

April 1996



British Philatelic Bulletin

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In Honour of The Queen's 70th Birthday



Royal Mail and Royal Mint are proud to announce a limited edition "Philatelic Numismatic Cover" to mark the 70th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The cover bears the pane of four 1st class stamps and commemorative label from a special £1 book, cancelled by a Royal Mint sponsored special postmark at London. The handstamp will be dated 21 April – The Queen's birthday. Encapsulated in the cover is the Brilliant Uncirculated commemorative crown (£5) coin produced by the Royal Mint.

Price £15.95. Early ordering advisable – earlier Philatelic-Numismatic/Medalllic covers have quickly sold out.



British Philatelic Bulletin

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

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Front Cover: The European Football Prestige Stamp Book.
See *Royal Mail News*

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Main Feature

A Celebration of British Cinema 1896-1996 238



Donald Malcolm recalls British stamps and postmarks with a Cinema connection

Royal Mail News

Football Legends Stamps

Stamps commemorating five much-loved giants of British football go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 14 May.

The **19p** value (inland 2nd class basic rate) depicts **William Ralph (Dixie) Dean** (1907-80) who joined Everton from Tranmere Rovers in 1927 and scored 379 goals for the Club. His 60 goals in 39 First division games remains a League record. He played for England 1927-33, scoring no fewer than 18 goals.

Robert Frederick (Bobby) Moore (1941-93), England's captain in the 1966 World Cup is the subject of the **25p** denomination (inland 1st class and EU basic rate). Moore played 108 times for England and was captain 90 times. He also captained West Ham United where he played nearly 650 games from 1958 and 1974. He ended his career at Fulham. He captained West Ham FA Cup and European Cup Winner's Cup teams in 1964 and 1965. He was awarded the OBE in 1967. Moore has featured on stamps/miniature

sheets from Antigua (SG 1824, MS1828), El Salvador (1333) and Montserrat (MS940).

The **35p** stamp (airmail postcard rate) portrays **Duncan Edwards** (1936-58) who made his debut for Manchester United in 1953. He won his first England cap two years later. He died from injuries received in the Munich air disaster which robbed Manchester United of many of its talented young players – the famous "Busby Babes".

The **41p** value (basic airmail letter rate) shows **William Ambrose (Billy) Wright** (1924-94) who played nearly 500 games for Wolverhampton Wanderers (Wolves) between 1946 and 1958. He led them to the FA Cup in 1949. Like Moore he captained England 90 times, playing for the national team on 105 occasions.

Robert Dennis (Danny) Blanchflower (1926-93) is the subject for the **60p** stamp (second stage airmail letter rate). He joined Barnsley from Glentoran in 1948 and then played for Aston Villa before joining Tottenham (Spurs) in 1954. Twice voted Footballer of the Year (1958 and 1961), he led Spurs to the League and FA Cup double, the FA Cup, and the European Cup Winners' Cup in successive years, 1961-63. He was capped 56 times for Northern Ireland, and awarded the CBE in 1959.

The five players were chosen by the general public from a list of 10 players selected by sports writers from players nominated by the Football Associations of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Our invitation to readers, in last October's *Bulletin*, to cast their votes brought a good response. Thank you to all who wrote in.

The Designer

The stamps were designed by Howard Brown, using Anton Morris as illustrator. Mr Brown, born in County Durham, is one of the UK's brightest freelance designers, specialising in graphic design for music publishers, film companies, art galleries, photographers, and the like. His Maps and Marine Timekeepers stamps were judged the best and second best issues of the year in our *Bulletin* readers' polls in 1991 and 1993. The Maps stamps were awarded the Italian Asiago prize for stamp design in 1992. In 1994 Mr Brown was awarded the prestigious Reginald M Phillips Gold Medal for Stamp Design. This is awarded every five years, Mr Brown being considered to have made the greatest contribution to British stamp design for the years 1990-94.





Technical details

Printers: House of Questa Ltd
Process: Offset-lithography
Size: 41 x 30mm
Sheets: 100
Perforation: 15 x 14
Phosphor: 19p – one phosphor band
 25p–60p two phosphor bands
 Blue fluor in phosphor
Paper: OBA free (OBA = Optical
 Brightening Agent)
Gum: PVA

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 14 May, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or Wembley, price £2.47 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £2.11 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 14 May 1996.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (for Wembley postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed "FD9609" (Bureau), or "FD9610" (Wembley).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) "First Day of Issue" handstamps. Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Football Legends stamp

to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of Issue", sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 14 May. The minimum 1st class rule is suspended on this day as the set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the Football Legends stamps; otherwise covers must bear at least 1st class postage.

Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

A presentation pack (price £2.15) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices.

The pack has been written by Jimmy Greaves, one of the greatest goalscorers ever to play for England with some 357 First division goals to his credit. He was a member of England's 1966 World Cup Squad and played with or against all the players shown on the stamps, except Dixie Dean. He is now a well-known football commentator on television.

Postcard Book & Maxi-cards

The fourth in Royal Mail's series of Postcard Books will be issued on 14 May, containing 10 cards reproducing the designs of the stamps. This will be available from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, price £2.95. Earlier books were produced for the Cats, Rugby League, and Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust issues.

Royal Mail/Evening Standard First Day Cover

A joint Royal Mail-London *Evening Standard* first day cover is being produced which will be offered to *Standard* readers in the *ES Magazine* on 10 May. The cover can be obtained free by saving the Eros logo from the newspaper's heading. The cover will bear the five Football Legends stamps with special Eros postmark.

Readers outside the London area will be able to purchase the cover later in the year – details will be announced here in due course.

Other Products

Royal Mail will produce coffee mugs, pin badges and t-shirts reproducing the Football Legends stamps, also a softback football stamp album containing the Royal Mail stamps and the football issues of Gibraltar, Guernsey, and Jersey. Details next month.

European Football Prestige Stamp Book

The 1996 prestige stamp book, to be issued on 14 May, commemorates the European Football



1972 they reached the quarter-finals before being outclassed by West Germany at Wembley. Wales reached the quarter-finals in 1976 and in 1984 Northern Ireland failed to qualify for the finals only on goal difference after beating West Germany home and away. In 1992 Scotland reached the finals for the first time and beat the Commonwealth of Independent States (ex USSR) 3-0.

Stamps for the Championships have been issued by Italy in 1980 (SG 1641), West Germany, 1988 (2232), and Sweden, 1992 (1623/4). One of the Swedish stamps shows Tomas Brodin who now plays for Leeds United.

1996 Championships

England will host the Championships for the first time. Some 16 countries, of the 48 who entered, will contest the finals – Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey. It will be the biggest football event staged in England since the World Cup in 1966. Matches will be played as follows:

8 June

England v Switzerland (Wembley, London)

9 June

Germany v Czech Republic (Old Trafford Manchester)

Spain v Bulgaria (Elland Road, Leeds)

Denmark v Portugal (Hillsborough, Sheffield)

10 June

Holland v Scotland (Villa Park, Birmingham)

Romania v France (St James' Park, Newcastle)

11 June

Italy v Russia (Anfield, Liverpool)

Turkey v Croatia (City Ground, Nottingham)

13 June

Switzerland v Holland (Villa Park)

Bulgaria v Romania (St James' Park)

14 June

Czech Republic v Italy (Anfield)

Portugal v Turkey (City Ground)

15 June

France v Spain (Elland Road)

Scotland v England (Wembley)

16 June

Russia v Germany (Old Trafford)

Croatia v Denmark (Hillsborough)

18 June

Scotland v Switzerland (Villa Park)

France v Bulgaria (St James' Park)

Romania v Spain (Elland Road)

Holland v England (Wembley)

19 June

Italy v Germany (Old Trafford)

Russia v Czech Republic (Anfield)

Turkey v Denmark (Hillsborough)

Croatia v Portugal (City Ground)

22 June

Quarter-finals (Wembley and Anfield)

23 June

Quarter-finals (Old Trafford and Villa Park)

26 June

Semi-finals (Old Trafford and Wembley)

30 June

Final (Wembley, kick-off 19.00)

Stamps

The book contains four panes as follows:

Pane 1 – 4 x 19p Football Legends stamps (Dean)

Pane 2 – 4 x 25p Football Legends stamps (Moore)

Pane 3 – Mixed pane of 2 x 35p, 41p, and 60p Football Legends stamps (Edwards, Wright, and Blanchflower)

Pane 4 – Mixed pane of 2 x 25p definitive, 2 x 25p Northern Ireland, 2 x 25p Scotland, and 2 x 25p Wales Country stamps and one label showing George Best.

The book will be printed by the House of Questa – the Football stamps will be the same as those printed by Questa in sheets. The 25p definitive and Country stamps will be as those currently printed by Questa, with elliptical perfs and blue fluor in the phosphor bands. Specialist collectors may detect minor variations between these and stamps from sheets and other books. Douglas Myall will report on this in his "Decimal Stamp Books" feature in this magazine.

The book, designed by Why Not Associates design group, gives a history of the Championships with some splendid photographs of players in action.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from the Bureau, PO Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices about a

week before 14 May, price 25p. The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the mixed pane with pictorial label cancelled by a Bureau or Manchester “First Day of Issue” pictorial postmark, price £2.77 (inc VAT) to UK addresses, £2.36 (no VAT) overseas. Orders for serviced covers must reach the Bureau by 14 May.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Manchester postmarks to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA. The outer envelope should be marked “FD9611” (Bureau), or “FD9612” (Manchester).

First Day Posting boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) “First Day of Issue” handstamps. Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Any of the stamps in the prestige book can be used, singly or in combination (subject to minimum 19p postage) on first day covers to qualify for “First Day of Issue”, sponsored or philatelic counter/tourist handstamps in use on 14 May. The minimum 1st class rule will be waived for this day, i.e. 19p stamps from the book can be used on their own.

Philatelic Numismatic Cover

Royal Mail and Royal Mint are producing a joint cover, to be issued on 8 June. This will bear the set of the Football Legends stamp and the £2 Football coin designed by John Mills. The cover will cost £12.95 and can be ordered from the British Philatelic Bureau. Further details next month.

