

January 1993

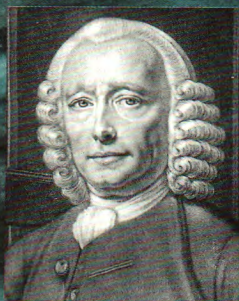


Royal Mail

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 30. No: 5

The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 70p



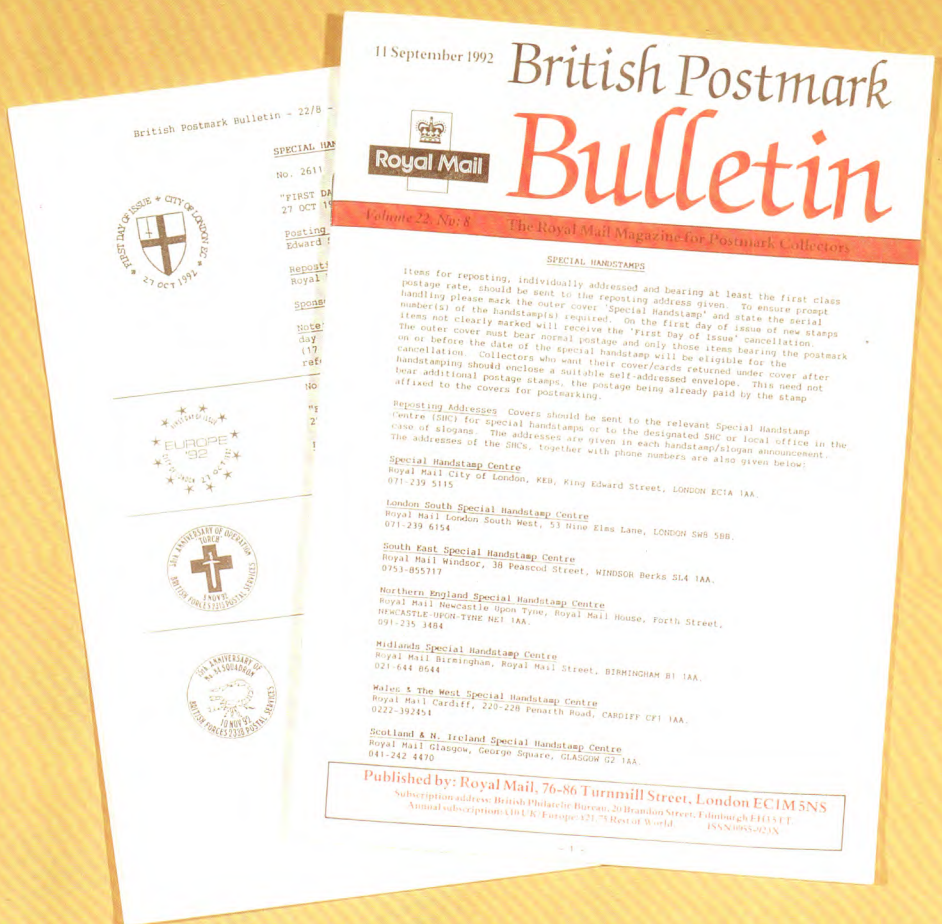
John Harrison



1993 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Harrison, one of Britain's greatest horologists. Four "Marine Timekeepers" stamps featuring different layers of Harrison's "H4" clock, completed in 1759, are being issued on 16 February.

British Postmark Bulletin

The Magazine for Postmark and First Day Cover Collectors



The British Postmark Bulletin is the Royal Mail's magazine for Postmark collectors, providing full information on all forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans.

Published fortnightly it also contains information on First Day of Issue postmarking arrangements and includes addresses to send your covers for postmarking.

To receive your Bulletin on a regular basis place your order now with:

British Philatelic Bureau
FREEPOST
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 0HN

Annual subscriptions (post free)

UK and Europe £10.00

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Send for a FREE sample copy
from the above address

Bulletin Supplement

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin office.

Swans. Benham are producing a number of covers and postcards for the Swans issue of 19 January:

Wildfowl Trust – The Swan, particularly Bewick's Swan, is synonymous with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, which has long been the principle conservation agency for the wetlands in this country. To coincide with the beautiful Royal Mail Swans stamps the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust are producing five different first day covers, *i.e.* Slimbridge, Castle Espie, Caerlaverock, Martin Mere, and Llanelli, each with its own pictorial postmark. Each cover bears the five Swans stamps, relevant pictorial postmark and different Swan picture. Price £4.99; signed by Lady Scott £8.99. Limited numbers are being produced. Postage 50p per order. Cheques payable to "Wildfowl Trust".



Abbotsbury Swannery – As far back as 1393 there was a Swannery at Abbotsbury where Benedictine monks kept swans, probably as a source of fresh meat. This colony of mute swans is the only one of its kind in the world. The Abbotsbury Swannery cover shows a full-colour picture of swans printed on a silken fabric and mounted in a gold frame (hallmarked to indicate the use of real gold). The five stamps are cancelled with an oval Weymouth postmark featuring Swans. Price £7.99, postage 50p. Remittances payable to "The Abbotsbury Swannery".

Bird Watching Magazine – An official cover has been specially designed as a readers' offer for *Bird Watching* magazine; it is expected to be very popular. A photograph of a Whooper Swan with young has been printed in full colour on "silk" and framed in gold. The pictorial postmark shows a swan in flight and will be used at Peterborough, where *Bird Watching* magazine is based. Price £4.99, postage 50p.



"Silk" Postcards – A set of five luxury postcards will comprise five photographs of swans printed on our famous "silk" and framed in gold; each bears a single stamp. They will be cancelled with the five special Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust postmarks Slimbridge (headquarters), Castle Espie, Caerlaverock, Llanelli, and Martin Mere. Each card carries a panel of information about swans on the reverse. Price £12.50 per set, postage 50p. All orders/enquiries regarding Benham covers/cards to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Swans – Livery Companies. The Vintners' and Dyers' Livery Companies have the right, shared with the monarch, of keeping swans on the River Thames. To coincide with the Swans stamps, both Companies have given their permission for the production of limited edition first day covers: *The Dyers'* – Cover features a full colour reproduction of a painting by Peter Scott. This painting is on display in the Dyers' Hall. This



cover, No. 111 in A G Bradbury's LFDC cover series, costs £5.95 (limited to 1000), or £9.75 signed by the Swan Warden.

The Vintners' – Cover features an engraving of swans with the Company's crest in gold-leaf. This cover, No. 73 in the Victorian Print series, is limited to 500 copies and costs £6.75, or £9.75 signed by the Master of the Vintners' Company. Cheques payable to "A G Bradbury"; overseas add £1 and remit in Sterling. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



Greetings. The 1993 Greetings stamps feature literary characters from children's novels and comics, including Just William, Big Friendly Giant, Rupert Bear, Bash Street Kids and Tweedledee & Tweedledum from *Through the Looking Glass*. A first day cover concentrating on the theme of Alice will be available – depicting the various characters encountered by Alice. A special handstamp has been sponsored at Daresbury, birthplace of Lewis Carroll. Covers with full set of stamps, price £7.50 each. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. Overseas please add £1 and remit in Sterling.

Cricket. The first covers in a new Benham Cricket series mark the 100th anniversary of the Sheffield Shield in Australia. A pair of covers are being issued. Covers will also be available signed by Donald Bradman and Dennis Lillee at £7.50. Benham are also producing a set of 18 covers for the Australian's British Tour and 120th anniversary of County Cricket. Each County will have its own cover, featuring its team squad. A special postmark will be sponsored for the visit of the Australians. Covers will also be available signed by stars and teams. All of these new covers cost £3.50 each. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.



Civil War. Benham are producing a series of covers commemorating events of the Civil War. The first year is now complete; eight covers chronicle the history and people involved in the War in 1642. The first cover records Charles I's attempt to arrest the dissidents in Parliament on 4 January; the last marks the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Edgehill on 23 October. Further covers will be issued in 1993. Price £3.50 individually, or £3 per cover on standing order. The eight 1992 covers bought as a "First Year Set" cost £24. An attractive illustrated album is available to house the covers, price £20. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.



