

Philatelic Bulletin

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Editorial

As one of the principal stand holders we were recently able to join others in a preliminary inspection of the site of the 1979 British Philatelic Exhibition scheduled to take place at the Wembley Conference centre from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 November.

This new venue – a purpose built exhibition centre – will provide in two fully carpeted spacious and well lit inter-connecting halls, over twice the space normally occupied by this popular annual event. The Exhibition is being expanded to provide some 70 trade stands including 11 Postal Authorities/Agencies and it is planned to have over 400 frames of exhibits on display.

With ample car-parking facilities, two large restaurants, snack and refreshment bars, excellent cloakrooms and a bank open throughout the event the venue provides luxurious surroundings for this, the most prestigious event in the annual philatelic calendar.

A special cover is to be produced and a special cancellation will be used throughout the event for mail posted at the Exhibition. Societies can obtain advantageous admission rates for organised parties as can Schools and other organisations. For those wishing to spend more than one day at the show the organisers have reserved hotel accommodation at the adjoining Eurocrest Hotel. Full details may be obtained from the Secretary, The British Philatelic Exhibition Ltd., No 1 Whitehall Place, LONDON SW1A 2HE.

We hope that BPE will be a huge success in its new home and we look forward to meeting our friends and customers there.

Rowland Hill Miniature Sheet

The Rowland Hill miniature sheet, illustrated on the front cover, details of which accompanied the September Philatelic Bulletin, will be available from 24 October 1979 price 59½p. Its issue, like the Historic Buildings miniature sheet is linked with London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition and bears the 'logo' of the Exhibition as part of the marginal inscription.

150 years at Scotland Yard

On 29 September 1829 when the first 'Bobbies' or 'Peelers', nicknamed after the then Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, first marched out from Scotland Yard, London was a city of 1½ million people with no centralised preventive police system. With a crime rate fast increasing, no longer adequately protected by such small independently organised groups as the Bow Street Runners and the Marine Police, the climate of opinion was ready to turn to Robert Peel's vision of a 'vigorous preventive police, consistent with the free principles of our free constitution'.

The reform of the police into a single, centralised body had long been Peel's objective. Rather than risk his reputation at the outset in a sensitive area where previous reformers had met with little success, he decided to move more slowly and to devote his early years in office to the reform of criminal law, subtly preparing for an eventual reform of the police itself.

When, in 1829, Peel introduced his 'Bill for improving the Police in and near the Metropolis', his careful preparation and tactful handling of Parliament together with his adamant insistence that the Metropolitan Police was to be purely a civilian force meant that after more than 75 years of wrangling suspicion and hostility to the whole idea of professional police, the Metropolitan Police Act was passed without significant opposition.

The first Commissioners of Police were Colonel Charles Rowan, and Richard Mayne, a young Irish barrister. They set up their headquarters with speed and efficiency in a house at 4 Whitehall Place. The building backed on to a narrow lane, known as Scotland Yard. The first recruits took to calling their headquarters by the name of this tiny street and as is often the case with such nicknames, it soon ousted the correct name and has been inherited by all the subsequent Metropolitan Police headquarters in different locations, including the present building of New Scotland Yard between Westminster and Victoria.

Today London's police care for over 7½ million people. Such a heavy responsibility has involved vast technological changes in our policing organisation. Since the first police telephones were introduced in 1901 and the creation by the Post

Office in 1937 of the famous '999' system, the advent of radios, patrol cars and computerised communications has revolutionised the way in which the police carry out their duties. It is a measure of their success and professionalism that few of us are made aware of the work of such branches of the CID as the Flying Squad, the Forgery Squad, Special Branch and the Forensic Science Laboratory through anything other than sensational films, television and novels.

To most of us, the most familiar figure of London's police forces is the uniformed officer on the 'beat'. His uniform may have changed from the first rather elegant 'Peelers' but essentially his role has remained the same. The increasing mobilisation of the police and the vast growth of London's population could have begun to sever the confidence and trust between the police and the public if it had not been for the creation of the role of Home Beat Officer. The local Home Beat Officer is there to fulfill, the traditional role of the 'village bobby'. Attached to a particular area, it is his or her job to come to know the 'beat' intimately and to establish contact with the people who live in the area. The officer on the beat provides the human bridge between the public and the police and serves as a constant reminder that the police are themselves part of and an extension to the community.

At the same time as fulfilling this very important role, the Home Beat Officers are also operational police officers, investigating crimes and arresting or reporting those who break the law. All new recruits to the Metropolitan Police Force must spend at least two years on the beat after the initial formal training period. They are taught that theirs is a threefold responsibility: prevention of crime by their presence as a deterrent, quick response to situations and crimes which they discover and responsible follow-up reaction to incidents which are reported to them.

If the policeman of 1829 would recognise certain essential similarities between his role and that of the Home Beat Officer, the same can hardly be said of his possible reaction to the daunting task facing the more than 1000 strong Traffic Division.

The control and regulation of the 2½ million

licensed vehicles travelling on London's 8,600 miles of roads and motorways every day is now taken for granted. The cost to the community and the economy of severe congestion could be enormous and many of the recent technological developments within the force have been directed to the supervision and control of traffic flow. Today they are helped by emergency telephones, traffic flow sensors, television cameras, computer linked traffic signal control and of course, 'Oscar Control', the Traffic Control radio room at New Scotland Yard.

Despite all this mechanical assistance, the human element is still vitally important. All members of the five Traffic Areas are volunteers who have applied to specialise in this work. They are carefully selected from large numbers of applicants for their special aptitude for traffic control duties.

From their twelve garages the Traffic Division operate a full fleet carrying all the equipment necessary to cope with major accidents. They also provide a variety of other essential services: the Special Escort Group for State and ceremonial occasions, emergency rushes of medical supplies to hospitals, the provision of an Accident Prevention Unit at 'black spots' and the invaluable educational services of special Road Safety training for members of the public.

