 'Inns of Court and Chancery' and 'Old London Churches' series, the Home Counties and New York; 'Jotter' – pseudonym of Walter Hayward Young – many Cornish scenes, 'Derbyshire Dales' etc.; John Fulleylove – London views and a noted 'Holy Land' series; and A R Quinton, a J Salmon Ltd artist 'on loan' – 'Village Crosses' and 'Picturesque Coaching Inns'. The Oilette range was expanded in the form of numerous 'Wide-Wide-World' series which featured exotic views of India and the Mediterranean countries, Canada and the USA, the West Indies, South Africa and the South Pacific, and even Siberia, and the Arctic. Perhaps most prolific of these were some 15 sets of 'Picturesque Egypt', which included views of



Cairo and the Nile, the Pyramids and the Sphinx by artists such as Tony Binder and R Talbot Kelly.

Gradually the Oilettes were extended to include most of the topical themes which are so avidly collected today – Art studies, Comics or 'Humorous', the works of Dickens (by artists 'Kyd' and 'Phiz' etc), Shakespeare and other literary celebrities, Transport – 'Famous Expresses' and 'Railways of the World', 'Celebrated Liners' – Cunard, P & O, White Star etc – and 'Motoring', 'Glamour' and 'Children' (including 'Golliwog', dolls and toys), Nursery Rhymes, Fairy Tales and virtually thousands of greetings cards for Christmas, Birthdays, St. Valentine's Day, New Year, St. Patrick's Day and, in America, Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving Day. Aviation was strongly represented by sets of 'Airships' and 'Famous Aeroplanes', also four sets in the 'In the Air' series (a set usually comprised six cards). Horses, dogs and cats – notably the comic cats portrayed by Louis Wain – can be found in various series.

Among the elusive – and consequently most expensive – Oilettes are those picturing the paintings of military and rural subjects by Harry Payne, probably now the most celebrated Tuck artist. Though he was not exclusive to the firm he was an expert in depicting military uniforms in accurate and colourful detail; he also produced some fine studies of horses and cameos of country

life, farm animals and activities or breathtaking landscapes. My card shows 'the Labourer's Return' from Oilette series 9008, 'Surrey Lanes'. It is signed 'H.P.' – most of Harry Payne's post-cards were, however, signed in full.

MALCOLM JAMES

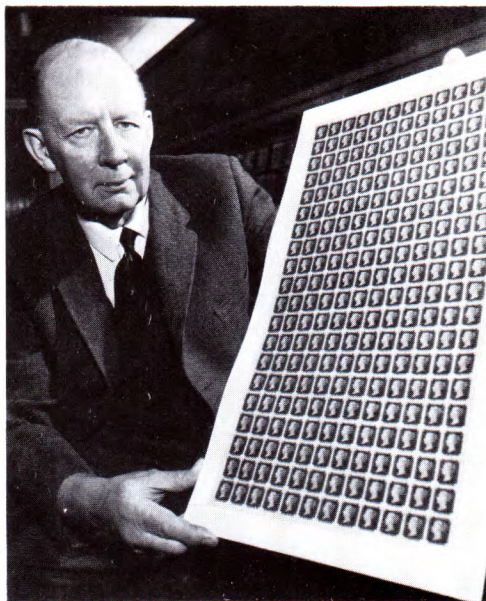
Posting Boxes



No. 34 This nicely refurbished wall box of the reign of King George V is at Regent Street Post Office, Cambridge. The box, made by McDowall, Steven and Company, Falkirk dates from about 1935.

Tony Rigo de Righi

We are sad to have to report the death of Tony Rigo de Righi, Curator of the National Postal Museum from 1970-1980, on Saturday 16 January 1982. He was born in Bournemouth in 1917 and educated at the International School, Geneva, St Paul's School, London, and read modern history at Queen's College, Oxford. Prior to joining the Post Office, he had spent all his working life in the Civil Service except for a period of service in the RAF Photographic Intelligence 1942-5. From 1950-70 he worked as a reference writer at the Central Office of Information.



His term as Curator of the National Postal Museum spanned the decade which began with the Philypia exhibition in 1970 and ended with the London 1980 exhibition where he was presented to the Queen. During these years he established the reputation of the newly-founded Museum by dint of his wide philatelic experience and expertise. Both by his learned articles in the philatelic press and by a succession of highly effective exhibitions in the Museum and at International exhibitions, he made his mark in the philatelic world. On a personal level, he was an expert on Australian Postal history and was a joint holder of the Research Medal of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists Society.