Stained Glass Museum. The Museum produced, in association with Cover Craft, a first day cover for the 1992 Christmas stamps. The cover, featuring a stained glass window showing St Matthew, is available with the full set of Christmas stamps cancelled by a special Ely handstamp. Price £5.25. Orders/enquiries: The Curator, Stained Glass Museum, 10 Ferry Lane, Chesterton, CAMBRIDGE CB4 1NT. The Museum is located in the North of Ely Cathedral.

Waterstone's Bookstores – Promotion for Greetings Stamps

As mentioned in the December issue, Waterstone's and Royal Mail are running a joint promotion for approximately four weeks, beginning on 2 February 1993 featuring the new Greetings Stamps. The promotion will run at all 90 of Waterstone's Bookstores, which are located throughout the UK.

As part of the promotion, Waterstone's will be selling their own exclusive First Day Cover featuring a full pane of the Greetings Stamps, with a Special Handstamp. Only a limited number of covers will be sold at each outlet, priced £4.99. In addition, Waterstone's will be selling Greetings Stamp Books and the associated Presentation Packs and Stamp Cards. During the promotion, around 50 of the bookstores will have extensive window displays featuring the characters from the Greetings Stamp issue and the books in which the characters feature.

There will be a special letter writing competition with superb prizes of book vouchers and philatelic products. Entry forms will be widely available in all of the stores and letters will be judged by a panel comprising Quentin Blake, the illustrator of Roald Dahl's books and of the Big Friendly Giant Greetings Stamp, together with a representative from Royal Mail, Waterstone's and the stamp designers, Newell & Sorrell. The competition involves writing a letter in the style of one of the characters featured on

the Greetings Stamps.

At the following seven bookstores, Special Handstamp Centre staff will be cancelling covers in the store on the First Day of Issue of the Stamps – Tuesday 2 February, so do not miss this unique opportunity to have your own Waterstone's cover cancelled before your eyes! The stores are:–

Waterstone's, 24/26 High Street, BIRMINGHAM
B4 7SL

Waterstone's, 2a The Hayes, CARDIFF CF1 2AH
Waterstone's, 132 Union Street, GLASGOW
G1 3QQ

Waterstone's, 68/69 Hampstead High Street,
LONDON NW3 1QP

Waterstone's, 193 Kensington High Street,
LONDON W8 6SH

Waterstone's, 104 Grey Street, NEWCASTLE
UPON TYNE NE1 6JG

Waterstone's, 2/6 Hill Street, RICHMOND,
Surrey, TW10 6UA

Special display banners are being produced in support of the promotion. A limited number of these posters are being produced and will be on sale in Waterstone's Bookstores during February while stocks last, with proceeds going to the Roald Dahl Foundation. The posters will be priced at £9.99.

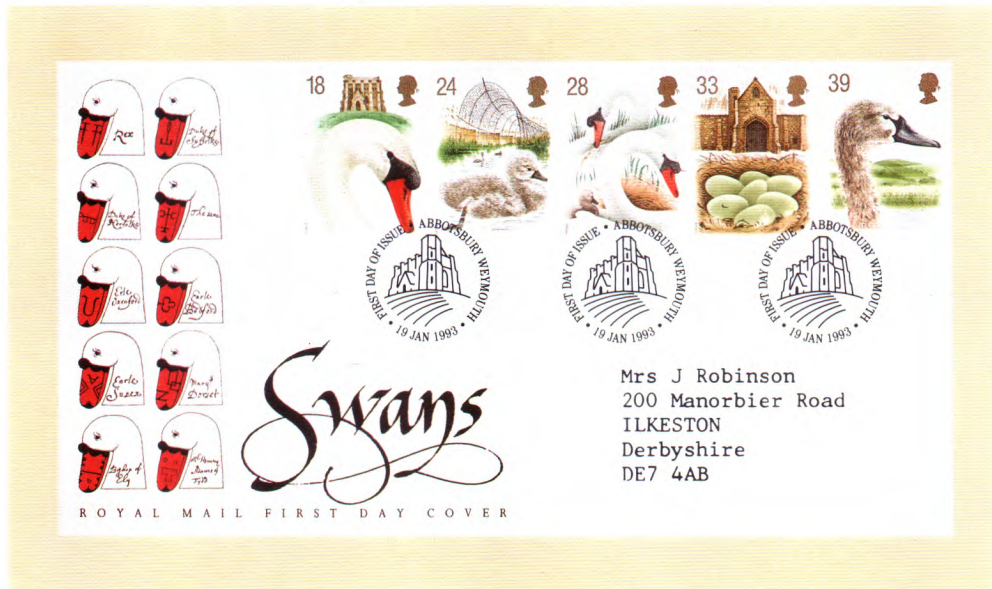
Finally, if you would like to reserve an exclusive Waterstone's First Day Cover (£4.99 + P&P) or a Promotional Banner (£9.99 + P&P), you may order them in advance by mail order from Waterstone's: Tel: 0225 448595 or Fax: 0225 444732.



Swans First Day Postmarks

The two Royal Mail pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks for the Swans issue are British Philatelic Bureau and Abbotsbury, Dorset. The alternative postmark was originally announced for Abbotsbury, later changed to Weymouth but changed back to Abbotsbury. We regret that the

first day cover illustrated on page 78 of the December *Bulletin* shows the Weymouth postmark – it was not possible to change this and meet the printing schedule for the December magazine. It should be noted that the Weymouth postmark is *not* being used on actual covers. We regret any confusion caused. A cover with the Abbotsbury, Dorset postmark is shown here.



Greetings Issue – Dual First Day Covers

Collectors will be aware that the Guernsey Post Office is issuing Rupert Bear stamps on 2 February 1993 day of issue of the Royal Mail Greetings stamps. It has been decided that on this one occasion Royal Mail will relax the postmarking rules to allow covers bearing the Guernsey stamps cancelled with the Guernsey First Day postmark to be subsequently postmarked with British cancels. Collectors may affix the Royal Mail Greetings stamps to covers bearing the Guernsey issue and forward them within six weeks of 2 February to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT to have the Bureau or Greetland First Day postmark applied. Please state clearly which postmark is required and include a suitable size self-addressed envelope (unstamped) in which your first day cover(s) can be returned to you.

Stop Press

Express Newspapers stamp promotion

In a special stamp promotion in conjunction with Royal Mail and Guernsey Post Office, Express Newspapers Plc will be offering a unique souvenir first day cover featuring Rupert Bear stamps from both postal administrations on a specially designed envelope. Details of the cover will appear in the *Sunday Express* in late January 1993.

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Editor: JR Holman

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Subscriptions should be sent to:
 British Philatelic Bureau
 20 Brandon Street
 EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Binders to hold 24 issues, price £6.75. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) and to callers only at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin** giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, Rest of World £21.75.

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Main Feature

Marine Timekeepers

100



John Harrison who perfected the Marine Chronometer is honoured on four new stamps on 16 February. The alternative “First Day of Issue” postmark will be provided for Greenwich where Harrison’s clocks are preserved in the National Maritime Museum.

Marine Timekeepers

16 February 1993



Four stamps commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Harrison, who perfected the Marine Chronometer, go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters on 16 February. The stamps feature different layers of Harrison's "H4" Clock (one of five prototypes, now known as H1–H5), completed in 1759. The clocks can be seen at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.



The values cover the inland 1st Class and EC basic rates (24p), Europe, non-EC basic rate (28p); worldwide postcard rate (33p); and basic airmail letter rate (39p).

The **24p** stamp shows a decorated enamel dial with precision centre-seconds indication. The **28p** stamp shows the escapement, remontoire and fusee with automatic 'maintaining power'.

The **33p** stamp shows the timekeeping element, including balance and spring and bimetallic temperature compensation. The **39p** stamp shows the pierced and engraved back of the movement.

John Harrison, (1693-1776) is hardly a household name, yet he is possibly Britain's greatest horologist. He was of humble Yorkshire origins and almost entirely self-taught, yet his invention of the accurate portable timekeeper (the chronometer) was to prove vital for safe navigation at sea, thus helping to secure Britain's vast empire, and was to be the forerunner of all precision watches.

The stamps were designed by Howard Brown, a freelance graphic designer working in London. Previous work for Royal Mail include designing a booklet on the history of British films in 1985, and a set of stamps to mark the bicentenary of Ordnance Survey in 1991.

