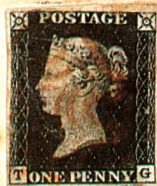


British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 26

Number 9

May 1989



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Late News

The new 50p and £1 machine books mentioned in the April *Bulletin* will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 18 July. The Scottish aerogramme featuring William Playfair will be released on 8 August. Further information will be published shortly.

In last month's *Bulletin*, details were given of five new NPM postcards to be issued on 5 May and two special handstamps on 6 and 16 May. In addition a special handstamp will be used on 5 May worded NPM CONGRESS POSTCARD 5 MAY 1989 – BRIGHTON & HOVE CONGRESS '89 – CITY OF LONDON EC. Items for reposting to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

This Month

On our front cover we feature this month's Gem from the R M Phillips Collection – a first day cover of the Penny Black – one of the most important treasures in the National Postal Museum. The cover, addressed to Henry Lucas Esq, Solicitor, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, bears a single stamp with red Maltese Cross cancellation and the London "B" datestamp of 6 May 1840 (in black).

We have chosen this as appropriate to National Stamp Day and to remind us that it is now just a year to go to the 150th anniversary of the issue of the Penny Black and the staging of the international stamp exhibition "Stamp World London 90". The story of the Penny Black will be told in a display mounted by the NPM in conjunction with the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Library Philatelic Collections. Further news of this will be given in the *Bulletin* nearer the time.

Special (commemorative) stamps were issued for the centenary of the Penny Black in 1940 and for the 1970 and 1980 international exhibitions. Details of the Post Office's plans for 150th anniversary and "Stamp World London 90" issues will be given in next month's *Bulletin*.

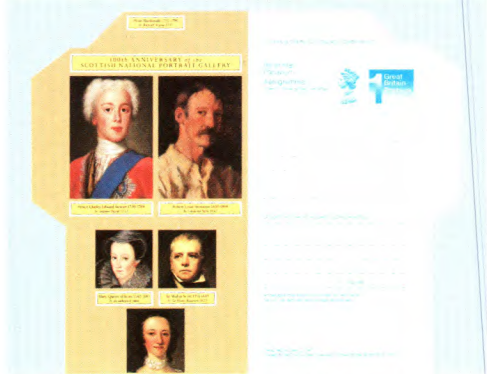
Readers are reminded that the Festival of Food & Farming, sponsored by the ASDA supermarket chain, is being held in London's Hyde Park from 5 to 7 May. This is one of many events taking place as part of "Food & Farming Year". The Post Office will have a stand at the exhibition and the Food & Farming stamps will be on sale. A special handstamp and cover are being sponsored – see the Commemorative Covers feature in this issue for details.

Food & Farming Year was launched by the Duke of Edinburgh last December. In addition to the Festival, an exhibition entitled "Food-chains" will be touring the country and a service of thanksgiving will be held at St Paul's Cathedral in November. Details of events can be obtained from: British Food & Farming, 35 Belgrave Square, LONDON SW1X 8QN, tel. 01-245 1088.

An Image of Scotland

BARBARA LAST

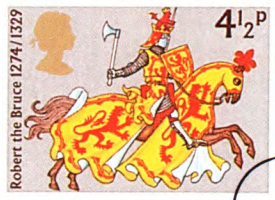
Postally 1989 is proving to be a Scottish year. In February the Scottish Post Office Board issued a pack of six postcards of portraits of famous Scottish inventors/engineers, all geniuses in the field of communications. March brought a £5 Prestige Book with, for the first time, Scottish Country definitive stamps, together with a short history under the title "The Scots Connection". April gave us a further addition to the Scottish aerogramme series which has already covered many significant aspects of Scottish history. The design of the new aerogramme explodes with a veritable galaxy of notable names. Apart from



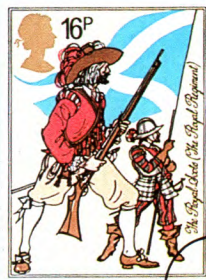
three historical characters – Mary, Queen of Scots; Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora Macdonald — the others are mainly exponents of the Arts. Some like the comedian Sir Harry Lauder and the novelist Sir Compton Mckenzie of *Whisky Galore* fame are new to us; others like the lyric poet Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott, Scotland's finest novelist, have already appeared on British stamps.

The Scots were, and are, bonnie fighters, founding the Clan system and the wearing of the tartan – shown on 11p stamp in 1976 British Cultural Traditions set (SG 1012). Robert the Bruce (1274-1329) was crowned king in 1306, but war between Scotland and England was practically continuous, and it took him eight years and the Battle of Bannockburn to clear his land of the English. He was portrayed on the 4½p stamp in the Great Britons set of 1974 (SG

958). Although the Declaration of Arbroath acknowledged Robert as King of Scotland, its independence was not recognised until 1328; the signing of the Declaration was depicted on the



5d stamp in the 1970 Anniversaries set (SG 819). The Royal Scots regiment was raised in 1633 in the reign of Charles I, the grandson of Mary, Queen of Scots. It is the oldest of our line regiments and one of our most famous, whose 350th anniversary was marked by the 16p stamp in the 1983 British Army set (SG 1218).



The Jacobite Cause

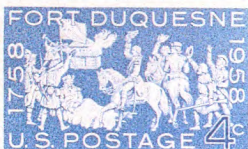
When Protestant William and Mary deposed Catholic James II, the Scots supported the Jacobite cause and wished to restore James. But they lacked a leader of character until his grandson, Prince Charles Edward, raised his standard at Glenfinnan, where a statue stands to commemorate the Highlanders who followed him to their death, marching south as far as Derby. The monument was depicted on the 14p

stamp of the 1981 National Trusts issue (SG 1155) and on the first Scottish aerogramme, issued in May 1974.



Driven back into Scotland, the “45 Rebellion” ended at the slaughter of Culloden. Bonnie Prince Charlie fled, and the Jacobite heroine Flora Macdonald won everlasting fame by helping the fugitive escape by taking him, disguised as her maid, in an open boat from South Uist to Skye. The uprising was put down with the utmost savagery. Highland dress was proscribed, and the ban on the wearing of the tartan was not repealed until 1782 – commemorated by a Scottish aerogramme issued on 25 August 1982. The crofters suffered grievously and starved. The great exodus that impoverished the Highlands as Scottish immigrants sailed to the Colonies is recalled by the design of Canada’s 8c. stamp issued in 1973 to mark the 200th anniversary of the arrival of settlers at Pictou, Nova Scotia on the ship *Hector* (SG 758).

John Forbes (1710-59), born in Dunfermline, trained as a doctor in Edinburgh but never practised. Instead he joined the Scots Greys and served in the War of Austrian Succession. He then fought the French in North America and, in 1758 as Brigadier-General of the regiment, captured Fort Duquesne, later renamed Pittsburg. The US 4c. stamp of 1958 (SG 1122) shows the British Forces, led by Forbes, occupying the fort.



Another soldier who fought in all theatres of war was Lachlan Macquarie (1761-1824). He was a fine administrator and first class Governor

of New South Wales, encouraging exploration and settlement. He promoted a programme of public works and increased opportunities for freed convicts. His successful policies angered the landowners and he was recalled, to return to his estates on the Island of Mull. Macquarie featured on a 6c. “Famous Australians” stamp of 1970 (Australia SG 480).

Two modern Scottish warriors who served in the Second World War were Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding (1882-1970) and Lord Tedder (1890-1967), Marshal of the RAF, born at Moffat and at Glenguin, Stirling respectively. They are featured on the 17p and 22p stamps of the 1986 Royal Air Force set (SG 1336-7). The



former masterminded the Battle of Britain, building up a chain of radar stations along the coast that gave warning of the enemy’s approach. Tedder commanded the Desert Air Force with the 8th Army, and was Deputy Supreme Commander under Eisenhower. Viscount Cunningham (1883-1963) is seen with his ship *Warspite* as Admiral of the Fleet during the



Second World War on the 29p stamp in the Maritime Heritage set of 1982 (SG 1191). He was a Scot, born in Dublin, and in 1945 was appointed Knight of the Thistle – the only sailor, I believe, to be so honoured. This oldest Scottish order of chivalry was revived by James II in 1687 after it had fallen into disuse; its tercentenary was marked by the Scottish Heraldry stamps in July 1987 (SG 1363-6).