Since motor vehicles only really became a hazard in the late 19th century, the Traffic Division is a relatively young branch of the Metropolitan Police. The Traffic Department only came into being in May 1919 and the Central Traffic Squad was not formed until 1965. Today it is one of the central functions of the Metropolitan Police with three basic objects: the prevention of accidents, the maintenance of traffic flow and relief of congestion and the enforcement of law relating to traffic and the motorist.

Another coveted specialist branch for which officers can apply after the completion of their two years foot duty is the Mounted Branch. In 1813 the control of the British Special Horse Patrol passed to the Home Secretary but they were not incorporated into the Metropolitan Police until 1836.



Today the Metropolitan Police has some 200 horses and 210 officers who deal with public order during ceremonial occasions and large gatherings. Training usually takes six months for a horse and 22 weeks for the officers but both undergo an extensive further training and probationary period on the roads of London before the officers are permanently established and allocated their own horse. It is estimated that an experienced officer on a well-trained horse can be as effective as a dozen foot police in crowd control.

Some of the smartest officers seen trotting their beautifully turned out mounts through the streets are now women. There are now well over 1,400 women officers out of a total of 22,000. A small percentage still, but one that has been steadily increasing since 1973 when a policy was introduced of equal opportunity under which the separate Women's rank structure was abolished.

The appearance of the first women police on the streets of London sixty years ago in their stout serge uniforms and heavy duty laced boots, caused an uproar. They were drafted in during the First World War to watch the interests of women and girls, initially on a temporary basis. In 1922 a small number were sworn in with the full powers of constables with their own Superintendent. It was the shortage of personnel in the Second World War which allowed the women police officers to show that they could fulfil any of the roles reserved for their male counterparts and today women police in their smart uniforms are a familiar sight in all branches of 'The Met'.

Running through the heart of the 780 mile under the protection of 'The Met' is the River Thames and this important thoroughfare has been constantly patrolled. Like the Horse Patrol, the first Marine Police Office began under the control

Cancellations for 1979 Christmas Gift Book Stamps

f a Magistrate and was opened in 1798 on a site in Vapping which is still occupied today by the Headquarters of the Thames Division.

The organisation was absorbed into the Metropolitan Police in 1839 and Thames Division patrols 54 miles of river from Dartford Creek to Taines Bridge. There are seven police stations exclusively devoted to the protection of the life and property of all those connected with the River. One of these, the station at Waterloo Pier, is the only floating police station in the world! Motor boats were introduced in 1910 and until then the Thames Division dealt with all the policing problems of the river in rowing boats and sailing dinghies. Today the duty boats and launches form an impressive part of the changing panorama of London's waterway.

On his appointment as the first joint Commissioner with Col. Sir Charles Rowan, Sir Richard Mayne laid down the guidelines of the role and purpose of the Police in society:

'The primary object of an efficient Police is the prevention of crime: the next that of detection and punishment of offenders if crime is committed. To these ends all the efforts of the Police must be directed. The protection of life and property, the preservation of public tranquility and the absence of crime will alone prove whether those efforts have been successful and whether the objects of which the Police were appointed have been attained'.

These words, the 'Primary Objects' are still earned by every new officer who joins the Metropolitan Police. In the century and a half since they were first voiced, the task of maintaining law and order in one of the world's major capital cities has grown and changed beyond recognition. In anything other than an ideal world the 'Primary Objects' can never be fully realised but the esteem and respect in which the British 'Bobby' is held and the reputation of Scotland Yard as the world's most distinguished centre of crime detection are a standing tribute to the aims and tenets of those few men who created the Metropolitan Police and to the work of the thousands whose work over the years has made London one of the safest and most civilised cities in the world.

The new 1979 Christmas gift book on 14 November – at £1.80 – makes available for the first time a mixed-value pane of 10 x 10p and 10 x 8p definitive stamps mounted in strips one above the other.

It will be of exceptional interest to collectors who will be able to secure a philatelic quality date of issue cancellation for the stamps at the following offices:

London Chief Office, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1AA

Curator, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP

Trafalgar Square Branch Office, Trafalgar Square, LONDON WC2N 4DL

Philatelic Sales Counter, 28 Royal Avenue, BELFAST BT1 1AA

Philatelic Sales Counter, 18 Westgate Street, CARDIFF, CF1 1AD

Philatelic Sales Counter, 2 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH, EH1 1AB

London (Heathrow) Airport, Terminal 2, HOUNSLOW, TW6 1EX

Head Post Office, 38/39 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, SL4 1AA

Collectors who are unable to visit one of these offices but would like to use the service can obtain the 14 November postmark by sending on that day an addressed envelope bearing the stamps under an outer cover endorsed 'Special Handstamp 14 November 1978' to any of the following addresses:

District Postmaster, London Chief Office, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA

Curator, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP

District Postmaster, West Central District Office, 181 High Holborn, LONDON, WC1A 1AA

Head Postmaster, 20/22 Donegall Quay, BELFAST, BT1 1AA

Head Postmaster 220/228 Penarth Road CARDIFF, CF1 1AA

Head Postmaster, 2/4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH, EH1 1AA

Head Postmaster, Hounslow Head Post Office, 9 Holloway Street, HOUNSLOW, TW3 1AA

Head Postmaster, 38/39 Peascod Street, Windsor, SL4 1AA

British Special Stamps

57. British Paintings (2), 1968

This was the second issue of 'Paintings' stamps (based upon photographs of the originals) and gave promise of a regular annual series which, however, was not fulfilled. It was also the third consecutive series in 1968 with the proud adjective, 'British', in the title, reminding me of the ubiquitous postmark slogan of the 1920s – 'BRITISH GOODS ARE BEST'. Incidentally the 4d letter rate was still in force after three years, and that's under two (new) pence. We never had it so good!

The four stamps, issued on 12 August 1968, provided a variety of artists and subjects – 'Queen Elizabeth I' (unknown artist) on the 4d; Sir Thomas Lawrence's 'Pinkie' (1s); John Piper's 'Ruins of St. Mary le Port' (1s 6d); and Constable's 'Hay Wain' on the 1s 9d.

