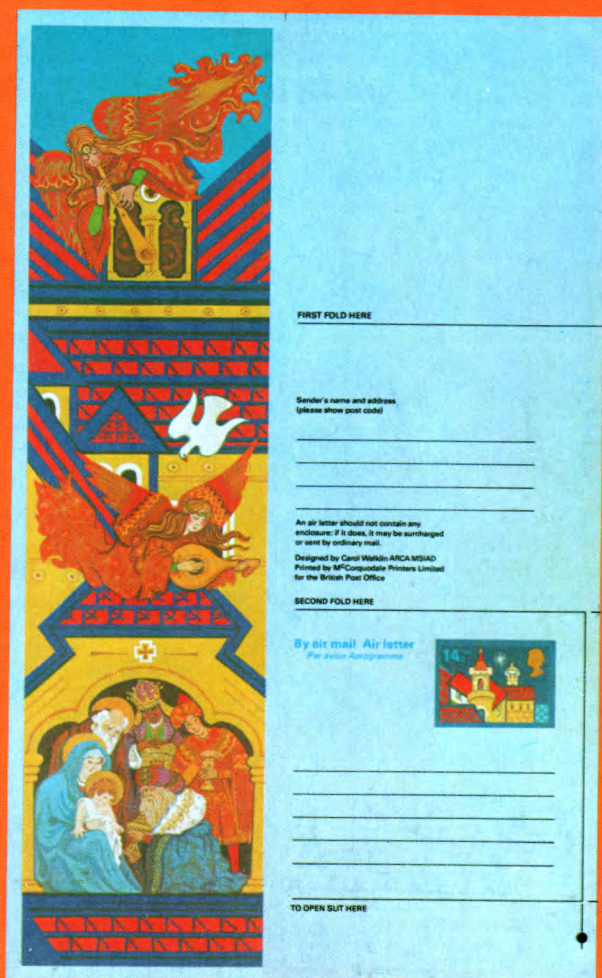


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 18 Number 3 November 1980



FIRST FOLD HERE

Sender's name and address
(please show post code)

An air letter should not contain any
enclosures. If it does, it may be surcharged
or sent by ordinary mail.

Designed by Carol Watkins ARCA MSIAD
Printed by MFC Composite Printers Limited
for the British Post Office

SECOND FOLD HERE

By air mail Air letter
Per aëre litteras



TO OPEN CUT HERE

'Producing phosphor coated paper is a much more complicated process than producing ordinary coated paper.'

Whereas in the past coating mixes were produced simply by mixing various ingredients, the phosphor coating is prepared by a sophisticated chemical reaction aimed at producing a paper with high phosphorescent signal and good moisture resistance. The nature of this coating is such that small variations in hold-out of the ink can occur which may give rise to some variation in the print, affecting the gloss and colour.'

The above statement about the surface finish of recently printed postage stamps has been issued by the printer, Harrison and Sons of High Wycombe. Pretreating the stamp paper in this way is more economical than applying the phosphor during the printing process and also releases a printing cylinder for printing a colour, but the process requires a complicated chemical synthesis, unlike the coating previously used which comprised a simple mixture of ingredients.

Owing to a complex interaction during processing which is currently under intensive investigation, there are differences in the surface appearance which are at present unavoidable, even though identical materials are used.

Although the prime requirement of adequate phosphorescence has now been achieved, it is the intention of the Post Office and the Printer to eliminate these differences in the shortest possible time. Meanwhile, any inconvenience caused to philatelists is greatly regretted.

It has been reported in a section of the philatelic press that a number of 6½p stamps were printed in error on phosphor coated paper (PCT) but withdrawn by the Post Office.

The facts are as follows. In December 1975 a proportion of the printing run of the 6½p single-bar second class rate stamps, phosphor cylinder 20, colour cylinder 5, revealed a slight background phosphorescence under ultra violet irradiation. This was due to a doctor blade fault, and not to the use of PCP.

Although the level of background phosphorescence was insufficient to cause operational

problems, an attempt was made to withdraw the affected stamps from sale, but it proved difficult to identify them effectively.