Respect for Learning

The Scots have a respect for learning, and their history is full of individuals, many very poor, who have seized every opportunity to educate themselves. Thomas Telford (1757-1834) was the son of a shepherd in Eskdale who died soon after his birth. He attended the village school only spasmodically, but through hard work, intelligence and a pleasing personality, became one of the world's greatest civil engineers, with an international reputation. Sweden issued a stamp booklet in 1979 to commemorate the construction of the Götha Canal that links the Baltic across Sweden to the North Sea (SG 1002-7). A portrait of Telford, who was knighted by the King of Sweden, appears on one of the new SPOB postcards issued in February. Another Scot honoured by the Swedes (1964, SG 478) was the chemist Sir William Ramsay from Glasgow (1852-1916), who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1904 for his discovery of chemically inert gases.



David Livingstone (1813-73) was a very poor mill worker in Glasgow who contrived to study medicine and theology, and as a medical missionary in equatorial Africa, explored the Zambesi and discovered the Victoria Falls. Livingstone and H M Stanley were shown on 3p stamps in the Explorers set of 1973 (SG 923-4); the centenary of the famous meeting with Stanley was commemorated by a special handstamp at Blantyre, Glasgow on 10 November 1971.

Another eminent scientist/explorer was the marine biologist Dr William S Bruce (1867-1921), leader of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition of 1902-4. He is seen with his whaling steamship *Scotia* in Scotia Bay, Antarctica on a stamp from British Antarctic Territory in 1973 (SG 53). He established a meteorological station on Laurie Island, South Orkneys, which

he persuaded Argentina to take over when the Scots left, and it has been operated continuously by them ever since.

Doctors and Scientists

Two doctors commemorated on foreign stamps are J C Finlay (1833-1915) and R W Phillip (1857-1939). The former physician moved to Cuba as a child, and discovered the relationship between the mosquito and malaria and yellow fever (Cuba 1965, SG 1250-6). Sir Robert Philip, living and dying in Edinburgh where he specialised in tuberculosis (Belgium 1955, SG 1573), founded the Victoria TB Dispensary in 1887, the first of its kind. There are, of course, the two famous Scots who revolutionised modern



surgery – Joseph Lister (1827-1912) who devised antiseptic surgery and Sir Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) who discovered penicillin, the first of the antibiotics. Lister was commemorated by two British stamps in 1965 (SG 667-8) and penicillin mould was depicted on the 1s stamp in the 1967 British Discoveries set (SG 753). A special handstamp was used at Darvel, Ayrshire on 6 August 1881 to mark the centenary of Fleming's birth.



Four portraits of early scientists and thinkers appeared on "The Scottish Enlightenment" aerogramme issued on 5 August 1986. Joseph Black (1728-99), the chemist, distinguished between carbon-dioxide and air, and his concept of latent heat had a profound effect on the develop-

ment of the Industrial Revolution. The geologist James Hutton (1726-97), held that the Earth was infinitely older than the traditional Church believed. David Hume (1711-76), the philosopher and historian and centre of a large intellectual circle, also upset the Church with the new philosophy of scepticism that denied the existence of God, and believed all thought was based on experience. The fourth portrait was Adam Smith (1723-90), the economist, whose *Wealth of Nations* was the original thought behind much future political economics.

Communicating Genius

The new Scottish Post Office Board postcards are an interesting set. James Watt (1736-1819) was a foremost man of science without whose inspiration the Industrial Revolution would have been greatly delayed. Always fragile in health, he could make the most delicate models to try out his theories. Glasgow University appointed him mathematical instrument maker, where, as technical assistant to Joseph Black, he repaired the University's model of the Newcomen steam engine, which had never worked. Watt, shown on a stamp from the Wallis & Futura Islands issued in 1986 (SG 491), did not invent the steam engine, but by brilliant innovations transformed the hitherto inefficient engines into practical static and mobile models. His parallel motion is still used in modern beam engines. His inventions were many, but some of his patent specifications were so badly drawn up that their validity were seriously challenged.



Many believe that James Clerk Maxwell (1831-79) had intellectual powers equal to those of Newton and Einstein. He became Professor of Natural Philosophy at Aberdeen and King's College, London and was appointed to the new chair of experimental physics at Cambridge. He expressed the mathematical relationship between electric and magnetic forces, and one of

his equations appears on the 2 córdoba value in Nicaragua's 1971 Scientific Formulae set illustrating "The ten Mathematical Equations that changed the Face of the Earth" (SG 1767).

Television, Radar and Telephone

John Logie Baird (1888-1946) logically follows Maxwell. He suffered all his life from ill-health and shortage of money. But with a crude apparatus in an attic using all manner of makeshift materials from biscuit tins to string and sealing-wax, he achieved the 50-year old dream of scientists, and in 1926 transmitted the first images on television. Baird's primitive TV scanner is shown with modern TV equipment on the 1s 9d stamp of the 1967 Discoveries set (SG 755). Until his death he remained a pioneer in the development of every aspect of television, experimenting with colour, stereoscopic and



big-screen. A slogan postmark marking the centenary of Baird's birth was used at Glasgow from 1-29 August 1988.

"The father of radar" was Sir Robert A Watson-Watt (1892-1973), the meteorologist, who invented the essential equipment for modern sea/air navigation. His radar screen was shown on the 4d stamp of the 1967 Discoveries set (SG 752) – the third stamp in that set



featuring a discovery/invention by a Scot although not one stamp mentions the name of the inventive genius. Radar (Radio Detection And Ranging) transmits radio waves which are

reflected back from a solid object giving its elevation, bearing and distance. Radar played a crucial part in winning the war, and Sir Robert was appointed Scientific Adviser on Telecommunications to the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Aircraft Production. His third wife was the former wartime Director of the WAAF, now the Women's Royal Air Force.

The first telephone message, "Mr Watson, come here. I want you", was made in March 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), and its centenary was marked by four stamps showing the modern telephone in use by all stratas of society (SG 997-1000). Bell, shown on



one of the new postcards, was Scottish born. His mother's deteriorating hearing led to a lifetime's work co-operating with his father, a famous speech therapist, and his scientific methods of teaching the deaf to speak. Threatened with tuberculosis, from which two brothers had already died, Alexander was forced to abandon a London career, and the family emigrated to Canada in 1870. Two years later he opened a school in Boston to train the deaf and their teachers.

He foresaw the time when the telephone would make the world shrink, by one man "communicating by word of mouth with another in a different place".

The Scots have had a profound influence down the years in every sphere all over the world, but undoubtedly the two men who made the largest contribution to the speed of modern communications in the 20th century were Bell and Baird.

The new Scottish "Communicating Genius" postcards mentioned by Mrs Last were detailed in the March Bulletin (page 169); they are on sale at main post offices in Scotland and at the National Postal Museum in London.

New Railway Letter Stamps

The Llanberis Lake Railway in Wales issued two new 20p railway letter stamps on 7 March. Designed by Michael Seymour, the two stamps (English and Welsh versions) show the locomotive *Wild Aster* which returned to service last



year. The stamps were printed, se-tenant, in sheets of 10 (five pairs); 500 sheets were printed by Faulwood & Herbert Ltd. Stamps can be purchased at face value and first day covers at £1.80 from the Railway's philatelic agent: H C Creamer, Swm-y-Wylan, Cae Eithin, Minffordd, PENRHYNDEUDRAETH, Gwynedd, LL48 6EL, postage 25p.