Historians have described Queen Elizabeth I as 'masterful and adroit, vain and vindictive' – what we see on the stamp is a portrait in the grand manner of an elegant woman in her fifties, perhaps, probably painted at the time of the Spanish Armada, when her prestige was at its

highest. The portrait hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, London, and is attributed to the earlier date, *circa* 1575. The Gallery houses portraits of 'the most eminent persons in British history', and the present building was opened in 1896.

'Pinkie' was Miss Sarah Moulton-Barrett and the original Lawrence painting is in the Henry I Huntingdon Gallery, San Marino, California. It is dated 1795 when he had just been elected RA and had become the most fashionable painter of the day. Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830) was born in Bristol, the son of an innkeeper. As a somewhat precocious boy, he helped the family income by his crayon portraits and, at 17, claimed that 'for the painting of a head I would risk my reputation with any painter in London'. A year later he exhibited at the Royal Academy and from then on he was enormously successful, being made ARA in 1791, appointed Painter to the King (George III) on the death of Reynolds in 1792, and elected RA in 1794. He was knighted in 1815 and became President of the Royal Academy in 1820.



The Penny Black Buttery

The historic old church of St. Mary le Port in Bristol was extensively damaged by enemy action in 1940 – John Piper's picture of the ruins is a stark reminder of the grim realities of World War 2 and the meaningless destruction and havoc caused by the air-raids on British cities. John Piper, a distinguished painter of modern times, is one of the commissioners of the Royal Fine Arts Commission and a trustee of the National Gallery. He is a Companion of Honour, an Order which is limited to 50 members, and his picture is in the Tate Gallery, London.

Constable's pictures have been described as 'so charged with all that is fresh and clean in nature, that in front of them we are almost impelled to take off our hats to let the wind blow in our hair'. All is calm and peaceful, however, in 'The Hay Wain', one of the artist's most famous paintings which, along with 'The Cornfield' and 'The Valley Farm', is in the National Gallery. The date of the celebrated 'Hay Wain' (named after the foreground farm wagon) is debatable – the stamp is endorsed '1821', but some records indicate that the painting was shown at the Royal Academy in 1820. With another painting, 'View on the Stour', it was awarded a gold medal at the Paris Salon in 1824.

John Constable (1776-1837) was a native of East Bergholt, Suffolk, and he first exhibited in 1802. Recognition came late in his life – he became an ARA in 1819 and an RA in 1829 – and much of his work was never exhibited. A large collection of his paintings was bequeathed to the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, by his daughter, after his death. He was, with Turner, the major landscape painter of 19th-century England.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 60 (1s 9d 6 x 10, others 10 x 6) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. A noted variety is the 'blister' or white patch on the right hand of Elizabeth I (4d), while all values are known with the gold – value and Queen's head – omitted, also with phosphor bands omitted.

Quantities sold were: 4d 185,034,000; 1s 17,953,440; 1s 6d 8,878,440; and 1s 9d 5,739,000; English presentation packs, 93,829; German packs, 7,880.

JAMES WATSON

The Grand Hotel in Birmingham officially opened its second restaurant recently. The Penny Black Buttery has a philatelic theme – chosen to coincide with the commemorative year of Sir Rowland Hill, the Kidderminster born and Birmingham reared founder of the modern postal system.

Guests of honour at the reception and lunch were the City's Lord Mayor, Councillor George Canning, Mrs Canning and Mr Ian Cameron, Chairman of the Midlands Postal Board, who unveiled a portrait of Sir Rowland Hill which has been specially commissioned by the Midlands Postal Board and which will be on extended loan to the Hotel.

The new 90 seater Buttery reflects the light and airy beige and brown colouring of the Carver's Table, the Grand's other restaurant opened in January 1978. The highlights of the room are the unusual ceiling mirrors and prints depicting the history of British stamps.

John Acton the General Manager, went to town with a true Victorian theme for the opening. The guests of honour were transported to the hotel by a replica of the original Royal Mail Coach and Horses, and all the Buttery staff were in Victorian costume. He says 'We are all obviously delighted with the new Buttery which gives our clients a choice of restaurants and completes all the work in the public areas of the hotel. We are grateful too, to the Midlands Postal Board for their co-operation and contribution towards the research for the decor and indeed for lending us the portrait of Sir Rowland Hill'.



Mr Ian Cameron, with The Lord Mayor of the City of Birmingham and the Lady Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs George Canning and Mr John Acton at the unveiling ceremony.

The Postcard Story

7. The Picture Postcard Hobby

Ten years ago, the number of serious collectors of old picture postcards could be counted on a centipede's legs. Edwardian-style albums and accumulations of cards gathered dust in attics and in junk shops; booksellers and antique shops had 'penny boxes' of cards acquired in house-clearance and private library purchases. No-one seemed to appreciate the merits of artist-drawn beauties and children, the charm and variety of greetings cards or the fascination of topographical cards with their nostalgic views of life in our cities, towns and villages 75 years ago or more.

Gradually all this has changed. Picture postcards are now a booming collecting hobby, one which has several thousand enthusiastic followers, a trade association and a solid phalanx of dealers, regular auctions and postcard fairs, a formidable library of general and specialist books and guides, magazines and sales-lists, and an annual exhibition, 'BIPEX' (the British International Postcard Exhibition), held in London. Several manufacturers produce postcard albums for the collector, and numerous postcard clubs and societies have been established all over the country. And the hobby is becoming truly international – it has a strong following on the Continent (in France and Germany, especially) and in the United States there are again many thousands of postcard collectors whose interests and activities are on a par with our own.

It is a hobby with numerous attractions, some of which I have described in previous articles in this series. It is a hobby that one can drift into by picking up cards here and there, cards which have a special attraction according to one's personal interests or taste. Browsing through a dealer's albums or boxes of postcards is perhaps the best way to get to know them and to stimulate the urge to collect. You will find some cards priced at 10p or 20p – for other, perhaps rare and keenly-sought, cards you may be asked for £5, £10 or more, and, indeed, one rare card – 'Study of a Girl', by Raphael Kirchner, the art nouveau and glamour artist of the Edwardian era – fetched £100 at a postcard auction last year. It was an unusual 'hold-to-light' card in which the scene is enhanced by a light shining through it.

