

Philatelic Bulletin

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Readers will know of the announcement that the Post Office proposes to increase the basic letter rates in January 1981. The increases will take place after almost a year of unchanged prices. All sections of industry and commerce have of necessity increased their charges for goods and services, due to inflation, and the Post Office regrettably is no exception.

The Chairman, Mr Ron Dearing commented recently,

'The undertaking I gave not to increase prices before the end of the year is being honoured. The present increases have been held back as long, and are as small, as is consistent with the Post Office remaining in the black'.

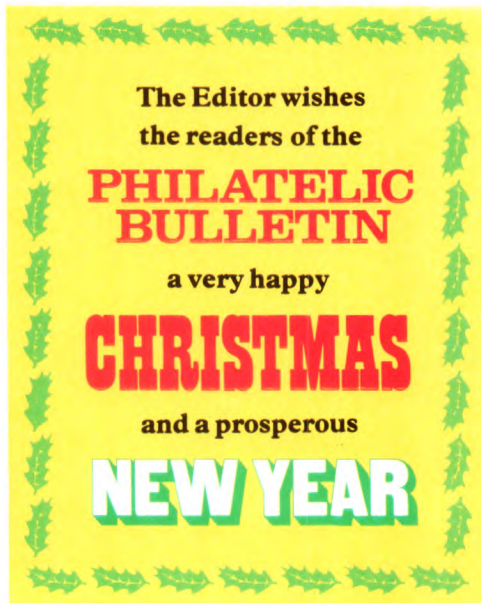
To philatelists, any increase in postal rates is unwelcome as it inevitably increases the cost of the hobby.

However, one fact remains clear, the cheapest way to collect our stamps and enjoy their aesthetic value, is to buy them from Post Office counters. The quality of British stamps remains second to none.

New Philatelic Sales Counters

A new philatelic sales counter will be opened at the Truro Branch Office, High Cross, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2AP on 12 January 1981. A special pictorial handstamp illustrating a local landmark and including the words, 'Post Office Philatelic Counter Truro', will be applied on that day only to mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the Truro BO. For customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent to:- The Head Postmaster, Operations Division, High Cross, TRURO, Cornwall, TR1 2AP.

In the November edition of the Bulletin, we printed details of the opening on 8 December, of a new philatelic sales counter in Hull. The design of the commemorative handstamp to be applied to mail posted on that day in the philatelic posting box, was changed to include a distant water trawler, and not the Humber Bridge as published. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused collectors.



Collecting Machin Definitives Part 4

The Country or Regional Definitives

Proposed as long ago as 1946, the British Post Office has been selling a limited range of postage stamps in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales since 18 August 1958. Machin designs were introduced on 7 July 1971 with decimal values, to replace the sterling value series bearing the 'Wilding' portrait of HM the Queen.

These stamps cater for the basic 1st Class, 2nd Class, European, and the zone B overseas airmail rates. They are intended for sale in the appropriate countries instead of the standard GB definitives but this does not always work out in practice. A shortage of supply, or a change of postal rates before new 'Country' definitives have been printed may mean that in some circumstances only the standard GB stamps are available.

Welsh stamps can sometimes be obtained from post offices in the English counties bordering Wales. I have bought them at the Head Post Office in Chester. This is explained by the fact that some of these English post offices are in the Wales and Marches Postal Region.

'Country' definitives can also be purchased from the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, or from philatelic sales counters.

Identification of individual stamps may not be easy for some collectors because, although each country has its own design, the name is not included except on the sheet margins. That which distinguishes the stamps is the use of printed symbols relevant to each country; a hand for Northern Ireland, a lion rampant for Scotland, and a dragon for Wales.



From 7 July 1971 to 5 July 1973 the British Post Office also supplied the Isle of Man Machin definitives depicting the three legs of Man.

As with the standard GB definitives there have been changes of paper, gum and phosphor, some of which have subsequently proven to be in very short supply. Two of these are the 3½p bronze green and the 7½p chestnut of Scotland on Fluorescent Coated Paper with PVA adhesive, especially in unmounted mint condition.