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Collecting Machin Definitives Part 3 Booklets and Coils

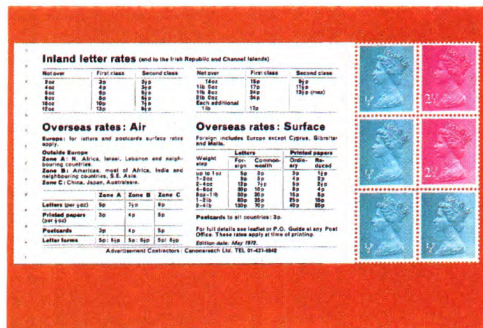
I cannot pretend to be an expert in the finer details of stamp booklet and coil production, but, as a collector I am very interested in the variants they produce. This applies both before and after 1976 when a Post Office policy decision brought about a change from stitched booklets with interleaves, to folded booklets in the Swedish style. These have the pane of stamps attached to the inside of the cover by the selvedge.



*Last of stitched type and
first of Swedish-style books*

For those of us who are interested in out of the ordinary stamps, booklets and coils can be an Aladdin's cave of such material. One of the best known and most valuable examples is the $\frac{1}{2}p$ phosphor band at left found only in the 1972 £1 Wedgwood booklet. The current value is significantly higher for perfect specimens of this stamp

because of the considerable difficulty experienced in finding specimens with good perforations.



The second cylinder

Good perforations are of special significance to booklet and coil collectors because a substantial proportion are trimmed during production. In order to overcome this problem the 1980 £3 Wedgwood booklet has been issued with a selvage all round, so making it easier for Philatelic Counter clerks to meet the perforation standards desired by their customers. Other efforts have been made by the Post Office to obtain pre-selected booklets with good perforations for philatelic sale, but with mixed results. Many are still badly trimmed.



Stamps from 1980 Wedgwood pane



Illustrated cover, stitched version

During the pre-decimal period I particularly remember the early 1969 booklets in the 6/- Bird series. A proportion of 4d vermillion stamp panes in the booklets with Barn Owl and Jay covers were found to have gum arabic instead of PVA gum. At first officially denied, with the explanation that it was a particularly shiny form of PVA, it was later admitted to be gum arabic. This gum arabic variant also appeared in the May 1969 10/- booklets, but it was not issued in sheet form. Se-tenant panes appeared from the very beginning of the Machin era. In the May 1968 2/- booklet there were two panes of stamps, one of which had 2 x 1d and 2 x 3d arranged se-tenant horizontally. Later the same year the format was changed again with two panes, but the second consisted of 2 x 4d se-tenant with two printed labels.

Many other variants have resulted from the adoption of a single phosphor band to distinguish the second class postal rate stamps. In booklets this has produced more variants than on coils as here the single phosphor band may be found not only down the centre of the stamp but also in some cases at the right or the left hand side. This was first evidenced in the February 1969 10/- booklet, in which one pane was made up of 4 x 1d and 2 x 4d se-tenant vertically. The single phosphor band on the 4d stamps is at the left side.

The first example of a £1 sponsored booklet in

the Machin series is found in the 1969 stamps for Cooks booklet containing recipes from the Dairy Book of Home Cookery by permission of the Milk Marketing Board. In one version the booklet is sewn with thread, and in the other and scarcer version it is stapled. Of the four panes of stamps one is of particular interest, having 6 x 4d, 6 x 1d and 3 x 5d se-tenant vertically. There are two phosphor bands on the 1d and 5d, and one side band on the 4d with three having the band at right and the other three having the band at left.

During 1970 an interesting booklet in the 5/- range was issued with a cover publicising the 'Philympia' International Philatelic Exhibition held in London in September that year.



Philympia 1970 stamp book



be
properly
addressed

use
the
postcode

10p strip

After decimalisation the OCP/PVA period produced several stamps which are unique to booklet panes. In respect of two of these, the $\frac{1}{2}p$ from horizontal se-tenant booklet panes of four, and the $2\frac{1}{2}p$ from booklet panes of six, the difference is in the use of thicker values classified as type II.

In the FCP/PVA series the most significant in terms of value is the Wedgwood booklet $\frac{1}{2}p$ referred to earlier. This stamp comes from a pane of six stamps plus stub, containing $3 \times \frac{1}{2}p$ and $2 \times 2\frac{1}{2}p$ plus $1 \times \frac{1}{2}p$ se-tenant vertically. The first three $\frac{1}{2}p$ stamps have two phosphor bands, the $2\frac{1}{2}p$ stamps and the $\frac{1}{2}p$ have one phosphor band at left. Two combinations of cylinders were used. The second, and scarcer of the two shows the second figure 2 in the value $2\frac{1}{2}p$ clearly separated from the Queen's head whereas on the first the figure 2 and bust are virtually touching.

As many of the Wedgwood books were cannibalised to remove this particular pane I think it a much better proposition if you kept the booklet intact, so providing a match with the attractive £3 Wedgwood booklet issued in April 1980.

