

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 18 Number 2 October 1980



- 222 Editorial
British Philatelic Exhibition 1980
Changes to Definitive Stamps
and Stamp Books
- 223 Collecting Machin Definitives
Part 2: Cylinder Blocks
- 226 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
LXXXI: De la Rue 6d Die Proofs
(1862-72 Issues)
- 227 Welsh Rugby Union Centenary
1881-1981
- 228 Forthcoming Events
- 229 Collecting the Victorians
8. The 'Jubilee' Stamps, 1887-1892
- 230 Christmas Stamps Issue
19 November 1980
Two new Definitive Stamps Issue
22 October 1980
Forces Covers
- 232 British Special Stamps
69. Literary Anniversaries 1970
- 233 Book Review
1980 Melville Competition –
Post Office Seminar
Withdrawal of Definitives
- 234 Commemorative Covers
- 235 150th Anniversary of the First
Carriage of Mail by Train

Malcolm James's 'Postcard Story', published as a Series during 1979, aroused great interest in the booming hobby of collecting old picture postcards, and it is in response to the numerous enquiries from readers on 'what to collect' that we have asked Mr James to describe, and illustrate some of the most popular and/or unusual subjects from A to Z, commencing next month.

This series will undoubtedly prove invaluable to those about to embark into this hobby.

British Philatelic Exhibition 1980

As usual the BPE was marked by the issue of a special miniature sheet (not valid for postal use) which this year is a reproduction of the 1971 Guernsey De La Rue commemoration 2p stamp, printed by De La Rue from the original die, by authority of the states of Guernsey Post Office Board. The sheet is currently available from the BPE organisers for £1.20 (including p & p), see address below.

A special cover with the miniature sheet affixed and tied by a cachet is also available. The cover bears a 12p stamp. Limited to 1000, each individually numbered, the covers are £3 each plus 15p p & p. For overseas orders 50p extra.

Orders should be sent to: The Secretary, The British Philatelic Exhibition Ltd, PO Box 329, LONDON SW1A 2HE. Remittances should be made by Postal Order or International Money Order.

Changes to Definitive Stamps and Stamp Books

Technical changes affecting the 11p definitive stamp and 10p stamp book have been introduced by the Post Office.

Definitive stamps are increasingly being printed on phosphor-coated paper and the latest to be affected by this change is the 11p stamp.

Stamps in the 10p booklet are being printed on a different machine, the Chambon. This will affect

the positioning and size of the stamp value numbers and letter 'p', but the phosphor markings are unaltered. The Chambon press was also used to print stamps in the third series of 50p books which went on sale on 25 June.

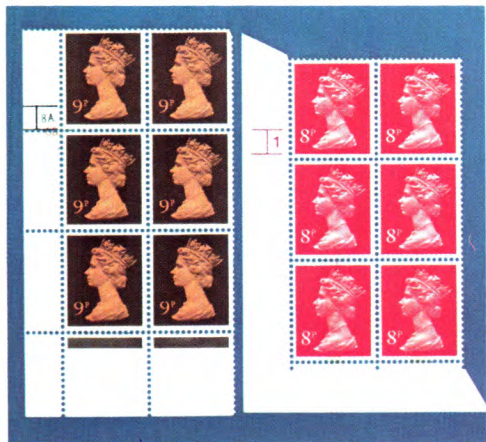
The new 11p stamp and Chambon 10p book are now available from philatelic sales counters or, by post, from the Philatelic Bureau.

Collecting Machin Definitives Part 2

Cylinder Blocks

I am sometimes asked why I am interested in cylinder blocks and I suppose that one of the reasons must be that they have acquired philatelic recognition and respectability as collectable items. They exist in sufficient numbers to give a wide breadth of interest, and they change often enough to keep the interest alive.

To the uninitiated a cylinder block consists of a block of stamps with margins on two sides. The cylinder numbers are printed on one of the margins and may include the phosphor cylinder number if any, together with the ink cylinder number, or numbers, if more than one colour has been used.



Most Machin definitives have been printed by Harrison's on the reel, in double panes each of 200 stamps with a vertical margin between. The panes are separated into sheets after printing before the stamps are delivered to the Post Office.

One of the ways a particular printing can be identified is by the cylinder number which is followed by a dot, or stop, on the right hand sheet and is without the dot on the left hand sheet.

Although a cylinder block is generally made up of six stamps from the bottom left hand corner of the sheet there are a few notable exceptions. For instance, the recent Waddington printed 4p definitive was produced by two ink cylinders so there are two cylinder numbers. These appear in two boxes above stamp eight in the top row. A third

box contains the phosphor cylinder number. To the left of the cylinder numbers is the Waddington of Kirkstall logo, above stamp seven.