Postal rates have changed over time and so have the values of the 'Country' definitives, so increasing the total number of stamps in the series. Some values have rapidly increased in price after becoming obsolete, which is its own recommendation to purchase when the stamps are first issued. Examples which come to mind are the 5p bright violet and 7½p chestnut on Ordinary Coated Paper with PVA adhesive, together with the 2½p magenta and the 3p dull ultramarine FCP/PVA values from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Welsh 3p dull ultramarine FCP/Gum Arabic stamp also commands a significant premium in mint condition.

Collectors of cylinder blocks are catered for, with both ink and phosphor cylinder changes represented. Cylinder blocks associated with the less common paper and gum variants can be very difficult to find and can be expensive.

Amongst the more unusual examples are those, of which I have a Scottish 7½p specimen, with stamp size perforated labels at the left side. These labels are unprinted except for the cylinder number and the cylinder box, and have resulted from exceptionally widely trimmed margins.

7 March 1977 saw the beginning of an interesting experiment by the Scottish Postal Board. It consisted of stamp cartons dispensed from a converted cigarette vending machine outside the Head Post Office, Dundee. The experiment was soon extended to Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock and Paisley.

According to a letter from the Head Post Office, Paisley in April 1977 the machine being used for the purpose was a Vendador (NOSPB 1006) made by Autonomis Ltd, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

The cartons contained loose stamps to the value of either 30p or 60p and were sealed with labels inscribed 'ROYAL MAIL STAMPS', the total face value, and contents. There are several versions of the label, styles of cartons and card used in their manufacture.



World Daffodil Convention



Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

Initially each 30p carton contained two 6½p centre phosphor band and two 8½p two phosphor band Scottish Regional stamps torn from the counter sheets. The 60p carton contained four of each of the same stamps.

Following a change of postal rates on 13 June 1977 the stamps in the cartons were changed to include three 7p stamps and one 9p stamp, with the 60p carton holding twice that amount. The stamps were standard GB Machin definitives.

Early in the trial some of the cartons contained questionnaires from the Marketing Manager of the Scottish Postal Board. In June 1977 the cartons were put on sale by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh. The 6½p and 8½p cartons were withdrawn in December 1978, with the machines taken out of use at about the same time.

Northern Ireland was the subject of privately produced 'Daffodil' stamp booklets in 1979. They were commissioned by the Northern Ireland

Daffodil Group to commemorate the visit to Northern Ireland of the World Daffodil Convention. Each booklet contained a block of 10½p commemorative stamps, a block of Northern Ireland Regionals, a block of Machin GB definitives, and a block of airmail labels. There are also examples of other privately produced stamp books, particularly in Scotland.

D W STADDON

Collecting Machin Definitives

Readers will remember Part 1 of Don Staddon's current series of articles in which we reproduced a black and white photograph of mixed screens (page 211). We would like to point out that the photograph is the copyright of Mr. J. K. Leary of Birmingham, to whom we are grateful for producing an excellent study of a very difficult subject, and allowing us to use it.

71. 'Philympia' Stamp Exhibition, 1970



London's international stamp exhibition is the premier event of the decade in British philately, and it has grown in stature with each progressive location in post-war years — from the carpeted splendour of Grosvenor House (1950) and the 'palm court' atmosphere of the Royal Festival Hall to the great exhibition halls of Olympia (1970) and Earls Court (1980). A Notable feature of 'Philympia' was the Post Office issue of three special stamps to mark the occasion, the first time ever that a purely philatelic function of this nature had thus been commemorated. It was also the first British stamp issue to employ the motif of 'stamps on stamps', a popular collecting theme — and the stamps' publicity value was enormous, benefiting the Post Office, the exhibition and philately in general.