From the FCP/PVA Dextrin range comes an even greater variety of stamps specifically from booklets. In January 1977 a new 50p booklet arrived, of the folded type and with 8mm phosphor bands instead of the normal 9.5mm bands. As I can find no operational necessity for such a change, it's true cause remains a mystery. Be that as it may the successive generations to date of the 50p folded booklet have continued to use 8mm bands even though the stamp values have changed. Consequently we have a separate mini-set from these booklets in which the $\frac{1}{2}p$, 1p, $8\frac{1}{2}p$, 9p, 10p and 12p have two 8mm phosphor bands set 12mm apart, and the $6\frac{1}{2}p$, 7p, 8p and 10p having either a narrow band at the left or a narrow band at the right. There are also a number of possible se-tenant variations from the same source.

A further innovation appeared with the 10p multivalued booklet in February 1978, and with the 1978 and 1979 Christmas booklets. On the upper 1p stamp of the 10p booklet the band is shortened at

the top, and on both values in the Christmas booklet the bands are shortened at top and bottom. The purpose of these developments is to reduce the risk of overlap of phosphor onto either the adjacent label, or other stamps above and below.

In 1967 a trial machine was installed outside the Crown Post Office at 33 Cannon St, London. It was designed to dispense a sideways strip of stamps following the insertion of a single coin. This was the precursor of the machines which later spread up and down the country, not only outside post offices but in railway stations, motorway service areas, attached to letter boxes and in conference centres, but the biggest installation I have seen is at The Wembley Conference Centre. These machines have been the source of many se-tenant stamps, from the August 1969 strip of five ($2d + 2d + 3d + 1d + 4d$) each with one 4mm central phosphor band and gum arabic, to the January 1980 strip of three ($8p + 1p + 1p$) plus two printed labels on PVA Dextrin. Some of the variants have included a silicone coating applied during 1972 to the 5p FCP/Gum Arabic strip ($2p + \frac{1}{2}p + \frac{1}{2}p + 1p + 1p$) as an experiment to counteract dampness. Two years later a coil printing came out on thinner paper, supposedly to facilitate dispensing from the machines. This was not continued however, as subsequent printings reverted to normal paper.

Finally, two years after the change to 10p ($6p + 2p + 1p + \frac{1}{2}p + \frac{1}{2}p$) FCP/PVAD a supply appeared without notice in 1977 on OCP/PVA. Whether or not this was an accident, or simply the using up of residual paper stocks is not known to me. One other difference between the se-tenant coil stamps is that since 1977 all values have one 4mm phosphor band at the centre whereas the sheet stamps in some cases may only be found with two bands.

As a result of inflation the 10p strip is now only sufficient to cover the standard second class letter rate; and I wonder whether it's days are numbered. From announcements made by Postal Headquarters the future lies with the 50p booklet instead of coils, and this may well mean the end of an interesting period in the life of the Machin definitives.

D W STADDON

70. British Commonwealth Games, 1970

In 1970 it was Britain's turn to host the Ninth British Commonwealth Games which were held in the fair city of Edinburgh, an occasion to which the Post Office responded with a set of three special stamps. These were the first British sports' stamps since the World Cup Football Competition of 1966, and only the fourth issue for a sporting event since the Olympic Games in 1948 and the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff in 1958.

The designer, J. Andrew Restall, well-known for his previous GB designs and for his work for the Post Office Fellowship in Minuscule Design, made a break with tradition by adapting the 'foot-exposure' filming technique used, appropriately enough, by coaches to help sportsmen with correct body postures and movements. The designs, which featured three of the leading classes of events – 5d. Running, 1s. 6d. Swimming and 1s. 9d. Cycling, were futurist in impact, conveying the impression of athletes in fast motion through 'formalised images' derived from sections of cine film, super-imposed in a sequence of movement.

The stamps and the new techniques displayed, which at first glance are seen as blurred impressions (for which the printers may have been unfairly blamed!), reveal on closer examination the subtle nuances of colours – blue, yellow-green and red-brown with lilac in the overlapped images which segregate the athletic figures. Furthermore, they are team events emphasising the spirit of competition – track racing, athletes bunched at the commencement of the 5,000 metres; freestyle swimming; and a typical cycling track race.

Subsequent Commonwealth Games were held in Christchurch, New Zealand (1974), and in Edmonton, Canada (1978), and the stamps issued by those countries for their respective events, also by certain other countries – notably Fiji, the Cook Islands and Samoa (1974), and the Isle of Man, Kenya (remembering the phenomenal Rono who won the 5,000 metres and the steeplechase) and Tonga (1978) – make an interesting contribution to the Commonwealth Games' theme for stamp collectors.