New Stamp Books

Three new books of 10 x 1st class stamps will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets from 13 May. These will bear an Olympic Triathlon promotion on the covers. Details next month. The books, printed by Harrison, will contain the usual 1st class NVI stamp with elliptical perforations and blue fluor in the phosphor.

Burns Exhibition

Royal Mail is sponsoring an touring exhibition on the life and work of Robert Burns, arranged

by the National Library of Scotland. During April the exhibition can be seen at: Bridge of Allan Library (1-29 April), Eastwood District Libraries (until 12 April), and Stranraer Museum (12 April-13 May). Further venues to be announced.

NPM News

The National Postal Museum will issue four new postcards (reference 96/5-8) on 16 April – these will pertain to the Post Haste! exhibition of postal vehicles and artefacts on show in the former London Chief Post Office area of King Edward Building:

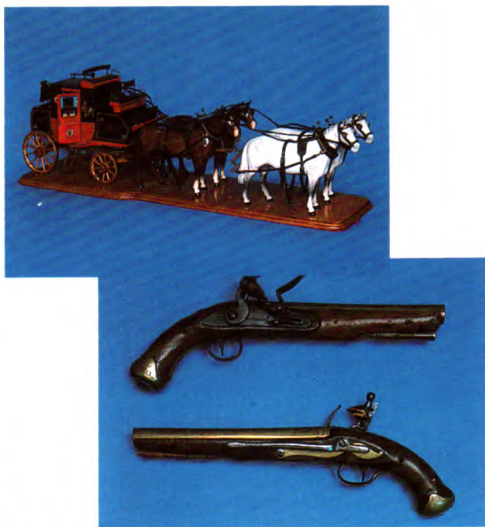
96/5 Flintlock “Maritime” pistols carried aboard packet boats. Those shown were made by Henry Nock of London, pre 1804, and J Wilkinson, c. 1810.

96/6 Model of the Devonport-London mailcoach, made by J R Snell.

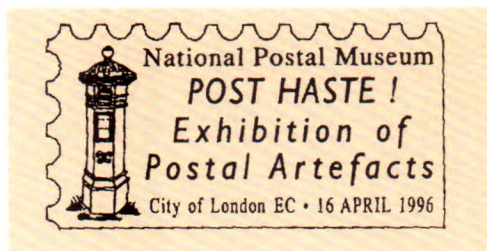
96/7 Mailcoach guard's timepiece.

96/8 Helmet and goggles worn by messenger boys who rode motorcycles to deliver telegrams and express items.

The cards will be available to callers at the NPM Shop, price 25p each, or by post in sets of four (£1) from: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.



A special handstamp will be used on 16 April, collectors may submit cards/covers for this postmark to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, requesting “Museum Special 16 April”. The regular Maltese Cross postmark will also be available – request handstamp No. 1985.



The NPM is situated in King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30, admission free. On permanent show are world stamps, the famous R M Phillips Collection of British stamps of the 19th century, and the "Post Haste!" artefacts display. Current special exhibitions are "Victorian Posts" (see August 1995 *Bulletin*) and, until 30 April, a delightful display of hand-made Valentine cards entitled "Cupid's Workshop".

Friends of the NPM

The Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum remains as active as ever with stands at Spring Stampex (24-28 January) and the Scottish Philatelic Congress (23 March). Friends were recently entertained by talks from Barry Robinson (Design Director Royal Mail) and Lynn Trickett of Trickett & Webb. Forthcoming attractions include visits to the Bath Postal Museum and the Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau, and the AGM in November. Souvenirs are produced for most events. Enquiries about activities and souvenirs to the Association's Secretary Ray Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield, E Sussex, TN22 2SP, Tel. 01825-766546.

Recent Developments in Postal Mechanisation

An update to the February 1996 article

PATRICK G AWCOCK

Quality of Service Imprints in red

Readers may well be familiar with the black ink-jet printed "Quality of Service" imprints which appear on some mail. With the introduction of the red phosphor/fluor ink, a few offices have used this ink to print their imprints. In June 1995, Nottingham used the message "ROYAL MAIL NOTTM APC (time-date) / PLEASE USE YOUR POSTCODE" on the reverse of mail passing through one of their MTTs. Since September,

some mail passing through the AEG-OCRs at Birmingham has received an imprint. The illustration shows one such variation which has appeared, the numbers representing "Birmingham OCR number 1, date and time". Similar imprints have also been used on the AEG-OCRs at Southend-on-Sea (November) and Cambridge (December) although apart from the use at Birmingham these have all been shortlived.

London-Mount Pleasant (Inland Section) and, more recently, Reading have used this ink in the printers fitted to their machines for sorting 'large-flats' (e.g. large envelopes which contain A4 sheets of paper unfolded). These imprints appear at the bottom left corner and are of the form "12/07/1995 18:16 57IS04-06" where the figures indicate "date / time / operator number (57) / office (Inland Section) / input station (04 – there are four operating positions) / bin number (06 – there are 100 sorting bins).

12/07/1995 18:16 57IS04-06

12/07/1995 18:16 57IS04-06

Royal Mail 4-state codemarks

By the time this appears in print, all the OCR/VCS systems should have been converted to print the 4-state codemarks in red, since the changeover is due to take place during February 1996. One MTT and one Letter Sorting Machine at Preston were in fact converted and used the 4-state codemarks from 28 January 1996.

Some incoming foreign mail to England received the 4-state codemarks during the Christmas period. Whilst such mail would normally have been processed at London – Mount Pleasant upon receipt in this country, for whatever reason (possibly to avoid delay at this peak time), these items were almost certainly handled at Glasgow and received 4-state codemarks as a consequence.

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Stamp Scene

Railway Letter Stamps

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway has announced two new 25p railway letter stamps. The first will be issued on 12 April and will feature locomotive No. 3672 "Dame Vera Lynn" drawing into Pickering Station with Pullman rolling stock. This will be followed on 26 May by a stamp depicting USA Transportation Corps loco No. 2253 passing the signal box at Grosmont Station on a bright sunny day. Both have been produced in sheets of eight by Walsall Security Printers. Details of covers were given in *Commemorative Covers Review*, March 1996. Orders should be sent to: NYMR/RLS, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA. Postage 30p UK/Europe, 80p rest of world. Payments over £1.50 may be made by credit card.

The Bluebell Railway will issue new 25p railway letter stamps on 6 April for the diamond jubilee of Southern Railway Class S15 loco No. 847 and on 24 August for the golden jubilee of SR West Country Class "Blackmore Vale". Mint stamps cost 25p plus postage. Remittances under £4 may be made in unused British stamps up to 25p face value. Orders/enquiries: Bluebell Railway Letter Service, 64 Gordon Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, SM5 3RE.

Obituary – Rex Phillips

We record, with regret, the death on 4 January 1996 of Reginald Graham Phillips – known always as "Rex". Born in 1913, he first joined Stanley Gibbons in 1929; after employment elsewhere he returned in 1949 to assist the late Frederick S. Wall in rebuilding the publications business, including the inauguration of the *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue* in October 1963. He was appointed Catalogue Editor in 1966 and the following year saw the first edition of *Collect British Stamps*, Gibbons's best-selling title. Rex Phillips retired from SG at the end of 1976 and was predeceased by his wife, Hilda.

James Negus writes:

With Rex's passing, the Phillips connection with the Gibbons Catalogue is finally severed. He was a grandson of Charles J Phillips, purchaser of SG in 1890 from its founder Edward Stanley Gibbons. A predecessor as Catalogue Editor (from 1922 to 1954) was his second cousin, Stanley Phillips.

When I took over as Editor in 1977 I inherited

from Rex Phillips a going concern, a "Catalogue" comprising titles in 16 separate volumes. These embraced not only the *GB Specialised* and *Collect British Stamps*, but the highly popular *Simplified*, the market-leader "Part 1", the foreign sections, the *Elizabethan*, and more. To this unrivalled range Rex brought a natural aptitude for exact attention to detail. He worked ferociously hard for the Catalogue, both in the office and often at home, and was I found most reluctant to retire.

His Editorship coincided with far-reaching changes in Gibbons, as it adapted more to modern times. Throughout, his reserved nature cast him then as something of a back-room boy, immersed in the unending editorial work on which the unique reputation of the SG Catalogue depends. He maintained and improved its high standard in his term of office and collectors owe him a debt of gratitude.

UNSG Display at Central Hall

The United Nations held its first General Assembly in Central Hall, Westminster in 1946 and as a contribution to the 50th anniversary celebrations the United Nations Study Group provided a philatelic display in the Central Hall UN50 Exhibition, 8-14 January 1996. Although based on the exhibits shown at Autumn Stampex 1995 the display was mainly intended for non-collectors with the aim of interesting them in stamp collecting and for broadening their knowledge of the UN through philately. To cover the many aspects of UN collecting each topic was limited to one frame of 16 sheets.

The exhibition was visited by many of the persons attending special functions including the UN Secretary-General Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali. For information on the UNSG contact: Chris Johns, 10 Rowhurst Avenue, Orchard Way, Addlestone, Weybridge, KT15 1NF.

Centenary of Cinema Exhibition

To celebrate a century of cinema-going in Britain the Museum of the Moving Image presents "Picturegoer", a new special exhibition from 8 March to 19 May 1996. Part of the Cinema 100 celebrations, "Picturegoer" asks, how has going to the pictures changed our lives?

The exhibition tells the story of how cinema began to draw its first audiences from music hall, sport and the theatre. It explores the golden age of silent film in the 1920s and the mass idolisation of film stars like Valentino and Chaplin by "fans". It tells how people flocked to the magnificent picture palaces of the 1930s and

40s to escape the depression and war. "Picturegoer" reveals the role of cinema in the 1960s and its influence on teenage attitudes, music and fashion. It shows how cinema fought to keep its audience with the coming of TV. The exhibition pinpoints the blockbuster phenomenon of the 1970s and 80s: mass marketing, film merchandising and the world of the multiplex. Using people's real memories, film posters, photographs, cinema plans and ephemera, alongside moving images and full screen projection, of the "Picturegoer" opens up the cinematic experience enjoyed by almost everyone and shares it with Museum visitors.