The stamps were designed by David Gentleman, R.D.I., who has been the most consistent and successful of all designers in this specialised field — his first designs for the British

Post Office were the National Productivity Year stamps of 1962, his latest, the characteristic Liverpool & Manchester Railway 150th anniversary stamps issued in March this year. For his 'Philympia' designs, he selected (5d.) a Penny Black of 1840 (the 'first engraved issue'); (9d.) a 1s. embossed green of 1847 (the 'first embossed issue'); and (1s.6d.) a 4d. carmine of 1855 (the 'first surface printed issue'). The classic 1d. black and 4d. carmine stamps were reproduced slightly larger than the originals, the 1s. green fractionally smaller, in order to obtain a uniform width in the vertical format of the 'Philympia' stamps.

The 1d. black — most famous and desirable of stamps — was printed by Perkins, Bacon and Company at the behest of Rowland Hill, the octagonal 1s. green stamps were printed/embossed at Somerset House from a primary die engraved at the Royal Mint by William Wyon, whose head of Queen Victoria on the 'Wyon Medal', issued to celebrate her visit to the City of London in the year

New Definitive Stamps Issue



of her coronation, was selected for the model of the 1d. black, and held pride of place throughout her reign; and the 4d. carmine was surface-printed by De La Rue, the forerunner of numerous similar issues printed by them until 1911.

The 'Philypia' stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (12 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. They were issued on the opening day of the exhibition — September 18th 1970 — and remained on sale until withdrawn a year later. Recorded printing flaws include a white blob between the 'OS' of 'POSTAGE' (later retouched), and a 'weak entry' of the frame-line in the top left corner, of the 1d. black (5d.), the latter interesting because 'weak entries' were characteristics of the original 1d. black stamps; also a missing dot over the 'i' of 'printed' on the 1s.6d. stamp.

Quantities sold were: 5d. 72,211,000; 9d. 16,330,000; and 1s.6d. 15,203,836.

JAMES WATSON

Subject to the Government's agreement to the proposed increase in the basic postage rates, six new definitive postage stamps will be issued on 14 January 1981 to supplement the current range. They are 2½p, 11½p, 14p, 15½p, 18p, 25p.

First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, with a choice of two handstamps.

SERVICE A. This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all six stamps. The cover will be cancelled: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or 'Windsor, Berks', as requested and despatched.

SERVICE B. Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled, and despatched.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 5 January 1981.

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
SERVICE 'A'	£1.20	£1.04½
Deposit account customers	£1.15½	£1.00½
SERVICE 'B'	£1.09½	95

Technical Details

Denominations and colours

- 2½p — rose
- 11½p — mushroom (single phosphor bar)
- 14p — steel blue
- 15½p — pale violet
- 18p — blue
- 25p — purple

All values except the 11½p will be printed on phosphor coated paper.

Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure — Jumelle

Perforation: 15 x 14

Sheet number: 200

ABC of Postcard Themes

2. B for Buses

In more leisurely times it was comparatively easy to 'hop on a bus' — the early horse-drawn buses proceeded at a gentle trot which, in heavy traffic, was reduced to walking pace. It seems that the omnibus was developed from the horse-drawn charabanc — from the French, literally a 'carriage with benches' — and from the stage-coach, defined as a vehicle which 'runs regularly with passengers from stage to stage', which was introduced in England about 1640. Road transport is one of the most popular themes with collectors of old picture postcards and buses — particularly the early ones with their varied and colourful liveries (prior to the ubiquitous London Transport 'red' which in fact originated with the 'General' buses of Edwardian times) — are keenly sought, both in close-up and in busy street scenes.

The card pictured this month, photographed and published by F. Kehrhn and Co. of Bexley, Kent, shows a 'General' double-decker of circa 1905. Bound for the Elephant & Castle and evidently, judging by the group of interested onlookers (including a policeman, the conductor, an inspector making notes and possibly a cynical horse-bus driver in the background!), about to make its inaugural run, the 'General' is one of six splendid cards published by Kehrhn, the others depicting the rival 'Arrow', 'Vanguard', 'Great Eastern', 'Pioneer' and 'Union Jack' motor-buses.

