

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Late News – Scottish Postcards

The Scottish Post Office Board will issue six cards, entitled "Communicating Genius" featuring famous Scots, on 22 February. The subjects are: James Watt, Thomas Telford, James Clerk Maxwell, Alexander Graham Bell, John Logie Baird and Sir Robert Watson Watt. The portraits were specially commissioned from young Glasgow artist Stephen Conroy. The cards are available in sets from main post offices in Scotland and the National Postal Museum in London, price £2, or by post from: Scottish Post Office Board (Postcard Offer), PO Box 148, EDINBURGH EH3 9HR, price £2.30 (remittances to "Scottish Post Office Board").

Spring Stampex

Spring Stampex will be held at the halls of the Royal Horticultural Society, Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, London SW1 from 28 February to 5 March. The exhibition opens at noon on the 28th, 10.30am on other days, closing at 7pm except for the final day when it will close at 6pm. Admission will be £3 on the first day, other days £1.50 for adults, 75p for senior citizens and children. The Halls are situated within walking distance of St James's Park (Circle & District) and Victoria (Circle & Victoria) underground stations; convenient bus routes are 10, 11, 24, 29, 70, 76, 149, 500 and 507.



The Post Office stand at Autumn Stampex 1988

The theme of the exhibition will be Birds and there will be displays by the Bird Stamp Society; live birds of prey will be another attraction! Aspiring exhibitors can submit "entries" for comment and advice from a panel of judges; the Netherlands Philatelic Society will be arranging a display.

As always many dealers and postal administrations will have stands and the British Post Office will provide full philatelic facilities. A special handstamp will be applied to mail posted at the exhibition and a Royal Mail Exhibition card will be available (see page 121 of January *Bulletin*).

A voucher allowing free entrance to Spring Stampex (except on opening day) will be found on page 159

Food & Farming

7 March 1989

1989 has been designated "British Food & Farming Year", it also marks the 150th anniversary of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the centenary of the Ministry of Agriculture. The production of food is one of Britain's biggest industries supplying three-quarters of the country's food requirements.

The four stamps to be issued on 7 March feature the four main areas of food production – fruit & vegetables, meat, dairy produce and cereal production.



The 19p stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate) shows a selection of fruits and vegetables set against the background of an old tile showing a tree. Similar tiles are depicted on all four stamps; these tiles were a regular feature



of food shops (particularly butchers) before the Second World War; some still survive reminding shoppers of a less-rushed era before the age of supermarkets.

The 27p stamp (airmail postcards) features



meat products, the 32p value (airmail Zone B) dairy produce and the 35p stamp (airmail Zone C) cereals.

Britain's farmers produce a wide range of fruit and vegetables – especially traditional crops



such as apples, pears, currants, berries, salad plants, onions, leeks, cauliflowers, broccoli, tomatoes, Brussels sprouts, peas and beans. In recent years several more exotic items have been grown in increased quantities, for example



herbs, sweet peppers, aubergines, kohlrabi, mooli, pumpkins and squashes. Mushrooms are now grown in huge quantities and rank second to potatoes as the country's most valuable horticultural crop. Owing to our variable climate, much horticultural produce is now grown under glass.

In medieval times the English economy owed a very great deal to sheep – reared for their wool which was made into cloth for export. Today wool is less important although still a

significant factor in the economy of the more remote parts of the country. Lamb is still a popular part of the diet although beef and chicken are the most popular meats. Pork is becoming more popular as is duck and turkey – no longer eaten just at Christmas. British farmers produce nearly 90 per cent of all meat and poultry consumed in the UK.

There are some 45,000 dairy farmers in the UK and no fewer than 3 million cows, between them producing enough milk for the average Briton to drink 216 pints each year. Much milk is turned into cheese, with an average annual consumption of 14lb per person. In recent years a considerable number of new cheeses have been added to the range produced. As we become more health conscious so the manufacture and consumption of skimmed, semi-skimmed and low-fat products is increasing. The term “dairy” also includes eggs – a staggering 12,000 million are laid every year by a chicken population of 38 million.

By far the largest proportion of cereal production is used for animal feed; the main cereal crops are barley, wheat, maize and oats. Wheat is mostly used for bread and biscuits, barley in malting and distilling and the manufacture of vinegar and oats for breakfast cereals. The average Briton consumes 100 lb of bread a year. Sugar beet, although not a cereal, is an important crop, especially in East Anglia. Beet sugar supplies half of UK sugar requirements, the other 50 per cent coming from imported cane sugar.



Technical Details

Designed by Sedley Place Limited design team (their first stamps), the four stamps have been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd. They are of “square” format, measuring 35 x 37mm, printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation is 14 x 14½.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards (formerly referred to as PHQ cards) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 20 February, price 16p each. They are numbered 116A-D.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No 197) will cost £1.35 and was designed by Sedley Place Limited with text by Judith Hodge. The pack illustrates farming scenes and some of the most popular British foods and includes an interesting map showing the main agricultural activities in the United Kingdom.

First Day Cover

The first day cover design shows a cornucopia of British foods – bread, cheese, leeks, pears, etc. set against a background of food shop tiles. It will be available from 20 February, price 17p, from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one at the Bureau and one at Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire –the permanent home of the Royal Agricultural Society annual show.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark – charges £1.62 UK (including VAT), £1.41 overseas (no VAT). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 7 March.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed “Special First Day of Issue handstamp” to:

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
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Stoneleigh	Special Postmark Duty Customer Services Letter District Office 40 Bishop Street COVENTRY CV1 1AA
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First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-

ROYAL MAIL 25" DAY COVER



ROYAL MAIL



pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition pictorial First Day handstamps will be available at the London Chief Office (arms of the City of London) and Durham (Cathedral). Covers to receive these handstamps should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (marking outer envelope "City of London Pictorial Handstamp") and Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 7 March – full details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards may be given any of the First Day of Issue and sponsored special handstamps. Collectors wishing to have their first day covers/stamp cards returned under cover should enclose a large self-addressed envelope when sending covers/cards in to the relevant Special Postmark Duty for handstamping.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 8 March, price 17p. This can be used to obtain relevant Food & Farming postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Issues

Amongst the earlier issues of British stamps to feature food and farming subjects are the 3d stamp in the 1946 Victory issue (tractor); the 1963 Freedom from Hunger pair; the 9p value of the 1978 Horses set (shire horse); the 1981 Fishing Industry set; the 1983 River Fish stamps; the 1984 set featuring Cattle and the 34p Industry Year stamp of 1986 (cereals).