Tony will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues in the world of philately both for his personal charm and his expertise. He always had time to spend with visitors or colleagues in patient explanation, pleased to share his enthusiasm for stamp collecting, yet always wearing his great knowledge lightly. His career in the Post Office culminated in the Museum's success in the Court of Honour at the London 1980 exhibition and with the simultaneous publication of his book on a subject dear to his heart, 'The Story of the Penny Black'. Our picture shows him as we feel he would like to be remembered, holding (in his own words), 'the Mona Lisa of the stamp world', the only complete sheet of penny blacks, when he was Curator of the National Postal Museum. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

86. British Explorers, 1973

Livingstone and Stanley, the two famous explorers of Africa, 'presumed' to meet once more on 18 April 1973, when the Post Office issued five stamps to commemorate 'British Explorers'. These two 3p stamps, appropriately issued together in *se-tenant* pairs within the sheet, showed Dr David Livingstone, who discovered the Victoria Falls, and H M Stanley (later Sir Henry), who went in search of Livingstone and found him at Ujiji in 1871, turning to each other in greeting. The other stamps portrayed (5p) Sir Francis Drake, the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world; (7½p) Sir Walter Raleigh, noted for his expeditions to the West Indies, North America and the Orinoco; and (9p) Charles Sturt, who, in the course of his many expeditions in Australia, discovered and opened up many rivers which became navigable. The stamps were designed by Marjorie Saynor, who adopted the same style and format – with maps in the background – as for her 'British Polar Explorers' stamps issued in 1972.

David Livingstone (1813-1873) was born in Blantyre, Lanarkshire, began life as a mill-worker, studied medicine and theology at Glasgow, and went out to Africa as a missionary in 1841, eventually travelling north and discovering Lake Ngami and the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi. In 1858 he went on a second expedition to explore the Zambezi and discovered Lake Nyasa, while on a third venture to search for the sources of the Nile his health began to fail – he was a sick man when Stanley found him and he died 18 months later. Henry Morton Stanley (1841-1904) was born in Denbigh, Wales, served in the Confederate army in America and became a special correspondent with the *New York Herald*, who financed his various expeditions – across Central Africa from 1874, and again in 1887 as the head of the Emin Pasha relief expedition. Stanley discovered Mount Ruwenzori and Lake Edward.

The exploits of Sir Francis Drake (c. 1540-1596), the greatest of the Elizabethan sea-



men, have filled numerous books. He served at sea under his kinsman, John Hawkins, and distinguished himself by his valour and daring against anything Spanish – ships, harbours and settlements. As a privateer he swooped upon Spanish ports across the world and despoiled them; in 1577 he sailed for America, passed through the Strait of Magellan and plundered the west coast of South America as far as Peru, lost all his ships except his own, the *Golden Hind*, returned home via the Cape – thus the first to sail round the world – and received a knighthood. In 1587 he destroyed 33 Spanish ships at Cadiz and (1588) helped to drive off the Spanish Armada. Another Devonian, Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618), soldier and man of letters, quashed a rebellion in Ireland and, in 1582, was introduced at Court, becoming a favourite of the Queen. He founded a colony in North America which he named Virginia in her honour, and brought back the potato and tobacco plants; he helped to crush the Armada, then, under James I, became a victim of intrigue and was committed to the Tower – where he wrote his *History of the World* – for 12 years, and was eventually beheaded.

Charles Sturt, a British army captain, went to Australia and, as leader of several important expeditions, discovered the Darling (1828) and Murray (1830) Rivers. Blinded by exposure and fatigue, he returned to Cheltenham, England, where he died.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (10 × 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. Apart from numerous omissions of colour and phosphor, a listed variety is a missing line on Dr. Livingstone's shirt. Quantities sold were: 3p 56,262,800; 5p 8,502,300; 7½p 6,572,700; 9p 5,229,900; presentation packs, 102,950.

JAMES WATSON

Youth Organisations Stamps Issue 24 March 1982

Cylinders used

15½p – 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2e, 1f.
19½p – 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 5e, 1f, 1g.
26p – 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.
29p – 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.

Vesting Day Postcards

The set of six postcards issued on 1 October 1981 to commemorate Vesting Day will be withdrawn from general sale at close of business 31 March 1982. Philatelic counters and the Philatelic Bureau however will continue to sell them until 30 September 1982.

National Postal Museum Postcards

The publicity postcard currently in use at the Museum is due for replacement and was withdrawn from sale on 26 February 1982. The design of this card which features the famous Penny Black, has remained basically unchanged since its introduction in 1971. The replacement publicity card became available from 1 March 1982 using a similar layout and incorporating the Machin head design used on the current definitive stamps. The cards will be available from the Museum Sales Counter price 13p each.