Horse-drawn omnibuses were introduced in London by George Shillibeer (1797-1866), a British coachbuilder, in 1829, after he had seen them operating successfully in Paris. The double-decker came later, in 1851, and the London General



Christmas 1980 Stamps Issue

Omnibus Company, founded in 1855, defied its competitors and the 'pirate' buses of later years, and eventually absorbed its rivals.

The London horse-bus driver was a 'character' of the times and was featured as such in the various postcard series of 'London Life' — seated high at the front of the upper deck, wearing a stylish 'bowler' and a leather apron over his knees: he was considerably more exposed to the elements than his colleague, the horse-tram driver. The introduction of, first, the steam bus, then a formidable variety of experimental electric and motor-buses from about 1902 saw the gradual demise of the horse-bus. In 1910, by which time London General had virtually gained supremacy in its operation of London motor-buses, a standard-type bus emerged — the General 'B'. Some of these were shipped to France during World War I to transport British and French troops to the front, while at home female bus conductors were employed — these were the butt of the comic postcard artists, and on one such card an attractive 'clippy' asks provocatively, 'How far do you want to go?'

Cards to look for? Preferably the 'real photo' close-ups and the traffic scenes depicted in fine detail by Charles Martin, E. Gordon Smith, Louis Levy, A. & G. Taylor and other noted photographers/publishers. If you include the General 'NS' (1923), roofed over the upper deck and with pneumatic tyres (instead of solid rubber) in 1925, and the 'LT', 'ST' and 'STL' buses of the 1930s, also the provincial and country buses, you will find many, many attractive postcards.

MALCOLM JAMES

Captain Cook Study Unit

The Captain Cook Study Unit is an organisation formed to study, through philately, the life and voyages of the great Captain. The Study Unit is anxious to attract new members and would welcome enquiries through the Secretary, Mr David Seymour, 38 Sherwood Road, Meols, WIRRAL, Merseyside L47 9RT. Enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Some of the stamps in this issue appear glossier than others even though there is no difference in the materials or printing process. These superficial variations occur as a result of the complex interaction during the phosphor coating process. All the stamps are acceptable for postal purposes but collectors wishing to obtain the different types for their collection can do so at philatelic counters or from the Philatelic Bureau.



Stamp Bug Club — 25,000th Member

During October last, Alison Varney aged 10, of Ewell, Surrey, joined the Stamp Bug Club and became the 25,000th member to enrol. This popular club, launched by the Post Office six months ago for junior stamp collectors, is growing at the rate of 1,000 new members every week. Applications are arriving from as far away as the United States, India and Pakistan.

Alison was the guest of honour at the West Central District Office in London where she was presented with an album of first day covers, gift pack of stamps, and a 'Stamp Bug' tee-shirt.

For those wishing to join, the cost is a modest 50p annually, for which members receive six times a year, a colourful 8-page magazine — 'The Stamp Bug News' — containing information about new British stamps, interesting articles by philatelists and well known personalities. Membership forms are available from: Stamp Bug Club, FREEPOST, PO Box 94, Darby House, REDHILL, Surrey, RH1 3DN.

The End of the Victorian Era

After the death of Queen Victoria, composite essays were made by substituting the head of the new King, Edward VII, produced by lithography superimposed on the normal postage stamp. The King's head is found in four different positions, two being three-quarter face and two being almost full face.

This month's 'gem' from the Reginald M Phillips Collection shows one of these original designs for the King Edward VII stamps, made in 1901. In the item illustrated, the head of the King

has in fact been placed over that of Queen Victoria and a chain of white dots added by hand right round the circle. Also, the Crown has been drawn over the central ornament and the words 'Postage and Revenue' have been redrawn in smaller lettering.

This interesting item can be seen in Vol XL1/54, towards the end of the Phillips Collection, and provides a fitting finale to this superb array of Victorian material.