Background information about the LLR was published in an article on the Railway Letter Service in the December 1984 *Bulletin*.

Tourist Postmarks

Illustrated here is the Stratford Upon Avon tourist postmark introduced on 23 April and previewed in last month's *Bulletin*. The handstamp will remain in use until 30 September; covers for reposting should be sent to the Special Postmark Duty, Stratford PO, 24 Bridge Street, STRATFORD UPON AVON, Warwickshire, CV37 6AA.



A tourist handstamp HOLMFIRTH LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE, first introduced in 1984, will be used again from 1 May to 1 October. Covers for reposting should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, Holmfirth PO, Holmfirth, HUDDERSFIELD HD7 1AA.

Greetings Stamp Book

L F NEWBERRY

The £1.90 Greetings stamps book went on sale at all post offices and philatelic counters on 31 January. The book contains ten 19p stamps – two each of five designs – which will add a different look to mail sent to mark special occasions. Suitable designs will enhance such messages including Birthdays, Congratulations, Anniversaries and Thank You letters. Attached to the stamp pane, but separated from the stamps by a narrow vertical gutter, is a pane of 12 illustrated message labels.

The gaily coloured stamps in seven colours are based on five very popular greeting card designs – a teddy bear, flowers, a bowl of fruit, a sailing boat, and a Cupid with bow and arrow. Two of each design are laid out in two se-tenant strips of five.

The labels, each with a single motif, also used on the cover design, bear suitable greetings captions – CONGRATULATIONS, BEST WISHES, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, WITH LOVE and THANK YOU.

The stamps were designed by Philip Sutton, ARA, and the labels and book cover designs by Lewis Moberly and printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited on the Jumelle press, “A” Coated Paper with PVA Dextrin gum, APS perforation. The web was of a single pane width; the primary sheet comprises 22 rows *i.e.* 11 book panes. The cylinder numbers were printed in groups of seven: B1A (grey-black) B1B (greenish-yellow) B1C (bright rose) B1D (bright rose-red) B1E (new blue) B1F (light green) B1G (gold) and occur twice in each revolution opposite rows 9/10 (book 5) and 21/22 (book 11). They can be easily distinguished – book 5 has the 1 of B1D with the lower portion missing whilst book 11 has the 1 full length.

There are nine vertical perforation holes on the short sides of the labels in the top and third rows of the pane and 10 vertical perforation holes on the short sides of the labels in the second and bottom rows of the pane.

Two types of perforation occurred in the gutter between the stamps and labels. In the first, the top and bottom edges were perforated

and the centre imperforate whilst in the second the top and bottom edges were imperforate and there is a line of perforation across the centre.



The two varieties of cylinder numbers – books 5 and 11 – note the short 1 of B1D from book 5

The cover design, made up an assortment of motifs complementing the stamps, was laid out “wallpaper fashion” in a column of six book covers. The cover card was reel-fed, had the design printed in six colours (green, blue, red, pink and yellow) in photogravure on the Chamberlain press leaving a space on the right to take the Royal Mail logo and contents panel. These were printed reel-fed in “two line” type by letterpress in red and yellow on the Libra machine at the time of the stamp book assembling. There were eight covers to the column. Whilst the cover design was being printed, the text on the inside – rates panel and captions – were printed in grey. A marker bar, in black, was printed across the spine of every 25th book. As the cover printing had random starts, the odds of finding a book with a cylinder number having a particular motif on the cover is probably 1 in 1,584.

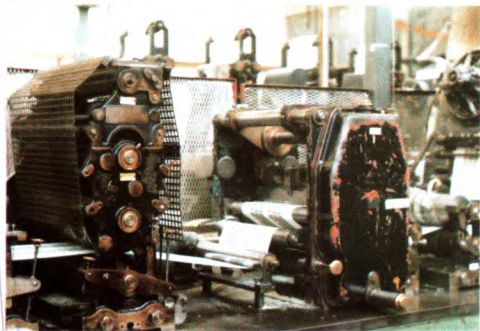


Part of the sheet of book covers showing the "wall-paper fashion" arrangement of the design

Errors

At the start of each run on the Libra book making machine a certain amount of misalignment occurs; this is removed as waste. Inadvertently two bundles of such waste has been issued to post offices. There were six examples in each bundle of "miscuts", each having the bottom halves of the stamps in the top row, complete stamps in the middle row and the top half of the stamps in the bottom row. The top row of labels in a normal book are now at the bottom. The remainder of the books had a very wide colour shift of the Royal Mail logo.

The Chambon Press used to print the pictorial design of the book cover



Bank of England Museum

Readers coming to London to visit the National Postal Museum are strongly advised also to visit the recently-opened Bank of England Museum. The Bank has for many years had a small private museum which was shown to parties of visitors. The so-called "Big Bang" of 1986 increased interest in the financial institutions in the City of London and it was decided to open a proper museum; this was opened by HM The Queen last November.

The visitor first enters the Bank Stock Office, a reconstruction of a late 18th century banking hall by Sir John Soane, the greatest English architect of the period; it houses a display on the architectural history of the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street" from 1694 to the present. Exhibits relating to the early years of the Bank include the charter granted by William III and Queen Mary in July 1694 and items connected with William Paterson, one of the leading advocates of the establishment of the Bank. Some of the early, hand-written, bank notes are shown. In the 18th century the Bank developed essentially as a government bank, an important institution in financing a series of wars. During the Gordon Riots of 1780 the Bank was attacked for the first and only time in its history and as a result a guard known as the "Bank Picquet" was introduced: on display is a cartoon of 1787 satirizing the Picquet's march to the Bank.

Amongst the most interesting displays are those relating to the Bank's modern history – the war loans arranged during the First World War, the rebuilding between the two world wars, the bomb damage in 1941 and nationalisation in 1946. Younger visitors will enjoy the hi-tech "inter-active video" displays which inform of the Bank's current activities. The Bank Note Gallery provides an attractive display of notes, ancient and modern, and demonstrates the skill involved in designing and printing.

Before leaving, the Museum shop is well worth a visit. The Museum is open (until 30 September) from 10am to 6pm Monday-Saturday, 2pm-6pm Sunday. Entrance is in Bartholomew Lane which joins Threadneedle Street and Lothbury. Enquiries to: Bank of England Museum, Threadneedle Street, LONDON EC2R 8AH, tel. 01-601 5793.

Design Matters

5. Where does British stamp design and production go from here?

BARRY ROBINSON

Design Adviser to The Post Office

In these articles I have dealt exclusively with the present policy on British stamp design and production. It is interesting, however, to speculate on the future to determine what the trends might be over the next 10 or even 20 years.

One factor which has to be recognised is that there is a genuine desire amongst all the leading stamp-issuing authorities to improve the general quality of stamps. There is much more dialogue nowadays between authorities, each keen to learn lessons from the other. In the last year, we ourselves have played host to visitors from a number of countries who have come along to see how we operate in Britain.

Disappearing Skills

I find this trend particularly encouraging because it augurs well for the future. It is especially gratifying to know that so many others share the view that the pinnacle of stamp design and production excellence has yet to be fully scaled in spite of the fact that we live in an age when traditional skills and crafts are disappearing at an alarming rate. For example we have already witnessed the demise of the company here in Britain which specialised in the manufacture of those magnificent cast-iron pillar boxes. These are such an integral part of our postal heritage that one cannot be other than saddened when the skills which moulded them are forced by economic necessity into oblivion.

There was a time when line-engraving was one of the most common printing processes. This delicate skill never ceases to amaze me and it is not just nostalgia that makes me believe we should do everything possible to ensure that it does not disappear altogether. Line-engraving skills give stamps a unique quality and afford us greater freedom in terms of design interpretation. Thankfully some postal authorities are prepared to take positive action about the threat – none more so than our colleagues in Sweden.