Technical Details

Printer:	The House of Questa
Process:	Offset lithography
Size:	35 × 37mm, "almost square"
Sheets:	100
Perforation:	14 × 14½
Phosphor:	Phosphor Coated Paper
Gum:	PVA
Presentation Pack:	No 235, price £1.55
Stamp Cards:	Nos 150A-D, price 21p each.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters approximately two weeks before 16 February, price 21p.



The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the five stamps cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Greenwich, price £1.82 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.55 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers



Postage stamps 24p, 28p, 33p, 39p
 Facing design © Royal Mail 1993
 Format: vertical. Size: 25 mm x 37 mm
 Publication: 14.9.93. Number per sheet: 100
 Paper: unwatermarked phosphorescent
 (24p, 33p, 39p)

Part number: 215
 Design: Howard Bevis
 Text: Jonathan Bell, National Maritime Museum
 Printer: Litho-Link Limited, United Kingdom
 All illustrations and paintings by permission of
 National Maritime Museum, London except portrait of
 Harrison by permission of Jonathan Bell.
 Quailpiece on system illustration by permission of
 David Pacey, drawing of 12 by permission of the
 Syndics of Cambridge University Library.

Number: 215

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
 MARINE
 TIMEKEEPERS



Mrs J Robinson
 200 Manorbie Road
 ILKESTON
 Derbyshire
 DE7 4AB



Definitive Stamp Cards

Stamp cards reproducing the designs of the current £1, £1.50, £2 and £5 Castle High values and of the new £10 Britannia definitive will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters from 16 February 1993, price 21p each. The new £10 stamp will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 2 March.

A "First Day of Sale" handstamp will be available at Windsor for these cards. Cards, bearing at least the minimum 1st Class postage rate (24p) on address or picture side, should be sent, on 16 February, to: South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peascod Street, WINDSOR, SL4 1AA. Please ask for "Stamp Cards First Day Handstamp"

New Stamp Books

Two new machine books will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters on 9 February 1993; they will be available from post offices as stocks of earlier issues are used up. These books begin new series – 50p Postal History, and £1 Educational Institutions. The 50p book will, as usual, be printed by Harrisons and will contain 1p and 24p stamps as in the Archaeology books. The £1 book will be printed by Walsall, yielding 2p and 24p stamps in litho with straight edges. As with the Harrison stamps, the Walsall values will be on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP), with PVA Dextrin gum.



A new book of 10 × 1st class stamps will also be available from philatelic outlets from 9 February. It will feature an advertisement for the Greetings (Gift Giving) stamps on the cover. Printed by Walsall, the stamps will be on ACP with PVA Dextrin gum. As previous Walsall printings have been on PCP with PVA gum, this



must be received at the Bureau by 16 February.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Greenwich cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail London SW, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB. The outer envelope should be endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark".

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.



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

There will be no souvenir cover; these have now been discontinued.

The presentation pack contains a discount voucher for entry to Historic Maritime Greenwich sites.

book will yield two new variations for specialist collectors.

Both books are given a philatelic “first day of availability” but *not* “first day of issue” so no “First Day of Issue” postmarks will be available.

Scottish Aerogrammes

Two Scottish aerogrammes will be issued during 1993 – to mark the 150th anniversary of the granting of the Royal title to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and the 900th Anniversary of the death of St Margaret, Queen of Scotland. The aerogrammes are expected to go on sale during March and July respectively. Further information will be published shortly.

New Handstamp Centre Manager

Jean Cassidy has succeeded Robert Alexander as Manager of the Scotland & Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre in Glasgow. Mr Alexander is now Customer Care Manager at the British Philatelic Bureau.

Stampex Awards

Congratulations to P Kenton and P J Wood, awarded the Royal Mail Trophy and National Postal Museum Medal at Autumn Stampex/BPE. Mr Kenton's entry was “Mail by ‘British’ to and from Latin America”; Mr Wood's exhibit was entitled “Troubles and Transition: Ireland”.

Bulletin contributor Douglas Myall received a silver medal for his *Bookmark Catalogue of Great Britain Decimal Stamp Booklets* (6th edition). *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, received a silver.

NPM News

Postcards

The National Postal Museum will issue five new postcards on 19 January, numbered 93/1-5. These feature aspects of the “People in the Post” exhibition, on show at the Museum until May 1993. The cards cost 25p each. Minimum order £1, plus handling charge of 24p on orders up to £24, £2.14 on orders over £24 (sent by registered post). Orders/enquiries to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. The cards will also be available from the British Philatelic Bureau.

A special handstamp will be used on 19 January 1993. Cards/covers to receive this should be sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City of London, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Please ask

for “NPM Special/19 January”. The Museum's regular Maltese Cross cancel will also be available. Readers are referred to the announcement in the December *Bulletin* about the concessionary use of the 18p Swans stamp on 19 January to receive special handstamps.

Friends of the Museum

There were many complimentary remarks made about the displays provided by the Friends at Autumn Stampex (13-18 October); the exhibits covered subjects as diverse as pre-stamp covers to modern aerogrammes and postcards. Some 40 new Friends were recruited at the exhibition.



A prize draw was arranged, the first prize being a pair of fine prints of the old GPO. The prize winners were: V J Benning, A L Kennedy, F O'Neill, N Dickinson, and Miss A M Shaw.

The seventh AGM on 21 November was well attended, Friends and guests enjoying a presentation by the British Postmark Society to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first slogan postmark (“Buy War Bonds”).

Details of membership of the Friends can be obtained from: R Pottle, Secretary – Friends of the Museum, National Postal Museum, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Jeffery Matthews's Colour Scheme For Machin Definitives

The Background Story: Part 1

ANGELA REEVES, FCSO FSTD *Design and Editorial Manager, Royal Mail*

You may have noticed that the tariff-change of September 1988 brought stronger and brighter colours for the Machin definitives. This is part of an attempt to revert to the original concept of the Machin head which was, quite simply, a light head on a strong dark background.

The original colour palette for definitive stamps was based on work done at Cambridge University in 1969/70 and consisted of about 14 colours, all tested to be easily memorable and discernible, one from another, in large sorting offices with variable lighting. However, over the years, particularly with the introduction of decimal currency and the half penny, the number of values required grew enormously. New colours and tones were added to the range and, eventually, the Cambridge approach to colours virtually disappeared. In 1983 there were three ways in which the head was used: (1) light on dark, (2) dark on light, and (3) medium on a gradated tonal background. Many of the colours had become insipid and dull; the Machin

definitive range badly needed "spring-cleaning".

At this point I attended an internal Post Office meeting entitled SCAMP, chaired by John Mackay then head of Philatelic Marketing. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together all those concerned with stamps and stamp associated products at regular intervals, to keep each other informed and as a platform for new ideas. The areas represented were (in no special order) design, print-purchasing and stamp distribution, research and development, philatelic engineering (for special philatelic equipment), print production, and marketing.

Among those who attended a particular meeting (8 November 1983) at the Philatelic Marketing Headquarters, Finsbury Square was Aubrey Walker, of Post Office Research and Development. Although not part of his particular expertise (chemistry), he posed the question "Why do stamp colours need to change when the tariffs change?" He suggested that colours be assigned to particular rates, or roles



Jeffery Matthews signing first day covers bearing definitive stamps in his colours at a meeting of the Friends of the National Postal Museum. (Photo: Cyril Macey)

(for example, 2nd class, 1st class, the then European postcard rate, and zones A, B and C), and that only the values be changed as tariffs changed. This, it was felt, could be a problem when handsorting mail as rather more than a quick glance would be required to establish whether the stamp was of the correct value.

Two-Tone Solution

To solve this problem, it was suggested that two tones of the same colour be chosen for each rate, the use of which would be alternated as the values changed. Aubrey particularly requested that, two tones of blue be used for 1st class and two of green for 2nd class, (i.e. for the bulk of mail), as in those days the phosphor coating of the stamp paper “read” best when there was a minimum amount of yellow present in the colours: for instance strong reds posed problems, the yellow content of the ink obscuring the phosphor signal.

In passing it should be noted that Aubrey, remembered with much affection in The Post Office, was a fanatic about the phosphor signalling qualities of stamp paper. It was always said of him that, if he had his way, all stamps would be quite blank with no ink on them at all!

John Mackay enthusiastically supported this idea which, if adopted, would enormously ease the pressure of work at tariff change, in that all the colours could be preformulated and preproofed and would be instantly available, instead of the existing procedure which required that this work be done sometimes almost overnight.