The House of Questa printed 75p definitives are non-phosphor, and the only number shown is that of the ink cylinder. The numerals are printed alongside the Questa logo in the right hand margin opposite row one, and again opposite row twenty. I am not aware of any operational need for printing the cylinder number twice on each sheet, but I do know that it has doubled my expenditure on what is already an expensive stamp.





The current photogravure Harrison printed £1, £2, and £5 definitives have the ink cylinder numbers above the second stamp in the top row. Up to February 1977 all high value definitives had been recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. Plates were used, not cylinders, and the plate numbers are found under stamp nine in the bottom margin.

Cylinder numbers may occasionally be confused with serial numbers, especially by helpful Post Office counter clerks. Serial numbers are also found on sheet margins but they are applied by a separate process. They give each sheet its own distinct number for that particular printing, and may appear in various positions on one or more margins. I have an example on a 9p definitive sheet in which the same serial number has been printed twice in the same right hand margin, opposite rows four and eight.

I have been told that cylinders are produced and numbered consecutively, but this is not always obvious. There are gaps in the numbers, due to cylinders being rejected at the proofing stage. Stand by cylinders such as no 13 for the 4d value in the £.s.d. series, may be used intermittently during the life of a particular stamp.

Cylinders are removed for renovation purposes, and restored to use at a later date. Consequently there is not necessarily an orderly progression of cylinder numbers as they reach Post Offices.



Cylinders wear out more frequently with the heaviest used stamps, and the 3*p* with thirteen has had the most cylinder numbers to date. Of these, cylinder 12 is of special interest as it exists in two forms, 12 and 12A, both with and without dots. Apart from the 2½*p* definitives from cylinders 13 and 13A, with and without dots, no other single colour, small format definitives issued in sheets have a letter alongside the cylinder number. The reason is that they were produced by the Wood press which prints two double panes, 2 x 2, with each revolution of the cylinder.

Significant changes in the stamps may occur between successive printings by the same cylinder. These may include shade differences, some of which are sufficiently distinctive to merit separate classification. More importantly perhaps they may be technically different, so creating what is generally accepted as a new stamp. To illustrate the point from many examples, cylinder 2 of the ½*p* stamp appears on Original Coated Paper, OCP/PVA; on Fluorescent Paper, FCP/PVA; and on FCP/Gum Arabic. Of added interest is the fact that on the dot sheets the cylinder number was retouched and thereby strengthened between the OCP and FCP printings.

Occasionally, as with cylinder 10 of the 2*p* and others the dot is missing from early examples from the right hand sheet, and has subsequently been touched in.

Postal rate changes have affected the phosphor bands on some stamps, even though the same ink cylinder has been used. Cylinder 3 of the 10*p* definitive is associated with stamps having two phosphor bands, and with all over phosphor printed paper. Of similar interest are the cylinder 12 sheet of the 1*p* definitive on FCP/PVA Dextrin, with two phosphor bands, on phosphor printed paper, on phosphor coated glazed paper, and on phosphor coated unglazed paper. These last two are due to a variation in the hold-out of the ink between different batches of phosphor coated paper.

Cylinder changes are not announced by the Post Office, nor are supplies from new cylinders automatically sent to Philatelic Counters. Furthermore there is no obligation on the part of counter staff to make them available to collectors on demand.

In some cases they may be very elusive indeed and a number of examples in the Machin series come to mind.

A particular example concerns a friend in the North East of England who telephoned me some time after the 4½*p* definitive was issued in October 1973. Like mine, most of his local post offices had sheets of these stamps from ink cylinder 7, yet somewhere, somehow he had picked up an example from cylinder 1. My initial enquiries in the South produced a blank, this cylinder had not even been heard of never mind seen. Some months later I received information that cylinder 1 had appeared in the stock taken for sale by the Post Office at the October/November 1974 British Philatelic Exhibition in London. On that occasion I was lucky enough to purchase at the exhibition an example of what has turned out to be a very scarce cylinder block. Having found it necessary to buy a whole sheet to get the block, I decided to look at the sheet more closely. It was covered with flaws and blemishes, which probably explains why the cylinder was withdrawn.

Ink cylinders can be associated with different phosphor cylinders which began to be identified on sheets in January 1971. For a time the phosphor cylinder number was printed in phosphor on the right hand margin of certain sterling values. These were the 2*d*, 5*d*, 6*d*, 7*d* and 9*d* of the general series, and also one or more of the regional stamps. Subsequently the phosphor number was switched to the left hand margin where it can be located, but not with the early decimal printings, synchronised with the ink cylinder number. Misplacements are not uncommon however, and such items are of interest to many collectors.

In the early 1970's the phosphor cylinder number could be found in minute size anywhere on the left hand sheet margin. Then with the addition of a larger number both sizes could be found on the same sheet margin, with the larger figure 41 mm below the first. After that, the smaller figure was discontinued, and the larger figure was synchronised.