You may wonder how one gets to know postcard

values and prices – other than by studying dealers prices and auction catalogues. As with stamps, the answer is found in the postcard catalogue and guide: there are two catalogues in regular publication – the *IPM Catalogue of Picture Postcards and Year Book*, compiled by J H D Smith, a pioneer postcard dealer, and published annually by his company, International Postcard Market (IPM Ltd.); and *Picton's Priced Postcard Catalogue and Handbook*, edited by M R Hewlett, BA, and B F Swallow, by BPH Publications Ltd.

IPM records more than 50 main categories, each divided into numerous subjects or classifications ranging from adverts to windmills, and includes: separate alphabetical list of postcard artists, augmenting the different categories. For example, a comic 'Cats' card, rated at perhaps 30p to 50p could be worth £10 to £12 if signed by the celebrated Louis Wain. An ordinary advertisement card, valued at 75p, becomes extraordinary if it is one of Tuck's 'Celebrated Posters', rated at £20. Availability and demand are the criteria which establish postcard prices.

The most popular categories include Aviation (early flyers and planes), Canals, Children (embracing dolls, fairy tales and nursery rhymes), Comics (especially artist-signed – Tom Browne, John Hassall, Phil May, Donald McGill etc.), Early cards ('court' size and 'Gruss aus' etc.), Exhibitions (notably Paris 1900 and Franco-British 1908), Glamour/Art Nouveau (art studies, nudes etc.), Military (especially the Boer War, World War 1 and military uniforms generally), Motoring and Road Transport (early motors, buses and trams), Novelty (appliqué, 'hold-to-light', mechanical etc.), Political (cartoons, suffragettes etc.), Postal (postmen and post offices), Railways (especially the pre-1923 era), Royalty (coronations and portraits), Shipping (liners and battleships), Silk cards and Sport.

Comparatively inexpensive collections can be formed of early greetings and view cards, seaside resorts, art reproductions of gallery and museum paintings, actresses, fauna and flora, and many other themes. And, for the philatelist/card collector, there is always the chance of an unusual and interesting postmark on the back of the card!

MALCOLM JAMES

Year of the Child

We are grateful to Mrs Margaret Richardson who lent us her prize winning entry in a recent 'stuffed toy' competition.

Her interest was aroused by the 'Blue Peter' programme and her model was made from the

illustration on a 'Year of the Child' first day cover. The basis is foam, the majority of the sewing was by hand and the outer colourings and facial expressions of the figures are as near as possible to Adrian Cresswell's original design.



£1 PUC for a Pound

It is well known that the PUC £1 stamp has become a most sought after item, but as a specimen in perfect mint condition may now cost well over £1,000 there will be many GB collectors who will be unable to fill the gap in their albums.

The British Philatelic Exhibition may, however, be a welcome answer to their prayers. The Miniature Sheet to be issued for the 1979 event will, by permission of the Post Office, be an actual size reproduction of this stamp from the original die and printed in Royal Purple by De La Rue. To comply with Post Office Regulations only a minor – and barely noticeable – change of detail has been made. As usual the printing will be limited and each sheet will be serially numbered on the reverse (gummed) side.

Collectors visiting the Exhibition will be able to obtain a copy of this desirable item from any of the dealers who will be taking part in the event. Those

unable to visit the Exhibition may obtain copies from the organisers – NOT the Post Office – Secretary, BPE Ltd, PO Box 329, London, SW1A 2HE price £1 plus 15p postage etc or from a dealer.

How else can you get a £1 PUC from the original die for £1 today?

BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1979
50th Anniversary of the 1929 Postal Union Congress Issue



By Authority of the Post Office
Recess by Thomas De La Rue

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear 1p in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the Town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

15 October 1979 (C)

150th Anniversary of Departure for India Alexander Duff 15 October 1979 Edinburgh First Missionary Church of Scotland. Special posting box at the Church of Scotland Overseas Council, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH12 4YN.

20 October 1979 (S)

International Railway Festival and Auction of Railwayana York 20 October 1979. Special posting box at the Assembly Rooms, Blake Street, York YO1 2QG.

20 October 1979 (R)

1879-1979 Friends' School at Saffron Walden Essex 20 October 1979. Special posting box at Friends' School, Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3EB.

26 November 1979 (P/R)

TMD 21st Anniversary 26 November 1979 Coventry. The special posting box site has yet to be decided notification will be published when the information comes to hand. Items for reposting should be sent to the Customer Services Section, Head Post Office, Coventry CV1 1AA.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the Town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

8-20 October 1979 (P)

North Western Postal Board

Altrincham	1st Class
Blackpool	1st Class
Bolton	1st Class
Burnley	1st Class
Lancaster	1st Class and 2nd Class
Liverpool	1st Class and 2nd Class

Manchester	1st Class and 2nd Class
Oldham	2nd Class
Preston	1st Class and 2nd Class
Stockport	1st Class
Warrington	1st Class and 2nd Class

UFN

Remember to use the Postcode. To be used at Leeds. 1st and 2nd Class.

UFN

Senders Name and Address on the back of envelopes ensures prompt return of undeliverable letters. To be used at the following offices:-

London Postal Region

SW16	Combined
E14	Combined
N17	Combined
W8	Combined
SE5	1st Class
SW7	Combined
NW4	1st Class

North Eastern Postal Board

Leeds	1st Class
Sunderland	1st Class

Northern Ireland Postal Board

Belfast	2nd Class
Londonderry	Combined

South Western Postal Board

Bristol	1st Class
Southampton	2nd Class

Midlands Postal Board

Birmingham	1st and 2nd Class
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South Eastern Postal Region

Ashford	Combined
Maidstone	Combined

Eastern Postal Region

Ipswich	1st Class
Luton	2nd Class

Wales and Marches Postal Board

Cardiff	Combined
Chester	Combined

Scottish Postal Board

Edinburgh	1st Class
Glasgow	1st Class

North Western Postal Board

Liverpool	1st Class
Manchester	Combined

STOP PRESS

The subjects of the 1980 special issues are:

January British Birds

Kingfisher
Moorhen
Dipper
Yellow Wagtail

March

Liverpool and Manchester Railway 1830

A se-tenant strip of engine and four carriages.