Integrated approach

My admiration for the way the Swedish postal authorities have gone about the business of organising stamp design and production cannot be expressed too strongly. Some years ago, they

took the conscious decision to train a number of engravers and have had the determination to see the policy right through. As a result, they now have a strength of highly-skilled engraving talent.

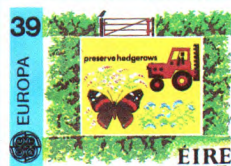
The Dutch too take a far-sighted view of their stamp design capability and, as in Sweden, the policy is paying off. The Dutch produce stamps of real integrity which are hailed by many designers throughout the world as being amongst the best. The secret of their success is that they do not let marketing dictate their stamp policy. Too often marketing achieves short-term advantages at the price of longer-term design quality.

West Germany also seems to have struck the right balance. Their design and print quality is very good indeed, most of it either litho or combined recess-litho. An interesting aspect of West Germany is the breadth of their design education system. They do not differentiate between the arts and sciences in the way that we do. It is common in Germany for stamp designers to be highly creative in terms of the image and to be capable of achieving excellent typographic solutions as well. This is certainly not the case in Britain where we more often than not have to find two different people for these two tasks.

Joint Issues

I am not certain what lies behind the success of Japanese stamps but there is no doubt that, judged by their results, they are achieving remarkably high-quality printing. The USA is another nation which is doing well philatelically, although I feel they are achieving much more success with intaglio than they are with gravure. They have participated in some interesting joint issues with other countries, notably Sweden, Ireland and France, on common anniversaries in recent year – just as we did with Australia in 1988. We could well see more of this trend in the future. Here in Britain, we produce one set of special stamps a year on the agreed CEPT theme along with all the other participating European stamp-issuing authorities. The Commonwealth Day issue of 1983 was another occasion when we participated in a joint theme. I am in favour of this trend – stamps with a common theme, not necessarily a common designer. Design, like other forms of art and literature, expresses something about the soul of a country.

I firmly believe that a nation's stamps should be the exclusive product of the nation, no matter how small the nation might be. If there were to



be an international postal agreement that all stamps should be produced totally within the country of origin, I would be the first to stand up and support it because such a move can only enhance philately. If each nation had to use native designers, printers and paper, philatelists would be all the richer for the greater variety that would ensue. There are over-riding reasons, of course, why some countries have to go to other countries for stamp design and production. Nevertheless, I feel that local talent in many smaller countries is being ignored – too often we see bland photographic type renditions on stamps which purport to show something of the country of origin but in reality all become anonymous in a mass of mediocrity.

Crystal ball time

While considering where the future in stamp design and production lies, it is pertinent to ask the question for how much longer will stamps be around? Today, one can walk into any post office in this country and purchase pre-paid envelopes and aerogrammes. Most large firms

use printed postage impressions on their mail; meter marks and red paid postmarks are also used on huge quantities of business mail. And surely it cannot be beyond the realms of possibility in the not too distant future for machines in post offices to automatically label envelopes – no stamp needed! What price philately then?

However my guess is that stamps will be around for a long time to come simply because they have already been around for a long time and give immense pleasure to many people, and not just collectors.

The willingness amongst leading stamp-issuing authorities to improve standards of design and production needs every encouragement as does their willingness to share knowledge and learn from each other. All this will take time and effort by those involved. I am hopeful that the will is strong enough to resist those market pressures which might lead philately into a *cul-de-sac*. The fact is, unfortunately, that complacency is always an easier option: letting standards drop is easier still.

Post Office Uniforms

Three new National Postal Museum cards (Nos. 89/4-6) showing PO uniforms were issued on 5 May. These are available, price 20p each, from the Museum's Sales Counter and can be ordered by post from: National Postal Museum (Post-cards), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

The first true Post Office uniform was that worn by the Mail Coach guards from 1784. This consisted of a scarlet double-breasted coat with blue lapels and gold braid across the chest between the two lines of buttons. The guards were also issued with a black, low crown "top hat" with a gold band.

One of the reasons advanced for the introduction of a uniform for letter carriers was the "ragged conditions" of the men's own clothes. The Postmaster-General also put forward the argument that, if letter carriers were uniformed "it would occasion their being observed loitering in ale houses when they should be delivering their letters, or if frequenting pawnbrokers' shops"! From the beginning the letter carriers objected to the idea of wearing a uniform saying that it was a reflection on their honesty and it is recorded that the Postmaster-General found it necessary to assure the men that letter carriers in other countries already wore a uniform without it being regarded as a mark of disgrace. At the time postage was collected on the delivery of the letter with the letter carriers paying in the postage once or twice a week. The men felt that a uniform would "single them out as persons probably in the possession of large sums of money." To minimise the risk it was arranged that they should pay in their receipts daily.

London General Post

The first uniform, supplied to the London General Post letter carriers only, consisted of a cut-away style scarlet coat with blue lapels and cuffs, a blue cloth waistcoat and a beaver hat with a gold band and cockade. The brass buttons on the coat had the wearer's number inscribed on them. The lack of trousers in the issue brought forth the comment that "the splendid coats and hats presented a strange contrast above the 'ragged cloaths' of trousers which seem have been not uncommon with the letter carriers of those days". The original distribution should have been made on Queen Charlotte's birthday, but could not be got ready in time and the issue was delayed until the autumn of 1793 because "in the summer every-

one would be going out of town and the men would dirty them before the winter when everyone would be in town."

By 1834 the supply of uniforms had been extended to the letter carriers of Edinburgh and Dublin. Other large cities followed until by 1851 some 1700 men were in uniform, at the same time the identifying numbers on the buttons were replaced by embroidered numbers on the coat collar.



London General Post letter carrier, 1793

London Post

The "London Post" letter carriers had not been included in the initial distribution of 1793 and it was not until 1837 that they were supplied with their own uniform. This consisted of a blue cut-away coat with a scarlet collar, a blue waistcoat and a beaver hat with a gold band and cockade. Humourists of the day seized upon the absence of trousers from the outfit and cartoonists often depicted the men in "neglige"!

In 1855 the London General and "District" letter carriers were given an identical uniform. This consisted of a red "frock coat" with blue collar and cuffs, trousers and a new style hat. Although the London Post letter carriers had worn a scarlet coat for many years, the appearance of the London men in coats of the same colour occasioned considerable comment in the press. *Punch*, for example, commented "we lately had our eyes very uncomfortably dazzled by the sight of the Postmen in a glaring red uniform, more fitted for the Fire Brigade..."

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No. 29 Unappropriated Dies

The range of British fiscal stamps proliferated during the Victorian period and these called for many dies to be engraved for laying down printing plates for various denominations. All the designs included the Queen's portrait and the denomination expressed *in words*: there were no figures of value. Each design included panels which were blank except for an engraved security background. At a second printing the nature of the fiscal duty was added to the design, e.g. CONSULAR SERVICE, BILL STAMP, JUDICATURE, and so on.

The basic revenue dies were in three sizes for pence, shillings and pounds denominations. They were the fiscal equivalents of the British Empire key-plates, that is, standard for several colonies (or "duties" in the case of fiscals) but varied by the addition of the colony's name. These "blank" fiscal dies are known to philatelists as "the unappropriated dies".



Their use for *postage* stamps was limited to one territory, namely, British Bechuanaland, which first used Cape of Good Hope stamps suitably overprinted and then, in 1887, made use of unappropriated dies for postal purposes. The blank panels were overprinted BRITISH BECHUANALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE, the face values (in words) being already part of the original design: 1d to 6d lilac, 1s to 10s green, £1 and £5 lilac. The last two were seldom used postally and Stanley Gibbons give them a catalogue footnote warning against fiscally-used examples which have been cleaned and then given a forged postmark.