The figures have been drawn in reverse, or have been retouched between runs. On most of the 1979 1*p*, 2*p* and 10*p* phosphor printed paper definitives there is an unsynchronised phosphor number 3, inverted in the right hand sheet margin.

The 1979 8*p* definitives from ink cylinder 7 has part of the production with phosphor number 20 inverted in the right hand margin.

These are just some of the variants which keep cylinder block enthusiasts on their toes, constantly in touch with the latest developments, and ready to pounce at the first sight of something new!

D W STADDEN

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection LXXXI
De la Rue 6d Die Proofs (1862-72 Issues)



This month's 'Gem' from the Reginald Phillips' collection shows 3 die proofs illustrating the changing design of the De La Rue 6d value from 1862-72.

The first die proof (top left) shows the accepted design, as issued, for plate 3 of the 6d lilac released on 1 December 1862. The unusual feature is that the '2' was struck on the die proof in error, and was altered to '3' before printing. The die was struck on 17 October 1861 and the plate put to press on 9 August 1862; 49,000 sheets were printed before it was taken from press on 11 April 1864.

The Second item (top right) is a progressive die proof showing the final state for the 6d issued on 1 April 1865. Besides the changes in the background design, this issue, in common with the other values of 1865, features large control corner letters. This particular item was in fact one of the proofs found in the effects of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy

(died 1878). From 1863-65 De La Rue printed the 6d value finally issued on 12 April 1872. Ormond Hill wrote to the printers on 21 November 1870 with a suggestion for resolving the similarity of the 6d postage stamp and the 1d Inland Revenue stamp. As a result, trial printings were made of the 6d in the shade of brown as an experiment, but this was not a success and a new design for the value was then made. Plate '2' of this new design was registered on 5 January 1872 and put to press on 25 January 1872. (The die proof actually illustrated is in fact a rejected die of 26 October 1871).

The third item (bottom left) is a die proof of the 6d value finally issued on 12 April 1872. Ormond Hill wrote to the printers on 21 November 1870 with a suggestion for resolving the similarity of the 6d postage stamp and the 1d Inland Revenue stamp. As a result, trial printings were made of the 6d in the shade of brown as an experiment, but this was not a success and a new design for the value was then made. Plate '2' of this new design was registered on 5 January 1872 and put to press on 25 January 1872. (The die proof actually illustrated is in fact a rejected die of 26 October 1871).

CHARLES GOWEN

Welsh Rugby Union Centenary 1881-1981

Rugby Football is considered to be the national game of Wales, and therefore the 1980-81 season is a season of some significance. It marks one hundred years in the history of the Welsh Rugby Union, the governing body of the sport in the Principality.

Although a union of clubs had been formed in October 1880 and an International match had taken place against England in February of the following year, it was not until March 1881, when representatives of eleven Welsh rugby clubs met at the Castle Hotel in Neath, that the official ruling body of Rugby Football in Wales was set up under the secretaryship of Richard Mullock.

It might be said that Wales were slow on the up-take since England, Scotland and Ireland had already formed their respective Unions in the early part of the 1870's. But, in fact, those representatives in Neath were responding to a need which had only become apparent during the course of that decade. The 1870s saw a rapid growth in the popularity of the game. Clubs, like Llanelli, Swansea, Newport and Cardiff, which were to form the cornerstone of future development, were established during this time. Smaller towns and villages throughout the Principality could also boast of their own clubs so that by the end of the

decade the time was ripe for a ruling body to exist to control the development of the sport in Wales.

Up until fairly recently it was fashionable to believe that the origins of the game was the responsibility of one man, William Webb Ellis. It was he in 1823, whilst a boy at Rugby School, who created a legend by showing a fine disregard for the rules of Football as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it thus originating the distinctive feature of the rugby game. Or so the story goes. These days, however, Rugby historians find it more credible to believe that the game evolved gradually and that the rules of football were modified and refined over a period of time. What is inescapable is that the game flourished in the Public Schools of England and in the old Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. It seems odd and ironical that a game which was nurtured in this way should later lay claim to a fanatical following in Wales, a country which had no such established educational system and that it should appeal to a whole cross-section of society and not just to an educated elite. Nonetheless, it was the students who had attended these schools and colleges who, on returning to Wales, sowed the seeds of Rugby Football. Teachers, doctors, clergymen, pillars of society, brought into the



country a game which would be enjoyed by all sections of a, primarily industrial community.

During the intervening years this game has captured the imagination of a people and has become a source of pride to a nation. It is to this, as well as to its own formation, that the Welsh Rugby Union are conducting their Centenary Celebrations. To this end a number of celebration matches have been arranged and to coincide with these the Post Office is producing a special Centenary stamp as well as a First Day Cover.