May London 1980

Miniature sheet (A single stamp in a surround)

May London Scenes

Albert Memorial
Royal Opera House
Hampton Court
Kensington Palace
Buckingham Palace

June Famous People

Charlotte Brontë
George Eliot
Emily Brontë
Mrs. Gaskell

August Sport

Athletics
Rugby
Boxing
Cricket

September Music

Sir Henry Wood
Sir Thomas Beecham
Sir Malcolm Sargent
Sir John Barbirolli

November Christmas

Five stamps

New Phosphor Stamps

Collectors will wish to note that new stocks of three present definitive values will bear all over printed phosphor, instead of the usual two phosphor bars. These three definitive values – 1p, 2p and 10p – will be available on Wednesday 10 October 1979 from all Philatelic Sales Counters and from the Philatelic Bureau. They will be on sale at other post offices when current stocks of these values are exhausted.

First Day of Issue Office

Kidderminster, Worcs. will be a first day of issue office for the miniature sheet covers to be issued on 24 October.



Posting Boxes

No. 13: This very picturesque setting for an early Victorian wall letter box can be seen at Armscote, Warwickshire.

The Manchester Slogan will be in operation until 13 October 1979 and from 22 October 1979 UFN. This is to accommodate the final period of the slogan **120th Anniversary Corps of Commissioners 1859-1979 Jobs for Ex-Servicemen**. Which runs from 15-20 October 1979.

Until – 13 January 1980 (P)

Cumbria Cancer Scanner Appeal Help For One In Three. To be used at Penrith 1st and 2nd Class. Workington combined.

Until – 28 October 1979

Mansfield Festival 8-28 October 1979. To be used at Mansfield, Nottingham, 1st and 2nd Class.

Until – 13 October 1979 15 October – 31 December 1979 (P)

Hastings A Resort For All Seasons. To be reused at Hastings. 1st and 2nd Class.

UFN

Remember To Use The Postcode. To be reused at Cambridge. 1st and 2nd Class.

UNF

Remember To Use The Postcode. Will be reused at Croydon.

UFN

Remember To Use The Postcodes. To be reused at Portsmouth, Waterloo and Cosham. 1st and 2nd Class.

Until – 30 November 1979

For Your Conferences Bridlington

Borough Of North Wolds With Hospitality Plus Contact The Spa Tel 78255. To be reused at York. 2nd Class.

1-24 December 1979

A Happy Christmas From Bridlington See You Next Summer. To be reused at York. 2nd Class.

Until – 28 October 1979

Newcastle Unused Medicines Campaign – Return To Your Chemist. To be used at Newcastle Upon Tyne, 1st and 2nd Class.

26 November – 23 December 1979 (P)

Buzby Wishes All Many A Happy Call Cardiff Telephones. To be used at Newport, Gwent, 1st Class.

Repeat Campaigns

6 November – 3 December 1979

Enjoy A Sauna And Relax At St Margarets Baths. To be reused at Leicester. 1st and 2nd Class.

28 February – 3 April 28 May – 18 June 1980

For Health And Safety Learn To Swim. To be reused at Leicester. 1st and 2nd Class.

P denotes Pictorial

C " Circular

S " Square

R " Rectangular

Copies of the embossed issues of 1847-56 with four clear margins are the exception. As they were embossed singly, by hand, the margins of adjoining stamps frequently almost touched or even overlapped. Some correspondents cut copies carelessly out of the blocks or sheets and there were the

Here, on the contrary, is a copy of the 6d mauve which richly deserves the (often misapplied) description of 'superb used'. Cut-square margins so wide that they include parts of the four adjoining stamps, clear light sideways duplex postmark and clean undamaged letter showing the 6d rate for letters addressed to (naval officers in) the British West Indies.

Capt. J. W. Faulstich C.
 Mr. J. Maydine
 West. Indies

SIX PENCE
 POSTAGE
 31
 1853
 APR 21
 1853

Christmas Stamp Issue

21 November 1979

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and given all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled with either postmark. The charge is 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ p for customers with deposit accounts, 72p.

First day of issue cancellations will be given to covers bearing the Christmas stamps posted in special philatelic posting boxes in main offices throughout the United Kingdom.

Book Reviews

The British Postage Stamp of the Nineteenth Century

by Robson Lowe

The second edition of this classic book is now at last on sale to visitors at the National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, London, EC1; the original edition was sold out in 1978. It can also be ordered by post direct from the British Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, Scotland, EH3 9BB. The net price (post paid, no handling charge) is £10.00.

Mr Robson Lowe's book, which incorporates some revisions in the light of new research since the original 1969 edition, describes the fabulous Reginald M Phillips collection of 19th century British stamps, the foundation and cornerstone of the NPM collections. Mr Lowe's description, the profuse colour and monochrome illustrations of special items and his background comments make this book an authoritative and very readable account of the stamps of the Victorian era and an indispensable companion to the specialised catalogue.

The Floating Post Offices of the Clyde

by James A Mackay

Price £1.50 (UK post 15p)
(O'seas 50p)

Published by and available from the Author at
11, Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LN.

When William Symington built the first marine steam engine in 1788 he could hardly have foreseen what effect it would have on Clydeside. It transformed a handful of riverside communities into the world's foremost shipbuilding centre.

Ninety one years later this pre-eminence played a part in establishing what was probably the first complete maritime postal service, the Greenock & Ardrishaig Packet. The service continued until April 1917 when wartime economies finally forced its closure. At its height it handled more than 200,000 letters a month in addition to providing postage stamp sales, postal orders and telegraph services.

Many heroic tales were told of these fabulous paddle steamers and their captains. The legends

also extended to the on-board postal services. Postmark collectors are greatly indebted to Mr Mackay for clearing up a large number of long standing misconceptions, not least that concerning the mythical 'Fusilier' cancellation, fruitless searching for which occupied many an enthusiast for more than 30 years.