The GB Commonwealth Games' stamps were lithograph-printed by De La Rue in sheets of 120 (10 x 12) on unwatermarked paper with two



phosphor bands – they were issued on the eve of the Games on 15 July 1970, incidentally the first special stamps issued during the 'reign' of the newly-appointed Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr. Christopher Chataway, MP, the former amateur 'four-minute-miler' and professional broadcaster, who opened the London international stamp show, 'Philympia 70' in the following September. There were virtually no varieties other than the greenish-yellow colour omitted on the 5d stamp and minor litho flaws.

Quantities sold were: 5d. 75,255,440; 1s 6d 10,909,760; 1s 9d 6,303,800; and presentation packs, 114,209.

JAMES WATSON

Commemorative Covers

Concorde Flight Covers

British Airways inaugurated its first fare paying passenger flight by Concorde from London to Toronto. A commemorative cover is currently available having been flown from London to Toronto and back again to London. A 12p Queen Mother Birthday Stamp is affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The cost is £2.50. Full details from:- Henry Murray, Arlington Supplies Ltd, PO Box 143, Palmers Green, LONDON, N13 4XN.

Part of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the Red Cross.

Leicestershire Fire Service

To coincide with the Christmas stamps issue on 19 November 1980 a commemorative cover will be available through the Leicestershire Fire Service in aid of 'Rudolph's Charity Appeal' for local charities. The front of the cover features a picture of 'Rudolph' with sleigh and Santa Claus, and bears all five Christmas stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The cost is £2.50 including p&p and VAT. Orders and remittances should be sent to:- Mr A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ.

Cardinal Wolsey Exhibition

The 450th Anniversary of the death of Cardinal Wolsey will be marked by an exhibition to be held in the Corn Exchange, Ipswich, IP1 1DH from 4-29 November. The Post Office will install a display featuring Hampton Court Palace and the stamps depicting them. A commemorative cover is available depicting a portrait of the Cardinal and bearing the 15p 'London Landmarks' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The cost of the cover is 80p which is obtainable from The Ipswich Philatelic Society, 24 Larchcroft Close, IPSWICH, IP1 6PG.

950 Years of Worship on the Site of Waltham Abbey

A special cover bearing all five Christmas 1980 stamps will be available after 19 November. The cover will be cancelled with a suitable handstamp commemorating 950 years of worship on the Abbey site. The cost of the cover is £2.50 plus 15p p&p. Orders and remittances should be made

payable to:- Hawkwood Stamps, 60 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, LONDON, E4 7PJ.

Save the Children Fund

A souvenir cover commemorating the Inauguration of the 653rd Lord Mayor of London on 8 November 1980 will be available soon after the event. The cover, designed by Jennifer Toombs, is produced in aid of the 'Save the Children Fund', and will bear a 50p London stamp, cancelled by a pictorial handstamp. The cost is £1.50.

A limited number will be carried in the Lord Mayor's carriage during his procession through the City of London and will bear a cachet denoting the fact. The cost is £5 each. It is hoped that the new Lord Mayor will sign 100 of the covers, offered at £10 each.

Orders should be sent to:- Lord Mayor's Covers, Liege House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts, SN14 84D. Remittances to be made payable to:- 'Cotswold Covers, Client Account'.

Cardinal Hume opens New Chapel

On 5 September His Eminence Cardinal Hume opened a new chapel of Brownedge St Mary's High School, Bamber Bridge, Preston, Lancs. To commemorate the occasion a special cover is available, bearing a 10p Christmas 1979 stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. There are 2,000 covers, 100 of which have been signed by the Cardinal. The cost is £2, unsigned covers are £1 each, p&p 12p extra.

Orders with remittances should be sent to:- The Headmaster, Brownedge St Mary's High School, Station Road, Bamber Bridge, PRESTON, PR5 6PB. Proceeds from sales will be donated to the cost of the Chapel.

1980 Collectors' Pack

This pack contains all the commemorative stamps, with the exception of the 'London 1980' miniature sheet, issued throughout the year and will be available from 19 November 1980, price £5.22.

Christmas Stamps Issue

19 November 1980

This year's stamps and first day cover, designed by Jeffery Matthews FSIAD, announce the special atmosphere which will surround family life during the Christmas period. Holly, mistletoe, decorations for the Christmas tree, the lighted candles – all epitomize the spirit of the time of year.