- 1 On 20 September, Wales play an Overseas XV and this cover will include the Centenary Year Coat of Arms surrounded by the emblems of the countries, other than the International Board Members, who have played against Wales.
- 2 On 10 October a special stamp with a First Day Cover, will be launched by the Post Office. In addition a cover bearing the WRU Centenary Crest will also be available.
- 3 For the New Zealand tour of Wales one cover will be produced. The matches on the tour itinerary will include games against Cardiff (18 October), Llanelli (21 October), Swansea (25

October), Newport (28 October) and the International match against Wales on 1 November. Although there is only one cover with the club emblems there will be a special handstamp for each match.

- 4 There will be a special cover for the combined Wales/England XV which will play a combined Scotland/Ireland XV on 29 November.
- 5 A special cover for each of the Home International matches to be played at Cardiff against England (17 January) and Ireland (21 February).
- 6 There will be a special cover which will include the emblems of the founder member clubs to celebrate the Centenary Dinner on 12 March.
- 7 Finally, on 25 April, there will be a cover to commemorate the President's XV match. This cover will include the emblems of the other International Board countries (England, Scotland, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand and France) whose players will play in the match against Wales.

In all, there will be eight WRU Commemorative covers to celebrate the special events.

GERALD DAVIES

Forthcoming Events

Harrogate Philatelic Society

As part of their 40th Anniversary celebrations, the Harrogate PS are planning the following events:

31 October Mr Alan Bosworth of Robson Lowe, will entertain – Harrogate College of Arts, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate at 7.30pm.

1 November Stamp Fair and exhibition at the Lounge Hall, Royal Baths, Harrogate, 11.30am to 5.00pm, opened by Mr Bosworth. 15 dealers stands, and exhibition by Society members.

Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club

The Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club are holding their Thirteenth Annual Exhibition on Saturday, 1 November 1980, from 10am – 5pm in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester.

The Exhibition will be opened by Nicholas D Hockney, Editor of the new philatelic magazine, *Stamps*.

On display will be sixty frames of material from Club members and nine dealers will be in attendance.

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

Philately – Enjoying Stamps

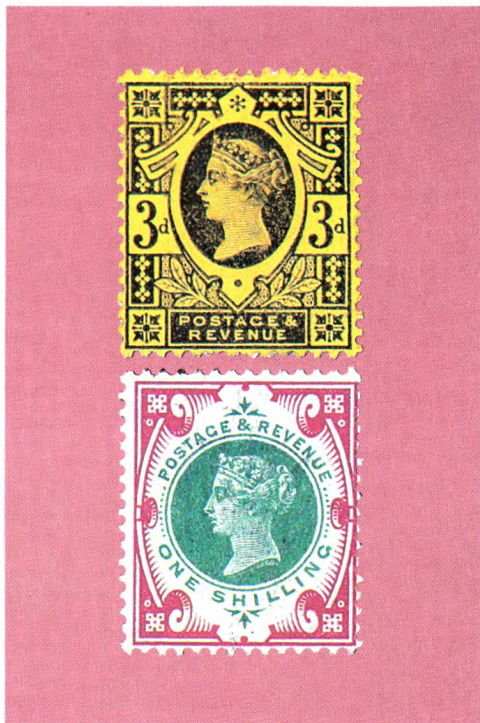
A course in philately and the enjoyment of stamps is offered by the London Borough of Hillingdon. Those interested in attending weekly meetings held on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm should apply to: North Hillingdon Adult Education Centre, 86 Long Lane, ICKENHAM, Middlesex UB10 8SX.

8. The 'Jubilee' Stamps, 1887-1892

These, the last definitive stamps of Queen Victoria's long reign, were undeniably among the most attractive issues, mainly due to the uniform small heads of the Queen — a vast improvement on the 'lilacs and greens' of 1883-84 mentioned in my last article — and to the introduction, for the first time, of bicoloured stamps for certain denominations. Colour and design are the criteria by which we judge a stamp's attractiveness, and an album page of the twelve basic 'Jubilee' stamps is very pleasing to behold after the many years of drab uniformity. 'Jubilee', by the way, is no more than a label in popular use identifying the stamps — they were not commemoratives, but chanced to appear during the year in which the Queen celebrated the 50th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Ten stamps were issued on 1 January 1887, all in different, though similar, designs. Two values were printed in monochrome — $\frac{1}{2}d$ vermilion and 1s green; three were printed in monochrome on coloured papers (having the appearance of bicoloured stamps) — $2\frac{1}{2}d$ purple on blue, 3d purple on yellow and 6d purple on rose-red; and the remaining five were bicoloured with the value tablets, or the frames including the value tablets, in the second named colour — $1\frac{1}{2}d$ dull purple and green, 2d green and vermilion (or carmine), 4d green and purple-brown, 5d dull purple and blue, and 9d dull purple and blue. Two additions to the series brought variations in design — the 10d dull purple and carmine, issued in February 1890, and the $4\frac{1}{2}d$ green and carmine, released in September 1892. In April 1900 the $\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp appeared in a new blue-green colour (the bright blue shade is a notorious colour changeling), and in July of that year, the 1s stamp appeared in green and carmine.