It was decided to investigate the idea and, as a first step, I was charged with developing a range of pairs of colours. To the uninitiated this may seem a very easy task, after all, there are hundreds of colours – or are there?

To return to the Cambridge experiments and to remind oneself of the original criteria for the choice of colours seemed to be the right way to start. As a result I understood the criteria to be primarily ease of memory and differentiation in difficult lighting. Having enormous respect for the quality of definitive stamps and their original designer, Arnold Machin, OBE, it seemed to me high time that this concept of a beautiful symbolic head standing out clearly on a dark ground should be returned to as fast and as much as possible. The constraints of modern operating and printing requirements needed consideration – for example, phosphor-coated paper and light fast inks, the former introduced for Royal Mail

operations, the latter to help safeguard the interests of philatelists.

A further complication with this new attempt to review the range of colours was that the range was to consist of *pairs* of colours, the first two pairs being two blues and two greens. Given the particular nature of the Machin stamp, it was not sufficient just to pick a range of colours based on existing standard ink mixes, available to all. Machin colours should be special, formulated from the actual chemical components of the inks from scratch by the printer, this mix being recorded and used only for British definitive stamps. But how to achieve this?

Enter Jeffery Matthews

Now was the moment, it seemed, to commission a designer to evolve the range of colours and who better than Jeffery Matthews, with his intimate knowledge of the Machin definitive. He had already designed the symbols for the Country (Regional) definitives, the new hand-drawn lettering for the values, and he has enormous sensitivity to colours.

Jeffery came to see me in April 1984; he was delighted at the opportunity to re-establish the “real” Machin quality of the stamps. We agreed that we would return to the “real old-fashioned way” of making colours, out of the paint pot, mixed by eye. These paint swatches would then be given to the printer as a basis from which to start, to be matched to printing inks, again by eye, so far as possible given the very different qualities of paint and printing ink. The resulting inks would be “smudge” proofed, reproofed on a flat-bed press, reproofed on an existing cylinder on machine and finally proofed again, not only for colour but also for tone within the heads. Each stage would be thoroughly reviewed by Jeffery, the printers, and myself.

A tariff change was not expected for a year or more, so we knew there was time for this work but Jeffery felt, given the tasks the colours would have to perform, that he would indeed need all the time available. During the next few months Jeffery’s studio was covered in a sea of paint palettes, (prevented from drying out by putting water on top of the paint mixes), and hundreds of bits of card, some 2 × 4in., painted one end and referenced the other. Jeffery also tried all the colours under varying light conditions to check that the resulting, inevitable colour changes did not cause visual confusion between colours. He had three different light sources over his drawing board, which was situated near the window to provide real daylight.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.40 Parliamentary Envelopes

When the rudiments of a public postal service in England became operative in 1635, Thomas Witherings, already with experience as "Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts", became responsible for the inland service as well. Witherings is credited by good authorities with having suggested the public service.

Up to then, the inland mail service was confined to Royal and Governmental correspondence and those who played any part were re-imbursed out of the Royal Household purse. Witherings "farmed" the public inland service, i.e. paid the Crown an agreed annual sum for the privilege of handling letters at fixed rates based on distance. He also agreed to handle Royal and any other official mail free of charge which meant that the Crown received the "rent" from Witherings and no longer paid for the delivery of Royal Mail.

In 1652 a decree of the Council of State gave Members of Parliament and certain state officials (as distinct from the King and his Ministers), the right to free postage. Letters addressed to the individuals and concerning public affairs could be sent free by members of the public. The letters from MPs and the exempted officials had to bear the official seal of the sender or, where no such seal existed, the outside of the letter had to be signed by the sender.

To ensure that this special mail was handled correctly, handstamps incorporating the word FREE were applied to all items by the Post Office.

Free franking, with small variations in the regulations over the years, continued until 1840 despite the considerable abuse of the system by some of its privileged participants. Some Members of the Lords and Commons were not above signing the fronts of letters for non-privileged individuals. A fee well below the proper postal rate was charged by the "bent" peer or MP who profited at the expense of the PO.

The advent of the Uniform Penny Post brought an end to the franking system on 10 January 1840, the day that the 1d for ½oz and 2d for up to 1oz rates were introduced

In October 1984 Jeffery returned to Finsbury Square to review progress with me. The range of pairs of colours presented was, almost perfect. The aim within this range was not only to arrive at light and dark pairs of colours but to make sure that each pair was differentiated from the others and yet looked attractive with them. Adjustments were agreed and we had two further meetings, in November and December 1984. The final presentation of the complete range was on 9 January 1985.

It is almost impossible to explain how the subtleties of colour were achieved, or to quantify either the amount of work involved or the nuances and shifts of colour explored before the range evolved into its final form. There is certainly no machine that could do this and nothing more sensitive, literally, than the eye of a well-trained and experienced designer at detecting colour shifts or anticipating results; even the drying of the paint can lighten it and "skew" the result. Jeffery's persistence, patience and considerable skills were used to good effect. The table of results is given below:

1st Class	2nd Class
Dark Blue	Dark Green
Light Blue	Light Green

Zones A, B, C, D (order to be determined)

Dark Brown	Rust	Purple	Crimson
Sand	Light Tan	Ash/Pink	Flame

Alternatives for Zones A, B, C, D

Dark Grey	Dark Turquoise
Light Grey	Sea Green

All colours were fairly obvious pairs, easily distinguishable, one from another. They were given simple, descriptive names, again fairly easy to remember by all the people involved, from the sophisticated chemist to the inexperienced packer. Finally, they looked well!

© Angela Reeves

In Part 2, Angela Reeves describes the next stage — the translation of paint swatches into actual printing inks.

Editor's Note: Accounts of the Cambridge University colour experiments can be found in the *Bulletin* of January 1971, page 12; and in Stuart Rose's book *Royal Mail Stamps* (Phaidon, Oxford, 1980), pp. 100-102.

To be posted at the Houses of Parliament only.
 Post Paid.—**One Penny**.—Weight not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

10

John Pease
 East Mount
 Darlington



Houses of Parliament envelope, used 17 January 1840 (National Postal Museum, London).

nationwide after a month of the experimental 4d uniform rate. Members of both Houses objected to the loss of their privilege despite the new rates being so low that they were able, in most cases, to afford to pay their own postage.

The point was also made that busy people such as MPs could not spare the time to take letters to the PO and queue to pay the postage in cash. (The adhesive 1d and 2d stamps which could be purchased in advance to pre-pay postage did not appear until nearly five months later.)

To ease the withdrawal symptoms experienced by apoplectic peers and MPs, special Parliamentary Envelopes became available on 16 January for their exclusive use. These envelopes were available for letters up to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz at 1d, and up to 1oz at 2d each.

Douglas Muir in *Postal Reform of the Penny Black* (1990) says that these envelopes were sold at the cost of the postage, i.e. there was no charge for the pieces of stationery themselves. Robson Lowe in *The British Postage Stamp* (1968), which describes the Reginald M Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum, says, "It is believed that the envelopes were provided free of charge in the Members' stationery racks".

Whatever their original distribution, all three major varieties of these Parliamentary Envelopes are scarce. The 16 January issue was inscribed "To be posted at the Houses of Parliament only. Post Paid—ONE PENNY (or TWO PENCE) – Weight not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ oz (or 1oz)". Both values were printed in black.

Later in January 1840 similar 1d and 2d envelopes, printed in vermilion, were issued with a reversed inscription reading: "(Temporary) To be posted at the House of Lords only". Similar 1d envelopes, but inscribed, "To be posted in the House of Commons only" and printed in black were made available to MPs.

Mr Muir comments that no 2d House of Commons envelope has been recorded. The same author states that seven varieties of the Lords envelopes and eight of the Commons envelopes are known, these being slight variations in the setting of the printed matter. In view of the rarity of all of these envelopes, most collectors would happily settle for one of each of the five main types, i.e. Parliament 1d and 2d; Lords 1d and 2d; Commons 1d.

© Kenneth F Chapman

Greetings (Gift Giving)

2 February 1993



The fifth issue of colourful Royal Mail Greetings Stamps will be released on 2 February 1993 comprising 10 first class NVI stamps each with a different design. The stamps will be sold in a book, including 20 free Greetings labels, available from post offices, selected shops, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters, price £2.40.