To assist semi-literate users, the lower denominations in more general use (1d, 2d, 4d, 6d and 1s) were issued in 1888 with an additional surcharge in figures; "1d" on the 1d stamp, and so on. This surcharge was done locally by P Townsend & Co of Vryburg, as was a provisional "One Half-Penny" surcharge on the little-used 3d stamp.



The only other non-fiscal use made of these stamps was by the Army for telegraphic messages. The whole range up to the £5 value were issued with either ARMY TELEGRAPHS or MILITARY TELEGRAPHS in the blank panels. Their purpose was to provide a form of accountancy between the Post Office and the War Office which alone had authority to use the stamps on telegrams passing between military bases in Great Britain. Overseas, their use was restricted to bases in West Africa, Egypt and Southern Africa. Their use ceased in 1901.

Bath Postal Museum

The Museum was closed early in the year for major alterations; it is now reopen with improved displays. "The Story of the Post" traces the development of Britain's postal service from its origins in Tudor times; the display includes many items of historical importance. A display of "Postal Curios" includes collections of hand-drawn Victorian envelopes and Valentine cards.

A special exhibition "On Active Service" opens in May and will run until October; this features wartime mail to mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. A second special exhibition of French stamps and postal history will be staged during June and July to mark the bicentenary of the French Revolution.

The Museum is open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm and on Summer Sundays from 2pm to 5pm. Enquiries to: Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, BATH BA1 5LJ, telephone Bath (0225) 603333.

Polar Postmasters – The Antarctic

Part 1

TONY GAMMONS

Ernest Shackleton's first visit to the Antarctic was as third lieutenant of the National Antarctic Expedition of 1901-04 under the command of Robert Falcon Scott. He accompanied Scott and Dr E Wilson on the first great south polar land journey reaching a southerly latitude of 82 deg. 7 min. Shackleton was invalided home after an attack of scurvy but had already made up his mind to lead an expedition of his own with the intention of reaching the South Pole.

In 1907 he purchased the little wooden "sealer" *Nimrod* and had her fitted out by R & H Green of Blackwall. The expedition left London on 30 July 1907 bound for Lyttelton, New Zealand. On his arrival Shackleton was given the position of "Postmaster of King Edward VII Land" by the New Zealand Postmaster-General



Fig. 1 Mint and used examples of the 1907 Shackleton Expedition stamps

and supplied with a date stamp bearing the words "Brit Antarctic Exped". He was also issued with a stock of New Zealand 1d rose-carmine postage stamps overprinted "King Edward VII Land" in two vertical lines (Fig 1). It seems that quite extensive business was done with as many as 2,000 letters being dealt with during the expedition's stay in the Antarctic.

Late in 1908 Shackleton with Lieutenant Adams, Dr Eric Marshall and Frank Wild made what will always stand out as one of the greatest

sledge journeys ever. On 26 November the party "trod farther south than any man before", a week later they stood at the foot of the great Beadmore glacier. After a difficult climb they stood on the inland plateau which Shackleton described as "the bleakest and most horrible part of the earth". They pushed on until, caught in a blizzard and suffering from frostbite, Shackleton realised they could go no farther and on 9 January at latitude 88 deg 23 min south, only 97 miles from the Pole, the flag given to the party by Queen Alexandra was flown and the plateau taken possession in the name of King Edward VII. The return journey was a "race with death", Wild developed dysentery and Marshall became so ill he nearly died. The party was finally picked up by the *Nimrod* in March and taken to New Zealand. On his return home Shackleton was knighted for his achievements.

With Scott to the Pole

In 1909, while serving as Naval Assistant to the Second Sea Lord of the Admiralty, Scott announced his intention of leading another expedition to the Antarctic. The party sailed to Cape Evans in the *Terra Nova*, a three-masted barque built in 1884. Scott had decided to overwinter in huts on the ice and the ship was sent back to New Zealand until the following summer when she would return to Cape Evans. Scott had been appointed "Postmaster of Queen Victoria Land" and had taken with him "a complete outfit for the proper conduct of the duties assigned to him". This included a supply of New Zealand ½d dark green and 1d carmine postage stamps horizontally overprinted VICTORIA LAND (Fig 2). The Post Office circular of



Fig. 2 The 1911 Scott Expedition stamps

19 September 1911 announced a final despatch date for correspondence of 21 October. Letters would be sent to New Zealand and transferred to the *Terra Nova* which returned to Cape Evans in December.

By this time Scott, Wilson, Oates, Bowers and Evans had started on their epic journey to the Pole. As before, the *Terra Nova* returned to

The NPM "Atlantic" exhibition featuring Atlantic and Polar mail is on show until next April.



Fig. 3 Cover posted from Surbiton on 30 January 1913, addressed to the British Antarctic Expedition and returned marked "Too late to connect with the ship in New Zealand"

New Zealand for the winter with the intention of returning in November 1912 with supplies and mail. Announcements regarding latest posting dates appeared in the Post Office circulars of 3, 10 and 17 September. However with the tragic outcome of the expedition, the sailing was delayed until 14 December and the "posting dates" adjusted accordingly. Some of the mail arrived too late to connect with the ship and due to a misunderstanding all of the letters, even those endorsed "to await arrival on return from South in New Zealand" were returned to sender marked "Too late to connect with the ship in New Zealand" (Fig 3). One writer, Mary Drake, had a letter returned three times! There then followed "a period of confusion" for the Post Office; at the beginning of February 1913 the decision was taken to forward all the mail on hand. By 11 February this decision was reversed, as the ship was only remaining in Lyttelton for one month the mail would not

arrive before the *Terra Nova* sailed for home. However as the seven items on hand had arrived after the disaster became known it was felt that the senders would wish the mail to be forwarded even if it arrived after the ship had sailed!

Mail continued to arrive and as the *Terra Nova* was due to call in at Rio de Janeiro, on 21 May, on her way back to Cardiff a special bag was made up and sent to the British Consul in Rio. Letters arriving after 3 May would be sent to Cardiff to await the ship's arrival on 12 July. Unfortunately the *Terra Nova* arrived in Rio on 28 April having made an unexpectedly swift journey and the mail was "placed under fresh cover" and sent to the British Antarctic Expedition Headquarters in London. The ship arrived back in Cardiff on 18 June, some 24 days earlier than expected.

Reference: Post Office Archives – POST 29/1153, PKT 36/1913.

Coated Papers Limited

The 19p Scottish "Country" stamp was issued on 25 April printed on phosphor coated paper supplied by Coated Papers Ltd (CPL) of Leek, Staffordshire. Previously paper supplied by this company to the House of Questa for printing litho stamps was non-phosphor coated – for second class stamps and panes in prestige books which needed to be overprinted with phosphor



(top) 13p and 14p Scottish Country stamps and 14p National Definitive from Window Book
(below) Pane of 14p stamps from the £5 "Scots Connection" book

bands. The 13p "Country" stamps of 13 April 1987 were on CPL paper, followed by the 6 x 13p and mixed value panes in the *Financial Times* prestige book (February 1988), the 14p stamps in three £1.40 window books (October 1988), the 14p Country stamps of November 1988 and the 6 x 14p and mixed value panes in the "Scots Connection" prestige book (March 1989).

Readers may be interested in knowing a bit about this company which produces papers for lithographic, photogravure, intaglio or letterpress printing; papers are produced coated, uncoated or phosphor-coated for automatic sorting. Coated Papers Ltd, now part of the Tullis Russell Group, was set up in December 1981 with Derek Gilmour as General Manager.

Mr Gilmour has spent all his working life in the paper trade, his early training giving him a technical bias. He is now Managing Director of CPL. The company employs almost 100 people; most of whom are shareholders so they have a vested interest in satisfying the demands of their customers.

The equipment at their premises at Cheddleton, near Leek, includes much "state of the art" technology, for example newly introduced strip coating machinery. Selecting the finest base paper is a vital first step in ensuring a good end product and Laboratory staff undertake rigorous quality control; for stamp papers a hand inspection is carried out on each coated sheet before it leaves the mill.