The $\frac{1}{2}d$ orange stamp had a number of varieties — printed on the gummed side or on both sides, imperforate, etc., and may be found with 'PEARS SOAP' printed on the back in orange, blue or mauve. Two slightly different dies were used in printing the blue value tablet of the 5d stamps — Die I has square dots to the right of the 'd'; Die II has thin vertical lines in the same location. Shades and minor flaws such as broken frames and damaged value tablets are fairly commonplace, but are nevertheless collectable. The 4d stamp, for



example, was normally shaded *within* the figure '4', but the 'white 4' is sometimes found in one, two, three or all four corners of the stamp.

The 'Jubilee' stamps were typographed ('surface-printed') by De La Rue, and are noteworthy for the use of marginal rules — the so-called Jubilee lines — bordering the stamps in the sheet which were brought into general use with the 'Jubilee' $\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp. Their purpose was to reduce the pressure on the edges of the printing plate in the press and thus provide clearer impressions. Eight of the designs — bearing the head of King Edward VII — were used throughout the new reign.

This is the end of my series and I hope that I have succeeded in arousing interest — if not enthusiasm — in those grand old stamps of the last century, 'The Victorians'.

JAMES WATSON

Christmas Stamps Issue

19 November 1980

Five stamps with Christmas decorations as their theme have been designed by Jeffery Matthews. A Christmas Tree (10p): Candles (12p): Mistletoe (13½p): Paper Decorations (15p): A Holly Wreath (17½p); all will be released on 19 November.

First Day Cover Service

A first day cover will be issued, price 10½p, and the following services will be provided, including a choice of two handstamps – 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and 'Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed'.

SERVICE A

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and given all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled with either postmark 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 following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service A	99p	86p
Deposit A/C Customers	94½p	82p
Service B	88½p	76½p

Customers who specifically require the Bethlehem postmark, should send their orders to the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Section) LLANELLI, Dyfed SA15 1AA. All orders for cancellations other than Bethlehem only, should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BB, to arrive not later than 10 November 1980.

Two New Definitive Stamps Issue

22 October 1980

Two new definitive postage stamps will be introduced on 22 October. They are 3p and 22p and their colours are deep pink and dark blue respectively.

The usual definitive first day cover will be available, price 10½p, from all post offices. Bulk orders, from the Philatelic Bureau only, at £16.25

for 250 or £55.00 for 1000.

The following first day cover services are offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh with a choice of two handstamps; 'Windsor, Berks', and 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE A

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

SERVICE B

Customers own pre-addressed covers will be given the stamps, cancelled and despatched. The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service A	49½p	43p
Deposit A/C Customers	45p	39p
Service B	39p	34p

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at all Head Post Offices and the Philatelic Bureau. Application forms, obtainable from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all head post offices, should be returned not later than 13 October 1980.

Forces Covers

Exercise Phabrang

'EXERCISE PHABRANG', the name given to a joint Royal Navy and Royal Marines Services Expedition to Himachel Pradesh in the Himalayas, commenced on 25 August 1980.

To mark the event a commemorative cover illustrating two climbers on a mountain face is now available, bearing a 10p definitive postage stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPS 1702 depicting the RN and RM Mountaineering Club badge. The cost of the cover is 60p, orders for it should be accompanied by a 7" x 5" sae and sent to: The Philatelic Officer, 'Exercise Phabrang', Flat 8, Cambalt House, 44 Putney Hill, LONDON SW15 6EW. Remittances

must be made payable to Philatelic Officer, 'Ex Phabrang'.

Royal Air Force

The Royal Air Force Museum's 'Famous Firsts Series' has been continued and the following covers issued:

60th Anniversary of the First Flight from England to Australia (FF10)

Painting by Brian Withams; cancellation BFPS 1649: flown from Heathrow to Melbourne in Concorde as far as Singapore. Project Officer: Wg Cdr J Davis, 8 Lambourne Way, Thruxton, ANDOVER, Hants SP11 8NE.

60th Anniversary of Formation of number 1 Flying Training School (FF12)

Painting by Wilf Hardy: Cancellation 60th Anniversary of number 1 FTS: flown by number 1 FTS in Jet Provost. Project Officer: Sqn Ldr G Roscilli, RAF LINTON ON OUSE, Yorks. YO6 2AJ.

40th Anniversary of the Formation of the Air Transport Auxilliary (FF13)

Painting by Tony Theobald: Cancellation, 40th Anniversary of ATA. Flown in Concorde from New York to Heathrow. Project Officer: Gp Capt W S O Randle, Battle of Britain Museum, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL.