The theme of the designs is "Gift Giving" the stamps feature characters from children's books and magazines — Long John Silver and Parrot; Tweedledum and Tweedledee; Just William; Toad and Mole from *The Wind in the Willows*; characters from The Bash Street Kids cartoon strip; Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit and Mrs Rabbit; Father Christmas and the Snowman; The BFG (Big Friendly Giant); Rupert Bear and Bill Badger; and Aladdin and the Genie.

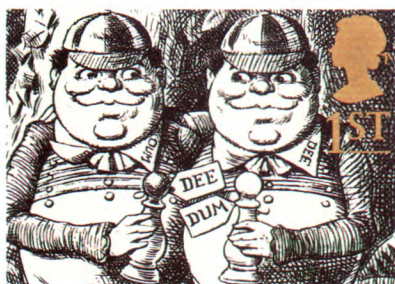
The book will also contain 20 colourful labels bearing greetings messages and illustrations.

The stamps were designed by Newell and Sorrell; details of the origination of each of the designs are printed on the inside back cover of

the book. For the first time, stamp cards will be issued, reproducing the designs of each of these greetings stamps.

Technical Details

<i>Printer:</i>	Harrison and Sons Ltd
<i>Process:</i>	Photogravure
<i>Size:</i>	41 × 30mm, horizontal
<i>Perforation:</i>	15 × 14, with elliptical perforation on vertical edges of each stamp
<i>Phosphor:</i>	2 bands per stamp
<i>Gum:</i>	PVA Dextrin
<i>Presentation Pack:</i>	No. G2, price £2.70
<i>Stamp Cards:</i>	Nos GSIA-J, price 21p each
<i>Pane:</i>	The pane consists of 10 stamps in two rows of five horizontally. The labels are printed five across and four deep, affixed in the book separately from the stamps. The overall size of the finished book is 95 × 60mm.





First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes and stamp cards will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters approximately two weeks before 2 February 1993, price 21p each.

Collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the 10 stamps cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Greetland, price £3.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £2.71 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 2 February.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers or stamp cards, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Greetland cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail House, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

NE1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed "Bureau (or Greetland) First Day of Issue postmark".

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

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

There will be no souvenir covers; these have now been discontinued.

Earlier Greetings Books

Both the "Smiles" and "Memories" books





"...best present anybody is
ever giving me in my whole life!"
cried the Big Friendly Giant, the BFG.
"A splendid cake," gasped Rupert.
"For ever."



**GREETINGS
STAMPS**

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

(issued 26 March 1991 and 28 January 1992) will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on 1 February 1993, being replaced the following day by the new "Gift Giving" greetings book. Both Smiles and Memories will continue to be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters until further notice.

Greetings Stamps at Bookshops

The Waterstones bookstore chain are very much in favour of the Greetings Stamps which are being issued on 2 February, featuring well loved characters from the works of Beatrix Potter, Roald Dahl, Richmal Crompton, and others. Waterstones will be selling the Greetings Stamp

Book, related stamp products and a wide range of the authors' books during their promotion which will run in all of their 90 stores for up to one month from the first day of issue of the Greetings Stamps.

It is expected that Waterstones will be producing their own Commemorative Cover for the Greetings Issue, with a special cancellation, and that these will only be available from the bookstores. We are hoping to provide special cancelling facilities at stores which are located close to our Special Handstamp Centres. Details of this promotion had not been finalised at the time of going to press. Please enquire at your local Waterstones bookstore nearer the time of issue for further details.

Decimal Stamp Books-5

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

New Window Books

Eight window books with revised covers, etc. went on sale on 22 September 1992. The change was not caused by an increase in rates but by the cessation of the seven books with the Olympics and Paralympics logotypes which had signified Royal Mail's sponsorship of the British teams for the Barcelona games. The outer cover design reverted to the pre-Olympic type but the blue barcodes were retained; this feature enabling the earlier books to be distinguished readily.

The eighth book in the new set contains 10 × 2nd-class non-value indicator (NVI) stamps printed by Harrison, the first such book from this firm for two years and the first time that they have printed books of the light blue NVIs with the Royal Mail cruciform logotype on the covers. The long life of photogravure cylinders is demonstrated by the fact that Harrison are still using the same ones that they used for the very first NVI stamps printed on their Jumelle press on 22 August 1989.

The Walsall covers are 2mm wider than formerly and there is a small gap between the top and bottom edges and the panes. WSP are also using a new latex adhesive for closing the books *and* for affixing the panes to the covers. This is easily removed by rubbing (like Harrison's). These changes must mean that new methods of book assembly have been introduced, and I hope to say more about them in my next article.

Harrison book cover showing light blue stamp, cruciform logo, and blue bar code.

Shrievalty Books

The 50p and £1 machine-vend books with cover illustrations drawn by Jeffery Matthews to commemorate the millennium of the founding of the office of sheriff also went on philatelic sale on 22 September. The contents are unchanged from the Archaeology and Punch issues and the cylinder combinations seen so far are: 50p, B35 B2 and B35 B4; £1, B21 B1.

The 50p B35 B2 combination has been seen in all five Archaeology books (the first design exists with incorrect and corrected rates, see this column in the May 1992 *Bulletin*) but B35 B4 has not been reported in the first Archaeology with incorrect rates nor in the 4th Archaeology. In the £1 books, combination B21 B3 appeared for the first time in the 4th Punch book (reported on 2 October 1992). It may well appear in the Shrievalty book so keep a lookout for it.

The Shrievalty design is a one-off and new series will begin with the books to be issued on 9 February. The theme for the 50p covers is Postal History. This was a popular subject on the mixed rate counter books with folded covers from May 1981 to July 1985 and ran to 14 editions. The £1 covers will have Educational Institutions as the design theme. The usual run for a machine book theme is four issues.

Cylinders, etc. Update

New cylinder/plate numbers seen subsequent to my last article (November 1992) are given below.



These stamps are valid whatever the current postage rate and may be used for first class items up to 60g in the UK or up to 20g to countries in the European Community (EC). They can also be used as part payment for postage on heavier items, both within the UK, and to countries in the European Community.

European destinations for which these stamps can be used are: Andorra, Belgium, Denmark, France (including Corsica), Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Ireland (Rep. of), Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal (also Azores and Madeira), San Marino, Spain (including Balearic and Canary Islands), Vatican City State.

They should not be used for any other international destinations.

Pull Open

Amended text re use of NVI stamps, (Walsall 1st class book 22 September 1992).

In the table, a blank cell indicates that the existence of the item is not known; a dash (–) means that it cannot exist. The dates are those when the combination was first seen on general sale; there is no official first day for particular ones. Note that some combinations have appeared in both Olympic and post-Olympic covers. There were no Questa books of 1st-class stamps with Olympic covers.



New Royal Mail leaflet about NVI stamps.

Printer	Content	Barcode	Cover design		Date	Notes
			Olympic	Post-Olympic		
Harrison	10 x 1st	100197	B3	B3	22.9.92	1
	10 x 2nd	100265	—	B1/B84	22.9.92	
Walsall	4 x 1st	100180	W9 W18 W12	W9 W18 W12	20.9.92	2
			W9 W19 W12		24.9.92	
			W9 W19 W13		20.10.92	
	4 x 2nd	100272	W6 W8	W6 W8	28.8.92	2
	10 x 1st	100197	W10 W9 W11	W10 W9 W11	25.4.92	2
			W11 W9 W11		13.10.92	
	10 x 2nd	100265	W14 W9	W14 W9	9.4.92	2
Questa	10 x 1st	100197	—	Q7 Q7	22.9.92	
			—	Q8 Q8	22.9.92	
	10 x 2nd	100265	Q8 Q8/Q1		20.6.92	
			Q9 Q9/Q1		28.7.92	
			Q10 Q10/Q1		11.8.92	
			Q11 Q11/Q1	Q11 Q11/Q1	29.8.92	2

Notes: 1 The Olympic book was issued on 21.1.92 2 The post-Olympic book was issued on 22.9.92

Validity of NVI stamps

The inside covers of all the new window books contain details of the extended validity of NVI stamps which was mentioned here last August, but the wording of the text in the books of 2nd-class stamps has been modified. A single 2nd-class NVI is insufficient to prepay postage to any country abroad and this includes the Republic of Ireland. Until 20 October 1986, letters to the Republic required only the same prepayment as inland letters, but from that date, the Irish authorities decided to charge the UK for delivery of letters from here. It therefore became necessary to increase the rates to those applicable to mail for other members of the European Community. Even after six years the fact is not widely known, and the text reminding the public has been reset in capital letters.