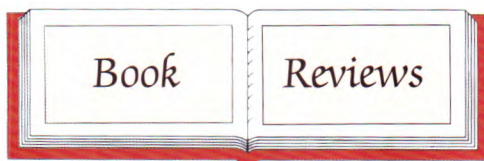
The exhibition includes nine special panels charting the creation and development of Royal Mail's "Going to the Pictures" stamps, issued on 16 April. The Museum of the Moving Image is located on the South Bank, Waterloo, London SE1 8XT, 24 hour recorded telephone information 0171 401 2636.



1996 Northeast Philatelic Week-end

The 20th Northeast Philatelic Week-end will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, Friday Sunday, 17-19 May. The programme includes many aspects of philately, catering for both new and advanced collectors. There will be five Guest Speakers, all specialists in their own field. These Week-ends are enjoyed in a most congenial and friendly atmosphere, and all newcomers will be assured of a warm welcome. For further details, send large stamped addressed envelope to Dorothy Martin, address below.

There will be a souvenir booklet to commemorate this event, containing the "R J Mitchell pane" and a strip of 1st Class labels. The booklets, issued in a limited number, price £2, are in no way connected to the British Post Office. For collectors interested in private booklets, a few are still available from most of the previous weekends since 1982. For further details of Week-end booklets, send a stamped addressed foolscap envelope to: Dorothy M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY.



The long-awaited 11th edition of the **International Stamp Dealers' Directory** has recently been published. This provides much useful information, beginning with a 162-page alphabetical listing of dealers, with UK, World and Speciality indexes. The last-named lists dealers specialising in the stamps of particular countries, themes, postal history, kiloware, etc. There are separate listings of auctioneers, postal administrations, magazines, museums (UK only), trade organisations, and event organisers. Available from: Philatelic Exporter, PO Box 137 Hatfield, AL10 9DB, Tel. 01707 266331. Price £9.95, postage £1 UK, £1.50 Europe/Rest of World surface mail, £3 Rest of World airmail.

Bulletin contributor Patrick Awcock has recently published the second edition of Volume 2 of his **Automatic Letter Sorting in the United Kingdom**, dealing with OCR, 3rd Generation Coding Desks and Inkjet Printers. (The first edition was reviewed here in October 1992.) In his Introduction, Mr Awcock writes: "in recent years there have been considerable developments of new equipment and there has been a massive programme of re-equipment of the Mechanised Letter Offices in the 1990s. Many new purpose-built Automated Processing Centres, as they are now known, have been opened." The new machinery and systems used are skilfully summarised in the "Text" section, dealing with Optical Character Recognition; Third Generation (C40) Coding Desks; Liverpool Ink Jet Printers; Serial Product Counters; Ink Jet Printers; Stamp Cancelling Machines; Culler/Stamp Cancelling Machine at London Foreign Section; Four State Bar Codes; OCR/Video Coding System; and Phosphor Coding Inks. This is followed by a "Catalogue" section, clearly listing and illustrating the available material, with dates of usage. Of particular interest is the sub-section on the Four State Bar Codes now being extended to nationwide use following introduction at Aberdeen, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Glasgow last year. They were described by Mr Awcock in February's *Bulletin* (page 180) – watch out for them on your mail.

Available from: P G Awcock, Smallacre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH11 7LY. Price £18 postpaid UK, £19 overseas surface mail.

1995 Favourite Stamps Poll Results

We received a very good response to the stamp poll announced in the December *Bulletin*. As usual voting forms were received from many countries, in all continents.

Points were allocated from each vote for the set: three points for the first choice, two points for the second, and one for the third. This enabled us to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. The voting was as:

Christmas	3775
Cats	2813
Shakespeare's Globe	2802
Communications	1638
National Trust	1003
Sprintime	885
Greetings	680
Peace & Freedom	636
Rugby League	577
Science Fiction	408

For interest, the winners of the previous nine stamp polls were:

1986	Nature Conservation
1987	Flowers
1988	Linnean Society
1989	Birds
1990	Queen Mother's 90th Birthday
1991	Maps
1992	Wintertime
1993	Autumn
1994	Age of Steam

The voting for the favourite individual stamp was as follows (Note: stamp number as per December *Bulletin* in parentheses):

Christmas 19p (39)	532
Christmas 41p (41)	211
Peace & Freedom 25p St. Paul's (20)	170
Communications 25p (31)	167
Christmas 25p (40)	126
Cats 41p (5)	110
Peace & Freedom 19p Soldiers/Civilians (19)	76
Cats 19p (1)	70
Christmas 41p (42)	63
Communications 19p (30)	56
Peace & Freedom 25p UN (17)	52
Cats 25p (2)	44
Greetings Alice Keppel (50)	42
National Trust 35p (14)	38
Christmas 60p (43)	37
Cats 30p (3)	34
Springtime 41p (10)	32
Science Fiction 25p (21)	31
Shakespeare's Globe The Swan (25)	31
Communications 41p (32)	30

National Trust 19p (11)	29
National Trust 41p (15)	26
Peace & Freedom 30p (18)	24
National Trust 30p (13)	23
Greetings Troilus and Criseyde (45)	23
Greetings Girls on the Town (47)	23
National Trust 25p (12)	22
Springtime 30p (8)	19
Science Fiction 30p (22)	19
Shakespeare's Globe The Globe 1599 (27)	19
Greetings The Kiss (46)	19
Greetings Children Playing (51)	17
Shakespeare's Globe The Globe 1614 (29)	13
Greetings Circus Clowns (52)	13
Communications 60p (33)	12
Cats 35p (4)	11
Greetings La danse (44)	11
Greetings Love poems (53)	11
Springtime 19p (6)	10
Springtime 25p (7)	8
Peace & Freedom 19p Red Cross (16)	7
Rugby League 30p (36)	6
Greetings Jazz (48)	6
Shakespeare's Globe The Hope (28)	5
Rugby League 25p (35)	5
Science Fiction 35p (23)	4
Science Fiction 41p (24)	4
Shakespeare's Globe The Rose (26)	4
Rugby League 41p (38)	4
Greetings Kathak Dance (49)	3
Springtime 35p (9)	1
Rugby League 19p (34)	1
Rugby League 35p (37)	1



I am very grateful to Barbara Best, a colleague in Royal Mail Design Division, who compiled the figures from all your votes – a very time-consuming task. I am currently reading through all your comments – a selection will be published shortly when we will announce the winners of the first prize of £500 worth of stamps and the 25 runner-up prizes.

A Celebration of British Cinema 1896-1996

DONALD MALCOLM

British Pioneers

The cinema has been described as the greatest art form of the 20th century. While most films have no pretensions to art, a few, including British productions, can claim some affinity with it. For example, our first, dramatic view of Orson Welles in *The Third Man* derives its magic from the superb, inventive lighting and photography of Robert Krasker, who won an Oscar.

In his meticulously-researched and perceptive book, *The Great British Picture Show*, George Perry writes: "Any examination in detail of the British contribution to the motion picture reveals a disappointing diminution of its importance since the remarkable pioneering period which lasted from the last decade of the nineteenth century to around 1906."

The bad guy in the black hat is America, with its huge home market and financial influence.

In 1824, P M Roget presented a paper to the Royal Society on the effects of the "principle of persistence of vision" – moving pictures. Birt Acres built a light-weight camera and filmed the Derby and the Boat Race in 1895, the first such records of news events.

Robert William Paul (the Father of British Cinema – Perry), engaged in a neat piece of



Signed portrait of David Niven (1910-83) who featured on 22p stamp in 1985

the Lumiere Brothers made their British debut at the Polytechnic Hall, in Regent Street. The first British narrative film – all of 60 seconds long – was produced by Paul and he was probably the first to use a trolley-mounted camera.

Circuits and dumps

Initially, any building that even pretended to stand unsupported was used to show films: converted shops, halls, roller skating rinks. The local *Flea Pit* dates from that era – we were "itching to get in, scratching to get out". The first exclusive film theatre is thought to have been the Balham Empire – refined fleas? – which, by mid-1907, was showing a 2-hour programme. In 1908, there were three exhibiting companies on the film circuit; by 1910, the figure was 295. Also in 1910, the first Cinematograph Films Act was passed.

Two milestones in the 1920s were the introduction of British Film Week, 1924, and the following year, Shaw and Wells were among the founders of the London Film Society.

The cinema and philately

My list – probably not exhaustive – covers over

Heralding the Resurgence of the British Film Industry



First Day Cover (Adrian Bradbury) 1985 British Film Year stamps. Cover design shows scene from "Chariots of Fire"

cinematic chicanery worthy of all those silent screen villains. He pirated an Edison invention, the Kinetoscope, and built and installed 15 at Earls Court in 1895. Not unnaturally, Edison refused to provide film strips, so Paul made his own. In February 1896, Paul projected films at Finsbury Technical College. On the same day,

40 categories and 130 film titles. All titles are British unless otherwise noted.

The logical place to begin is with the five people featured on the 1985 stamps. What a chance was missed. We got portraits, not actual film scenes.

17p Peter Sellers

How would he have pronounced "stamp", I wonder? He was the bumbling Inspector Clouseau in *The Pink Panther* (US, 1963). David Niven is a stamp link. The sequel was British. Other Sellers films were *The Ladykillers* (1955), *I'm All Right Jack* (1960) and *Dr Strangelove* (1963). Jack links with the TUC and *Strangelove* with nuclear energy.

22p David Niven

His Oscar winner, *Separate Tables* (US, 1958) and most of his work, was American. Two films are linked to prestige stamp books, *The First of the Few*, 1942 (R J Mitchell), and *Death on the Nile*, 1978 (Agatha Christie).

29p Charles Chaplin

Chaplin worked almost exclusively in America and his only British film was *A Countess From Hong Kong* (1967), with credits for script, direction and music. The genius of Chaplin can be seen in, for example, *The Gold Rush* (US, 1925).