Bird Stamps

In the feature on the recently issued Bird stamps in the November *Bulletin* mention was made of some earlier British stamps featuring birds. A reader whose name I cannot decipher has written in pointing out a number of others and asking that we publish his listing "so that new (young) collectors who do not have stamp catalogues will be aware of them". This I am pleased to do:

1937 Coronation 1½d (*The Ampulla* – Ed.)

1946 Victory 3d

1957 Scouts Jamboree 4d

1961 PO Savings Bank 3d

1961 CEPT 4d & 10d



1963 National Nature Week 4½d

1977 Christmas 7p & 9p

1981 Folklore 14p

1982 Christmas 15½p

1983 Fairs 31p

1983 Christmas all values

1985 Composers 31p & 34p

1988 Edward Lear 19p & 35p

Scout Stamps Exhibition

The Scout & Guide Stamps Club will be holding their annual exhibition at Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 on Saturday 18 February from 11am to 6pm. Admission is free. As well as an exhibition of stamps and covers arranged by members, scout thematic and other material will be on sale. Enquiries to Peter Duck, 256 St Margaret's Road, TWICKENHAM TW1 1PR, telephone 01-891 5746.

Sea Birds & Waders

BARBARA LAST

The ladies who founded the "Fur & Feather Group" in Didsbury, Manchester in February 1889 were concerned to stop the trade in wild bird feathers for the fashion industry. Two years later the Group became the Society for the Protection of Birds, and now a hundred years on the Victorian originators would be delighted to find that their brainchild, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, is the largest society in Europe for conservation. Four stamps showing popular sea birds were issued on 17 January to commemorate the Society's centenary.

Feathers for millinery may no longer be an issue, but the protection of breeding places and food supplies are increasingly essential. Wetlands like the Somerset Levels are drying up. Known from ancient times as the "land of the Summer people" because it was only dry enough to walk on once a year, it and similar marshlands have contracted, and wading birds need water within eight inches of the surface to force up worms and insects on which they feed. Birds are still illegally shot and trapped; intensified farming and building developments have whittled heathlands, hedgerows and estuaries, and river pollution and pesticides poison wildlife.

The loss of habitat is grave. When I moved to a built-up London suburb 25 years ago I used to watch the hovering kestrel (Belgium, SG 2296), a falcon of open wooded country, as it bred year after year in the church spire. Owls roosted in the old decaying mansions next door. I saw a Tawny Owl in our garden mobbed by a cloud of small birds, and frequently heard it hoot and the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) screech (GB, SG 1320). Alas, no more as both sites have recently been redeveloped. In June 1988 it was estimated that only 5,000 pairs of Barn Owls exist, a drop of 70 per cent since 1932. Over the next 10 years the Hawk Trust is imaginatively trying to recreate grassland corridors along rivers, hedgerows and woodlands to link together the scattered pockets of surviving birds. All our birds of prey are protected by law. It is thought that there are 100-150 pairs of kestrels breeding across Greater London, and

last year the London Wildlife Trust launched a kestrel count to build up an accurate picture of numbers and habits.

Society's Symbol

We in Britain are fortunate to have some 130 resident species swelling to about 500 passing through. Apart from fighting for protective legislation, the RSPB soon concluded that the best safeguard would be to purchase areas as wildlife reserves. A hundred years ago the Avocet – shown on the 27p stamp of the recent



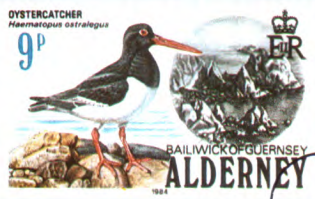
Birds issue – nested in great numbers in the eastern counties from the Humber south, but it was slain whenever seen and became a rare summer visitor. In 1947 seven pairs were discovered nesting in East Anglia. The first two reserves were purchased there in Suffolk where water and salinity could be maintained at suitable levels, and the avocet was adopted as the Society symbol. A delicate looking bird of the ooze and shallow pool, its partly webbed feet prevents it from sinking into the mud. Its long, slim up-tilted bill recalls the local names "Cobbler's awl" and "Shooing-home". It feeds by scooping up insects and small crustaceans, the side-to-side action leaving a wavy trail behind. The avocet nests in colonies on sand or tussocks surrounded by water. It will fly low over intruders, with long grey-blue legs dangling, and will protect the nest from predators by attacking with wings and feet, never its bill. It is

one of our rarest wading birds, but nests in Scandinavia.

"Sea Pie"

Another quite different wader is the Oystercatcher (32p stamp). Its long, stout orange bill, pink legs and striking black and white plumage make the "Sea Pie" difficult to mistake. It is here at all seasons, nesting freely in the north and west, but thinly in the south and east. Its habitat is various, including rocky or sandy shores, estuaries, mud-flats, grassy islands, and in Scotland on rivers and lochs, and sometimes many miles inland. As the tide rises they pack onto reeds or islets until forced to lift in a clamorous cloud, and fly low over the water to a drier refuge. When the tide falls the birds spread across the ooze to plunge bills deeply in for worms and cockles, or to wade out over rocks in the ebbing water to attack mussels before they close their valves, skilfully forcing open smaller bivalves, or knocking limpets off the rocks. They will also eat small fish and crabs, but despite their name there is little proof that they ever open oysters.

Oystercatchers are sociable creatures. When migrants arrive in winter, flocks can number hundreds of noisy birds. Normally three eggs per season in a shallow depression hatch into fluffy active young that follow the parents for food within a couple of days, learning to swim and becoming independent by about five weeks. Long before the spring migration, ardent males can be seen running on banks, or standing around in groups with their bills touching the ground, piping and warbling their bridal song.