The Museum's 'Rowland Hill' postcard set which was issued on 22 August 1979, will also be withdrawn from sale on 31 March 1982. It is still available from the Museum at the current price of 50p per set until that date.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

A new Philatelic Sales Counter will be opened at the Head Post Office, St Mary's Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1AA on 29 March 1982.

A special handstamp bearing the words 'Official Opening Philatelic Counter 29 March 1982 Shrewsbury' will be applied on that date only to mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the St Mary's Street office.

For customers requiring the handstamp who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply, covers should be sent to: The Philatelic Duty, Marketing Operations, Shrewsbury HPO, SHREWSBURY, SY1 1AA.

The new counter will be open Monday-Friday 9 am-4.30 pm.

Trial Separations

The Phillips' 'Gem' for this month looks briefly at examples of the first serious attempts to separate stamps 'mechanically'. Successful separation of stamps was not in fact finally achieved until 1853/54 when a machine submitted by Henry Archer, an Irish London businessman, was officially acceptable. This was in its turn shortly replaced by a new machine (gauge 16) constructed by David Napier and Sons. However, before this time, attempts had been made to separate imperforate stamps and we are fortunate that some examples of these attempts have survived until today.

As every schoolboy knows, when the world's first postage stamp, the penny black, was introduced in 1840, they were printed in imperforate sheets of 240. It was not long before the ingenious Victorians were attempting to cut sheets of stamps by various 'mechanical' methods, which proved somewhat difficult with the limited technical

resources of the day. The first known device for separating stamps in quantity was used in 1844 in Boston, Massachusetts. The earliest mechanical separation on display in the Reginald M Phillips collection is shown on a penny used on a letter from Winchester in 1847.

The machine used for the stamp on the Winchester cover contained thirteen small circular blades which cut the sheet of stamps into vertical strips as it was fed under the blades. Usually the top (or bottom) margin was not severed, so that the sheet could then be stuck on to a board, and vertical strips cut off to the required length. The Penny Red on the cover, also the Twopenny Blue, both of which are illustrated, demonstrate the unsatisfactory nature of this process. Both these items can be found in volume XV/17 of the Reginald M Phillips collection which is permanently on display in the National Postal Museum.



Book Reviews

Stanley Gibbons' Great Britain Specialised Catalogue: Volume 4 (3rd edition)

Queen Elizabeth II: Decimal Issues

Price £9.50

There is very little one can say about SG's specialised stamp catalogues of GB issues that has not been said many times before. They are the undisputed leaders in the field and their preliminary notes and check lists alone are worth their weight in gold to any dedicated philatelist.

The hallmark of a world-class catalogue is not its size or price, much less its binding and illustrations, but the fact that it at once becomes the indispensable working tool of acknowledged experts. This catalogue and its three companion volumes can be found on the bookshelves of every major authority in the business.

This 3rd edition of Volume 4 has now been completely reset in a typeface which seems to have done wonders for its clarity. Some other alterations have been made to layout and these certainly aid quick reference. It is just as comprehensive as ever and as value for money cannot be surpassed.

Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan Specialised Catalogue

18th Edition.

Price £12.95

This is the 18th edition of a catalogue which caters for collectors who specialise in British and Commonwealth postage stamps of the current reign. It worthily maintains the reputation its earlier editions set as a standard reference.

Those of us who remember its predecessors will at once notice that it now has larger A4-sized pages. They will also discover how the larger pages result in easier reference. Very necessary too. This monster lists more than 32,000 stamps.

Among the newcomers is Vanuatu, formally the New Hebrides, but for my money the most exotically named newcomer is Zil Eloigne Sesel whose postal affairs are said to be conducted from a motor boat.

Prices of much modern material seems to have remained relatively stable. Some has even become a little cheaper, probably as a result of over-production, but classic stamps continue to rise sub-

stantially in price doubtless in consequence of what is termed 'collection for investment'.

At first sight this heavyweight volume may seem a bit expensive but the big Stan Gibs are, after all, in a class of their own.

1982 Regus Collectors' Guide to British Regional Cards and Covers

This 3rd edition lists all known post cards and covers issued by the British Post Office Regional Boards and the National Postal Museum up to December 1981. Market values are given in addition to details on dates of issue, types, errors, varieties, cachets, etc which are not to be found in any other similar publication on the market today. It is illustrated, and there is a useful map of UK postal regions.