Subjects and Colours

- 10p A Christmas Tree
new blue, bistre-yellow, blue-green,
orange-vermillion, slate black.
- 12p Lighted Candles
red, orange-yellow, mauve-carmine,
bluish-grey, slate black.
- 13½p Mistletoe
olive-bistre, greenish-yellow, grey-olive,
slate black, brown.
- 15p Paper Decorations
yellow-orange, bistre-yellow, rosine, new

blue, brownish-black.

- 17½p A Holly Wreath
deep green, bistre-yellow, vermillion, slate
black.

Printing Details

- Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd
Process: Photogravure
Format: Horizontal
Paper: Coated, unwatermarked,
PVA Dextrin
Phosphor: Pre-treated
Size: 41mm x 30mm
Perforation: 15 x 14
Sheet Size: 100

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 8½p each.



Christmas Pictorial Airletter

The 1980 Christmas airletter, illustrated on the front cover of this month's Bulletin, has been designed by Carol Walklin ARCA MSIAD. It will be issued on 19 November, price 16½p, of which 14½p is postage. Printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd, it has two phosphor bars.

Christmas Stamp Book

The Christmas 1980 stamp book will be issued on Wednesday 12 November and contains 10 x 12p and 10 x 10p definitive stamps, price £2.20. The 12p stamps, with two phosphor bars are printed above the 10p stamps which contain a single phosphor bar centrally positioned. The cover, designed by Eric Fraser FSIAD, depicts a nativity scene.



POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVER
Christmas
1980

Mrs J Robinson
 200 Manorbier Road
 ILKESTON
 Derbyshire
 DE7 4AB

Christmas
1980

BRITISH POST OFFICE MINT STAMPS



ABC of Postcard Themes

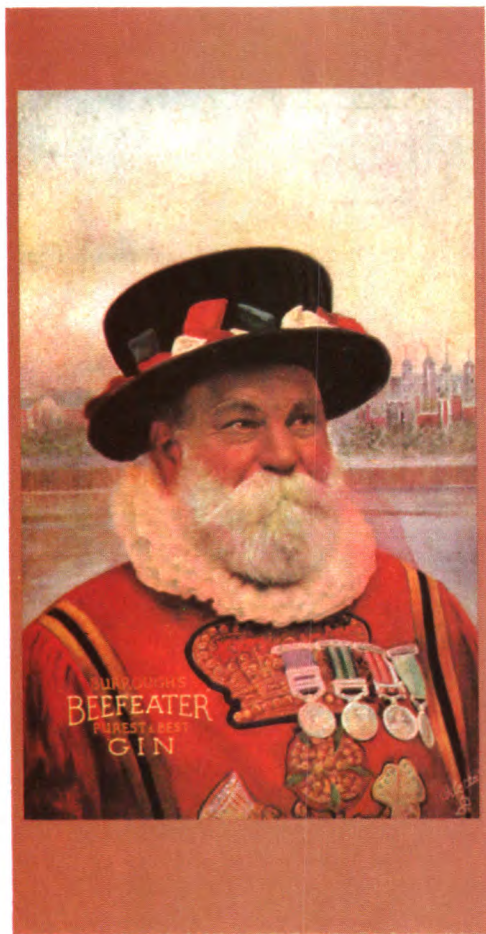
No. 1

Advertisements for commercial products and services began to appear on postal stationery in the mid-19th century when hotels in Austria, Germany and Switzerland printed small but attractive views on the envelopes used by their guests, and manufacturers in the United States advertised their products – everything from farm machinery to Winchester rifles – in similar fashion. In the 1890s vast quantities of the multicoloured, multi-view ‘gruss aus’ (‘greetings from’) picture postcards were published in virtually every town and resort on the Continent, where again the hotel-owners made good use of the postcard as a cheap and effective advertising medium.

By 1900 the production of picture postcards by British publishers was in full swing and many business firms employed the finest available artistic and printing techniques to produce their advert cards. A typical example is the card illustrated this month, published by Raphael Tuck for Burrough’s ‘Beefeater’ Gin, the ‘purest and best’, showing one of the beefeaters or warders of the Tower of London in his picturesque uniform.

Tuck also produced a collector’s postcard series of some 60 ‘Celebrated Posters’, advertising such famous branded products as Bovril and Oxo, Fry’s, Cadbury’s and Rowntree’s cocoa and chocolate, Milkmaid milk, Pears’ soap, Colman’s mustard and starch, Dewar’s whisky, Bird’s custard, Hoe’s sauce and Jacob’s cream crackers – most, if not all, still available today after 80 years! These cards now fetch from £20 to £50 according to condition, as also do the other poster types, notably those for the turn-of-the-century railways and shipping companies. Several advertisers, including Bird’s and Lemco, linked their cards with the coronation of Edward VIII, while a famous advert card for Horniman’s pure tea shows the monarch holding a cup of the popular beverage with the caption ‘A Right Royal Drink’.