They are depicted on rocky coasts (Alderney, SG A13) or on the sandy Langness peninsular (Isle of Man, SG 243) where shellfish, worms and crabs abound.

Largest Sea Bird

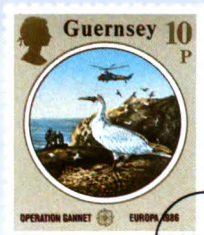
The Gannet (35p stamp) is our largest sea bird with a wingspan of six feet as it soars high above

the sea with a mastery of the air equal to that of buzzards and eagles. Watching for fish below, its spectacular dive may start with half-closed wings some 300 feet above the water, before closing them entirely to plummet into the waves. It captures and swallows its victim before surfacing, and then flaps heavily for several yards before lifting to a powerful sweep up. The immature gannet's plumage of dark brown speckled white becomes gradually whiter with each moult as it turns into a brilliant white sea bird with black wing tips and yellow-buff head and neck. A network of airsacs under the skin helps to cushion the impact of the dive.

It breeds on rocky isolated isles and stacks, chiefly in Iceland, Faroes, north and west Britain, and particularly the Scottish isles. One of the largest colonies is on the island of Grassholm, Wales, where more than 20,000 pairs breed about 10 miles off the coast. There are large colonies on St Kilda, Outer Hebrides



(GB, SG 1159), where in spring and summer the ledges of precipitous crags like Stck Lii are solid with birds and resemble great white pinnacles topped by whirling hordes of thousands of birds. They arrive about March to lay one egg. The young remain in the nest until nearly full size. In winter gannets become pelagic, wandering south after the shoals of migratory fish. Courtship entails uplifted or flapping wings, and much knocking of bills as they stroke each other with croaks of love and wagging heads. Nests are decorated with any handy odds-and-ends and constant wrangles are caused by nest robbers. In Guernsey in 1986 three Wessex helicopters of 771 Naval Air Sqd, for the second time in five years, helped to clean up the empty nesting sites on Alderney islets where nylon fishing lines and netting trapped young birds in their nests. Aircrew, lowered onto the sites, collected 40 sacks of lethal flotsam. "Operation Gannet" is featured on the 10p stamp of Guernsey's 1986 Europa set (SG 366).



Clownish Appearance

The fourth (19p) stamp in the Birds set shows the Puffin, a quaint 12-inch auk, well-known for its clownish appearance and brightly-coloured bill which can hold a dozen sand-eels, and catch and hold slippery fish. It dives constantly,



swimming under water with wings alone. Due to its short legs and the position of its orange feet, the puffin has a pronounced nautical roll. Rivals interlock beaks with much growling and guttural "arrs". March sees the start of a regular migration as far-scattered puffins return to their breeding grounds on grassy cliff slopes and turfed islands, where they gather in huge colonies. They excavate burrows, digging with the beak, and pushing soil backwards with the feet. Springy hassocks of thrift and turf are undermined by a labyrinth of burrows, many with more than one entrance. The single egg is laid in May, and the youngster is active and grows fast as it is literally stuffed with fish by its parents. About the fortieth day it is abandoned by the parents, and fasts, living on its fat for a week until its flight feathers are fully grown, before chancing trial flights under cover of darkness.

Densely crowded colonies smell strongly. A

few are established in England, such as on Lindisfarne and Lundy, but the main British ones containing many thousands of birds are sited on the western and northern coasts and Scottish islands. This widespread and abundant species has been depicted on the stamps of several European countries. A 22p stamp issued by Gibraltar last June (SG 597) shows it flying through the Straits on its way to sites in the North Atlantic isles, and a Manx stamp (SG 232) illustrates it at Cranstal.



Lundy in the Bristol Channel was the first British off-shore island to issue local stamps (local carriage labels) to pay for the carriage of mail across to the mainland. The unit of currency was a "puffin", equal to one penny. One of the earliest cases of oil pollution on a grand scale involved the supertanker *Torrey Canyon* (shown on a recent Loyds Tercentenary stamp from Zil Elwannynen Sesel) which broke her back off Lands End in March 1967. About 30,000 tons of crude oil polluted the beaches of Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Channel Islands and Brittany. It was estimated that in Cornwall alone 25,000 birds died. Lundy issued stamps that year showing puffins and the *Torrey Canyon* with the cry "Help the RSPCA - SAVE SEA BIRDS FROM OIL". In 1988 great concern was felt because there was a total failure to breed in the large Shetland colonies of skuas and puffins; the cause is thought to be a shortage of sand-eels and over-fishing.

The Birds are a beautiful set. Don Cordery, a natural history artist and member of the RSPB, told me that in order to design a cohesive set of stamps he had concentrated on distinctive sea birds with black and white plumage and characteristic bills and legs. However among his presentation designs he included a very handsome Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), a bird of ancient lineage, whose plumage was very dark with a greenish sheen. Mr Cordery's birds are so pleasing that I wish the set had stretched to five!

Wider Stamp Availability

On 2 December The Post Office announced a programme to make the sale of stamps more widely available than ever before and a multi-million pound investment to speed the nation's mail. These developments were described by PO Chairman Sir Bryan Nicholson as "... all part of our biggest ever drive to boost the efficiency of the service we offer to customers, at a time when we are handling more mail than ever before."

The scheme for more sale points for stamps follows successful trials in four test areas – Bristol, Nottingham, Preston and York. Under these trials, stamp sales were introduced in 1,100 stores including branches of W H Smith, Woolworths and John Menzies as well as hundreds of small stationers, card shops and newsagents. Said Sir Bryan, "The trial doubled the number of outlets where customers could buy stamps. The results have proved very positive both in terms of customer response and the number of sales. We now aim to extend the scheme so that customers all over the country can benefit." The scheme was extended to Northern Ireland in October, to Edinburgh by Christmas and will be introduced in the north of England in February – all part of a rolling programme across the country which will be completed by June 1989.

The £600 million letters investment programme includes the introduction in 15 sorting offices this year of the E40 high-speed sorting machine which has been successfully tested at Reading. Using microchip and optical fibre technology, this new-generation machine is considered to be one of the cheapest in the world, with obvious export potential.