CPL stamp papers have been used for issues from many Commonwealth countries including British Virgin Islands, Christmas Island, St Kitts and the Solomon Islands. The "Colorcote" range of educational papers produced at Cheddleton are frequently used in schools; this includes poster, high gloss and metallic coated papers as well as self-adhesive clear book covering material, leatherette papers and other speciality materials. The "Firefly" fluorescent



Commonwealth stamps printed on CPL paper



The Coated Papers Ltd factory, Cheddleton, Staffs papers are used by many retail and high street companies. CPL papers are often used in packaging.

The phosphor coating used on the new 19p Scottish stamp is made under license from the British Post Office. The adhesives on all CPL papers used to print British stamps is PVA, described by the company as "... specially blended to give quick initial tack, positive adhesion and excellent stability and 'lay-flat' properties during printing and subsequent use. CPL stamp papers are also available with dextrine, tropical dextrine and pressure-sensitive adhesives.



A CPL sample stamp showing the Old Flint Mills at Cheddleton (1756-65) printed by Questa in 4-colour litho on orange/yellow inorganic phosphor stamp Chromo PVA gummed 102gsm paper

Paper supplied by CPL was also used for the pane of 2 x 14p and 4 x 19p stamps in the Walsall-printed £1 machine book (*Great Expectations* cover design), issued on 25 April.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning some Scottish items - the £5 "Scots Connection" prestige book, a first day cover of the mixed value pane from that book, the set of Scottish PO Board postcards and the Scottish aerogramme marking the 150th anniversary of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: May Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 23 June.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be sent the Scottish items. The senders of the next five correct entries drawn will receive the postcards and aerogramme. Answers and winners names will be published in the August *Bulletin*.

1. Which regiment celebrated its 350th anniversary in 1983?
2. Which town is famous for the "Last of the Summer Wine"?
3. Who designed the Greetings stamps?
4. Which territory used unappropriated dies for postage stamps?
5. Where is the factory of Coated Papers Ltd?
6. Which eminent typographer is the subject of a recent controversial biography?

The winners of the February competition were: H Helme of Sheffield, H Parsons of Devon, M Rankin of Gloucestershire and D Stone of BFPO.

The answers were: 1. Tree, 2. Sedley Place Ltd, 3. Fur & Feather Group, 4. 1809, 5. Franklin D Roosevelt, 6. £1.99.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Games & Toys Stamps

The descriptions of the 19p and 27p stamps in the April *Bulletin* became transposed: the 19p stamp shows a toy aeroplane and train, the 27p value features building bricks. The gremlin offers his apologies for any confusion caused. Ed.

1988 Special Stamps Poll

In the January *Bulletin* we asked readers to nominate their favourite special stamp issue of 1988. Almost 2,100 replies were received. We thank all readers who sent in their votes and comments which were personally read by the Editor of the *Bulletin*. 1988 Yearbooks have been sent to five readers whose comments were thought to be particularly apt or interesting. Their comments, plus those of some other readers, are given below.

The results of the poll are as follows:

1. Linnean Society (Natural History)
2. Armada
3. Welsh Bible
4. Christmas
5. Transport
6. Edward Lear
7. Sport
8. Australian Bicentenary

The prize-winners are:

1. **N M Green of Shropshire** who wrote of the Linnean Society stamps: *In a time of growth of interest in nature and the environment, these beautiful stamps encourage a 'Yearning for Learning'.*

2. **J G Rabanal of Spain** liked the Sport stamps, commenting: *Olympic sports were bound to make headlines all over the world. The bright colours and dynamic designs combine beautifully to suggest optimism, health, fair play, hope for a better world.*

3. **B G Allen of Cambridgeshire** favoured the Armada stamps: *A Brilliant concept to convey so much history in such a small space. Equivalent to a modern philatelic 'Bayeux Tapestry'.*

4. **W R Smith of Angus, Scotland** praised the Transport stamps thus: *Of the steam and smell of the train, of the farewells on the quayside, the clank and rattle of the tram, the roar at take off of the plane – Ah! Memories.*

5. **Dr S E Josse of London** chose the Edward Lear issue, writing: *Being reminded of Lear's rhymes and characters, I picked up his collected works and spent a happy hour re-reading them. I cannot recollect this effect from a previous stamp issue.*

Readers are clearly interested in stamps commemorating British history, many of you com-

menting on the educational value of the Welsh Bible and Armada sets. The costumes on the Bible set appealed to many readers and the set-tenant format of the Armada set was thought appropriate for that issue. Mr Isherwood of Cheshire found this "graphically portrayed... one of England's 'Finest Hours' ... you could almost smell the gunpowder and feel your timbers being shivered!" Mr Vavere of Wales praised the Bible set, finding them "a change from the usual 'stylised' rubbish – the stamps project real people about whom I felt compelled to find out more". Mr Clarke of Norfolk



likened the same set to "miniature portraits", calling the stamps a "quality" set. Giovanni Jacobelli of Italy found "both mind and imagination are strongly pushed into the mysterious magic 17th century of doctors, anchorites and holy monks of ancient Wales".



The most favoured set – Linnean Society – was highly praised for its "elegant" and "uncluttered" look as well as its educational value. Mr Wilkinson of Kent wrote: "I had never heard of the Linnean Society, now I have gained some knowledge. This is something I have always hoped to obtain from my collection".

The fun of Lear's drawings were much commented upon by readers young and old. It was encouraging to read comments, such as this from Mr I Tarring of Co Durham: "It arose my youngest daughter's interest in philately which improved her reading ability on joining Stamp Bug Club, in turn re-kindling my interest" and, from Mrs Hampson of Sussex, "...the subject matter has now convinced my 10 year old grand-daughter that stamp collecting is not just for grand-parents". Many of you liked the simple designs of this set – described as "clear and crisp" by C F Watts of South Africa who felt they "delivered the English brand of eccentric humour around the world". The Lear stamps were so much admired by Mr Grant of Fife that he found it "a pity Edward Lear isn't around to accept a commission to design other stamps".

Reasons for liking the Australian Bicentenary stamps centred mainly on family links "down under" although there were a good number of favourable comments on the bold designs. Words such as "movement", "vitality" and "eye-catching" were used to describe the Sport stamps. R J Macmillan of Fife reflected on the



"excitement of sport" in the designs and felt that they "even look if the designer enjoyed the work involved". Sport stamps in general are not inspired in terms of design so it was pleasing to read the comment of M Wallman of Finland – "they show that even sport stamps can sometimes be beautiful" and of D Stone of BFPO 39 – "they are the first set of stamps that have shown motion so well".

The Transport stamps brought out feelings of nostalgia, reminding Henry Hutton of Finland of "an era between the wars - safe and happy". The deliberately incomplete caption to the posters on each stamp was commented on, and enjoyed by, a number of readers.

The Christmas stamps brought mixed com-

ment although in general you favoured the blend of the religious and the secular in using Christmas cards as the design theme. Miss Halbert of Glasgow summed it up: "In an age when many complain of religion being introduced into Christmas, it is good to see you doing exactly that!".

Needless to say you expressed some strong comments of disapproval on certain issues although (thankfully) only one reader stooped to abuse. Mr J Kirkham of Hertfordshire thought the 1988 designs "the worst for a decade!", J Jones of Staffordshire found them "generally a bad lot" and pleaded for "less experimental designs and more true to life pictures please".

Finally I must say I enjoyed reading your comments – favourable and adverse. The task was enlivened by your sense of humour, in particular I was amused by the comments from a gentleman in Manchester who voted for the Australian Bicentenary stamps "because they remind me of the reasons I didn't emigrate to Australia in 1954" and a lady in Kent who liked the Christmas issue – "they are original and make you really look to see what they are all about – my husband still doesn't know – but he's a silly old sod!". I look forward to reading your comments on the 1989 issues.