Following the agreement of our European partners to accept NVIs as valid for the prepayment of mail to them, the leaflet which I mentioned here in August has been completely re-designed and was available from post offices from early September. It shows four NVI stamps in their issued colours over the EC device of a circle of yellow stars. It is still headed "Stamps which just say first or second . . ." but their extended validity is now spelt out clearly. Interestingly, the leaflet states that Royal Mail is working to gain worldwide acceptance for these innovative stamps and they seem confident that this will eventually be agreed.

© D G A Myall

Welcome and Bidding Farewell

Mr Michael Heron takes over as part-time Chairman of the Post Office Board from Sir Bryan Nicholson on 1 January 1993.

Mr Heron was born in Kent in 1934 and educated at St Joseph's Academy, Blackheath, and at New College, Oxford, where he read history. He joined BOCM Limited in 1958 as a management trainee; was appointed regional sales manager for the north west in 1965 and marketing manager in 1969. Following the formation of BOCM Silcock Limited in 1971 he became a director in several divisions.

In 1976 Mr Heron was appointed chairman of Batchelors Foods Limited and in 1982 he became deputy co-ordinator for Unilever's Food and Drinks businesses. He was elected to the Boards of Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. in 1986 and appointed chairman, Unilever (UK Holdings) Ltd. Additionally, he became regional director for continental Europe in 1987 and in 1989

personnel director for the Unilever group. Mr Heron is married and has three children.

Mr Ken Young, Deputy Chairman of The Post Office, retired at the end of 1992. Educated at the universities of Wales and Manchester, Mr Young joined The Post Office in 1972, having held senior appointments with Massey-Fergusson, Smiths Industries, and GEC. In The Post Office Mr Young has been Board Member Personnel and Corporate, Managing Director Royal Mail Parcels, Chairman Post Office Counters Ltd and Subscription Services Ltd. He was appointed Vice-Chairman in 1986, and Deputy Chairman in 1990. We wish him well in his retirement, enjoying his recreations, given in *Who's Who* as photography and Chelsea Football Club.

Two Year and Joint Bulletin Subscriptions

As announced in the August *Bulletin*, we are making our subscriptions more flexible for regular readers of the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins by introducing additional options, namely:

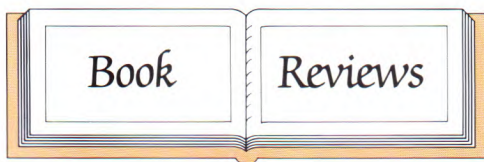
(1) A joint subscription to both magazines will be offered providing our customers with the opportunity of receiving a discount when they purchase both publications.

(2) Two year subscriptions will be offered enabling customers again to take advantage of a discount for continued readership.

Readers will notice from the table below that we have equated the price of the *Bulletin* subscriptions for the United Kingdom and Europe, rather than retaining the current differentiation in pricing. This has obvious benefits for our readers who reside in Europe and serves to simplify our pricing structure. The new subscriptions options are:

	UK/Europe		Rest of World	
	1 Year	2 Years	1 Year	2 Years
Philatelic Bulletin	£8.00	£15.00	£11.50	£22.00
Postmark Bulletin	£10.00	£19.00	£21.75	£42.50
Joint Subscription	£16.00	£30.00	£31.25	£60.50

Subscribers are requested to advise the British Philatelic Bureau in good time if they want to change from a one year to a two year or joint subscription when their current subscription expires.



The 44th edition of the annual Stanley Gibbons **Collect British Stamps** is now available – providing a clear, colour-illustrated listing of all GB stamps from 1840 to the 1992 Christmas issue. Listed and priced are stamps with different watermarks and perforations, visible plate numbers on Victorian issues, first day covers of special issues and of QEII definitives, presentation packs, yearbooks, stamp (PHQ) cards, gutter pairs, and Royal Mail Postage Labels (“Framas”).



Included is an interesting and useful “Guide to the Decimal Definitives: Some hints on how to sort and collect them” by Hugh Jefferies, Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and himself a collector of Machin Stamps. The five-page article provides advice on Sorting Litho and Photogravure Printings; Gum Types; Changes to the Design and Paper; Stamps with Imperforate Edges; Booklets and Coils; and Technical Improvements. The last-mentioned gives information on phosphor bands, All-over phosphor, and phosphorised paper (Phosphor Coated and Advanced Coated Paper).

Mr Jefferies concludes his article with a warning that Machins are both complex and addictive: “...If, as a beginner, the field seems complex and impossibly large, do not worry – set your own boundaries before you start. Make the decision that you will ignore any of the factors which you are not happy about... It is possible however that after a few months you could be actively seeking what at present seem the most obscure varieties, phosphor screens, head types, print directions, perforator changes and any number of other features of these fascinating stamps – you have been warned!”

Available from Gibbons Strand shop; Stanley Gibbons Publications, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH; British Philatelic Bureau; National Postal Museum; and selected Collections, philatelic counters, and post shops. Price £4.95.

Collecting British First Day Covers, by N.C. Porter and A.G. Bradbury, is a recognised work of reference. The 1992 edition amounted to 396 pages and the publishers decided that “the format would require a radical review if it was to be maintained as a single volume”. The 1993 (12th) edition results from this review. It is no less useful although it contains 236 fewer pages and costs £6 less! This has all been skilfully achieved by reducing the type size (still easily readable) and number of illustrations to make a clear, concise listing of the special handstamps, relevant ordinary “First Day of Issue” postmarks, C.D.S. (circular datestamp) postmarks and appropriate slogan postmarks for each issue. The listings are arranged in separate sections for commemorative (special) and definitive issues. The former includes the Greetings stamps; the definitive section incorporates covers bearing booklet panes, coils, postage dues, Framas, and regionals (country stamps). A first day cover of the Penny Black (6 May 1840) is priced at £28,000, the Twopence Blue (8 May 1840) at £3500.

The colourful front cover of this new edition features seven covers from the 1964 Forth Road Bridge issue to the recent Civil War set. Three free first-day covers are included in the book. Available from: A.G. Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER, LE2 3RA, price £3.95.

Herbert Grimsey’s **Check List of Postage Stamps about Music** will be well-known to all music thematic collectors. Mr Grimsey has now produced a 1992 supplement which lists

stamps issued since the 1990 edition was published, previous omissions and a few corrections. This useful supplement comprises 48 loose-leaf (punched for filing) sheets for adding to the 1990 edition. The stamps are listed in chronological order, alphabetically by country with relevant Stanley Gibbons and Scott catalogue numbers. Price £3; copies of the 1990 book are still available, price £10, from: A H R Grimsey, 14 Mulberry Close, BRIGHTON, BN1 6QE.

The 10th edition of Volume 1 (Queen Victoria) of the **Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue** will as always be welcomed by serious collectors of Victorian issues.

The listings are enormously detailed and do require careful reading. A careful check of your stamps against these listings may well reveal previously unknown varieties, worth considerably more than the "normal" stamp. Over 1000 illustrations aid identification of such varieties. The useful "Historical Introduction" has been extensively and skilfully revised following Douglas Muir's *Postal Reform and the Penny Black* book (published by National Postal Museum, 1990) to provide a clear and concise account of the developments leading up to the issue of the Penny Black.

The "Further Reading" list (over 150 references) is most helpful, as are nine indexes and checklists including a checklist of essays, die proofs, etc of the Line-Engraved issues, and indexes to catalogued varieties.

Once again Editors David Aggersberg and Robert Oliver are to be congratulated on a job well done. Price £25 casebound, £18.95 limp, from stamp and book shops, or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, address above.

Connoisseur Publications have produced the 9th edition of their well-known **Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps**. The catalogue, a useful reference work for all collectors of the Machin series, has received recognition at the highest level, with national and international silver medals and the National Postal Museum Medal. Containing details of all stamps, booklets and panes, coil strips, cylinder blocks, FDCs, presentation packs and postal stationery bearing the Machin head to the end of 1991, it has simplified checklists as well as more extensive listings including paper,

gum and phosphor band types, value types and settings, errors and varieties. It also contains helpful illustrations, diagrams, extensive explanatory notes and identification aids for paper, gum, phosphor and perforation types,

New sections cover NVIs and Double Head issues. The window booklet section has been greatly expanded and revised (due to the enormous activity and interest in this field) as have the sections on Northern Ireland Litho issues and pre-decimal booklets and panes. Included for the first time is a comprehensive table of postal rates of the Machin era.