Forces Covers

40th Anniversary of The Battle of Britain

Five of the following six official Royal Air Force covers have been produced to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. In all cases, the proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

FF20. This cover is included in the current Famous Firsts Series. Based on a painting by Tony Harold of a Hurricane engaging ME109s it has been cancelled with the BFPS Handstamp for the 40th Anniversary (1714) and flown in a Jaguar from RAF Abingdon on the occasion of the Battle of Britain Open Day on that station. The cover can be obtained from the Project Officer: Warrant Officer J Boon, RAF ABINGDON, Oxon OX13 6JB at 75p plus 10p postage.

C79 commemorates the Battle and the Formation of RAF Swanton Morley. Cancelled by BFPS handstamp — 40th Anniversary of RAF Swanton Morley (1717) the cover has been flown in the Mosquito and is available from the Project Officer: Flying Officer W Fawcett, RAF Swanton Morley, DEREHAM, Norfolk NR20 4LJ at 75p plus 10p postage.

C80 is cancelled with the BFPS commemorative handstamp — Open Day, Battle of Britain, RAF Coltishall (1718) and flown in the operational aircraft at that station. It is available from the Project Officer: Sgt G Bradford, RAF Coltishall, NORWICH NR10 5AJ at 75p plus 10p postage.

C81 was issued for the last Battle of Britain Display at RAF Biggin Hill. Cancelled with BFPS handstamp (1719) — The Last Reunion of Veterans of the RAF Memorial Flight. It is available from the Project Officer: Wg Cdr J Myers, RAF Biggin Hill, WESTERHAM, Kent TN16 3ED at 75p plus 10p postage.

C82 marks the Granting of the Freedom of Entry into the Borough of Bromley by RAF Biggin Hill. Cancelled by a special commemorative handstamp for the event (BFPS 1720) it has been flown in the Hurricane of the RAF Memorial Flight. It is available from the Project Officer: Sgt T Negus, RAF Biggin Hill, WESTERHAM, Kent TN16 3ED at 75p plus 10p postage.

Royal Navy

29 November 1980 marks the 120th Anniversary of the launch of H.M.S. 'WARRIOR', and to commemorate the event a special cover will be available depicting the ship as she was, and today in her state of preservation.

The cover will bear a 15p Christmas 1980 stamp, and the signature of Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Bayley KBE CB DSC, Secretary of the Ship's Preservation Trust, together with that of Lord Fisher of Kilverstone, grandson of Admiral Lord Fisher who was involved in the modernisation of the Royal Navy. The cost is £1.85.

Alternatively the cover will be available with a 13½p Christmas stamp and the signature of Lord Fisher only, price £1.05.

Unsigned covers with a 12p Christmas stamp affixed are 65p each.

Each cover will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp number BFPS 1721 illustrating the ship's crest.

Orders accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope should be sent to the RN Philatelic Officer, FAA Museum, RN Air Station Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL. Remittance to be made payable to FAA Museum.

British Aerophilatelic Federation (BAeF)

At the Inaugural Meeting of the British Aerophilatelic Federation held at BPE a Committee of eight was appointed under the Presidency of Group Captain W.S.O. Randle CBE, AFC, DFM. The Chairman is Mr. A. Newall and Vice Chairman Mr. J.C.W. Field.

The BAeF has been formed under the sponsorship of the Aerophilatelic Club, London; British Airmail Society; Raflet Club and Concorde Study Circle.

Any further information can be obtained from the Public Relations Officer:- Mr. Brian L. Asquith, 'Alandale', Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, SM5 4PQ.

Book Reviews

Great Britain First Day Covers 1981

Ninth edition

BB Publications Ltd Price £1.50

22-28 High Street

HYTHE

Kent CT21 5AT

From a useful 'collectors guide' on page 2 to a final list of presentation packs on page 144 this priced catalogue of FDCs, Booklet panes, PO postcards, Air letters, Commemorative covers, Se-tenant strips and Presentation packs must be an outright winner.

It embraces 140 years of GB material plus Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. It also gives a very great deal of sound advice to collectors and how the publishers contrive to do it all for the price remains a mystery.

The numerous illustrations in B & W and colour are uniformly excellent and the quality of postmark reproductions is quite outstanding. Cover enthusiasts will be delighted to find this one in their Christmas stockings.