60th Anniversary of the Opening of London's First Air Terminal (FF14)

Painting by Ken McDonogh: Cancellation, 60th Anniversary of Opening of Croydon Airport: flown from the derelict site of Croydon Airport in Whirlwind helicopter. Project Officer: Mr B Fitzgerald, 93 Bracken Path, EPSOM, Surrey KT18 7SZ.

These Covers can be obtained from the Project Officer at 60p each plus 10p for postage, or collectively from the Battle of Britain Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at £2.40 plus 14p postage.

All proceeds from the sale of these covers go to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

Cover FF16 in the Royal Air Force 'Famous Firsts Series' Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the First Flight by a Woman from England to Australia (FF16). Painting by Alan Fearnley, cancelled by special handstamp BFPS 1715 commemorating Amy Johnson's epic flight and flown from London to Darwin and on to Brisbane where Amy finally landed. The cover was flown as far as Singapore in Concorde. It can be obtained from the Project Officer, Mr B Fitzgerald, 93 Bracken Path, EPSOM, Surrey KT18 7SZ at 75p plus 10p postage. All proceeds to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

The Last Journey of HMS 'Ark Royal'

The famous aircraft carrier, HMS 'Ark Royal' left Plymouth, Devon, for the breaker's yard at Cairn Ryan, Scotland on 20 September 1980. By kind permission of the new owners, H K VICKERS (ENG) Ltd, 3000 covers were carried aboard on her last journey.

Printed in full colour, the cover features the Warship and bears the 12p Queen Mother Birthday stamp cancelled with a commemorative handstamp.

Price £2.95 each, the covers are sold in aid of Royal Naval Charities.

Orders should be sent to Rembrandt Philatelics, 21 High Street, Botley, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants, SO3 2EA.

HMS 'Liverpool'

To commemorate the launching of HMS 'Liverpool' on 25 September 1980 a special cover is now available depicting the ship and a view of the City of Liverpool. A 12p Queen Mother Birthday Stamp is affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPS 1676 and costs 60p.

Alternatively the cover as above but signed by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and Lt J K Woodhouse RN, Officer of the ship is available, price £1.85.

Covers signed by Lt J K Woodhouse only are £1.05 each.

Orders accompanied by a 7" x 5" s.a.e. should be sent to RN Philatelic Officer, FAA Museum, RNAS, YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HL.

69. Literary Anniversaries, 1970



There were 'great expectations' for the British stamps issued on 3 June 1970 for the centenary of Charles Dickens' death, and collectors were not displeased – here were the famous characters, Pickwick, Mr Micawber, Oliver Twist and David Copperfield, brought to life, as it were, by Rosalind Dease, well-known for her work, both on her own account and with David Gentleman, on a number of successful stamp designs.

The four designs were taken from contemporary prints, while a fifth stamp, in matching style and format (and by the same artist), was issued on the same date for the bicentenary of the birth of William Wordsworth, poet extraordinary, in 1970. Dickens started life as a clerk in a solicitor's office, learned shorthand and became a newspaper reporter, a position which enabled him to effect the transition from fact to fiction with comparative ease. He wrote sketches for the *Monthly Magazine* under the name of 'Boz' in 1834, and the *Pickwick Papers*, which established his popularity, in 1836-37. These were succeeded by *Oliver Twist* in 1838, *Nicholas Nickleby* in 1839, *David Copperfield*, partly autobiographical, in 1849, and others which are well-known wherever the English language is spoken. He established the magazine *Household Words*, and gave public readings from his works, both in this country and in the United States, but the strain proved too much for him and he died suddenly, aged 58, on 8 June 1870.

The first of the four 5d stamps shows 'Mr Pickwick and Sam in the Attorney's Office' and

comes from *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, first published as a monthly series by Chapman and Hall in 1836-37. Similarly, the 'Restoration of mutual confidence between Mr and Mrs Micawber' is part of an illustration in the monthly *Bentley's Miscellany* (second stamp), while David Copperfield 'making himself known to his aunt (Betsy Trotwood) on the third stamp comes from *The Personal History of David Copperfield*. These three etchings were executed by 'Phiz' – Hablot Knight Browne – who was associated with Dickens for many years as an illustrator. The delightful interpretation of 'Oliver asking for more' on the fourth stamp is taken from an etching by George Cruikshank which appeared in *Oliver Twist*, again in *Bentley's Miscellany*, a journal edited by Dickens and illustrated by Cruikshank.