Many other firms advertised their products on postcards other than in the form of mini-posters – everything from Amami shampoo to Virol – while even local traders and shopkeepers employed rubber stamps or printed adverts for their leading



lines superimposed on greetings and view cards. Theatres gained useful publicity for their current productions by publishing poster-type cards, reproductions of playbills, pictures of actors and actresses, and scenes from their shows. Tobacco advertising, now so strictly controlled, was a feature of Edwardian life and the cards published by Ogden’s (‘Guinea Golds’) and W.D. & H.O. Wills are now highly-prized collectors’ items.

MALCOLM JAMES

Book Reviews

The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Printings

4th Edition 1980.

*Published by Connoisseur Publications,
184/186 Portland Road, LONDON, SE25 4QB.
Price £1.95.*

Some idea of the merits of this 76 page pocket-sized catalogue may be gained from the fact that the publishers found it necessary to reprint the first two editions. When that happens you can usually be certain that you have a book which is both reliable and good value for money.

This handy guide to the Machin printings of GB and Regional issues is at least as good as any now on the market at comparable prices and a good deal better than some. It is well printed, nicely laid out and handsomely illustrated.

It lists pre and post Decimal issues primarily under gum and paper types and also by phosphor banding and printing contractors. Each category is illustrated in some detail and even a beginner can easily follow the clear text and well laid out listings.

Altogether excellent value for money and a source of much interesting information and sound advice to beginners and advanced collectors alike.

Highly recommended to all Machin enthusiasts.

The Postal History of Beaumaris

by J B Cowell.

Price: £1.95 (post paid).

Available from the author at:- Lindale, 52, Lon y Bryn, Menai Bridge, Isle of ANGLESEY, Gwynedd, LL59 5LL.

Is it perhaps the technical colleges with their interest in industrial archaeology which have stimulated the recent revival of enquiries into local postal history? Whatever the reason, these little books are most welcome.

Their authors rarely achieve the readership they really deserve. Some day their detailed and scholarly monographs will form the basis of a British postal history encyclopaedia of truly majestic proportions. Until they do we shall have to be content with the devoted efforts of individuals who beaver away into the postal affairs of their own localities.

Mr Cowell's researches into the postal history of Anglesey and Bangor are now supplemented by a similar enquiry covering Beaumaris, a one-time trading port which became an elegant and fashionable seaside resort much favoured by visitors from Liverpool. The consequent picture card trade ensured preservation of its postmarks in many a family album.

An early postal marking nicely illustrates one of the difficulties of centralising official die-making in the 18th century. Faced with the task of spelling Beaumaris – a place he'd evidently never heard of – the engraver exercised his imagination and came up with BEWMARE. A much later ships mark may still be causing some confusion among novice collectors. Reading simply 'Posted on Snowdon' it refers, not to the mountain, but to a pleasure boat of that name.

A thoughtfully compiled and well presented little publication which certainly deserves the support of postal historians.

British Rail carried Post Office Covers

Earlier in the year the Post Office issued a commemorative cover to celebrate the re-enactment of the Rainhill Trials during the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend. British Rail carried a number of these covers on replicas of 'Rocket', 'Novelty' and 'Sans Pareil' at the trials.

The Post Office are issuing a second cover to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first carriage of mail by rail. A special TPO will be run on the anniversary date 11 November 1980 and a number of these second covers will again be carried by British Rail.

They all bear a full set of the 'Liverpool and Manchester' railway stamps together with a 55p British Rail carriage fee stamp and a special cachet mark indicating which of the trains the covers were carried on.

The cost of the covers is £1.72½ including VAT. Order forms may be obtained from:- British Rail, Admail 150, LIVERPOOL, L69 0BR. Remittances should be made payable to 'Rocket 150'.

Forces Covers

R.A.F. Covers

The world's first VTOL aircraft to be deployed operationally, the Harrier, has now been at readiness in Germany for 10 years. A cover in the RAF Famous Firsts Series (FF15) marks the anniversary showing a scene painted by Gerald Coulson of a Harrier ascending from a German pine forest. It is cancelled by BFPS 1707 (10th anniversary of the overseas operational Harrier) and has been flown in a Harrier in Germany. It can be obtained for 75p plus 10p postage from the Project Officer: Flt-Lt G Edge, Raf Gutersloh, BFPO 47.