In brief, great value for money and definitely one of the best buys currently available. Not to be missed.

Stoneham Catalogue of British Stamps

1981 edition

Published by Stoneham Publications Ltd

Stoneham Park

EASTLEIGH

Hampshire SO5 3HT

Price £4.95

This edition is markedly different in appearance from earlier editions but in two very important respects it remains the same. It is as comprehensively and clearly produced as ever. A Stoneham's catalogue has always been a pleasure to use. This one is no exception.

The catalogue lists and prices GB, Channel Islands and IoM stamp issues along with booklet panes, postage dues and an entirely new section covering complete booklets. All are annotated and many illustrated. A collector, be he beginner or expert, will not go far wrong with a copy of the 1981 Stoneham in his pocket.

For its size there can be few catalogues which

contain so much information and the explanatory notes between major sections are outstandingly clear and concise.

Every bit as good as earlier editions and a very good buy at £4.95.

Thematic and Topical Stamp Collecting

by A J Branston

Published by B T Batsford Ltd Price £7.95

4 Fitzhardinge Street

LONDON W1H 0AH

Thematic collecting is becoming more and more popular and the reason is not too hard to discern. If the market price of classic material continues to escalate and national issues keep churning out at their present rate we shall all end up collecting themes whether we like it or not. This book shows us how to do it. What is more, it shows us how to do it with style.

Some many think that eight pounds is a fairly stiff price to pay for 176 pages – even when those pages are clothbound – but one glance at the book's contents will convince the most cost-conscious reader that he is getting a first class return for his outlay. Any lingering doubt will soon be dispelled when he notes the author's qualifications.

This is not a book to be scanned lightly at one sitting. Nor is it intended to be browsed upon after a heavy lunch. It is designed to be read with attention, studied with care and acted upon with diligence. It has been prepared by an acknowledged expert for the instruction of those who seek the very best in thematic collection and display standards.

Will it succeed in its aims? Let us simply say that if reading it does not result in a marked improvement in the presentation of your collection you are either winning the awards already or holding the book upside down! If you aspire to exhibit on a modest budget and still attract the jury's attention whether at local, area, national or international levels, the sooner you invest your £7.95 the better.

A thoroughly professional textbook which can be unreservedly recommended to beginners and experienced collectors alike. It deserves to sell like the proverbial hot cakes.

Stanley Gibbons Foreign Stamp Catalogue Part 9 Portugal and Spain

*Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 391 Strand
LONDON WC2R 0LX*

Price £9.00

Geographical, historical and cultural links prompted the inclusion of the Iberian countries in one volume – the traditional 'Portugal and Colonies' and 'Spain and Colonies' – with, in this instance the Spanish Post Offices in Andorra. The dividing line for listings of overseas territory is at the point that the territory gained independence.

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 19 Middle East

*Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 391 Strand
LONDON WC2R 0LX*

Price £10.50

The many stamp issues of all the countries of the Middle East are brought together in one interesting volume. It includes the complete overhaul of the listing for HEJAZ (Saudi Arabia), entailing the deletion of many varieties formerly listed, but which are now recognised as forgeries.

Additional information has been supplied by: D A Graham, F C Benedict, Abdul Aziz Said, J Hannaney, J Hackmey and L Stenning.

Collect British Stamps 27th Edition

Published by Stanley Gibbons, this latest printing is currently available, price £1.35, and records all postage stamps issued in Britain from the 'Penny Black' of 1840 to the 'Music – British Conductors' of 1980. Illustrated in full colour the stamps are numbered to correspond with the main Gibbons catalogues. Variations of perforations and watermarks are included, while the section dealing with the decimal definitives issued since 1971 is now divided into four main groups, embracing the major differences in printing processes and paper. A more than useful addition to any stamp collectors bookshelf.



No. 21. For many years village postmasters were expected to provide their own letter box. Usually these were made by a local craftsman and many variations of 'home-made' box can be seen at rural post offices. The one shown here is at Llanfarian, near Aberystwyth.