Special Stamps - Advance News

The Industrial Archaeology stamps to be issued on 4 July will feature: 19p Ironbridge, Shropshire; 27p Tin Mine, St Agnes, Cornwall; 32p Mills, New Lanark, Strathclyde and 35p Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Llangollen, Clwyd. The issue will be previewed in next month's *Bulletin*.

Friends of the NPM

The Friends of the National Postal Museum will be holding a meeting on 20 May on the subject of "British Mail Coaches and Routes"; the principal speakers will be the Rev. Christopher Beaver and Mr John Parker, driver on the mail coach bicentenary run from Bristol to London in August 1984. Mr Parker has agreed to sign one cover for those attending. The programme begins at 11am and the meeting will finish at 4.30pm. A buffet lunch with wine will be available, price £6. Those wishing to attend should contact the Hon. Secretary of the Friends, c/o National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Book

Reviews

Eric Gill by Fiona MacCarthy. 351pp, hard-bound, plate & textual illustrations. Published by Faber and Faber Limited, available from book shops, price £17.50.

Eric Gill (1882-1940) was the leading British typographer of the 20th century. Like Baskerville, Caslon and Plantin before him he gave his



Eric Gill – Self portrait, wood engraving, 1927

name to one of the typefaces he invented. Gill Sans, though now somewhat dated and used mainly for small captions, is redolent of the thirties and harks back to the simple, beautiful stone inscriptions of Roman times. However, Gill was also a man of strong opinions and sometimes very strange habits as this recent, rather controversial, biography makes clear.

Interesting and well written though the book undoubtedly is, it unfortunately ignores all the work Gill did for the Post Office. This still remains with a large number of pieces of artwork in the National Postal Museum and a wealth of letters in the files of Post Office Archives. The book's author even ignores the great public fight in *The Times* and elsewhere in

the autumn of 1936 over the new stamp designs for Edward VIII, though the bee he had in his bonnet there seems typical of his attitude to most things throughout his working life.



(left) Final version of Gill's Edward VIII Coronation essay

(right) Issued example of Gill's work for the Post Office (frame, head by Edmund Dulac)

The book is of particular interest because of the descriptions and illustrated examples of his craftsmanship together with an explanation of the philosophy which infused it. To those interested in the stamp designs of the Twenties and Thirties there is no explanation of Gill's submitted handiwork, nor even that actually used in the George VI definitives. But the background to this work – his craftsmanship and his opinions – are well described. Furthermore, his circle of friends and acquaintances included all the leading artists and engravers of his lifetime, and they all appear from time to time. Eric Ravilious, Noel Rooke, Reynolds



Gill's sans lettering, originally drawn 1928. (Source: Monotype Recorder)

Stone as a young trainee, all then or later produced designs for stamps.

Mainly, the book is based on an appreciation of Gill's diaries and on his work. The author, Fiona MacCarthy, is well-placed to write an understanding account of her subject. Formerly Design Correspondent with *The Guardian* and author of books on British Design she is also described in the book's blurb as "particularly interested in the idealistic counter-culture movements". This is very evident from the text and the emphasis she gives to Gill's emphatic views on anything from socialism to women (strangely illiberal), but especially his views on sex, and indeed his many forms of practising it. Highlighting this in detail has made the book controversial and put it in the best seller lists. Gill might well have appreciated this but for me it simply proves that a man is rather greater than his sexual proclivities. An appreciation of his work on stamp design is still required.

Douglas N. Muir

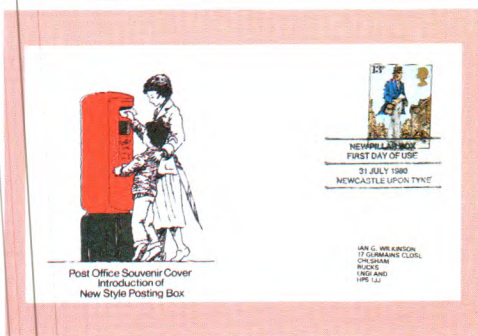
Through the Letter-box by Natalie Allen. 212 pp, limp binding. Published by and available from: Mrs N Allen, Lampton House, Fairmead Road, SALTASH, Cornwall, PL12 4JQ. Price £8.95.

This attractive book is sub-titled "Compiled from memories of Cornish Postal Workers" but will be of interest to students of the postal service both inside and outside the county. The 31 chapters deal with subjects as diverse as The Mail Coach Era, The Issue of Uniforms, The First Village Post Office, 'Moor' Mail and Pedalling the Parish Post, written by a number of contributors. Many of the stories have been compiled from memories of Cornish postal workers of a bygone age when most deliveries in rural areas were on foot. This is a beautifully produced volume with numerous illustrations, many in colour, of postmen and postwomen, sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses, post offices, pillar boxes, etc. A few covers and postmarks are featured. Many of the illustrations will appeal to those interested in the carriage of the mail – for example the GWR omnibus which transported mail from Helston to the Lizard in c. 1905 and the attaching of mail bags to the TPO exchange apparatus near Penzance in c. 1910. Mrs Allen's book hopefully sets the standard for similar works on the postal services of other counties.

I am obliged to Bulletin reader, Arthur Forse of Reading, for bringing this book to my attention. Ed.

Posting Boxes

No.99. In Posting Boxes No. 62 (August 1984), we illustrated one of the new type of boxes introduced in 1980. The box featured was situated in Victoria Street, Swindon. It was noted that an inscription on the box stated that it was one of the first castings. The photograph was supplied by Mr A G Bissell of Oxford who also sent a close-up photograph of the inscription which is reproduced this month.



Boxes of this type were introduced on 31 July 1980 in London SW, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Shrewsbury. Special handstamps were used on mail posted in the boxes on that day and a Post Office commemorative cover was produced; the handstamp used at Cardiff was bilingual. Shown here is the special cover with Newcastle handstamp.

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.

Commemorative Covers

Pollock's Toy Museum. To coincide with the Games & Toys stamps (16 May), a special first day cover will be available featuring this well-known London museum. The cover shows a toy theatre of c.1900 with a set from "Red Riding Hood". The cover, with set of four stamps cancelled by a special Pollock's Toy Museum handstamp, cost £4.75 or £2.25 with single 19p stamp. Prices include inland postage, overseas customers should add 50p. Covers will also be available signed by Esther Rantzen and Ronnie Corbett. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Festival of Food & Farming. A special cover is being produced in connection with this Festival to be held in Hyde Park from 4-7 May (open to public 5-7 May). The cover will bear a Food & Farming stamp cancelled with a special handstamp showing animals and London buildings. The covers cost £1.90 including postage and should be ordered from: J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL.

Royal British Legion Annual Conference. To commemorate the 1989 Annual Conference a special cover has been prepared showing the Bournemouth International Centre. The cover with full set of Games & Toys stamps and special Conference handstamp dated 27 May will cost £3 or £1.75 with single 19p stamp. All proceeds from the sale of these covers go to the Poppy Appeal; remittances should be payable to "Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal". Orders/enquiries to: The Secretary, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion Village, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME20 7NX.

Teddy Bear's Picnic, Ironbridge. To celebrate the issue of Games & Toys stamps, the Teddy Bear Museum, part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, is having a Teddy Bears' Picnic at Ironbridge on 16 May. All children, accompanied by Teddy Bears, will, we are told, be welcome. A special cover will be available featuring a painting by Helen Cooper, well-known children's illustrator, of the Ironbridge Bear and his friends enjoying a picnic. The cover, bearing the four Games & Toys stamps cancelled by a special "Teddy Bear's Picnic" handstamp will cost £3.99; £5.99 if signed by a "beary special person". Orders/enquiries to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Westcliffe House, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SZ, tel. Folkestone (0303) 850041.