31p Vivien Leigh

Her most famous film was *Gone With the Wind* (US, 1939), for which she won one of the 10 Oscars. She made *Fire Over England* in Britain in 1937, with husband Laurence Olivier. (Stamp link: Elizabeth I.)

34p Alfred Hitchcock

According to Hitchcock, a film should have four memorable sequences and the rest would fall into place. His *Blackmail*, originally silent, then extensively re-shot in sound, was the first British talkie. Two of his films have train connections (no pun intended!), *The Thirty-Nine Steps* (1935) and *The Lady Vanishes* (1938). It's worth reflecting that many of Hitchcock's memorable sequences employed little or no dialogue or other sound effects.

Cinematically, some of the special postmarks were more apposite and interesting than the stamps. They included a Hitchcock exhibition, the Pink Panther, David Niven, the National Film Archive, Equity, Goldcrest and the

National Postal Museum Film Festival.

The cinema on film

The cinema itself provides five films.

In 1936, Hitchcock made *Sabotage*, based on Conrad's novel, *The Secret Agent*. The proprietor of a small London cinema is a foreign agent. Not quite in the same league, the Crazy Gang was let loose in a film studio in *Okay for Sound*, 1937. Conrad Veidt starred in *Contraband* in 1940, when spies used a cinema as their HQ. The *Magic Box* (1951) was based on a mis-leading biography of William Friese-Green, who was not the "Inventor of Kinemaphotography". The



film was made to celebrate the Festival of Britain (stamp link). In 1957, *The Smallest Show on Earth* appeared. This was one of those delightfully dotty films that could only have been made in Britain, starring someone who could only have been British, Margaret Rutherford.

More stamp-film links

There is, of course, a strong literary flavour to films and this could be a category on its own. Special postmarks were used for most, or all, of the stamps mentioned (year of issue given).

Shakespeare (1964 and 1995, also 1964 airmailers). Olivier and Walton are associated with *Henry V* (Krasker again, 1944), *Hamlet*, (1948) and *Richard III*, (1956).

Dickens (1970 and 1993, also booklets). *Oliver Twist*, 1948, is a wonderful cinematic rendering of the novel, owing much to David Lean as scriptwriter and director.

Stevenson (1993, Greetings stamp, also two Scottish aerogrammes). The original *Treasure Island* was American, 1934, but Robert Newton is the definitive Silver, in Disney's British film, 1950.

Conan Doyle (1993, also four booklets, 1986). *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (US, 1939) is

the most famous film of Conan Doyle's novels and it starred Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Peter Cushing and Andre Morell were in a lively British film in 1959.

Hardy (1990). Hardy's novels tend to be depressing and handsome as the production was of *Far From the Madding Crowd*, 1967, there wasn't a lot to cheer about.

Austen (1975). Aldous Huxley, author of *Brave New World*, was the co-scriptwriter of the

1940 American film of *Pride and Prejudice*, sparkling with British stars led by Olivier.

Bronte, Emily and Charlotte (1980). *Wuthering Heights* (Emily) and *Jane Eyre* (Charlotte) were both made in America, in 1939 and 1944 respectively. One of Anne's novels, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, with its smouldering, raven-haired heroine, Helen Graham, is much under-rated.

Characters created by **Kenneth Grahame**, **Beatrix Potter**, **W E Johns** and **Raymond Briggs** have featured on British greetings stamps. Has someone a bunny fixation? The lady has been commemorated several times.

Mackenzie (1989 Scottish aerogramme). The sublime *Whisky Galore* was made from his novel in 1948 by great British director Alexander Mackendrick at Ealing.

Barrie (1987 Scottish aerogramme). The American film of **Peter Pan**, 1953, was a painful

travesty (C A Lejune) and *The Admirable Crichton*, 1957, was bland.

Among other links are:

Amy Johnson: *They Flew Alone*, (1941) (Newton was Jim Mollison) – Hull postmarks, 1975.

Cricket: *The Final Test* (1953) – stamps 1973.

Horses/racing: *Derby Day*. (1952) – stamps 1978, 1979.

Butterflies: *The Clouded Yellow* (1950) – stamps 1981.

Trains: *Golden Arrow* (1952) – stamp 1985.

Royal Air Force: *The Dam Busters* (1954) – stamp link Sir Arthur Harris, 1986 stamp, and Barnes Wallis, RAF Museum cover.

Stan Laurel must be mentioned, although he never made a film in Britain. *The Music Box* (US, 1932) is a marvellous example of the work of the inseparable Laurel and Hardy. Laurel was partially commemorated in a greetings booklet.

The Centenary of British Cinema, 1996

Five stamps go on sale on 16 April.

19p. This dramatic stamp catches the spectacular Art Deco lines of the kind of cinema that was



GLASGOW ROAD AND KELBURNE PICTURE HOUSE, PAISLEY

21

1929 postcard showing Kelburne Picture House, Paisley (now the only cinema in the town). The message reads: "Have been to the 'Talkies' they are great".



found in virtually every town from the late 1920s on. Odeon derives from the Greek, *Odeum*, a place in which plays and musical performances were held. Excellent design, strong brooding colour.

25p. Why, when there are so many magic moments in British cinema to chose from, was a scene from a comparatively unknown American film chosen? *That Hamilton Woman* was made in 1941, starring Olivier and Leigh. The British title, *Lady Hamilton* was rather more elegant and sums up the cultural difference between the two countries. (Stamp link, Nelson, 1982.)

30p. A happy reminder of the days when you could get a cinema seat *and* a fish supper for 2/6d (12½p). The colour balance is effective and the red/carmine hints at the plush fittings and surroundings of many cinemas.

35p. The colour scheme does nothing for this stamp and the background is vague. In 1910, Charles Pathé's company had 36% of the British market.

41p. An aggressive design, but quite attractive. An actual film title would have been better and,

in my view, the Royal profile is awkwardly placed.

Acknowledgements and sources

Adrian Bradbury for 1985 postmarks and a cover; Peter J Westwood, Harrison and Fine Art folders.

Halliwell, 1979 and 1995; *The Great British Picture Show*, George Perry (Hart-Davis, MacGibbon, London, 1974); British postmark publications. *Cinema Europe, The People's Century, A Personal History of British Cinema* (Stephen Frears) and *Moving Pictures Special: The Reality Trip*, all 1995-96.

The cinema theme can be expanded by postcards – watch out for the Sarah Beaumont set from the Maximum Original Co – *Picturegoer* film star series, *The Observer* set, 1985, stills, programmes, handbills, posters, autographs, lobby cards. And references to films can be found in the messages on cards.

© Donald Malcolm 1996

Sherlock Holmes – 1993 stamps and 1987 £1 book



Sherlock Holmes
The Hound
of the
Baskervilles
Second in a
series from
an idea by
Mark Collicott
Illustrated by
Andrew
Davidson
Printed by
Harrison &
Sons Limited



£1

**Royal Mail
Stamps**

Five at 18p
One at 13p

Decimal Stamp Books - 26

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

Olympics

Royal Mail is a sponsor of the British teams for the 1996 Olympic and Paralympic games and has permission to reproduce the official logos for these on the covers of books of stamps. This is the second time that Royal Mail has issued retail (window) books featuring the Olympics. The first was four years ago when Royal Mail was again a sponsor of the British teams. In fact, those were the very first red books to carry a promotional message; like the present set, they promoted Royal Mail's own product. The first of the set went on sale on 21 January 1992. There were six books in all:

Harrison	10 x 1st	on sale from 21 January 1992
Walsall	10 x 1st	on sale from 21 January 1992
Walsall	10 x 2nd	on sale from 21 January 1992
Walsall	4 x 1st	on sale from 21 January 1992
Walsall	4 x 2nd	on sale from 21 January 1992
Questa	10 x 2nd	on sale from 31 March 1992

This year there are already nine Olympic books, with the three books containing value-bearing stamps for overseas mail being included for the first time.

Harrison	10 x 2nd	on sale from 6 February 1996
Walsall	10 x 1st	on sale from 6 February 1996
Walsall	4 x 1st	on sale from 6 February 1996
Walsall	4 x 2nd	on sale from 6 February 1996
Questa	10 x 2nd	on sale from 6 February 1996
Harrison	10 x 1st	on sale from 19 March 1996
Walsall	4 x 35p	on sale from 19 March 1996
Walsall	4 x 41p	on sale from 19 March 1996
Walsall	4 x 60p	on sale from 19 March 1996

Part of the reason for the increase in the number of books is a hugely increased demand for them from the public. Not only are there more of them but they and their contents differ significantly from their predecessors and it is interesting to see just how much has changed in the intervening four years. The most obvious change is on the front cover where the importance of the multiple stamp design as an aid to public recognition of the product has relegated the Olympic logos to the back cover. This enables the large figure of the number of stamps in the book to retain its prominence. The 1992 Olympic covers were the first to have the

barcodes printed in blue; they still are blue, although they are now much larger and are printed vertically. The barcode numbers themselves have not changed.

The stamp contents have undergone many changes in the past four years and most of the little differences which distinguished the products of the three printers concerned have disappeared. In 1992, only Questa stamps were perforated on all four sides; both Harrison and Walsall had straight edges at top and bottom of the pane, giving two quite distinct singles. Those from the top row were imperforate at the top while those from the bottom row were imperforate at the bottom. Since then, Royal Mail has concluded that fully perforated stamps offer better security against forgery and today's stamps have, additionally, an elliptical perforation at each side. In addition, the perforation gauge on the Walsall stamps is now the same as that on those from Questa and Harrison; the change from 14 to 15 x 14 was made on 6 April 1993, the same month that ellipses were introduced to Machins.

Another major change from 1992 is that the use of paper which incorporates phosphor into its coating has been discontinued and even the optical brightening agent (OBA) which made the paper fluorescence is now a thing of the past. Instead, all paper is OBA-free and the phosphor is now printed in the form of bars, even for the 1st-class NVIs. This gives greater control over the correct level of phosphor for optimum performance of the latest automatic facing and cancelling equipment. To assist the printers to achieve this level and to reduce the chances of the phosphor being omitted in error, a (now blue) fluor has been added; the 1992 phosphor did not have any added fluor.