Altogether this book is a first class read. It will be found invaluable by serious students of Scottish postal history and is a mandatory purchase for those whose interests lie in Clyde steamer postmarks.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

May I take this opportunity of saying how much I appreciate the excellent series of articles entitled: 'The Development and Use of Post Office Phosphors,' by Aubrey Walker.

This must be one of the most important series of articles on modern GB philately and postal history published for many a long year and is full of information hitherto undreamed of.

So often, in matters connected with mechanisation of the posts, what is happening at the time is not recorded and therefore not published and we arrive at a situation where we can only presume that something happened, or even remain in complete ignorance, for several decades. Thus it is very much to your credit that, at least as far as phosphors are concerned, all philatelists of today and the future will have the facts available to them.

Perhaps it might be an idea to combine the various parts and produce them as a special off-print. This would certainly be welcomed by the many interested collectors and students of modern GB philately.

Yours faithfully

Chairman: DOUGLAS N MUIR
Postal Mechanisation Study Circle

Rowland Hill Quiz

The winners of a quiz devised by Head Postmaster of King's Lynn, Mr George Bond, were presented with their prizes.

Mr Bond organised the quiz to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill.

The quiz winners – who each received £10, a first day cover, a set of commemorative postcards and a booklet about Sir Rowland Hill – had to answer questions about the life and times of the man who pioneered the modern postal system.

The winners were Mr Toby Hunt, Mr Tony Mann, Mr Alan Pearse, who won two prizes: and Mrs Violet Gibson.

Mr Mann and Mr Pearse are both vice-presidents of the King's Lynn Philatelic Society.

The Prizes were handed over by the Town Mayor of King's Lynn, Mrs Joan Panks. Also present was Mr Archie Page, editor of the 'Philatelic Bulletin'.



PICTURED at the King's Lynn presentation are (left to right): Master Toby Hunt, Mr Alan Pearse, Mr Tony Mann, Mr Archie Page, Mayor Mrs Joan Panks and Head Postmaster Mr George Bond.

The Royal Mail Film Library

In the past Post Office films have been distributed by a number of selected commercial film libraries. But today is the age of the specialist and now there is the new Royal Mail Film Library to specialise solely in the distribution of Royal Mail and allied subject films, including philately.

In actual fact the new library is divided into two centres, one catering to 16mm and video cassette borrowers, the other servicing 8mm sound film users. All the films and video cassettes are available on *free loan*, the only costs borne by the borrower is that of the return postage to the library.

A new Royal Mail film catalogue has also been published which gives a full synopsis of every film and details on how to borrow them. This catalogue, which also contains the necessary booking forms, is available free of charge from the Films Officer at the address below. If you would like to be included on the Royal Mail mailing list to receive information on the new films as they are released, please do not forget to indicate this when you

write. Incidentally, our mailing list is computerised, based on the postcode system, so please remember to include your Postcode when giving your address.

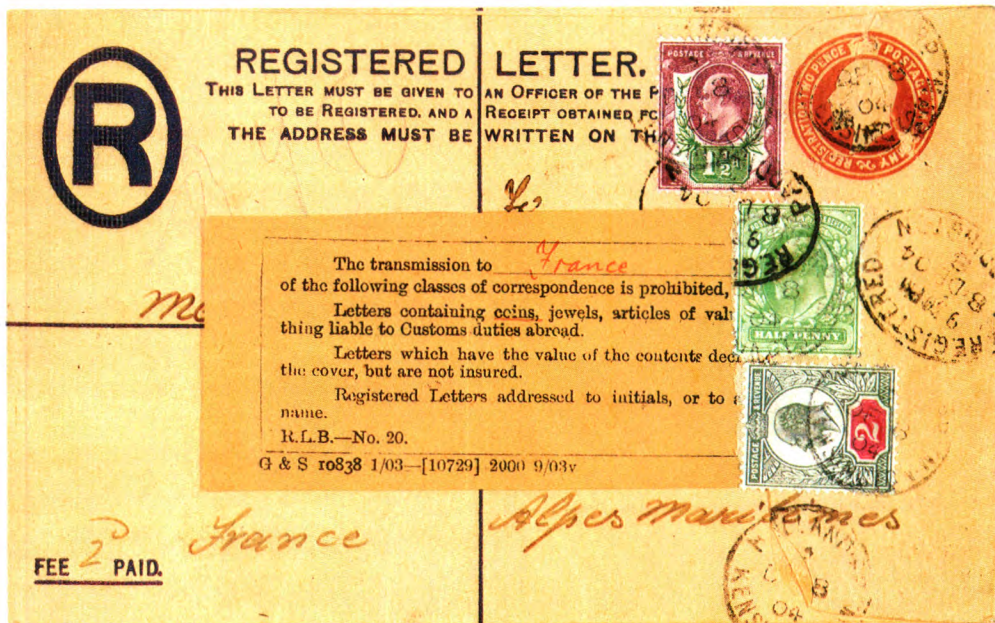
Regretfully, because of Customs and other difficulties, the Royal Mail Film Library cannot send films to borrowers living outside of the United Kingdom.

The Films Officer
Room 436 (PB2)
Postal Headquarters
St. Martin's le Grand
LONDON
EC1A 1HQ



The Proud Collection Post Office Labels

From time to time the Post Office has introduced labels to explain why an item has been returned or handled in a special way. Many of these are hard to come by and two examples are illustrated both being self-explanatory.



Reproduced by kind permission of Mr Edward Proud.

Rowland Hill Miniature Sheet Photograph

Black and white photographs of the uncut (3 x 3) Rowland Hill miniature sheet will be on sale, price £1.20 (including VAT) from the National Postal Museum on 24 October for those who want to try to 'plate' the individual sheets.