The E40 will be used in conjunction with 0(ptical) C(haracter) R(ecognition) machines, 20 of which will be installed during 1989. Seventeen of these machines are already in use. With its computer controlled "robot eye" the OCR machine can read typed or machine-printed addresses at a speed of up to 35,000 an hour. With a revolutionary high-speed ink-jet printer developed by PO engineers at Swindon, the machines print the postcode data onto the envelope in a series of blue phosphor bars. The letters can then be sorted by machine, right down to an individual postman's walk. With the OCR and the E40, Britain will have one of the most extensive and advanced mechanised postal services in the world.

NPM Atlantic Ocean Exhibition

The National Postal Museum's major exhibition for 1989 has for its theme "The Atlantic Ocean". The display, which opened on 1 February, ranges from the voyages of the Portuguese explorers of the 1400s through to Richard Branson's recent crossings by boat and balloon. The exhibition commemorates the tercentenary of Falmouth as a Post Office packet station and the 50th anniversary of direct air mail service from Britain to America.

The display opens with the Portuguese sailors who made voyages of discovery to the Atlantic islands and down the west coast of Africa and the voyages of Columbus. Also featured are the exploration and colonisation of the Americas together with the efforts made to find a North West Passage to China and the exploration of the polar regions. The Antarctic story begins with the first recorded crossing of the Antarctic Circle by Captain Cook in 1773 and ends with the British Graham Land Expedition of 1934-7. On show are the handstamps (and original artwork) produced for Shackleton's expedition of 1921. The Arctic part of the exhibition includes the voyages of Sir John Franklin, Sir James Clark Ross and Captain George Nares. The ground floor displays end with the emigration to America from Liverpool in the 19th century.



The air mail section includes a cover carried by the airship R34 on the return leg of her double crossing, the letter bill from the Alcock & Brown flight and the letter bill and a cover from the ill fated Hawker attempt – all dating from 1919. Covers carried by the "Graf Zeppelin", "Hindenburg" and "Dornier DO-X" in the 1930s are featured as is a cover addressed to President Franklin D Roosevelt carried on the inaugural Imperial Airways service and post-war BOAC first flight and early Concorde covers.

Charles Darwin

British Special Issues: No.151

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The enquiring eyes say it all. Charles Darwin, who was born in 1809 and died an internationally famous figure in 1882, had an insatiable curiosity concerning all forms of natural life – including man. He travelled the world in search of the knowledge on which he based the theories propounded in his *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, published in 1859. Among his richest sources were the Galapagos Islands on the Equator some 600 miles west of Ecuador. Their isolation had encouraged “natural selection” and consequent divergent development of several species peculiar to the location and gave particular point to the sub-title Darwin gave his famous work, namely, “The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life”. Generally thought of as Britain’s greatest biologist of his period, Darwin also made substantial contributions to the contemporary study of geology, soil science, animal behaviour and experimental botany.

When David Gentleman designed the special centenary stamps, issued on 10 February 1982, he wisely concentrated on the Galapagos discoveries for it was the voyage of the *Beagle* to those islands which the public still associate with Darwin despite the scientist’s other world-wide travel.

Apart from the skilfully drawn portrait and the signature, which are common to all four values, each stamp depicts two varieties of a single species, demonstrating Darwin’s theory that evolution comes through even slightly differing environments such as exist in the various islands of the Galapagos group.

15½p – the Spanish word *galápagos* means “tortoise” and it is two indigenous varieties of that species which feature on the stamp. The “dome-shaped” tortoise on the left feeds on cactus pads and ground plants, while the “saddle-back” on the right with its long neck (peculiar to that variety) can reach up to feed on bushes and taller cacti. Tortoises were an important source of fresh meat for early mariners because they could be kept alive on board until required for the table.

19½p – Iguanas, of which some species are

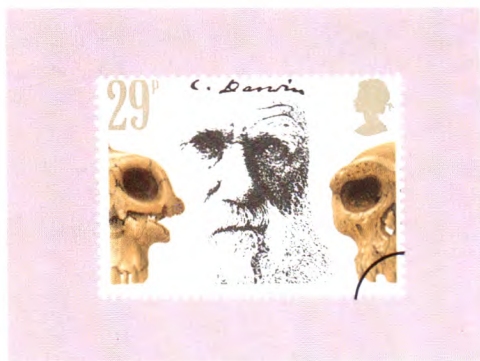


peculiar to the Galapagos group, are broadly divided into the sea-weed eating marine species (on the left), dark in colour and with a flattened, armoured head designed to protect the creature from pointed rocks when swimming under water, and a more colourful land species (on the right) which lives in burrows and feeds on cactus pads and other plants.

26p – A great variety of finches live in the group and their ability to fly freely between the islands has permitted inter-breeding as well as the development of characteristics which betray the island of a finch’s origin. On the stamp, a cactus ground finch (left) is shown in comparison with a large ground finch (right), the two notably differing in the heads and beaks.



29p – This design sums up what has since been called Darwin’s approach to evolution (a word he never used himself). The two skulls represent two stages in the evolution of mankind, the older of the two skulls being thought to be 1,700,000 years old.



No prominent *constant* flaws have been recorded and only two minor flaws on each value. Printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd, the stamps

were issued in sheets of 100 (two panes, each 10 x 5). The issue was withdrawn from sale on 10 February 1983, sales being: 15½p – 40,637,000; 19½p – 9,361,400; 26p – 8,975,6000 and 29p – 8,674,800.

The Post Office first day cover featured the *Beagle*; the Bureau's pictorial first day handstamp depicted an iguana, the other pictorial handstamp, showing a tortoise, was used at Shrewsbury – Darwin's birthplace. No fewer than 10 sponsored handstamps relating to Darwin were used on the day of issue including one at Plymouth which showed the *Beagle*. Perhaps the most interesting was that used at Darwin's home – Down House near Orpington in Kent (the house was shown in the February 1982 issue of the *Bulletin*).