There are other more minor changes of interest to specialists such as the alteration of the phosphor bars on the Questa 2nd-class stamps from interrupted (stopping short of the top and bottom of the stamps) to continuous.

The Olympics are one of the most popular themes with stamp collectors and Royal Mail's red books offer an interesting sidelight on it, especially if one includes some of the peripheral material. For booklet collectors, this includes the labels specially printed to denote the contents of the parcels of 1000 books made up by the printers. Illustrated here are the labels for the two Questa books of 10 x 2nd-class. Apart from the omission of the date, the main difference is the replacement of the Olympic 5-ringed logo



1992 and 1996 Olympic/Paralympic book covers (10 x 2nd Questa, Harrison)

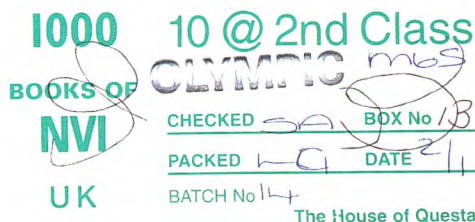
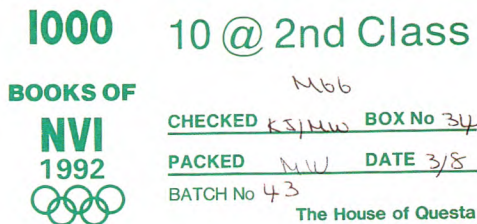
with the word OLYMPIC hand-stamped onto the label. The ring logo is a symbol protected by an international convention administered by one of the United Nations agencies in Geneva and there are strict conditions governing its use for commercial purposes.

Stamp books and coils

For optimum use of the available space, and to meet production requirements, stamps intended for issue in sheets, coils and books are printed from cylinders with different laydowns. Panes intended to be stuck into covers, for example, need to have a margin by which the attachment is made. Twenty years ago, the Post Office had the bright idea of using a single laydown for all

three types of product. These became known to collectors as unified cylinders. They provided two panels, each comprising 200 stamp images in 20 rows of 10, the normal makeup of a decimal counter sheet. The cylinders were numbered in a separate series for each value and the one on the right-hand panel usually had a full stop after the number. The idea was to enable these panels to be split into half vertically and then into 10 rows, forming 10 books each containing 10 stamps in two rows of five. The binding margins were provided by the selvages of the printed sheet and the resultant books had half the panes affixed by the left margin and half

Labels from packs of 1000 Olympic books – 1992 and 1996 overprinted OLYMPIC (Reduced size).





1979 70p counter book with TOTAL SHEET VALUE inscription

by the right margin, providing collectors with a nice variety for each issue. The unified cylinders printed a continuous web, i.e., there was no horizontal gutter so that, by slitting and reeling in the usual way, 20 individual rolls, each a single stamp wide could be produced. These were cut into lengths of 500 to provide lengthwise delivered rolls. The margins of the unified cylinders had markings appropriate to counter sheets, including the total sheet value for the assistance of counter clerks. In the event, no sheets were issued from these cylinders and the rolls, of course, had the margins removed during production. The result was some very interesting booklets with wholly inappropriate wording in the selvage.

Now a similar method has been used to produce special rolls of 25p stamps for the Reader's Digest Association. As well as the usual rolls of 10,000 stamps for the customer, the stamps have been produced in rolls of 500 for philatelic sale and the leaders are printed with stock code RDA. Rolls of both sizes have been printed from cylinder B4. As readers of this column will know, that is a booklet cylinder (hence the "B") and was used to print the panes in the £2 machine-vend theme booklets containing eight 25p stamps. These stamps are printed sideways. There are still 10 "images" across the cylinder but only eight stamps, columns 5 and 10 being blank. Column 5 provided the binding margins for the panes formed from columns 6-9. Of course, these two columns cannot provide rolls of stamps so the new RDA rolls cannot be collected in sets of 10; only eight can exist from this cylinder. The other difference between the booklet and the coil stamps is that the latter do not have elliptical

perforations; there was a risk that the web would break during the stresses imposed by the slitting and reeling operations. These coils, therefore, provide a completely new single stamp.

Disney scratch cards

Collectors who purchase their books of 10 x 1st-class NVIs promoting Walt Disney World from philatelic outlets or from retailers may be disappointed to learn that they will not qualify for one of the scratch cards offering the chance of a fantasy free trip to Disneyland in Florida. This is a joint promotion between Walt Disney Attractions and Royal Mail and the cards are available only from participating post offices. Only one card is given for each visit, not for each book purchased. However, under Britain's lottery laws, you do not have to make a purchase at all to have a chance of winning. You can write to the promoter at the address given on the inside cover of the books for a free entry and can do so each day. You still do not get a scratch card but winners will be notified by post. Since there are only 25 holidays to be won I cannot help wondering how many winning entries have been placed under the silver Mickey Mouse balloons on the cards and how many have been reserved for postal applications. Perhaps someone at the Cambridge address will scratch a card on your behalf! It will be a brave collector, or a rich one, who will keep an unscratched card in his collection!

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Editor's note: Further books on the Olympic theme will go on sale on 13 May – See Royal Mail News.

Competition

SPONSORED BY
OMNIPHIL APPROVALS



Win a GB KEVII 1911 £1 GREEN FRESH MINT!

The prizes for this month's competition have been supplied by OMNIPHIL, specialists in supplying fine stamps on approval, without obligation, by post.

* 1st prize: GB KEVII 1911 £1 green fine fresh mint example lightly hinged with full original gum, just one slightly blunt perf, otherwise very fine with excellent intense colour, scarce so fine. SG 320 cat £800.

* 2nd prize: GB 1840 1d black, letters NH, plate 1a, quite exceptionally fine 4 good to large margins, fabulous even impression example cancelled by crisp red Maltese Cross. SG cat £180 – a premium example, rare so fine.

* Two 3rd prizes: Jersey 1969 2/6d olive-grey Postage Due unmounted mint, SG D5, cat £20, one of the key values to this set.



Introducing OMNIPHIL APPROVALS

Provided you apply for approvals by 30 April you will be entered in Omniphil's own Draw of New Bulletin Clients in April to win one of 2 four-margin Penny Blacks cat £150 each SG – PLUS of course you will automatically receive your free 1841 2d blue cat £35 SG. APPLY NOW.

If you have not already tried OMNIPHIL APPROVALS you may be in for a pleasant surprise. One of the most important features of their service is that they offer each and every stamp individually available, without obligation, upon 12 days home approval so that you can fill your empty gaps.

Presently Omniphil are offering all *Bulletin* readers the chance to participate in their "WE'LL PAY YOU £100" Discounts Promotion – so if you have not already applied now is your chance.

The promotion has, not surprisingly, proved popular and all *Bulletin* readers replying have received absolutely FREE OF CHARGE a GB 1841 2d blue, catalogued £35. Naturally there is a limit of one reply per household, so if you have not already replied you are invited to do so now, to receive your free 2d blue plus a selection of approvals without obligation to purchase.

The organisation of their stock does not permit them to handle wants lists or latest issues, but if your collection is missing stamps from 1840 to the 1980s all you have to do is tell them ALL the countries/areas that you collect and they will send a suitable selection as available without obligation.

Write now stating all countries you collect and whether you collect mint and used to

OMNIPHIL APPROVALS
BULLETIN BLUE OFFER
PO Box 29
STROUD
Glos GL6 6RW



To enter the competition send the answers to the questions below with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: April Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL to arrive by 24 May 1996. Each entry must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

1. Where was the last major battle on British soil, fought on 16 April 1746?
2. Which sorting office used 4-state codemarks from 28 January 1996?
3. In what year was *The Pink Panther* movie made?
4. Which was the most popular set of British special stamps in 1995?

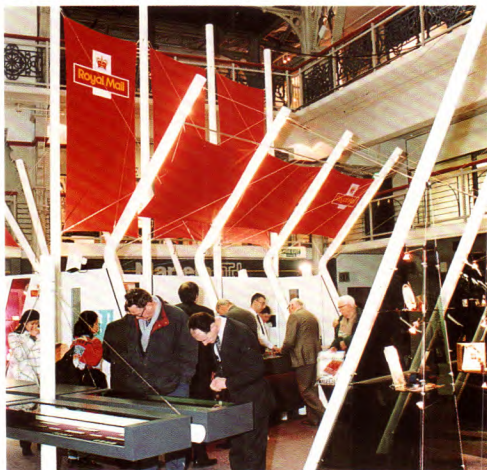
The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. Competition not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil Approvals. Winners of the January competition were: C Dixon of Devon (1st prize), Mrs T Oldroyd of W Yorkshire (2nd) and G Burt of Glasgow (3rd). The answers: 1. Matt Hinton; 2. 11,744; 3. Francis Kiddle; 4. Semiotic Analysis.

Exhibition News

Successful Stampex

Despite the Arctic weather, over 16,000 collectors made their way to Spring Stampex at its new venue, the Business Design Centre in Islington, on 24-28 January. Amongst the many attractions were fine displays of Olympic material organised by the Society of Olympic Collectors, postal memorabilia by David Harrop, Valentine cards from Eric Etkin and Judith Holder, and Cat stamps, postmarks and postcards by John and Molly Fosbery. Machin collectors enjoyed the display of trial material arranged by the National Postal Museum, and accompanying lectures by Dr A R Lane of the Royal Mail Research Centre. The Royal Mail stand, staffed by a team from the British Philatelic Bureau, were kept busy, especially on 25 January – day of issue of the Robert Burns stamps.