The postmark enthusiast is well catered for with information on special handstamps and local cancels. Separate cover and card sections on-Souvenir visits to POs, PO Telecommunications, marketing and 'sold by' but not 'published by' the PO completes the information which both beginner and specialist collector of these now very popular items will find invaluable.

The book is available through specialist dealers or direct from the publishers - Regus Publications, Regus House, Longhurst Lane, Mellor, STOCKPORT SK6 5PY price £1.75 (+ 25p post/packing UK).

Forthcoming Event

Rayleigh and District Philatelic Society Silver Jubilee

On 27 March 1982 the Rayleigh and District Philatelic Society will hold a special Stamp Day to commemorate its 25th Anniversary, and host the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies.

The event will be held in the Mill Hall, Bellingham Lane, RAYLEIGH, Essex, SS6 7ED from 10.30 am. Twenty dealers will be present, there will be a film show, a stamp tombola and refreshments. The Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter.

The highlight of the day will occur at about 2 pm when the Norwich Insurance Horse-Drawn Mail Coach arrives with commemorative covers carried from Norwich to Rayleigh. Later during the afternoon, the President of the Society, Sir Bernard Braine MP, will present the prizes for the various competitions to be judged during the day.

Philatelic displays will be exhibited, including the County Competition Entries by the AEPS. Admission is by programme, price 10p at the door.

British Theatre Stamps Issue 28 April 1982

The subject of Historical Events has been chosen by the Conference of European Postal Administrations as the theme for the 1982 'Europa' stamps. The Post Office has chosen 'British Theatre' as its interpretation of this theme. The subjects and denominations are: Ballet 15½p; Harlequin 19½p; Drama 26p; Opera 29p.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available 'Stratford-upon-Avon' or 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover – price 14p – addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Stratford-upon-

Avon', or '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'	£1.30	£1.13
Deposit account customers	£1.25	£1.09
Service 'B'	£1.16	£1.01

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 19 April 1982.

Santa's 1981 Christmas Card

Nick Butterworth was the designer of Santa's 1981 Christmas card. The Philatelic Bureau despatch over 200,000 on Santa's behalf to children all over Britain who had written to the old gentleman c/o Reindeerland.



Commemorative Covers

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Postal Auction

In August of last year the Devon County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Committee produced a commemorative cover to coincide with the issue of the 'Duke of Edinburgh's Award Stamps'. One of these covers, bearing all four stamps, has been signed by His Royal Highness: the designer of the stamps – Philip Sharland, and the designer of the cover – Barbara Wotton. It is now available by postal auction and will be offered for sale to the sender of the highest bid in excess of the fixed reserve. Bids for the cover should be sent to: Awards Scheme Cover (Auction), 15 Barton Avenue, PAIGNTON, Devon, TQ3 3JQ, to arrive not later than 31 March 1982.

Proceeds from the sale will be devoted to the Award Scheme.

Dumfries Burns Club

The Dumfries Burns Club has produced a souvenir cover in connection with their annual Burns Supper, held on 25 January 1982 on the 223rd birthday of Scotland's national poet. A pictorial handstamp was used on this occasion depicting the punchbowl manufactured for the Club by Spode and bearing a portrait of Robert Burns on its side. Previous postmarks have featured Wedgwood wares but this is the first time that Spode porcelain has been depicted in postmark form. The vignette on the souvenir cover shows Burns' house in Dumfries, now a museum devoted to the poet. The filler card gives a detailed history of the punch-bowl which dates from 1820.

Fully serviced covers are obtainable from James Howitt, 18 Averill Crescent, DUMFRIES, DG2 7RY, price 75p each.

Lewis Carroll

To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Lewis Carroll on 27 January 1882 a limited edition of 500 covers designed by Peter Blake RA were produced. The covers featuring a portrait of Carroll, bears a 1979 'Alice' 13½p stamp cancelled by a special pictorial handstamp depicting Carroll as a photographer, are priced at £8 each. 50 only autographed by Peter Blake are available at £12.50 each. A postcard designed by Gerald King is also

available, stamped and cancelled as above at £1.50. Orders with remittances made payable to Hawkwood Stamps should be sent to: Hawkwood Stamps, 60 Hawkwood Crescent, LONDON, E4 7PJ.

Zoological Society of London

Charles Darwin was a fellow of the Zoological Society of London to whom he presented on his return from the voyage on *HMS Beagle* 'an extensive and rich collection of mammalia and birds collected chiefly in South America'. To coincide with the 'Charles Darwin' stamps issue on 10 February, the Society produced a specially-designed commemorative cover featuring a photograph of Charles Darwin. Bearing all four stamps cancelled with a special handstamp, the covers are priced £2.50 each. Order forms are available from: The Retail Manager, Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, LONDON NW1 4RY.