Amendment

In the November edition of the Philatelic Bulletin we gave details of a special cover commemorating the Inauguration of the 653rd Lord Mayor of London on 8 November 1980. The profit from the sale of the covers we said would be donated to the Save the Children Fund, in fact the profit will be divided between the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and charities chosen by the Lady Mayoress. We apologise for the error.

British Special Stamp Issues

The following special stamps will be issued during 1981.

- 6 February **FOLKLORE**
 A St Valentine's Day
 B Morris Dancers
 C Lammastide
 D Medieval Mummers
Horizontal



- 24 June **NATIONAL TRUSTS**
 A Glenfinnan Scotland
 B Derwentwater England
 C Giant's Causeway N Ireland
 D St Kilda Scotland
 E Stackpole Head Wales
Horizontal

- 12 August **THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD**
 A Expeditions
 B Skills
 C Services
 D Physical Recreation
Horizontal

- 23 September **FISHING**
 A Cockle Dredging
 B Hauling Side Trawl
 C Lobster Potting
 D Hauling Seine Net
Horizontal

- 18 November **CHRISTMAS**
 Five stamps details to be announced
 A First Class Inland rate
 B European All-up rate
 C Zone B Airmail Letter rate
 D Zone C Airmail Letter rate
 E Zone A Airmail Letter rate

The above information is subject to change

- 25 March **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PEOPLE**
 A Blind Man and Guide Dog
 B Deaf and Dumb Alphabet
 C Person in Wheelchair
 D Foot Artist
Horizontal

- 13 May **BUTTERFLIES**
 A Small Tortoiseshell
 B Large Blue
 C Peacock
 D Chequered Skipper
Vertical

The Liverpool and Manchester Railway 1830 Special Stamp Issue

The Mumbles Railway Society has drawn the attention of the Post Office to an inaccuracy contained in the publicity material that was issued for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway stamps. The railway should have been more precisely described as the worlds first steam powered regular passenger and mail carrying railway.

The Post Office apologises for any embarrassment or confusion which the earlier description may have caused.

Commemorative Covers

175th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar

A commemorative cover is currently available honouring Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar. The cover bears a portrait of the Admiral, designed by David Williams, and has the 'Queen Mother' stamp affixed, cancelled with the Trafalgar Square Branch Office pictorial handstamp dated 21 October 1980.

A very limited number of covers signed by the present Earl Nelson and Lt. Cmdr. Barker RN, Commanding Officer of *HMS Victory* are available, price £4.00 each. Alternatively the cover signed by Earl Nelson only is £2.50, or, signed by Captain Barker only, the price is £1.75. The bulk of the covers, signed by the designer, are £1.10 each.

All proceeds from sales will be donated to, 'The Mountbatten Memorial Trust', 'Save the Victory

Fund' and 'The Mary Rose Trust'. Orders and remittances should be sent to: J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakeheath, LONDON N14 4RL.

Liverpool and Manchester Railway 150th Anniversary

The Edge Hill Railway Trust Ltd has produced a special cover to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Each cover bears a 12p L&M Railway stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting the Moorish Arch at Edge Hill. A limited number of these covers are still available. For further details please write to the Trust, PO Box 23 LIVERPOOL, L69 7AD enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

All Saints Church, Owston, S. Yorks.

To mark the 800th anniversary of All Saints Church, Owston, South Yorkshire, a commemorative cover became available from 1 November, bearing the 12p Queen Mother Birthday stamp. The cover is cancelled with a pictorial handstamp which includes the words, 'All Saints, Owston, South Yorks 1180-1980'. The cost is 60p. Orders accompanied by a 9" x 6" stamped addressed envelope should be sent to: Rev. Marc Secombe, The Vicarage, Owston, Nr. Askern, DONCASTER, South Yorks, DN6 9JF.

Philatelic Bulletin

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Subscriptions should be sent to the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, 124 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BB.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £1.25.

Printed in Great Britain by Cripplegate Printing Company Ltd for the Post Office.