The Olympic displays included stamps, postmarks, covers and related material from all the Games from 1896 to 1992 and included publicity material for the forthcoming Games in Atlanta (1996) and Sydney (2000). The National Postal Museum displayed material relating to the 1948 Games in London and the British Library showed items from the Crown Agents Archives. *The Royal Mail stand at Spring Stampex (Photo: IMC Photography/Macleod)*

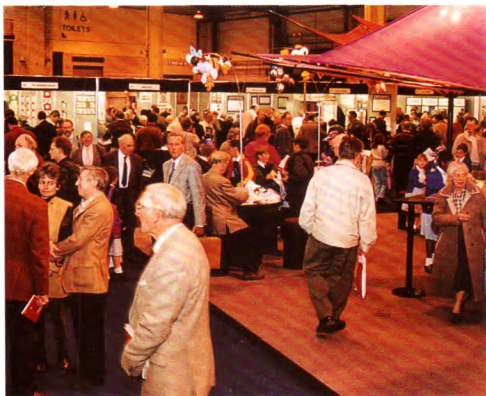


for Olympic stamp issues of 1964-86. In addition to the stamps there were nine display cabinets of artefacts loaned by the Olympic Museum at Lausanne and the British Olympic Association. Sebastian Coe MP loaned his running shoes from the 1984 Los Angeles Games, and the Mayor of Brent the 1948 Olympic Torch.

Stamp '96

Visit Stamp Printers Stands

Amongst the many attractions at Stamp '96 (Wembley 25-28 April) will be the stands of three printers of British stamps: Harrison & Sons Ltd, The House of Questa Ltd, and Walsall Security Printers Ltd. Collectors of modern British stamps will enjoy their displays and will be able to talk to the staff about stamp production. Harrisons will have one of their engravers on their stand.



A busy scene at Stamp '95 (Apollo Photographers Ltd, London W14).

At the Walsall stand, visitors will be able to obtain souvenir stamp-like labels (designs not finalised at time of going to press) which can be affixed to a souvenir cover at the Royal Mail stand and cancelled with a special cachet. Proceeds from the sale of the labels will be donated to charity. Please note that the labels are not valid for postage.

Exhibition Postmark

A special handstamp will be applied to mail posted at the exhibition. Collectors unable to visit Stamp '96 can send covers for the handstamp to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB. Please state Stamp '96 handstamp wanted and date(s) required – 25, 26, 27, or 28 April. Covers should bear at least first class postage and be posted to



Spring '96 Handstamp and Cachet

the Handstamp Centre not later than the cancellation date requested.

Free Tickets and Opening Hours

Stamp '96 will be held at the Wembley Exhibition Centre, Wembley, 25-28 April. There will be over 120 stands representing all areas of philately – postal administrations, dealers, album & accessory suppliers, auction houses, associations and societies, and philatelic publishers. The exhibition is supported by Stanley Gibbons and Royal Mail. For free tickets phone 01425 461353. Open hours are:

25 April 11.00-19.00

26/27 April 10.00-18.00

28 April 10.00-17.00

Sporting Stamps Exhibits

Two important collections of Sports stamps will be on show:

Jack Murray's – The World Cup.

This extract from Jack's gold medal winning international football collection tells the history of the World Cup on stamps – since its inception to the 1994 finals including a special feature on the 1966 triumph and a whole host of fascinating and valuable items, varieties, errors and even forgeries and letters from Jules Reime. In addition an additional display entitled "Meeting the Stars" includes photos of Jack with many of his footballing heroes, autographs from many of the winning teams, and his favourite football legends depicted on stamps and postcards.

Alan Sabey's – Wembley as a Sporting Venue.

The display by the Exhibition Study Group, put on by Alan Sabey mainly centres on the 1948 Olympics and the World Cup Final of 1966, both staged at Wembley, and the Cup Finals of 1924 and 1930. Through the co-operation of the London Borough of Brent the Olympic theme will feature one of the torches used during the traditional Torch Run that began in Greece and ended on 29 July 1948 for the opening of the

Games by George VI at Wembley. Items of a rare or unusual nature from the British Empire Exhibition 1924/25 are also included.

Postal Memorabilia

David Harrop will be providing one of his widely acclaimed displays of postal memorabilia. This time he charts the journey of the letter from writing desk to letter box and features a range of historical and fascinating items including vintage pens, ink wells, bottles of ink, and stationery which show visitors are invited to try for themselves.

Seminars

An interesting programme of seminars has been arranged as follows (starting time in parenthesis):

25 April

Special Issue Stamps (11.30)

Waterfalls of the World (12.30)

School & Junior Stamp Clubs (13.30)

Stamp Design & Printing (14.30)

British Library Philatelic Collections (15.30)

Stamp Collecting at a Crossroads? (16.30)

26 April

Special Issue Stamps (10.30)

Beginning & Developing a Collection (11.30)

Waterfalls of the World (12.30)

Work of the Post Office Archives (13.30)

Stamp Design & Printing (14.30)

Introduction to Postal History (15.30)

Collecting Latin America (16.30)

27 April

Beginning & Developing a Collection (10.30)

The World of Rugby (11.30)

The Hidden Theme (12.30)

Trials & Tribulations (13.30)

Introduction to Postal History (14.30)

Stamp Collecting at a Crossroads? (15.30)

Philatelic Forum (16.30)

28 April

Introduction to Thematics (10.30)

Trials & Tribulations (11.30)

The Kingdom of Birds (12.30)

Aspects of Aerophilately (13.30)

Philatelic Forum (14.30)

Philatelic Forum – Questions & Answers (15.30)

Stamp '96 Autumn

Tomorrows World Exhibitions, organisers of Stamp '96, are launching a new show at the

National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 22-24 November 1996. Prior to the launching of the NEC show many of the exhibitors at Wembley were asked for their opinion. Initially it was intended to hold the event in Manchester but the majority of dealers expressed a preference for the Midlands. This was supported by independent research.

The NEC is situated alongside the M42 within easy walking distance of Birmingham International rail station and close to Birmingham airport. Some 22 million people live within 60 miles of the NEC which can be reached in about 90 minutes from Bristol, Leeds, London, and Manchester.

Companies interested in attending this exhibition should contact Maureen Leamon at Stanley Gibbons Ringwood office, Tel. 01425 461353.

Newcastle '96

The prospectus for this exhibition, sponsored by the Association of British Philatelic Societies is now available by sending a large stamped addressed envelope to: P Rothnie, 16 Curlew Hill, Lancaster Park, Morpeth NE61 3SH. Details are given for entries to the Aerophilatelic and Interfed '96 competitions.

The exhibition will be staged at Newcastle Civic Centre, open to the public 30 November and 1 December 1996. Through the exhibition, the ABPS aims to bring together the international, national, and local strands of philately, attracting collectors from across the country. It is expected to become a biennial event held at various locations around the UK.

The Stamp Show 2000

This is the title of the next international stamp exhibition in the UK – to be staged at Earls Court, London SW5, 22-28 May 2000. The event is being organised by P&O Events Ltd which organises such prestigious exhibitions as the London Motor Show.

Brief details were given here last month of the Philatelic Advisory Board appointed by P&O Events to keep them in touch with the philatelic world – both from the collectors and trade points of view. They appoint such boards for all the events they organise. The board is invariably made up of leading figures within the industry concerned. A high profile Chairman is appointed before the Board is formed and advice taken from that person as to the individuals to be

invited to join. On certain exhibitions, such as The Stamp Show 2000, the members are asked to play a more active role and become involved with organising certain aspects of the show when they have specific or expert knowledge.

P&O Events is not bound to accept any advice or proposals made by the Board but would only reject such help after careful consideration and further consultation. The Advisory Board has no financial control and cannot authorise expenditure or policy.

The members of the Advisory Board for The Stamp Show 2000 are:

Patrick Pearson (Chairman): Vice President Federation Internationale de Philatelie, and former President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1974. Will represent FIP on the Advisory Board.

Francis Kiddle: Trustee of the British Philatelic Trust. President of the Royal Philatelic Society since 1994. Elected RDP 1995. He will represent BPT interests and assist on all matters relating to frames, bin room, etc.

Richard Payne: National Commissioner and co-ordinator of British commissioners to international exhibitions. Will advise and assist on all matters relating to Commissioners.

Richard West: BPT Trustee, former juror for Youth Philately. Editor (now Executive Editor) of *Stamp Magazine* since 1972. Awarded British Philatelic Congress Medal 1995. Will advise on philatelic media and represent BPT.

Chris Rainey: Postal historian, dealer, exhibitor and stamp fair organiser. Will represent stamp dealers and advise on related matters.

Julie Dunwiddie: Member of the Council of the Philatelic Traders Society. Will represent views of PTS and overseas postal administrations.

Franceska Rapkin: International Juror and sometime Jury Secretary. Worked with her late husband, Leon, on the Stamp World London 90 exhibition (Leon Rapkin was Chief Executive). Will advise and assist with all matters relating to jurors.

Philip Kenton: Liaison Officer of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Will advise on all ABPS related matters and assist with publicity to philatelic societies.

Charles Goodwyn: Former President of Royal Philatelic Society, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection since 1995.

All enquiries relating to the exhibition should be sent to: The Stamp Show 2000, PO Box 372, Haywards Heath, RH17 7FL, Tel. 01825 791295.

Collecting Decimal Machins

Part 2

D G A MYALL

Country stamps

An obvious grouping of Machins is provided by the Country stamps. Although many people collect the stamps of all four countries, some prefer to collect only those of the one where they live. No doubt one incentive is the fact that supplies of new issues are more readily available than are those of the Nationals. *Four* countries? Yes, do not overlook the four values issued by the Isle of Man. These ceased when the Manx postal administration became independent on 5 July 1973, so that is a closed group. Country stamps were issued only in sheets until 1989 when the first of a series of prestige books, the Scots Connection, was issued featuring one of the four countries making up the United Kingdom. This was followed by London Life in 1990, Wales in 1992 and Northern Ireland in 1994. Of course, the London Life book, which was England's "entry" did not contain any Country stamps. England, alone among the constituent countries of the Kingdom, does not have its own series of stamps. Speaking as an Englishman, maybe there should be even more Machin designs. No Country stamp has been issued in coil form – so far.