Visit of Prince Edward. Cover No. 9 in the Forces Philatelic Covers "Royal Visit" series marked the visit of HRH Prince Edward to Moscow on 15 April 1989. The cover shows a D.H. Fox Moth (an aircraft of the Royal Flight) and bears a cachet giving flight details to and from Moscow. The handstamp shows the Moscow skyline. The cover with 19p Bird stamp costs £2.25 or £4.25 pilot-signed with 27p stamp. All proceeds go to the Lord Dowding Sheltered Housing Project Appeal; remittances should be payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund". Orders/enquiries to: Gp Capt W S O Randle, 60 Shelveys Way, TADWORTH, Surrey KT20 8QF.

Royal Naval Air Service. To mark the 75th anniversary of the RNAS and the Biggin Hill International Air Fair, cover No. 6 in the Forces "Fighter Series" will be produced on 16 May. The design will feature a miniature sheet showing Sea Vixen, Sea Hawk, Corsair and Firefly aircraft and bear Welsh "Country" stamps cancelled with a special handstamp showing the badge of the RNAS. Standard covers cost £2.25, pilot-signed £2.75 or signed by Battle of Britain ace £3.75 (order as special cover). All proceeds to the Lord Dowding Fund, remittances payable to the JSPCF as above. Orders/enquiries to Gp Capt Randle, address as above.

Operation Swordfish. To commemorate the 44th anniversary of Operation Swordfish a special cover was produced on 11 April; the cover design showing aircraft and ships involved together with badges and flags. The covers were franked with Anniversaries stamps cancelled with a Forces No. 2202 special handstamp. Unsigned covers with 19p stamp cost £1.50, with two 19p stamps and signed £2; with single 35p and two signatures £3 and with full set of stamps and double signed £4. Remittances should be made payable to "FAA Museum" and all orders/enquiries sent to: Cdr R G D Williams, RNPO, FAA Museum, YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HT.

St Johnstone Football Club. On 29 April St Johnstone played their last match (v. Ayr United) at Muirton Park, their home since 1924. They move to a new stadium next season. A souvenir cover, sponsored by Royal Mail Letters, has been produced - this shows Muirton Park, details of the match and has a 19p Scottish Country stamp cancelled with a special handstamp. Price £1.25, overseas £2.25, plus SAE. Orders/enquiries to: P Smith, St Johnstone FC, Muirton Park, PERTH PH1 5AO.

Crypt School Gloucester. As part of the celebrations to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the founding of the school, two souvenir covers will be produced to mark the annual Civic Inspection of the School on 9 May and the visit of HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 28 June. Both covers will bear the 19p Anniversaries stamp (150th anniversary of Public Education) cancelled with a special handstamp incorporating the school crest. Cost £1.50 per cover including postage. Orders/enquiries to: Crypt School, GLOUCESTER GL2 6AE.

Neurosurgical Research. A special cover has been produced in commemoration of a re-run of the 1840 horse drawn Mercury Royal Mail coach from London to Liverpool on 1 April in aid of Neurosurgical Research. The coach left from Buckingham Palace and followed the old coaching route ending at Aintree for the Seagram Grand National. The cover shows the mail coach; the stamp is cancelled by a special London SW1 handstamp. Price £2.50 or £8.50 if signed by sporting and other well-known personalities. Orders/enquiries to ACUMEN, 17 Castle Street, CHESTER CH1 2DS, tel. Chester 320049. Remittances payable to "Neurosurgical Research".

Ozone Balloon Flight. In April, Global Concern, a non-profit making British based organisation, made a historic balloon flight at the North Pole to heighten international awareness of the Ozone issue. Special covers and cards were produced in a limited edition and posted at Eureka PO (82 deg. N) at base camp; appropriate Canadian stamps were used. All items were signed by the four team members and proceeds from sales go towards offsetting the cost of the expedition. Covers price £12.50 and cards, price £10, can be ordered from: CoverCraft, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH. Remittances should be payable to "Polar Expedition".

International Clan Gathering. A special cover and handstamp will be available for the International Clan Gathering at Inverness from 6-14 May. The cover will incorporate a colour photograph offering a choice of 75 different clan tartans. The clan crest, in the form of a rubber handstamp, will be applied to complement the tartan. A Scottish Country stamp from the recent £5 prestige book will be affixed. Price £2.50 (£3 overseas) including postage; when ordering state which clan is required, otherwise Stuart Royal will be used. Orders/enquiries to: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd, PO Box 20, CANTERBURY CT1 2XX.

Turkish Ambassador Visits NPM

On 8 March His Excellency Nurver Nureş, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, visited the National Postal Museum to open the "Ottoman Empire" exhibition of Turkish stamps and postal history from the collection of Mr Otto Hornung. His Excellency, who had only recently taken up his appointment in London, showed



great interest in the exhibition and spent some time explaining aspects of Turkish history and culture to the invited guests. Shown here are, left to right, Keith Fisher (General Manager, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately), Otto Hornung and the Ambassador.

Green Ink for Slogan

Readers may well have noticed the green ink used for the "Lead Free" slogan which is currently in use at most main sorting offices. The slogan was introduced at 143 offices on 3

WE ♥ LEAD-FREE

April and at further offices on 17 April; it will continue in use until 31 May. The use of green ink is deliberate and is believed to be the first time this colour of ink has been used for a British machine postmark. Details of the offices using this slogan have been published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

May Digest

Issued in May

- 1 May **Games & Toys Stamp Cards (PHQ cards) (Nos. 118A-D)** 16p each
- 5 May **NPM cards (5) – Early PO Uniforms (89/4-6)** 20p each; **Penny Black (89/7)** 10p and **Brighton Transorma Sorting Machine (BPF Congress) (89/8)** 20p.
- 16 May **Games & Toys stamps** 19p, 27p, 32p, 35p
designer: Dan Fern
printing: Harrisons, photogravure, 30 x 41mm, printed on phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA dextrin gum
presentation pack (No. 199): £1.35
Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Leeds

Withdrawn in May

- 9 May **Transport & Communications issue** all items
- 11 May **Scottish aerogramme – Glasgow Garden Festival**

February Bulletin

A few readers found the front cover design of the February *Bulletin* misleading in thinking that the Food & Farming stamps were being issued in sheets with pictorial labels or in some sort of miniature sheet format. The illustration was merely intended to show the stamps with designs reminiscent of the old shop tiles as featured on the stamps themselves. If the stamps were to have been issued in other than conventional sheet format, details would have been given in the *Bulletin*. Nevertheless we apologise for any confusion and inconvenience caused.

Games Stamps Cylinders

The cylinders and colours used were as follows:
19p 1A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (vermillion) 1D (blue-green) 1E (blue) 1F (gold)
27p 2A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (reddish orange) 1D (blue-green) 1E (blue) 1F (gold)
32p 1A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (orange) 1D (blue-green) 1E (blue) 1F (gold) 1G (pale ochre)
35p 2A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (reddish orange) 1D (blue-green) 1E (blue) 1F (gold) 1G (stone)

New Exhibition Card

The Post Office's third exhibition card will be issued on 7 June and will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, price £1.50 plus usual handling charge. The card will bear four special stamps cancelled with a 7 June handstamp referring to the Nordia exhibition (7-11 June). The card will be available later with different exhibition handstamps – details were given in last month's *Bulletin*, page 193.



Cards sold at the Post Office's stand at the Nordia exhibition will bear a special cachet. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition can obtain cacheted cards by writing to NORDFRIM, DK 5450, OTTERUP, Denmark. The cards will cost £3 including handling charge and postage; orders must be received by the date the exhibition closes, i.e. 11 June.

British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN – 0953-8119

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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by The Post Office.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Editor at:
National Postal Museum
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Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £4.50
Rest of World (Airmail) £7.50

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

Single copies from philatelic counters: 40p

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £5.50.

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