A cover showing a shark-toothed P40 Tomahawk down in the Western Desert with the attendant medical team alongside has been issued to mark the 50th Anniversary of The Royal Air Force Dental Branch. It has been flown from the RAF Museum, Cosford, to the HQ RAF Dental Branch after cancellation by a Special Forces handstamp (BFPS 1698). It is available from the Project Officer, Wg-Cdr J Gray, RAF Cosford, WOLVERHAMPTON, West Midlands WV7 3EX at 75p plus 10p postage.

In July 1920 the First Royal Air Force Pageant was held at Hendon. To mark the 60th anniversary of this annual event a cover has been issued based on a painting by Michael Turner showing Bristol Bulldogs over the Hendon hangars. It has been cancelled by Special Commemorative handstamp (BFPS 1711) and flown most appropriately by the Red Arrows in their flypast over the Royal Tournament. It is available from The Project Officer, Mr G Bishop, 2 Corsletts Avenue, Broadbridge Heath, HORSHAM, Surrey RH12 3LG at 75p plus 10p postage.

The proceeds of all these covers will be devoted to The Battle of Britain Museum Appeal.

Test Pilot Series

TP11 Wg-Cdr R Martin

The cover shows Wg-Cdr Martin of Gloster's and the Gloster Gladiator. It is cancelled with a commemorative handstamp for the 40th Anniversary of RAF Innsworth and has been flown in the Gloster Meteor. It is available from the Project Officer, Sqn-Ldr B Cooke, RAF

INNSWORTH, Gloucester GL3 1EZ at 75p plus 10p postage.

TP14 commemorated the career of Alex Henshaw. It shows Henshaw and the Spitfire which he tested for the greater part of World War II. It is cancelled with BFPS 1076 and can be obtained from the Project Officer, Flt-Lt D Eastwood, RAF Museum, RAF Cosford, WOLVERHAMPTON WV7 3EX at 75p plus 10p postage.

TP12 is devoted to Brian Trubshaw, the famous test pilot of Concorde. It shows him with Concorde and has been flown by him from Filton in Concorde. Cancelled by the commemorative handstamp BFPS 1708 it is available from The Battle of Britain Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at 75p plus 10p postage.

The Annual Biggin Hill Air Fair cover (C78) commemorated the 40th Anniversary of The Battle of Britain and shows a Spitfire in a steep turn over RAF Biggin Hill. It is cancelled by the Biggin Hill Air Fair handstamp BFPS 1657 and is available from the Project Officer, Mr R Mack, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at 60p plus 10p postage.

Captain Oates Memorial Cover

On 17 March 1972 the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the death of Captain Oates by producing a memorial cover. On the front is a reproduction of Dollman's famous painting of Oates walking to his death. A 9p Captain Scott stamp is affixed cancelled by a pictorial handstamp, BFPS 1291.

Of the original 3,000 covers, which were unsigned, 750 were withheld to be sold at a time when money was required to finance a new biography of Captain Oates. The time has arrived and Lt-Col E B G Oates, Oates's nephew, has kindly agreed to sign 400 covers.

Orders for the signed covers, costing £2.50 each, or the remaining unsigned covers, costing £1 each, should be sent to Home Headquarters, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The Castle, CHESTER CH1 2DN.

Liverpool and Manchester Railway Commemorative Postcards

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Home HQ, 5 INNIS DG.

Royal Navy Cover

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the sinking of *HMS Jervis Bay* a special cover is now available. It illustrates the ship in action and the Victoria Cross, and will bear a 15p 'Music' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp number BFPS 1712. The cover signed by Commodore R C Hastie, RD DL RNR and Kapitan sur See G Krancke of the German Navy is available for £1.85.

Signed by Kapitan sur See G Krancke only the cover has the 13½p 'Music' stamp affixed and cancelled, the cost is £1.05.

Unsigned covers with the 12p 'Music' stamp are available at 60p.

Orders accompanied by a 7" x 5" sae should be sent to: R N Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RN Air Station, YEOVILTON, Somerset BA22 8HL.

Remittances should be made payable to the 'FAA Museum'.

In 1830 the Liverpool and Manchester railway became the first regular railway service in the world. During the same year the L and M was granted a mail carrying contract by the Post Office to serve both cities.

To mark this historic event the North Western Postal Region issued four commemorative postcards in full colour, based on two of the celebrated Ackermann prints.