Price £16.95, the catalogue is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, stamp shops, or direct from the publishers at: 27 Maiden Lane, LONDON WC2E 7JS.

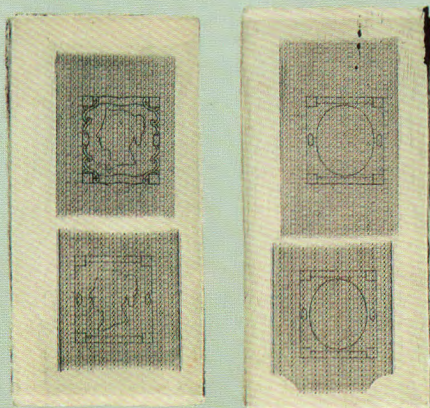
Edward (Ted) Proud is well known for many publications on postal history. His latest work **The Postal History of British Air Mails** provides a detailed account of services and rates with valuations for covers/cards bearing clear examples of postal markings.

In his foreword Mr Proud writes: "Although collecting air mail covers has always been very popular, little attention and research has been given to the actual postal history of the subject. An item taken into the air for ten minutes and given a rubber cachet at one of the early aeronautical rallies, generates much interest (and a higher price) than a cover illustrating the problems arising from the severing of the Imperial air routes during the 1939-45 War." Chapter 1 deals with pigeon and balloon posts, the 1911 Windsor flights, RAF services 1916-20 (information includes number of flights and weight of mail carried). The lengthy Chapter 2 records the chronological development of the air mail services following the Air Navigation Act, 1919. Many useful maps and evocative photographs of aircraft are included. Chapter 3 (even longer) details the air mail rates from the UK, arranged alphabetically by country from Aden to Zanzibar. The rates cover the period to 1945. Chapter 4 deals with foreign airlines used to carry British air mails, including the Dutch K.L.M, Air France and the Condor Line. Again there are many fascinating maps, aeroplane photographs and reproductions of travel posters. Underpaid air mail and air mail marks are the subject of Chapter 5; the book closes with an account of the Second World War airgraph service. 576 pages, hardbound. Price £50, from: Proud-Bailey Co Ltd, PO Box 74, HEATHFIELD, E Sussex, TN21 8PY.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

205. The 1879 Tender

On 23 December 1878 the Board of the Inland Revenue gave six months notice to Perkins Bacon & Co to terminate the contract for printing the 1d, 1½d, and 2d postage stamps and 12 months to terminate the ½d contract. On 15 February 1879 the company submitted a series of surface printed and copper-plate designs, all having the head separately printed and pasted on. The Phillips Collection includes progressive proofs showing the transfer of the roller dies on which William Ridgeway engraved the outline of five different designs, three of which feature a head of Queen Victoria. These are shown on pages 6 and 7 of Vol. XXXVII, together with an oval design, used as the prototype for the St Vincent ½d stamp in 1861. Mounted on the pages are illustrations of the complete essays which are in the Royal Collection. Shown here on the four Ridgeway designs on page 6.



The Phillips Collection can be seen at the National Postal Museum, in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Open Monday-Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm, admission free.

Posting Boxes

137. Victorian Wall Boxes

This month we feature two VR Wall Boxes, situated very far apart.

The first photograph, submitted by Dr David Scott of Cheshire, shows the box he noticed, whilst on holiday, at the Ladysmith Siege Museum, Natal.

The box is still in regular use. Dr Scott tells us that the siege of Ladysmith lasted for 115 days when residents and British forces were besieged by the Boers during the early part of 1900.



The second photograph, sent in by P J Christopher, also of Cheshire, shows the box at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent. The plate on the box is inscribed "ADMIRAL SUPT HOUSE 7"; the box is set partly into brick, partly into white cement.

Victorian Wall Boxes have featured here on several occasions, most recently in March, May and July 1990, and July 1992.

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

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



Design Debate

Readers frequently submit their views on British stamp design and policy and letters are published here from time to time. Readers' views are also included in the report on our annual Special Stamps Poll. Mr H Jack Harden of West Midlands has written in praise of the 1992 Christmas stamps but is less than complimentary about some of the issues which have won international design awards. He writes:

"There must surely have been something wrong with the thought processes or aesthetic standards of those responsible for awarding the Italian Asiago prize for stamp design to the Smiles greeting stamps and the Ordnance Survey stamps. Did the judges have their tongues in their cheeks when they chose these designs for 'this prestigious award'. If not is it really prestigious?

"Let us have stamps that have dignity, reflecting a land of hope and glory, not infantile pop designs. Fun is all very well but our postage stamp is not, I submit, the proper place for it. Granted the use of the maps in the Ordnance Survey issue was an imaginative concept, but I wonder what people overseas made of it? Do people other than philatelists look at stamps?

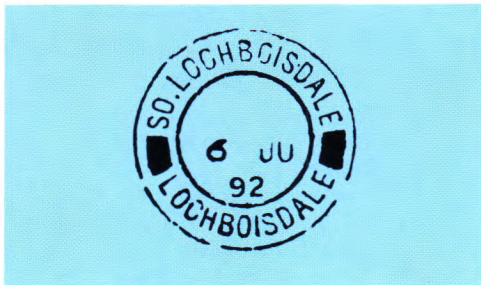
"As for the Single European Market stamp, David Hockney's symbolic star looks rather like a yellow ghost running with arms outstretched or maybe floundering amid a culture of disease-infected blood (blue, of course) corpuscles. Surely the Single European Market deserved better? Or could it be that Mr Hockney disapproves of it?

"Now, may I commend the designs of the 1992 Christmas (stained glass) stamps – bold straightforward illustrations of the Christmas theme."

I think the important point is that what professional designers and philatelists regard as good design is often very different. However in the case of the Maps stamps the two groups seem to agree – as well as getting the Asiago prize for stamp design, the Maps came top of our 1991 Readers' Poll. The Smiles issue was not so well thought of by *Bulletin* readers.

Caravan Post Offices

G C Johns of Bedfordshire writes: "Further to the note in Postbag in October, the post office at South Lochboisdale, Isle of South Uist is also located in a caravan. The datestamp was issued in December 1944. Does any one know the oldest date stamp still in use?"



Christmas Congratulations

The 1992 Christmas stamps were well received and we were delighted with readers' comments, such as those by Mr P D Riches of Milton Keynes: "May I offer warm congratulations on the latest Christmas 1992 stamp designs which are outstanding in design appeal, and also reflect the true meaning of Christmas. Well done!"

Definitive Numerals

Stamp designer Jeffery Matthews writes: "As one who has been closely concerned with the development of the definitive stamps over the years I was interested in the opinions expressed in the feature 'The Machin – Your Views on Change' (*Bulletin* November 1992). I do not wish to get into deep discussion here on the many points made, but I would like to clarify the position regarding the design of the numerals. Whilst it is quite correct, as stated in the editorial note, that the typeface used with the introduction of decimalisation in 1971 was "Perpetua", I think it is worth reminding readers that a completely new font of numerals was designed by me and has been gradually introduced throughout the range of stamps since 1983.

"Whilst on the subject of numerals, may I take this opportunity to lay to rest once and for all the mistaken idea that the presently used form of numeral '1' is either correct or incorrect. This belief seems to stem from ignorance concerning the formation of the terminations, or serifs, which appear on some letterforms. Let us be quite clear about this. The roman capital letter 'I', the roman and arabic numeral '1' and, for that matter, the lower-case letter 'l' are in their simplest form a vertical stroke. This is admirably

demonstrated by the typeface 'Gill Sans' (see illustration). The terminations which we refer to as serifs have simply come about by the requirement of the calligrapher, type-designer, engraver or letter-carver wishing to clarify the ends of the letter stroke. These serifs are entirely incidental, and whilst adding to the beauty and clarity of the letterform have no significance whatsoever in determining the identity of a particular character."

Gill Sans • Monotype

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 1234567890 ß &!£\$(,;:)

All letters sent to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in "Postbag" or other sections of the Bulletin. Readers' comments relating to stamp issuing policy are brought to the attention of the relevant Royal Mail Manager. The Editor regrets that he is unable to reply personally to all letters – to do so would seriously delay production of this, and the Postmark Bulletin.