Orders by post should be addressed to the Curator, National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA and must be accompanied by a remittance including the appropriate cost of postage:-

United Kingdom up to 60gr 10p

Overseas up to 60gr
(including all up service to Europe) 11½p

Air Mail up to 10gr
Zone A
(Middle East, N. Africa, etc) 12p

Zone B
(USA, Canada, S. Africa, etc) 13p

Zone C
(Australia, New Zealand, Japan, etc) 15p

Commemorative Covers

Bolton Festival Commemorative Cover

The Rotary Club of Bolton issued a commemorative cover on 30 August 1979 to celebrate the Bolton Festival. The cover bears an 11½p Rowland Hill Stamp, and is cancelled with a special handstamp depicting the Rotary badge and the Spinning Mule.

Orders for the covers, price 50p each, should be sent to Mr G S Briggs, 2 Mylton Road, Smithills Dean, Bolton, Lancs. BL1 6LQ.

Metropolitan Police Philatelic Society

HM The Queen will visit the Metropolitan Police Tattoo at Wembley on 17 October 1979. To commemorate the event a special cover will be available bearing an 11½p 'Police' stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting the badge of the Metropolitan Police; the cost of the cover is 85p. Alternatively with all four stamps affixed and cancelled, the price is £1.50.

Orders with remittance should be addressed to Inspector P E Street, West Hampstead Police Station, 21 Fortune Green Road, London NW6 1DU. Cheques and postal orders to be made payable to 'Metropolitan Police Philatelic Society'. All covers will be sent to applicants under separate cover.

Christ Church Spitalfields

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Nicholas Hawksmoor's famous church a specially illustrated cover was produced to help raise funds for its restoration. The cover, with a 9p 1978 Christmas stamp is available price 55p from J&M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, London N14 4RL.

Sister Dora Fund FDC

A new illustrated cover, commemorating the 100th birthday of Sarah Lucy Earp who lives in Walsall and is a grand niece of Wyatt Earp, became available from 22 September 1979.

A limited number of 225 covers have been autographed by Miss Earp and flown to Tombstone, Arizona where the Tombstone City seal has been added to the covers. Tombstone centenary celebrations are also taking place this year. The cost of the covers is £4.50 each. In addition a fully serviced cover is also available

price 65p, and both are cancelled with a special handstamp, 'Earp Centenary 22 September 1979 Walsall, W Mids'.

Orders should be sent to Mr A Highfield, Sister Dora Fund FDC, The Manor Hospital, Moat Road, Walsall, West Midlands WS2 9PS.

'Gossamer Albatross'

The first man powered crossing of the English Channel – in 'Gossamer Albatross' piloted by Bryan Allen – took place on 12 June 1979.

To commemorate this unique event a strictly limited set of two illustrated covers has been issued. One cancelled at the point of departure Folkestone, Kent and the other at the point of landing, Cap Gris Nez, Wissant, France. The set at £3 may be obtained from J&M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, London N14 4RL.

York International Railway Festival and Auction of Railwayana

A special cover is being produced in conjunction with the Railway Festival and Auction which is being organised on behalf of the joint UNICEF/OXFAM project 'Together for Children', in support of International Year of the Child. A special handstamped cancellation will be applied by the Post Office to each cover on the 20 October.

Two versions of the cover are to be made available as limited numbered editions and each will carry all four of the International Year of the Child stamps.

Cover No. 1 with special York Handstamp is £1.50.

Cover No. 2 will receive a special additional Handstamp confirming it was carried on the Great Western Vintage Travelling Post Office and will cost £2.00.

Orders and remittances should be sent to York Railway Festival, Commemorative Cover, 91 Little Haven Lane, Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 4JE.

A sales kiosk will be available at the Festival in the Assembly Rooms, Blake Street, York YO1 2QJ on the 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 October.

A Special Posting Box will be sited by the sales kiosk on 20 October.

British Library Covers

As a result of the increase in popularity of souvenir and first day covers a number of large organizations and museums have catered for the demand by issuing ongoing series of such covers where they relate to specific events or exhibitions. One such series is that issued by The British Library. It was unheralded when the first cover was issued in conjunction with the major exhibition on the life of William Caxton in October 1976 and has remained largely unpublicised until now, serving, in the main, only visitors to the Library at the British Museum.

The British Library is still an unfamiliar organization to many collectors, but it becomes more familiar when one knows that it now maintains the collections of printed books, manuscripts, maps, music and postage stamps which were, until 1973, part of the British Museum collections. Of the postage stamps collections, the Tapling Collection is known to collectors throughout the world, but this is just one of the many fine and varied philatelic collections.

Since the first British Library cover was issued, in conjunction with the Post Office issue of stamps commemorating the 500th anniversary of William Caxton's first printed book and an exhibition held in the King's Library of the British Library, further covers have been produced, including one for the Year of the Child.

The most recent is the Rowland Hill cover issued on 22 August price £1 and a further one is planned for the Rowland Hill miniature sheet on 24 October, price £1.35.

The British Library uses attractively designed covers in conjunction with its own special handstamps and cachets and for some issues produce a limited number of special covers which are hand-coloured in watercolours and signed and numbered by the particular artist commissioned to carry out this painstaking work.

The series of covers have proved themselves to be very popular with visitors to the British Library and only three of the series are available from the sales counter in the King's Library, the remainder of the series having been sold out. Also available from the sales counter are the first two in the



recently introduced series of philatelic postcards and philatelic posters.

Those unable to visit the Library are invited to direct enquiries concerning any of the series to the British Library's Philatelic Agents, 13 Best Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2XX.

Transglobe Expedition 1979-1982

The Transglobe Expedition will be the first to circumnavigate the world along the Greenwich meridian.

The Expedition left Greenwich on 2 September 1979, in the motor vessel 'Benjamin Bowring', and is unique in that it will traverse both the Arctic and Antarctic ice caps during the same journey.

At the commencement of its voyage, the ship was navigated down the River Thames by the patron of the Expedition, HRH Prince Charles.

To commemorate the whole event, a series of eleven special covers will be issued from various points along the route, and a limited number of each will be signed by members of the team. The Expedition is due to return to Greenwich in October 1982.

The cost of the cover posted in the United Kingdom – bearing a Windsor handstamp in honour of Prince Charles – is £1.10 including VAT and postage and packing. Covers posted from ten other places during the journey are £1.85 each.