Two of the cards are available price 8½p. The other two bear the official British Rail Anniversary logo and a full set of Liverpool and Manchester stamps, price 70p each. The cards are despatched under cover, mint and unaddressed.

Orders should be sent to:- North Western Postal Board, OD/MK8, 79 Oxford Street, MANCHESTER, M60 1DA.

It should be noted that 30p postage and packing for orders of 1-50 cards, 45p for orders of 51-99 cards should be added. Postage and packing for orders of 100 cards will be quoted on ordering.

Cheques should be made payable to the Post Office or into NWPB Giro Account Number 6173004.

New Philatelic Sales Counters

A new philatelic sales counter will be opened to the public in the Branch Office, Jameson Street, HULL HU1 3JG on the 8 December 1980. A special pictorial handstamp depicting the Humber Bridge bearing the words, 'POST OFFICE PHILATELIC COUNTER HULL' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the Jameson Street Branch Office. For customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to call at the Office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent to: The Headpostmaster, Operations Division, 60 Low Gate, HULL HU1 1AA.

First Day Cover and Postcard Albums

The Post Office has produced albums for first day covers and postcards, attractively bound in Fasano PVC – tan coloured for FDCs, and red for postcards. The FDC album is in two sizes – large at 324mm x 279mm containing 18 pockets and holding 65 covers – small at 155mm x 295mm containing 20 pockets holding 40 covers. The postcard album is 324mm x 279mm, contains 20 pockets and holds 160 postcards. The large first day cover and postcard albums are £7.50 each. The small first day cover album is £5. These prices are for personal callers at philatelic counters only.

William Wyon Essay

This month's "gem" from the Reginald M Phillips' Collection shows an original design for the 1/- prepared by William Wyon, and engraver at the Royal Mint, and submitted to the Authorities at the start of 1847. The Head was modelled from the obverse of his City Medal of 1837, struck to commemorate Queen Victoria's visit to the Guildhall. (The head for the line-engraved issues was also copied from the same model). The octagonal essays prepared by William Wyon culminated in the embossed issue of 1847 which produced stamps to rival the Penny Black in their

classic design.

In the above design, the head was first struck in white relief, the border and legend drawn next in pen and ink, and finally the background painted-in in water-colour. The writing below the design which says "Original design of the 1/- stamp submitted by Wyon in 1847" is by Ormond Hill, son of Sir Rowland Hill's brother, Edwin. This unique item can be seen by visitors to the National Postal Museum in Vol XXX/6 of the Phillips Collection.



Forthcoming Events

Telford Philatelic Society

The Telford Philatelic Society are holding a stamp fair at Belmont House, Wellington, TF1 1NE on 15 November 1980, from 10 am to 4 pm. The fair will be opened by The Chairman of Wales and The Marches Postal Board, Mr P V Jackson.

There will be 11 dealer's stands and the Post Office will provide a display and philatelic sales counter. Refreshments will be available and car parking facilities are near by. The price of admission is 25p, children 10p.

The 5th South of England Stamp, Coin and Postcard Fair

The fair will be held at The Assembly Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday 6 December 1980 from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. Price of admission is 25p, children (under 14) 15p.

Posting Boxes



No. 20 This month's posting box illustration has been sent to us by Mr P Jennings, of Cottingham, North Humberside, to whom we are grateful. The quality and composition of the photograph are very good. Readers will recognize the box as a Penfold, manufactured by Cochrane of Dudley. This type of box has been the subject of an earlier Bulletin, but because this example is located in Bournemouth and believed to be the oldest in use in that area, we feel justified in reproducing the photograph.

National Postal Museum Notes

A few of the publications produced by the Museum are now in short supply and will not be reprinted. They will only be sold until 31 December 1980 or when supplies run out, whichever is the sooner. The books, which are all paperbacks, are as follows:-

Ships On Stamps by A G Rigo de Righi (a brief thematic study of ships and boats on stamps - price 15p).

Railways And The Post by Jean Farrugia (a history of the close connection between the Post Office and the Railways - price 50p).

350 Years Of Anglo-American Postal Links by A G Rigo de Righi (a short account of the development of trans-Atlantic mail services since 1620 - price 50p).

Postage Stamps Of De La Rue by A G Rigo de Righi (a study of the century-long connection of Messrs Thomas de la Rue with British and other postage stamps - price 50p).

Copies of the books can be bought direct from the Museum counter or can be supplied by post. Orders by post should be sent to the National Postal Museum, Kind Edward Building, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, with a cheque or postal order for the appropriate amount made payable to the Post Office. (A fee of 20p per book to cover postage and packing should also be added.)

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