Horizontal Format

The mention of Machin designs reminds me that there has been one other major innovation in addition to the double head series. This was the horizontal format of the stamps in the book of 20 self-adhesives which was trialled in the Tyne Tees television area in 1993-94. These trials revealed that more work was needed to perfect the technique. This particularly involves the gum employed which was a unique double formulation designed to enable the stamps to be removed easily from the backing cover and (for collectors!) used examples from envelopes. Further research which has been undertaken by the Post Office's chemists at their research laboratories in Swindon has been encouraging and we could well see more self-adhesive Machins in future although whether they would again be in booklets and whether they would use the horizontal design cannot be predicated. Probably the design would not be repeated (unless further field trials prove necessary) as this unique Machin shape was meant only to provide easy recognition during the monitoring of the experiment.



Scotland: 15p Photogravure (Harrison) Type 1 solid eye joined to background;
26p Litho (Waddington) Type 2 "opened" eye, not joined to background



The self-adhesive stamp prepaid the cost of an inland first-class letter but it did not have any value printed on it. It is one of the stamps known collectively as Non Value Indicators, or NVIs. These were first issued in August 1989 as part of the drive to sell more stamps by making them available to the public from numerous retail outlets. These have all been issued in booklets, still known to collectors as window booklets from the fact that the first issues had a cutout on the front cover covered by a clear laminate through which one of the stamps inside could be seen. At first, these retail books, as Royal Mail refers to them, contained normal value stamps. (Some of them contained 1840 anniversary stamps.) The incentive for retailers to stock the books received a setback when rates were increased in September 1988, as retailers did not wish to hold stocks of out-of-date stamps, and the public did not want to have to buy odd value stamps to make up the deficit. To overcome these problems, Royal Mail

50p machine-vend books: printed on Jumelle press (cover Grand Prix Austin) 12p and 10p set in line; Chambon press (cover 1903-5 Vauxhall) 12p and 10p not in line

introduced non-value stamps which prepaid the minimum postage rates whatever these happened to be, so that a rate change did not affect their validity; it merely increased the retailer's profit! The very first NVIs cost 15p and 20p (although only sold in books of four or ten) but they can be used today even although the rates have increased to 19p and 25p respectively, and they will continue to be valid after the next tariff increase. NVI stamps in sheet form were introduced in September 1993.

Value figures

The self-adhesive stamp was another of Jeffery Matthews' brilliant designs and maybe his work on *Machins* would itself form an interesting subject for a collection. He has had almost as much effect on the design as Machin himself.



*Changes to values: 20p and 75p (above)
1993 Self-adhesive in horizontal format (right)*

Remember, it was he who designed the 1840 anniversary issue and he compiled the now standard palette of colours used on all Machin stamps. Another instance of his influence on the design was the re-drawing of the figures of value following a decision by Royal Mail to exercise more control over this feature. The new numerals were introduced gradually from March 1983 and took five years to extend to all stamps in the range. These, too, would make a good starting point for a Machin collection. Yet another example of Jeffery Matthews' influence occurred on the Country issues, where the symbols by which the country of use is indicated were re-drawn by him when the printing method changed from photogravure to lithography. Even moderate specialists recognise the different symbol types.

Re-drawn values and symbols are only part of what I consider to be the really fascinating aspect of Machins. Just as collectors of the classic issues concern themselves with tiny details which enable them, for example, to plate the alphabets used on the Victorian line-engraved stamps, so a study of value types and settings enables the student to allocate even single stamps to their various printings. (A setting is the placement of the value in relation to the edges of the design.) Many issues exist in only one type and setting and it is no exaggeration to say that experts can frequently tell, from the examination of a single stamp, whether it came from a sheet, coil or booklet and even, on occasion, the number of the cylinder which printed it. At this level there is no doubt that Machins offer intellectual stimulus as well as relaxation. If you want to pursue this line, specialist publications exist to guide you through the maze of Machins.

Break points

Among the more recent "break points" for those who wish to start collecting Machins, may be mentioned the introduction of a blue fluor in



the phosphor inks used by all four firms currently printing Machins. These are being stocked by the British Philatelic Bureau. Another is the reversion by Harrison to PVA gum; this was first trialled on the 19p and issued on 19 July 1994. Other stamps with this gum will be appearing shortly.

As the earlier mention of self-adhesive gums above indicates, Post Office research continues and other results of it may well impinge on Machin collecting in the future. A hint of this was given by Dr Tim Lane, head of the research at Swindon, in an article in the October 1993 *Bulletin*. Special barcodes printed on the surface of the stamps in a luminescent ink could enable machines to read all sorts of information, such as the value of the stamp, in addition to the traditional separation of mail into first- and second-class. So if you are hesitating and wondering where to start collecting Machins, maybe these experiments will one day soon give you your excuse – or opportunity.

I know that there are many aspects of Machin collecting which I have not mentioned, such as head types, coil leaders, variations in the type, colour, width, placement and screening of phosphor overprints, the use of the head on postal stationery, and even on the stamps of another country (Hong Kong), but I hope I have said enough to convince you that Machins are far from boring and offer multiple opportunities to indulge in any facet of stamp collecting that appeals to you.

© D G A Myall, 1996

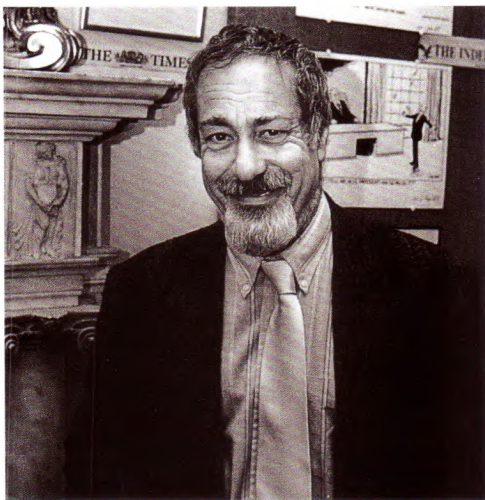
Greetings Stamps Exhibition at NPM

On show until 3 May in the Special Exhibitions Gallery at the National Postal Museum is a delightful exhibition relating to the Greetings issues since 1989. The first set, designed by Philip Sutton, "a great postcard writer", had a "stylish unity". The labels, issued with the stamps, were produced to use up surplus paper but the idea proved popular and labels have accompanied each subsequent issue. The second set, "Smiles", received a BBC Design Award in 1990. The designer, Mark Pearce of Michael Peters & Partners, looked for "cultural stereotypes who in our mind's eye are always smiling". He confesses to using the Laughing Policeman stamp on an envelope paying a parking fine!

The 1991 "Lucky Charms" set, by Tony Meeuwissen, presents a "bewitching fantasy landscape rich in detail and visual surprises". The designer aimed at including "all things that people can respond to quickly". Considerable market research was carried out which revealed that most greetings mail is sent by women and the 1992 "Memories" set was specifically designed to appeal to them. The memorabilia shown on the stamps took several weeks to select and arrange, sadly it was destroyed in a fire shortly after being photographed for the stamps. The 1993 "Giving" set depicted childhood heroes from Robert Louis Stevenson's Long John Silver to Raymond Briggs's Snowman. The 1994 set continued with the Childrens' Literature theme.

For 1995 "Art of Greetings" the designs ranged from Beryl Cook's jolly ladies to the lush colours and forms of a 17th century Mughal painting. The exhibition includes artwork for each issue as well as the stamps and first day covers.

The exhibition opened on the day of issue of the



Mel Calman (Photo: Paul Lovelace (© The Times))

1996 "Cartoons" set and presentation of the awards in the Young Cartoonists of the Year competition organised by the British Cartoonists Association and *The Times*. Some 17 cartoons are displayed, including the winning two by Jonathan Cusick and Laura Tyser. The awards were presented by Mr Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*. Included in the exhibition are tributes to *Times* cartoonist Mel Callum (1931-94) whose work appears on four of the new stamps.

Young Cartoonist of the Year Jonathan Cusick, age 17, with his cartoon of the presenters of the BBC "Food and Drink" programme (Photo: Martin Beddall © The Times)

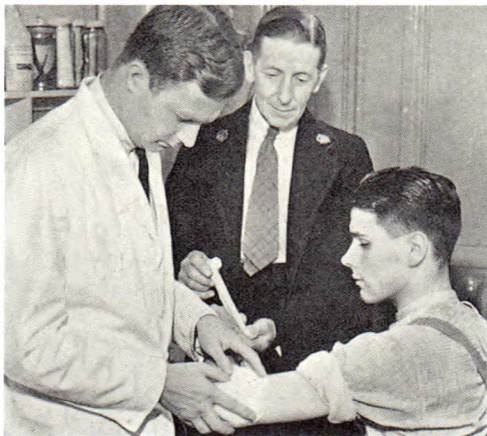


Out of the Arc...

Curiosities from the Post Office Archives

18. *The Post Office Medical System*

The story of the Post Office's provision of medical services to its staff began in 1854 when, in response to the cholera epidemic of that year which killed over 10,000, a London doctor was temporarily appointed as a "competent and experienced medical advisor and superintendent".



Post Office Medical Department – Attending to a patient, 1935

A Treasury report later recommended that a Medical Officer be permanently appointed. In June 1855, Dr Walter Augustus Lewis duly became the PO's first Medical Officer, responsible for the 891 "Letter Carriers, Stampers, Porters, Messengers..." attached to the GPO in London.

His duties required him to, amongst other things, "examine all candidates for appointments", "inquire into cases in which there is suspicion of feigned or exaggerated illness" and "afford general medical aid and in any other way the Postmaster General may think it right to direct".

Medical Officers were introduced nationwide from 1859. Over time their responsibilities expanded to include other duties very different than those originally intended.

One notable case occurred in 1920. The Departmental Medical Officer for Wear Sorting

Office conducted a routine operation on a Postman "with a view to an improvement in the postman's health whereby he would be able to render more efficient service".

Although the operation was deemed a success, the patient by his own admission, "better in health since it was performed", a dispute of sorts arose over who should bear the costs.