Gems of the R M Phillips Collection

161. 1870 ½d Colour Trials



The first colour proposed for the 1870 ½d stamp was green, and trials were printed from the engine-turned background. Further colour trials were made from the 1½d die and from a small experimental plate of the New South Wales 1d stamp of 1856 (SG 102). Visitors to the National Postal Museum can see in the Phillips Collection examples in two shades of olive-yellow and orange-yellow (Vol. 21, page 21) and in rose, deep rose, rose-lake and carmine-lake (page 22). A block of six in carmine-lake is shown here. As a result of these experiments, it was decided to print in rose.

Also to be seen in the Phillips Collection are essays produced by De La Rue (1865 and 1870) and by Somerset House (1868), and original artist's drawings (Vol. 21, pages 16-17).

These items can be seen at the Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm Friday.



New Postcard Multipack

As many collectors will have observed, postcards are being more widely used for ordinary correspondence. To meet this demand, special correspondence packs are being produced containing 12 Royal Mail Stamp Cards from popular stamp issues.

Pack number 1 will contain three sets of the Birds issue postcards and further packs will be produced if the venture is successful. The pack costs £1.99 and goes on sale from 6 February from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters.

1990 Special Stamps Programme

First provisional details are given here of the 1990 programme; further details will be published later in the year:

Trees: Kew Gardens 150th Anniversary.

Natural history is a regular feature in our programme, and this issue will be linked with Kew Gardens, which became a national institution in 1840.

The Queen's Awards for Export & Technology: 25th Anniversary.

This issue will mark the Silver Jubilee of these awards, granted annually for outstanding export and technological achievement.

"European" Issue: 1. CEPT: Post Office Buildings (2 stamps); 2. Glasgow, European City of Culture (2 stamps). Post Office Buildings is the theme recommended by CEPT for the "Europa" issue in 1990. In 1990, Glasgow will hold the title of European City of Culture; this is a European Community initiative begun in 1985.

Gallantry: 50th anniversary of George Cross. This issue will relate to the 50th anniversary of the George Cross and also the 100th performance of the Royal Tournament.

Astronomy. This issue will mark the centenary of the British Astronomical Association and the 200th anniversary of the Armagh Observatory.

Literature. This issue will mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hardy.

Christmas. This will be on a secular theme in 1990 in line with our policy of alternating between religious and secular treatments.

A miniature sheet will be issued in connection with the "Stamp World London 90" international stamp exhibition.

The 1948 Olympic Games Issue

Part 1

DOUGLAS N MUIR

Curator Philately, National Postal Museum

After the end of World War II a number of requests were received by the GPO for special stamp issues marking various events which took place in fairly rapid succession. There was the Victory itself, pressure for a regional issue for the Channel Islands (which eventually resulted in the Liberation pair) and various royal events such as the King and Queen's silver wedding, the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and the birth of Prince Charles. As the stamp-issuing policy at the time was very conservative, not all serious proposals resulted in commemorative stamps but one event could not be ignored and that was the holding of the 14th Olympiad in London and the south of England.

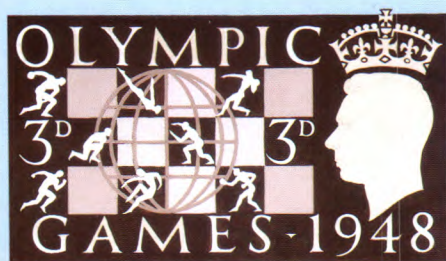
First discussions within the GPO took place in May 1947 and on 28 July of that year the Postmaster General authorised the issue of two values – 2½d and 3d. This was the current standard as in the Victory and Channel Islands Liberation issues, though the number of values was later increased to four. The Council of Industrial Design were asked to submit a list of possible artists and they nominated 10. The Post

of these are now in the National Postal Museum.

The instructions to the artists were detailed and make interesting reading.

"To celebrate the occasion of the Olympic Games to be held in this country in 1948 it is proposed to issue commemorative postage stamps of the 2½d and 3d denominations.

"The stamps will be approximately of the same colour as the current stamps of the relative values except that the dye used will be of a richer and deeper shade than in the current issues of the



Submitted design by H Wilson Parker

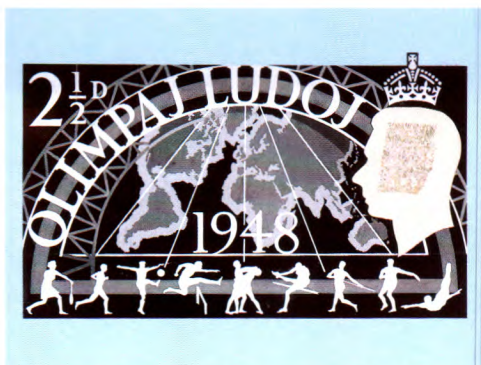
values named. They will be printed by the photogravure process. ... The denomination must appear once or twice in clear numerals approximately of the size of the numerals in the current 2½d and 3d stamps. The denomination of the stamp may not be shown in words. The legend 'Olympic Games 1948' must also appear. No other words, letters or numerals may be introduced.

"The design must include space for a representation of the King's head (of not less than the size in the current 2½d stamp) which may be on the right, left, or central. It is suggested that a position to the right or left will give greater scope for the associated design. The Head may be shown uncrowned but if so a crown proportionate to the size of the Head must be included in the design. The actual representation of the head (of the size to suit the design) will be



Submitted design by George Bellew of the College of Arms

Office then added a further 10 including four printers, the College of Arms and previously successful artists such as Edmund Dulac, Harold Nelson and Barnett Freedman. Not all took up the challenge and only 13 of the 20 submitted designs. A total of 26 designs were received. All



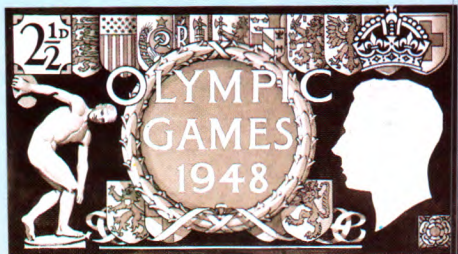
Submitted design by Harrison with "Olympic Games" in Esperanto

provided by the Post Office separately. The artist's drawing should include merely a rough indication of the head in the space which it will fill.

"The remaining space should be devoted to a design suitable to the occasion of the Olympic Games preferably symbolising athletics generally and the International character of the gathering.