The Schneider Trophy 50th Anniversary

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Britain's outright win of the Schneider Trophy, a philatelic cover is currently available. The cover bears a reproduction of a watercolour, by Laurence Bagley, of the famous 56B seaplane, winner of the 1931 contest. An 18p 'Butterfly' stamp, depicting the Large Blue butterfly, is affixed. Both seaplane and butterfly are now virtually extinct.

The cost of the cover, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp dated 13 Sept. 1981, is £2.75 which includes return postage and reinforced packing. A very limited number of the covers, signed by the artist are available, price £6.25 each.

Orders with remittances should be sent to: Nordon Art Company, Exmoor House, Methuen Street, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 0FQ.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Scout District

The Newcastle-under-Lyme Scout District have presented a biennial 'Castle Capers' stage show since 1974. Scout shows cannot be described as Gang Shows until they have achieved the quality of production and organisation set by the early London shows. By 1980 the District with the benefit of experience and expertise gained from earlier shows were delighted when Ralph Reader had no hesitation in awarding 'Castle Capers' the coveted Gang Show status. To mark the first night of the fifth 'Castle Capers' and first Gang Show, 5 April 1982, a commemorative cover will be issued. The cover, printed in the movement

colours of scout green and purple, bears the Newcastle District Badge. A 26p 'Youth Organisations' stamp depicting scouts, will be affixed and cancelled with a special handstamp.

Serviced covers, price 70p are available from: Mr R N Walker, 15 The Crossway, NEWCASTLE, Staffs, ST5 0PQ.

Remittances made payable to 'Newcastle-under-Lyme Scout District Council' should be accompanied by a 9" x 5" SAE.

75th Anniversary of Scouting in Glasgow

This event is marked by the issue of a commemorative cover bearing a 25p 'Youth Organisations' stamp depicting the Scouts. The cover will be cancelled on 24 March 1982 and available from that date, price 60p (80p if required to be sent under cover). Blank covers are obtainable now at 30p each plus postage. A limited number of covers, signed by leading local Scout personalities will also be available, price £1.75 each. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Greater Glasgow Scout Council', should be sent to: Mr S K Hunter, The Scout Shop, 21 Elmbank Street, GLASGOW, G2 4PE.

Collectors wishing additional stamps on cover, 'Girl Guides' etc should remit accordingly.

Opening of Barbican Centre, London

Arlington Supplies Ltd of London, and Rembrandt Philatelics of Botley, Southampton, have jointly been appointed Official Philatelic Representatives for the new Barbican Centre in the City of London. The Centre will be opened by Her Majesty The Queen on Wednesday 3 March 1982.

Arlington Supplies and Rembrandt Philatelics will operate under the name of 'Philatelic Representatives', will produce a cover to commemorate the opening, bearing an appropriate stamp cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp. The cost is £1.35 each plus postage. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Philatelic Representatives Account', should be sent to: Philatelic Representatives, PO Box 143, Green Lanes, LONDON, N13 4XN.

Yorkshire County Bowling Association

To commemorate their 50th Anniversary, the YCBA is producing a special cover to coincide with the Youth Organisation stamp issue on 24 March. Depicting a Bowler in action the cover will be cancelled by a pictorial handstamp which incorporates the Yorkshire Rose. The cover will be available

bearing a single 'Youth Organisation' stamp at £1.25, or bearing the full set of stamps at £2.50. Additionally a limited number of the latter covers signed by David Bryant, the world champion, will be available at £4.75. Orders with remittances made payable to S Muscroft should be sent to, Mr S Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, Guisborough, CLEVELAND TS14 8JJ.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bedford

To raise funds for restoration a strictly limited edition of 100 special covers has been produced. Featuring a sepia photograph of St Marys and bearing a full set of the Christmas stamps cancelled with the 'Bethlehem Llandeil' handstamp, the covers bear the signatures of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of St Albans, the Bishop of Bedford and the Vicar of St Mary's. This unique cover is priced at £10. For orders and further information please contact Mr G Sowerby, 47 Ballinghall Close, BEDFORD, MK41 0AB, telephone number 0234 65847.

Westminster Abbey Monuments Fund

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the death of Charles Darwin a special cover designed by Gerald King is now available. Bearing all four 'Darwin' stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamp which includes the words 'Westminster Abbey' the cover costs £3 including P&P. Orders with remittances made payable to Hawkwood Stamps, should be sent to Hawkwood Stamps, 60 Hawkwood Crescent, LONDON E4 7PJ.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Memmott

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

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