Rule 24 of the Manual for Post Office Medical Officers limited such officers to provide free medical care such as was usually provided by general practitioners. The cost of any treatment over and above this was to be borne by the individual not the PO.

The Medical Officer felt the procedure in question exceeded the care which he was bound



The surgical dressing-room at Post Office Headquarters, c1936

to provide at the PO's expense and submitted a bill. This was rejected by the Postman who felt the Medical Officer had not informed him of the full facts.

The operation of circumcision was at that time one which was performed by general practitioners, however, as they charged a special fee for this treatment the PO declined to meet the costs. It did, however, rule that the Postman was entitled to sick pay for any time off work recuperating.

N.B. In 1920, a circumcision cost two guineas!

*Simon Bates
Information Manager*

Archive Ref:

Post 64/1 – History of the Post Office Medical system: 1855-1902

Post 121/161 – Circumcision: not part of Medical Officer's duty.

Postbag



Encouraging New Collectors

D E F Murphy of Kent writes:

Many people, including myself, are working up and down the country to try to encourage young people to collect stamps. We are aware of many problems, including the attraction of computers. Few youngsters are members of philatelic societies and I wonder if this is partly due to the fact that almost every society meets of an evening. Might one dare suggest that societies think about meeting on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning? The Calais Philatelic Society in France has an active junior section of 72 which meets on a Sunday morning, as indeed does the main society. They found it better as many of their members lived in outlying villages – probably not much different to many societies in the UK. Well worth considering I believe.

Do any UK local societies currently meet at the weekend? Have any societies tried this in the past? Ed.

Spring Stampex

Tony Buckingham, Chief Executive of Benham, writes: Congratulations to the PTS re Stampex.

To move an established exhibition with so many people against it was a very brave if necessary step. I congratulate the PTS on their vision. Obviously the exhibition still has warts but it is clear to anyone that it provides a superb setting for the future of the stamp industry. Three large players in our market all remarked to me that they felt proud to see that as our image instead of the shabby impression of the Horticultural Halls.

I'm convinced that the excellent start of this January will be built into something really worthwhile. I urge the PTS to continue to work with everyone to make Stampex both in the spring and in the autumn an exhibition of which Britain can be proud.

Well done – keep up the hard work!

Posting Boxes

No. 161 Battlefield Box

This month's subject is the postbox near the National Trust for Scotland Information Centre at Culloden where the last major battle on British soil took place 250 years ago on 16 April 1746. The box is a standard type with the Scottish crown cipher. The first photograph was taken in June 1991 and shows the name Culloden Battlefield on the time plate. By August 1994 (second photo) the name had gone. Visitors to the Information Centre can stamp their cards with a Culloden cachet before posting them in the box. A special handstamp was used on 19 July 1984 when the Information Centre was opened (No 37 *Postmark Bulletin*, 29 June 1984).

Another box, at Glenfinnan where the Jacobite Uprising started in August 1745, was shown here in August 1989.



Readers interested in posting boxes should consider joining the Letter Box Study Group which has some 700 members. For details send a stamped addressed envelope to the Membership Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.

Events: April/May

until April: "Victorian Posts" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. Admission free. Enquiries: 0171-239 5420.

until 30 April: "Cupid's Workshop" – Valentine cards exhibition at National Postal Museum.

until 3 May: "The Story of Greetings Stamps" exhibition at National Postal Museum. Stamps, stamp artwork, and *The Times* cartoons display.

1 April-30 June: Display of Seychelles/Zil Elwanngen Sesel 1983 Wildlife issue (artwork, essays, proofs, issued stamps) at British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 14.30-18.00. Enquiries: 0171-412 763516.

13-14 April: Railway Letter Stamp Seminar at North Yorkshire Moors Rly. Enquiries: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5EA.

20 April: Telford Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Civic Offices, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Auction at 15.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, 01952-223926.

20 April: Empex '96 Stamp & Postcard Fair, hosted by North Herts Stamp Club, at Norton Road School, Letchworth, 10.00-16.00. Dealers, displays, inter-society competitions, refreshments. Admission 20p. Enquiries: R Sax, 01462-683457.

20 April: Maidstone & Mid Kent Phil Soc Stamp Fayre at Oakwood Grammar School for Boys, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, 10.30-16.00. Enquiries: B R Stonestreet, 01622-675784.

25-28 April: Stamp '96 exhibition at Wembley Exhibition Centre, Hall 2. Enquiries: Stamp '96 office, 01425-461353.

27 April: Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies 27th Annual Convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Dealers, Competitions, Society Displays. "Kids Korner", Souvenir Postcard, Car Parking, Refreshments. Enquiries: G N Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY.

27 April: Exeter & District Phil Soc Stamp Exhibition & Fair at Priory School, Topsham Road, Exeter. 10.30-16.30. Dealers, Wessex

Federation inter-club competition, refreshments, free parking. Enquiries: A Pavey, 01392-366044.

4-12 May: Aviacon Y Espacio '96 Aero and astrophilately exhibition commemorating 75th anniv of Spanish Civil & Postal aviation. With Espamer '96 national stamp exhibition, Seville, Spain. Enquiries: British Commissioner – B Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ.

11 May: Spring Assembly of Midland Philatelic Federation at King Edward VI College, Lower High Street, Stourbridge, W Midlands. Hosted by Dudley Phil Soc. Stamp fair, meetings of British Society of Australian Philately and Yugoslavia Study Group, displays. Refreshments. Enquiries: P Barnett, 01902-689856.

18-24 May: China '96 – 9th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition, China International Exhibition Centre, Beijing.

25 May: StampEssex '96 (Spring Association of Essex Phil Socs Day), hosted by Sudbury Phil Soc, at St Peter's, Market Hill, Sudbury. 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: I Pittway, 01787 461691

Forthcoming Issues

Listed below are the proposed issues for the next six months. Any changes/additions will be notified in this magazine.

2 Apr	Scot aerogramme – Football
9 Apr	British Cinema stamp cards
16 Apr	4 x 1st book – Queen's birthday label
16 Apr	Stamp cards – commemorative labels
16 Apr	British Cinema stamps & pack
16 Apr	NPM postcards – Post Haste! Artefacts
21 Apr	Queen's Birthday Philatelic/Numismatic cover
7 May	Football Legends stamp cards
13 May	Stamp books – Olympic Triathlon Promotion
14 May	Football Legends stamps, pack, postcard book
14 May	European Football prestige book
8 Jun	Football Legends Phil/Numismatic Cover
2 Jul	Scot aerogramme – Edinburgh Festival
2 Jul	Olympic stamp cards
9 Jul	Olympic stamps & pack
30 Jul	Women of Achievement stamp cards
6 Aug	Women of Achievement stamps & pack
27 Aug	Children's TV stamp cards
3 Sep	Children's TV stamps & pack
24 Sep	Cars stamp cards

April/May Digest

To be issued in April/May

2 April: Scottish aerogramme – Football.

9 April: 100 Years of Going to the Pictures stamp cards.

16 April: 100 Years of Going to the Pictures stamps and pack.

16 April: 4 x 1st class book with commemorative label for 70th birthday of HM The Queen.

16 April: Stamp cards showing commemorative labels for Bank of England Tercentenary (1994), R J Mitchell (1995), and The Queen's 70th birthday (1996).

16 April: National Postal Museum stamp cards-Artefacts from Post Haste! display.

21 April: The Queen's 70th birthday Philatelic/Numismatic Cover.

7 May: Football Legends stamp cards.

13 May: 10 x 1st stamp book with Olympic Triathlon promotion (3 versions).

14 May: Football Legends stamps, pack, and postcard book.

14 May: European Football Championship prestige stamp book.

To be withdrawn in April/May

3 April: 50p, £1 & £2 books – Nos 2 in Sea Charts, Inspiration for Victory, and Sir Rowland Hill series.

3 April: Scottish aerogramme: Glasgow School of Art.

10 April: National Trust stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards.

24 April: National Trust prestige stamp book.

29 April: 5p and 38p definitives with yellow fluor.

1 May: Peace & Freedom stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards.

4 May: National Postal Museum postcards – Victorian Post Office and Freddie Mercury Album. *Note: To be withdrawn from sale at Bureau, will remain on sale at NPM shop.*

15 May: £1 book – Inspiration for Victory 3 (*Contains 25p stamps with yellow fluor*).

15 May: 4 x 1st stamp book (R J Mitchell) and Mitchell label pane.

15 May: 4 x 35p, 4 x 41p, 4 x 60p stamp books (issued 16 May 95) (*Contain stamps with yellow fluor*).

Late News

Olympics Aerogramme: A pictorial aerogramme featuring sporting activities is to be issued on 18 June, to complement the Olympics stamps. The illustrations are by Eliza Marchant, winner of a children's design competition. The aerogramme will bear the logos of the British Olympic and Paralympic teams, both sponsored by Royal Mail. Further details to follow.

NPM Burns Exhibition: A special exhibition entitled "Robert Burns – Man of Letters" will open at the National Postal Museum on 7 May, running until the end of the year. It will feature the 1966 and 1996 stamp issues, related artworks, postmarks, etc, also Burns cinderella labels, medals, and other collectable material. Four postcards will be issued to accompany the exhibition, reproducing unadopted designs for the 1966 issue by Jock Kinneir, Ruari McLean, and A B Imrie.

Spring Baspex '96: The Basildon Philatelic Society will hold its Spring Stamp Fair at the Laindon Community Centre, Basildon on 20 April, open 10.00-17.00. Admission free. Stamp Dealers, exhibition, refreshments, free car parking. Enquiries: Pat Morris, Tel. 01268-473946.

Correction: Details of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust £3 conservation stamp were published in the January 1992 *Bulletin*, not February 1992 as stated on page 212 of last month's issue. The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust was wrongly titled Wildlife & Wetlands on page 202. We regret any confusion caused.

Definitive Update

The 30p definitive with blue fluor (announced in March, page 200) is available with both blue tinge and transparent gum, similar to that on the 25p stamp issued last October. Specialist collectors may obtain supplies of both from the British Philatelic Bureau.