The 1s 6d Wordsworth stamp depicts 'Grasmere', from an engraving by Joseph Farrington, RA, from the book entitled *The Lakes of Lancashire, Westmorland and Cumberland*, published in London by Caldwell and Davies of the Strand in 1846. Wordsworth spent his childhood roaming the woods, fields and streams of the Lake District, and Grasmere was his first home after he was married. He received a lucrative appointment as 'distributor of stamps' in the district, and began his career in literature by publishing, with Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*; he finished his *Prelude* in 1806, and produced his *Excursion* in 1814, following these with numerous lyrics, odes,

1980 Melville Competition Post Office Seminar

sonnets and meditations. Wordsworth succeeded Southey as poet-laureate in 1843; he died in 1850.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (20 x 6) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands, the 5d values issued together *se-tenant* in blocks of four throughout the sheet. Varieties include the 5d 'Pickwick' imperforate; values omitted on the 5d 'Copperfield' and 'Oliver' stamps; and a retouch, 'extra road' and various errors of omission on the 1s 6d 'Grasmere'.

Quantities sold were: 5d 83,472,440; 1s 6d 10,913,360; presentation packs, 113,770.

JAMES WATSON

Book Review

Collect British Postmarks: 1980

2nd edition.

by Dr J T Whitney MA, PhD, LCP.

75 Church Road,

Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2DR.

Price £5.50 plus 55p p&p.

This is the second edition of a first class book. The first edition was popular enough to warrant re-printing after six months and this one is certain to be equally successful. It is the sort of book which once picked up is extremely difficult to put down.

Its author modestly describes it as a 'catalogue of postmark types' but it is far more than that. It is an all-purpose guide to three centuries of postal markings from 17th century 'Bishops' to 20th century cachets. Only the most experienced of specialists will need more information than they find between its covers.

As far as can be judged the prices shown accurately reflect current market trends. Like so much of philately today those trends are all upwards. Some of the quoted prices will make a collector's hair curl – that is, if they leave any hair to curl!

Author's profits from this edition are being donated to research into muscular dystrophy. By purchasing this book postmark enthusiasts can do themselves a thoroughly good turn and the Muscular Dystrophy Group a valuable service at one and the same time.

Highly recommended.

After months of careful preparation and eager anticipation on the part of the children, the Seminar, which was given as a special prize by the British Post Office to ten entrants of the 1980 Melville Competition, took place from 12-14 August at Postal Headquarters in London. The speakers organised by the Post Office included Peter Shrikes, Director of Stamp Design at the British Post Office; George York of Harrisons the security printers; Raif Wellsted, the Curator of the Postal Museum, and Frank Brench, of the Philatelic Bulletin. The speakers also included Roy Henderson who gave a display of New Zealand, and Alan Bosworth, the Managing Director of Robson Lowe Ltd, who discussed postal history and buying at auction. This talk ended with a pea auction which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children, and I have a suspicion that it was equally enjoyed by Mr. Bosworth!

The highlight of the three day visit to Postal Headquarters was undoubtedly the guided tour of the post office railway and sorting office, and we are all now well aware of how important it is to address letters correctly and to use the post code. I do not believe that there was one among us who realised the care and trouble that is taken to ensure that mail reaches its destination, even when it is misaddressed.

Throughout the entire three day period the kindness and courtesy of all the post office staff was quite exceptional, and I am sure that we all returned home not only much better informed about stamps, their designs, production and subsequent use, but many wonderful memories of a happy experience.

FRANCESKA RAPKIN

(Hon Secretary Melville and Youth Committee)

Withdrawal of Definitives

The 10½p (including the 10½p 'Country' definitive) stamp will be withdrawn from sale at the close of business on Friday 17 October 1980. The stamp will still be available from the Philatelic Bureau only, for a period of 12 months from that date, or until stocks become exhausted.

Commemorative Covers

800th Anniversary St Peter's Church, Bromyard, Herefordshire

To commemorate the 800th Anniversary of this impressive Church, a limited edition of 1,000 philatelic covers, bearing a 50p London 1980 stamp and cancelled with a special handstamp depicting the Anniversary motif, are available.

The cover depicting St Peter's has been designed by Mr Michael Oxenham, 100 of which have been signed by the Bishop of Hereford and the artist.

Prices are £1.00 for the unsigned version, and £3.00 for the signed version. Orders with remittances should be sent to the Rev D W Gould, The Vicarage, Bromyard, Herefordshire HR7 4DZ, with a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope or an additional 20p to include return postage and packing. Remittances should be made payable to: 'Bromyard Festival '80'.

Taff Vale Railway Preservation Society

To mark the formation of the new Taff Vale Railway Preservation Society, Merthyr Tydfil, a special cover was issued bearing a full set of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Stamps cancelled with a special handstamp at Merthyr Tydfil on 27 September 1980.