"The photogravure process by which the stamps are to be printed reproduces a number of graduated tones, and care should be taken to use material that will permit of photographing each tone in its true value. A card showing the range of tones is enclosed, and the finished drawing should be as nearly as possible in the same colour, a kind of sepia-grey. The details embodied in the design should be such as can be reproduced in the size of the finished stamp. It is essential that any designs submitted should be suitable for immediate reproduction, and to this end it is hoped that you will maintain, from an early stage, the closest touch with the stamp printers ...

Submitted design by Harold Nelson



"The dimensions of the drawing should preferably, though not necessarily, be six times the actual size, i.e. 5.16 ins. by 9.06 ins., and it would be of great assistance if a photograph of it of approximately stamp size could be submitted with each drawing."

The designs had to be submitted by 22 October and would become the property of the Postmaster General. A fee of 40 guineas would be paid for one or more designs for each denomination with a further fee of 160 guineas for any design accepted for use. A note at the end explained the reason for the King's head:

"The International Postal Union Convention provides that postage stamps should bear an indication of the Country of issue in Roman characters. This has never been done in the case of British stamps. It has been held that the Sovereign's Head is so well known that other Countries can be expected to recognise it. Britain invented the postage stamp and it is no doubt for this reason that no other Country has raised the matter officially. This is why the King's Head must be given a prominent position on any British postage stamp."



Submitted design by A C King of Bradbury Wilkinson

In the files it is noted that 25 designs were received though, in fact, 26 are now in the Museum. The one designer not mentioned in the lists is G. Knipe, though he worked for Harrison and the clerks may have considered that two of Harrison's other submissions were so similar as to be counted as one. The only difference was in the legend which appeared in Esperanto in one and English in the other.

The artists who submitted designs were:

Leonard Beaumont (2)

Harold Nelson (2)

Wilson Parker (3)
 John Armstrong (2)
 The College of Arms (George Bellew) (2)
 Percy Metcalfe (1)
 John Farleigh (1)
 Edmund Dulac (1)
 Thomas Eckersley (1)
 Abram* Games (1)
 Reynolds Stone (1)
 Bradbury Wilkinson (W. S. Matthews and
 A. C. King) (2)
 Harrisons (including G. Knipe) (3)
 Waterlows (S. D. Scott) (1)
 *often misrepresented in files as
 "Abraham"

*Submitted design by W S Matthews of Bradbury
 Wilkinson*



New Telecom Postcard

A new Telecom Technology Showcase postcard – reference St Valentine Series No. 3 – was issued on 25 January. It reproduces a romantic postcard with a telephone theme of *circa* 1920.



Unused cards cost 20p, cards with "First Day of Issue" cachet 50p. Add 40p for post & packing. Orders/enquiries to: Administrator, Telecom Technology Showcase, 135 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AT.

Chronology of the 1948 Olympic Games Issue

May 1947	First discussions	3 March 1948	Conference at GPO Headquarters – changes in detail. "Further colour pulls wanted when denominations are altered". Essays returned to Harrisons.
28 July 1947	PMG authorises issue of two values (2½d and 3d)	8 March 1948	Discussions at Royal Mint on airlitter.
8 August 1947	Council of Industrial Design suggest artists	15 March 1948	Printers agree that the airlitter should be printed letterpress by McCorquodales with the stamp gravure by Harrisons
22 October 1947	All designs to be received by this date	19 March 1948	New drawing by Games showing 3d inserted with more graded shading handed over to Harrisons
30 October 1947	Scottish Fine Arts Commission view designs at GPO Headquarters	4 May 1948	Essay of 3d value approved
31 October 1947	Council of Industrial Design view designs	6 May 1948	Essay of 6d value approved
4 November 1947	Designs chosen to submit to the King. Harrisons to produce bromides and essays of six designs.	11 May 1948	Cylinder proof of 6d value for airlitter approved
18 February 1948	Olympic essays to hand	27 May 1948	Essays of 2½d and 1s values approved
26 February 1948	PMG see the King. Six essays shown A – F, E and F not being recommended.	29 July 1948	First day of sale of the stamps and airlitter, and the first day of the Games.
27 February 1948	The King returns essays, approving C and D		
1 March 1948	The King has approved A, B, C and D with the crown to be changed on stamp A.		

The Machin Head on Stamps

Part 4 Country Definitives

DON STADDON

To begin with the regional definitives, as they were then called, were produced by Harrison & Sons Ltd with printing by the photogravure process. On these and all subsequent printings the heads have been derived from the Machin head types used for the national definitive, with a reduction in size to provide space for an appropriate regional symbol.



The first decimal regionals – July 1971

Originally the Isle of Man was included with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in a series of four stamps issued on 7 July 1971. These were the 2½p, 3p, 5p and 7½p values, each having a type B head with two lines of shading in the hair and a dark background. The Isle of Man became responsible for the issue of its own stamps from 5 July 1973, after which its use of Machin head definitives was discontinued.



Head B

Head A

Head E

A type B head was used again by Harrisons for the 5½p and 8p Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales definitives issued in January 1974. Thereafter the picture gets more complicated

with an A type dark background head on some values, and a C head (one line of shading in the hair) on others. The 10½p appeared with an A type head having a light background. This head has been classified type E by the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle.

In summary, therefore, all Harrison printed values, with only three exceptions, have head types A, B or E, derived from the same master positive with two lines of shading in the hair. The exceptions are the 9p, 10p and 11p with graduated backgrounds, and the type C head with one line of shading in the hair.



Graduated backgrounds and C head

Production of Country definitives was transferred to offset lithography printers John Waddington & Son and The House of Questa at the beginning of the 1980s. The Scottish definitives were printed by Waddingtons at Kirkstall, Leeds and those for Northern Ireland and Wales by The House of Questa in London. The first four values from these printers were issued in April 1981 consisting of the 11½p mushroom, 14p steel blue, 18p blue and 22p deep blue. They employ a variety of Machin head types, one of which had not been seen before.