Profits from sales will be donated to the Expedition funds.

Orders and further details from J&M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, Southgate, London N14 4RL.

Forthcoming Events

International Conference on Progress in Postal Engineering

The Chairman of the Post Office, Sir William Barlow, will open the three-day 'Progress in Postal Engineering' international conference being held in London on 6/7/8 November 1979 at the Headquarters of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

On 9 November overseas delegates will have the opportunity to visit the new Liverpool Head Office to see the latest mechanisation equipment in the UK.

Among papers to be presented are: Examination of post offices and sorting procedures in Oslo, Copenhagen, and Helsinki; Parcel and packets sortation in Canada; Voice data systems in Tokyo, Japan; Performance monitoring in mechanised letter offices and post code and sorting translation systems in the United Kingdom; and Chutes and chain conveyor systems. Electronic mail services will be considered. West Germany's coding of mail; use of video equipment, as well as an experimental closed circuit television system in the United Kingdom are the subjects of three further reports.

The Manipulative and Mechanical Handling Group of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers is organising the conference and registration forms can be obtained from the Conference Department, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London, SW1H 9JJ.

Basildon Philatelic Society

The Basildon Philatelic Society will hold its autumn Stamp Fair in St Martin's Church Hall, Basildon Town Centre, SS14 1DX on Saturday 13 October 1979 from 10 am till 5 pm.

The venue will include dealers stands and a refreshment bar. Admission will be free.

Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club

The Dorchester and Weymouth Stamp Club is holding its Twelfth Annual Exhibition on Saturday, 3 November 1979, from 10.30 am-5.30 pm in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester DT1 1LB.

The Exhibition will be opened by Mr J P Wreford, Head Postmaster of Dorchester. Apart from sixty frames of philatelic material from Club

members, the exhibition will also incorporate the entries for the Wessex Philatelic Federation Thompson Cup Competition.

Refreshments will be available all day. Car parking facilities will be found in either of the two town car-parks, only two or three minutes walk from the Corn Exchange. Several stamp dealers will be in attendance.

Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies

The Camberley & District Stamp Club will be the hosts at the 21st Annual County Convention, Exhibition and Stamp Fair to be held in the Civic Hall Camberley on Saturday 27 October 1979. Open from 10.30 am till 4.30 pm the venue will include a Post Office philatelic sales counter, local postal history displays and prize winning exhibits. The Mayor of Surrey Heath Borough Council will formally open the Convention and present prizes. A number of dealers will attend, and ample parking facilities are available. Prices of admission are 20p for adults and children (under 16) 10p.

Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Autumn Convention

The Hastings and East Sussex Philatelic Society will host the convention which takes place on Saturday, 13 October 1979 in the Ballroom of the Queens Hotel, Hastings. 'Unusual G.B.' will be the theme of a talk and display by Mr R M Willcocks (President, Postal History Society). Display of exhibits will be open to the public from 11.30 am and delegates will be welcomed by Mr N P Thunder (President of the Hastings and East Sussex P.S.) and Mr D J Medhurst (President of Association of Sussex P.S.) At 2.30 pm the Convention will be opened by the Mayor of Hastings, Coun. B T Spray.

Association of Essex (Philatelic Societies) Autumn Rally

The Colchester Philatelic Society are this year arranging the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies autumn rally at Holmwood House School, Lexden, Colchester CO3 3SR on 3 November 1979, 11 am to 5 pm. Competition will be for the AEPS, Aero Philatelic literature trophies, as well as the inter-society quiz. The Post

Collect British Stamps 25th Edition

Office is providing a philatelic sales counter together with displays direct from the National Postal Museum in London. Several dealers will attend.

The Director, Eastern Postal Region, R A Clinton Esq, will present the prizes at 4 pm approx.

A special souvenir postcard will be on sale on the day, which will feature postmarks used in Colchester from 1840.

Forces Covers

A Royal Air Force cover commemorating the 34th consecutive 'At Home Day' on 15 September 1979, is currently available. The cover with a 10p definitive stamp affixed is cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp BFPS 1663. The event coincided with 'Battle of Britain' Day.

Orders for fully serviced covers, price 50p each should be sent to Squadron Leader J N Smith, Coordinator, 'At Home Day', RAF, St Athan, BARRY, S. Glam CF6 9WA, together with a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope. Remittances to be made payable to 'PS1, RAF, St Athan'.

The Royal Hussars (PWO)

A special cover, bearing the new 10p definitive postage stamp, cancelled with a special handstamp (BFPS 6979) will be available from 25 October 1979.

It commemorates the 10th Anniversary since Amalgamation of The Royal Hussars (PWO) - 'The Cherrypickers'. The period 1969-1979 is reflected in the handstamp's 6979.

The cover depicts the Regimental Cap Badge together with associated dates and titles. Priced at 50p it is obtainable from the Philatelic Officer, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Cambrai Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PZ.

A very limited quantity of these covers will be produced and a few will be signed by the present Commanding Officer, price £1.00 each.

Orders accompanied by cheque or postal order made payable to the 'Philatelic Officer The Royal Hussars' should include an 8" x 5" stamped and addressed envelope for return.

The 2 November sees the appearance of the 25th Edition of *Collect British Stamps*, published by Stanley Gibbons, a concise checklist of every British postage stamp issued since 1840, and in which each face-different stamp has an illustration in colour.

As philatelic dealers, Gibbons accompany the listings with the current prices at which they sell these stamps. They back up this information with prices for many first-day covers, the various presentation packs and the 'PHQ' cards of recent years. For the new edition they have set out the complicated stamps of Queen Victoria's reign in a new way to make them easier to follow; and they have introduced a completely new list of watermark varieties for the numerous collectors interested in these items.

Since its first appearance twelve years ago a total of two million copies of *Collect British Stamps* have been sold. This successful publication will now reach an even wider public by being available from Post Office Philatelic Counters, and it can also be obtained by post from the Philatelic Bureau price £1.25.

Philatelic Bulletin

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