The handstamp reads:-

TAFF VALE RAILWAY PRESERVATION
SOCIETY LIMITED
INAUGURATION 28 SEPTEMBER 1980
MERTHYR TYDFIL

The cost of the cover bearing a full set of the stamps is £3.15 including postage and packing. Bearing a 12p Welsh definitive stamp, the cover cancelled as above is 75p, including postage and packing.

Orders with remittances made payable to the Taff Vale Railway Preservation Society should be sent to Mr Derek J Price, 23 Maple Crescent, Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 2EH.

Northampton Football Club (Rugby Union) Centenary

The Northampton Football Club (Rugby Union),

known as the Saints, is celebrating its Centenary Year during 1980 with the issue of a commemorative cover. It will depict the club's crest, a scroll incorporating the dates 1880-1980 bordered by rugby posts. The cover will have a 13½p 'Rugby' stamp affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp dated 10 October 1980. The cost is 75p and orders with remittance should be sent to: The Northampton Football Club, 94 St James Road, NORTHAMPTON, NN5 5LF.

Norfolk County Football Association

The Norfolk County Football Association is celebrating its centenary during the current football season with the issue of a philatelic cover depicting Norwich City FC in action. A pictorial handstamp, dated 10 October 1980, will cancel the full set of 'Sport' stamps affixed. The cost is £2.00, but a signed cover will also be available. Send a sae for further information to: Markton Stamps Ltd, Hickling, NORWICH, Norfolk NR12 0YN

Profits from the sales of this cover will be donated to Norfolk County Football Association.

Robert Goldsmith 'Sport' Stamps Designer

The designer of the 'Sport' stamps, Robert Goldsmith, will hold an exhibition of his work, including preliminary designs of his stamps, sketches in and around Brighton, and paintings, at the Head Post Office, 51 Ship Street, BRIGHTON BN1 1AA. The exhibition will be staged from 6-11 October during normal Post Office hours. On Friday 10 October he will sign first-day covers bearing the four stamps.

480 Merthyr Tydfil 1980 Merthyr Tudfil

To mark the One thousand and five hundred years of a community and the Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St Tydfil, the Mayor, Councillor Gareth Foster, in conjunction with the Merthyr Tydfil Stamp Club is issuing a Commemorative Cover bearing the 12p Welsh Definitive Stamp

150th Anniversary of the First Carriage of Mail by Train

cancelled with a special hand stamp on 12 November 1980. The Cover depicts various historical landmarks and themes associated with the Borough.

The cost is 57p, and for overseas destination it is 64p.

A limited number of 500 Covers will be autographed by the Mayor, price £1.50 each.

Order should be sent to: Miss Tina Viazzani, 1 John Street Central, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to 'Mayor's First Day Cover Account'.

The profits will be donated to the Mayor's Appeal Fund in aid of Diabetic Research.

Centenary of the London Union of Youth Clubs

To coincide with the issue of four 'SPORT' stamps on 10 October, the London Union of Youth Clubs is producing a series of six philatelic covers commemorating its centenary. The covers will bear the appropriate stamp to complement them, cancelled at Crystal Palace (Athletics) Richmond-upon-Thames (Welsh Rugby); Royal Albert Hall (Boxing); The Oval (Cricket) and two covers cancelled at the LUYC Headquarters in London, bearing all four stamps. Full details and order form are available from: LUYC (Stamp Offer), 1 High Street, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 1NZ.

Gowerton Cricket Club

On 9 August 1980 the Gowerton Cricket Club commemorated its centenary with the issue of a special cover. A limited number of these covers is still available, price 55p each.

To coincide with the introduction of the SPORT stamps on 10 October 1980, this same cover will again be used bearing the 17½p cricket stamp, cancelled with a first day of issue hand stamp, 'Swansea, West Glamorgan', price 60p. Orders should be sent to: Mr Colin Airey, 3 Brookside, Gowerton, SWANSEA, West Glamorgan, SA4 3AY.

The Post Office will issue a commemorative cover on 11 November 1980 to mark the 150th anniversary of the first carriage of mail by train. The cover will bear the five 12p 'Liverpool and Manchester Railway' stamps, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp, '150th Anniversary of the First Carriage of Mail by Train, Manchester, 11 November 1980'.

COVER SERVICE

The following cover service is offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, which includes supplying cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, bearing all five stamps, cancelled and despatched.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Non deposit		
A/C Customers	89½p	78p
Deposit A/C Customers	85p	74p

Order forms available from the Philatelic Bureau and Head Post Offices should be returned by 3 November 1980.

For collectors who wish to prepare their own covers, these may be obtained from offices with philatelic counters. The stamped, addressed covers should be sent to the Head Postmaster, 22/24 Copperas Hill, Liverpool, L3 1AA.

Philatelic Bulletin

The Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by the British Post Office, PMk3, Postal Headquarters, St Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1A 1HQ to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscription

Inland, Europe and overseas	
surface mail	£1.75
Airmail	£3.00

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.