Events

NPM = National Postal Museum

until Feb 93. "Victorian Revenues & Other Fiscals" exhibition of material from the Phillips Collection at NPM, LONDON EC1. Open Mon-Fri 9.30-16.30.

until May 93. "People in the Post" exhibition at NPM.

12 Jan-May 93. "Britannia" exhibition at NPM.

23 Jan 93. Telford Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, 190 Holyhead Road, Wellington, TELFORD, TF1 2DW. Tel: 0952-223926.

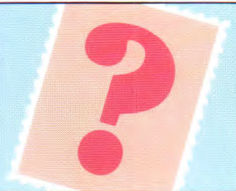
2-7 Mar 93. Spring Stampex at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1. Enquiries: STAMPEX, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

Note: Includes Eur-Apex '93 airmails exhibition.

24 Apr 93. Association of Essex Phil Societies Spring Stamp Day at Laindon Community Centre, Basildon. Enquiries: L C Stanway, 25 Clay Hill Road, BASILDON, Essex, SS16 5DD.

24 Apr 93. Telford Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Belmont Hall. See 23 January for details.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice – stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: January Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail National, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 26 February.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Orchids stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the April *Bulletin*.

1. Howard Brown designed which 1991 set of stamps?
2. How many new Friends of the National Postal Museum were recruited at Autumn Stampex?
3. Who was head of Philatelic marketing in 1983?
4. Which famous bear appears on one of the forthcoming Greetings stamps?
5. Who is the new Chairman of The Post Office Board?

The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail National and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the October competition were: E E Tallis of Dorset (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); D Hall of Merseyside; M G Garford of New Zealand; C E B Dixon of Devon; D C Tester of Essex; and N J C Foley-Fisher of Co Westmeath, Ireland (presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. 13-18 October 1992; 2. 1884; 3. The Inklings; 4. Richard Corsie; 5. King Edward Street.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until June 1993. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

7 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamp cards (AQ218)
21 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamps (AS510)
21 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan pack (AP106)
28 Jul	50p book – Archeology 4 (TB017)
28 Jul	£1 book – Punch 4 (TB018)
28 Jul	78p book – Kellogg's Bran Flakes (UB053)
1 Sep	Green Issue stamp cards (AQ224)
8 Sep	4 x 33p book (UB062)
15 Sep	Green Issue stamps (AS516)
15 Sep	Green Issue pack (AP107)
15 Sep	NPM Artefacts postcards (NQ914)
15 Sep	NPM Machin postcard (NQ915)
22 Sep	50p book – Sheriff's Millennium (TB019)
22 Sep	£1 book – Sheriff's Millennium (TB020)
22 Sep	4 x 1st class book/W (UB055)
22 Sep	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB054)
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/W (UB057)
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB056)
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/H (UB061)
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/H (UB060)
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/Q (UB059)
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB058)
29 Sep	Single European Market stamp card (AQ229)
6 Oct	Christmas aerogramme (QX015)
13 Oct	Single Euro Market stamp (AS521)
13 Oct	Single Euro Market pack (AP108)
27 Oct	Tolkien Prestige Stamp Book (YB004)
27 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ230)
27 Oct	Mail Pack C4, 1st class (RV001)
27 Oct	Mail Pack C4, 2nd class (RV002)
27 Oct	Mail Pack C5, 1st class (RW001)
27 Oct	Mail Pack C5, 2nd class (RW002)
10 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS522)
10 Nov	Christmas pack (AP109)

10 Nov	Christmas stamp book (UB063)
10 Nov	1992 Collectors' Pack (AR027)
10 Nov	1992 Yearbook (AY031)
1 Dec	50th Anniv Aerogramme (QO028)
1 Dec	Aerogramme Pack (QO027)

Forthcoming

5 Jan	Swans stamp cards
19 Jan	Swans stamps and pack
19 Jan	Greetings stamp cards
19 Jan	NPM "People in the Post" cards
2 Feb	Greetings stamps and pack
2 Feb	Marine Timekeepers stamp cards
9 Feb	50p book – Postal History No 1
9 Feb	£1 book – Educational Institutions No 1
9 Feb	10 x 1st class book/W
16 Feb	Marine Timekeepers stamps and pack
16 Feb	High Value stamp cards
2 Mar	£10 Definitive
2 Mar	Orchids stamp cards
16 Mar	Orchids stamps and pack
6 Apr	50p book – Postal History No 2
6 Apr	£1 book – Educational Institutions No 2
27 Apr	Europa stamp cards
6 May	NPM "Gems of the Museum" cards
11 May	Europa stamps and pack
1 Jun	Roman Britain stamp cards
15 Jun	Roman Britain stamps/pack

Notes:

The 4 x 33p book (8 September) has revised text and contains stamps on paper with PVA Dextrin gum.

The NVI stamp books (22 September) include the revised wording about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail but do not have the Olympic/Paralympic logos on the front cover.

The Walsall 10 x 1st book of 9 February bears a reference to Greetings books on the back cover.

W = Printed by Walsall Security Printers;

H = Harrison & Sons; Q = House of Questa.

CUSTOMER KNOWS BEST.



January Digest

Issued in January/early February

19 January: Swans stamps – 18p, 24p, 28p, 33p, 39p.

Designer: David Gentleman

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, 30 × 41mm, perf 14 × 15, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum, Phosphor Coated Paper.

Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau, and Abbotsbury.

Presentation Pack: No. 234. Price £1.75.

19 January: Greetings (Gift Giving) Stamp cards, 10 designs, Nos. GS1A-J, 21p each.

Note: The Greetings stamps go on sale on 2 February 1993.

19 January: National Postal Museum postcards – five cards featuring subject on the “People in the Post” exhibition. Price 25p each.

Note: NPM Cards are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, and National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP

2 February: Greetings Stamp Book containing 10 × 1st class stamps featuring “Gift Giving” (characters from books, comic strips, films, etc) and 20 greetings labels. Price £2.40.

Designer: Newell and Sorrell.

Printing: Harrison and Son Ltd, photogravure, 41 × 30mm, printed on non-phosphor paper overprinted with 2 phosphor bands. PVA Dextrin gum. Perf 15 × 14, with elliptical perforation on vertical edges.

Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark: British Philatelic Bureau and Greetland.

Presentation Pack: No. G2. Price £2.70.

9 February: 50p and £1 machine books containing 2 × 1p and 2 × 24p stamps and 2 × 2p, 4 × 24p stamps and 2 labels respectively. Start of new series of cover designs: 50p Postal History; £1 Educational Institutions.

Printing: 50p – Harrisons, photogravure, ACP, PVA Dextrin gum. £1 – Walsall, litho, ACP, PVA Dextrin gum. This yields four new stamp variations – 2p litho, ACP, straight edge left; 2p litho, ACP, straight edge right; 24p litho ACP, straight edge left; 24p litho, ACP, straight edge right.

9 February: 10 × 1st class book, Walsall with advertisement for Greetings stamps (Gift Giving) on cover.

Printing: Walsall, litho, ACP, PVA Dextrin gum. This yields two new stamp variations – 1st litho, ACP, straight edge top; 1st litho, ACP, straight edge bottom. Previous Walsall printings were on PCP with Dextrin gum.

Withdrawn in January/early February

13 January: Wintertime Stamps, presentation pack, Stamp cards and souvenir cover.

20 January: 3p definitive, issued 5 May 1987; 50p definitive issued 13 March 1990.

20 January: 50p and £1 machine books – Archaeology 2 and Punch 2.

20 January: Walsall 4 × 2nd, 4 × 1st, 10 × 2nd and 10 × 1st and Harrison 10 × 1st NVI books, issued 21 January 1992. These books all bear the Olympic/Paralympic logos on the front cover.

5 February: Happy & Glorious stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

6 February: National Postal Museum Queen's Accession Cards (4) and King Edward Building Card.

Note: These five cards will be withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic on 6 February; they will remain on sale at the National Postal Museum.

Late News – New Pictorial Aerogramme

A pictorial aerogramme will go on sale on 9 February 1993, price £2 per pack of six. The aerogramme, printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited has been designed by DMB&B Direct to promote the Royal Mail International Pen Pal Club.

The packs will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, and Collections.