Heads E, C and A

The 14p stamps have type E heads, the 18p type C and the other values, with one exception,

type A. The 11½p Scottish stamp has one line of shading in the hair and a uniform dark background. Designated as type F, this head was used again later for the Scottish 22p yellowish green issued in October 1984.

To add to the complexity of the heads used for Country definitives, a further type is found on the 15½p light purple and 19½p grey-green Scottish definitives which came out in February 1982. This particular head has two lines of shading in the hair as found in type A but it has a background which is gradated instead of dark.



Heads F and G

The British Decimal Stamps Study Group has recorded it as head type G and it is found again on later issues for Scotland, the 28p blue issued in April 1983 and the 31p purple in October 1984.

Head types F and G have only been used for the Country definitives. Head type D has only been used on the National definitives.

Additional factors which affected the appearance of the heads included the two colour printing process used for all John Waddington and some House of Questa printings. The other Questa stamps were printed in a single colour.

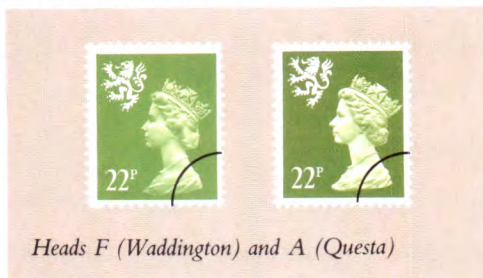
There are differences in the outline of the bust. For example it is rounded on the 15½p and 19½p Northern Ireland and Wales by comparison with the 31p on which it is undulating.



E Heads (single colour 17p)

The E type heads on the 13p and 17p Northern Ireland and Wales are nearer the right edge than they are on the 14p and 16p. In addition the heads on the 14p and 16p stamps have a sharper outline with highlights on the crown.

Waddingtons acquired The House of Questa, then transferred the printing of the Scottish definitives to the latter with the head on the 22p yellowish green changed from type F to type A.



Heads F (Waddington) and A (Questa)

On the 13p and 17p Scottish definitives the E type head is lower on the Waddington printings than those from Questa. The Waddington head is also longer from top to bottom than the Questa head.



C and G Heads

When the 28p Northern Ireland and Wales definitives changed from PCP to ACP in January 1987 the head was altered from type C to type G. The heads were also affected when Questa replaced single colour stamps with two colours, and altered backgrounds from screened to solid colours. The 13p solid background definitives and the 17p two colour solid background definitives for Northern Ireland and Wales have highlights at the front of the crown.



Heads E and A

These highlights are not found on other solid background stamps including the four values with type A heads issued in November 1988.

Corrections

There are several corrections to be made to the information given in my previous articles in this series:

Part 1 – April 1988

Page 183: The 1d did not appear in books with head A. At the foot of the page the sentence on head A should have read: Only head A occurs on the ½d, 3d, 6d...sheet stamps.

Part 2 – July 1988

I missed it in my desk research but the 11½p mushroom was issued with head B1 in the 50p Mugdock Castle and Mow Cop Castle stamp books, issued 6 May and 30 September 1981 respectively. The table on page 247 should be altered accordingly.

Similarly I missed the 2½p rose with head C also in the two Castle books referred to above.



Heads C and B1



Heads B2 and C

Two other omissions on my part which should not have been were the 34p head B2 in the 1985 *Times* book and the 31p head C in the 1986 *British Rail* book. I had them in my notes but failed to copy them out.

My thanks to Alex G Spijkerman of the Netherlands and P N Beukers of Kent for their interest in putting me straight on these. Mr Spijkerman also makes the comment that although the B2 head may have been *printed* first on the 1p stamps in the 10p mixed value books issued in March 1976, it was first available to the public on the 6½p vertical coil stamps issued on 28 January 1976.

New Books

Illustrated here is the front cover of the Greetings stamp book issued on 31 January.



Also shown is the pane of four stamps from the new 56p window book of 24 January. The book was printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd, containing stamps printed by Harrisons.



Top: Pane from new 56p window book, with straight edges on three sides

Below: Pane from October window book, with straight edges top and bottom of pane

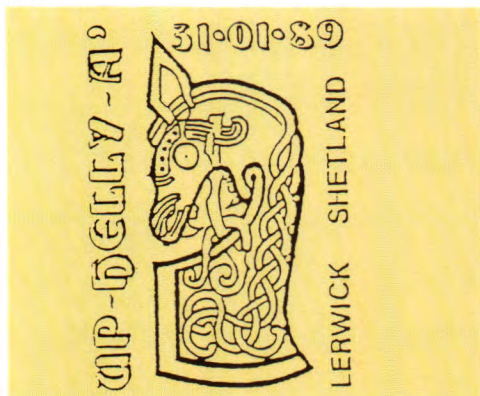
The pane has straight edges on three sides yielding two new stamp variations: 14p centre band, straight edges top and right and 14p centre band, straight edges bottom and right. The 76p book issued the same day has 19p stamps on ACP with the same perforation characteristics.

No cylinder numbers are shown on the panes from these two new books.

Commemorative Covers

Green Howards Tercentenary. To mark the tercentenary a special cover was produced depicting the raising of the regiment at Dunster Castle, Somerset in November 1688, from a painting by Terence Cuneo. The cover bears a 19p Christmas stamp and special handstamp of 15 November. Some 1,500 covers were produced, available at £2 each from: Major N J Rynn, Depot Kings Division, Strensall Camp, YORK.

Up-Helly-Aa. For several years now a souvenir cover and special postmark have been available to mark the annual Shetland fire festival. The 1989 cover with special 31 January handstamp can be ordered from the organising committee, price £2.50. A few of the 1976 and 1987 are still available at the same price. Orders/enquiries to: Up-Helly-Aa Committee, 23 Westerloch Drive, LERWICK, Shetland ZE1 0RP.



Greetings Stamps. A G Bradbury of Leicester has produced five attractive covers featuring Victorian engravings for the Greetings stamps. The five covers each bearing a single stamp cancelled at Lover, Salisbury, Wilts cost £12.50, sets with the five Greetings stamps on each cover are available at £17.50. Also available is a pair of "silk" covers, each bearing all five stamps, reproducing early postcards. These cost £7.75 the pair. All orders/enquiries should be sent to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Ministry of Agriculture. G Eldridge is producing a full colour first day cover to commemorate the centenary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries. The cover will have a "special pictorial 7 March MAFF handstamp". Covers with one Food & Farming

stamp cost £1.70, with full set of stamps £3.50, postpaid UK, overseas add 60p. All orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Moushole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

Birds and Greetings. Benham have produced four "silk" covers for the Bird stamps, the designs featuring the puffin, avocet, oystercatcher and gannet. Each bears the appropriate stamp with pictorial cancellations at St Kilda (Britain's largest puffin colony); Sandy, Beds (RSPB headquarters); Dungeness (bird sanctuary) and Bass Rock, North Berwick, East Lothian (Bass Rock is a noted gannet colony). The four covers cost £6.99 per set.



To coincide with the Greetings stamps, Benham have produced a "silk" cover depicting a painting by Helen Cooper of "Merrythought" (the Ironbridge bear) fishing in the River Severn at Ironbridge, Shropshire. The cover will bear the Teddy Bear greetings stamp cancelled with a "Greetings from the Teddy Bear Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop" handstamp, price £3.99. A similar cover for the Rose stamp and with a "Greetings from Flowery Fields Hyde Cheshire" handstamp is also available at the same price. A cover bearing all ten Greetings stamps will be available, with a "St Valentine Patron Saint of Lovers, Lover, Salisbury, Wilts" handstamp, price £5. Sets of five small individual covers or postcards with five different illustrations and five different postmarks are also available, price £7.99 per set.

All orders and enquiries to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 8 Old High Street, FOLKES-TONE, Kent, CT20 1SZ.

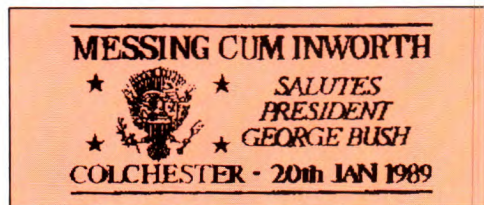
Food & Farming. To coincide with the Food & Farming stamps a special cover has been produced by the British Veterinary Association's Animal Welfare Foundation. The cover features sheep and includes the inscription "Caring for

All Creatures Great and Small". The covers will be cancelled with a special London W1 handstamp depicting the BVA logo. Covers with single stamp cost £2.25, with full set £4.50, with full set signed by the Marquess of Salisbury (BVA President) or Joanna Lumley (Vice President) £8.75. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stoneygate, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Princess Beatrice. To commemorate the christening of the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, Pilgrim Philatelics sponsored a special handstamp at London SW1 on 20 December. A souvenir cover was produced, the peach coloured envelope incorporates an official colour photograph as part of the design. The covers bear a pair of the 1979 "Year of the Child" stamps cancelled by the special handstamp. An insert information card is included. Price £3.85 including inland post & packing (overseas add £1.50). Orders/enquiries to: Pilgrim Philatelics, PO Box 20, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.



Inauguration of President Bush. The parish council of Messing-cum-Inworth near Colchester in Essex have commemorated the fact that President Bush's ancestors came from their village by issuing a souvenir cover and sponsoring a special handstamp for the President's inauguration in Washington on 20 January.



Covers bearing a 19p definitive stamp cancelled with the special one-day handstamp can be ordered from J & M Arlington, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL, price £2.35 UK, £2.50 overseas.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning a copy of the acclaimed history of the Post Office – *Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840* by Dr Martin Dauntton. The book was published in 1985 to coincide with the 350th anniversary of public mail service. Answer the questions below, the answers to which will be found in this *Bulletin*, and send, with your name and address, on a postcard to: February Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 30 March.

The senders of the first four all-correct entries drawn will be sent copies of the *Royal Mail* book. Answers and winners' names will be published in the *May Bulletin*.

1. What is shown on the tile on the 19p Food & Farming stamp?
2. Who designed the Food & Farming stamps?
3. What was the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds originally called?
4. In what year was Charles Darwin born?
5. To which US president is a cover in the NPM's Atlantic Ocean exhibition addressed?
6. How much does the new Postcard-Multipack cost?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, the National Postal Museum, their agents and their families. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the November competition were: D J Hobbs of Hampshire, M E Nunn of Essex, J Charlton of N Yorkshire, A R Flisher of Kent, F C Powell of London SE and M C Gravers of The Netherlands.

The answers were: 1. Puffin (*Fratercula artica*), 2. Edmund Dulac, 3. Harrison & Sons Ltd, 4. Chris Matthews, 5. 8 November 1988, 6. 1891.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Book Reviews

Stanley Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue Vol. 1 Queen Victoria. 9th Edition. Available from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Price £17.50 limited cased edition; £14.95 limp cover, postage £1.50 UK, £2.30 overseas.

This volume has been out of print for some months so there is likely to be considerable interest in the new edition. All listings have been examined and the prices carefully checked; there has been continued demand for proof and similar material, together with errors and varieties. Amongst the basic stamps there is now an increased emphasis on items in fine used condition.

Editorial improvements have been made to the Mulready letter sheet and cover sections, the early 1d red plate numbers and in the appendix listing of protective underprints and overprints.

A major innovation is an appendix priced listing of the Oxford and Cambridge college stamps issued between 1871 and 1886, based on the work of Mr C Harman and Mr W P Bird. In addition to a listing of the stamps, guidance is given as to the known methods of cancellation, printing formats and the contemporary proofs. Prices are quoted for mint and used on cover.

Postal History Annual 1989 by James A Mackay. 100pp, limp binding. Available from the author: 11 Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG1 1LN. Price £5.25 postpaid UK, £6.65 overseas.

This is the eleventh of Mr Mackay's Annuals, as always a useful supplement to his main works: *Scottish Postmarks* (1978), *Postmarks of England and Wales* (2nd edition, 1988), *Irish Postmarks* (1982), *Scottish Numeral Postmarks* (1987) and *Parcel Post of the British Isles* (1982). The information provided is based on Mr Mackay's own researches and on numerous reports of unrecorded items (ancient and modern) sent in by readers – ranging from a "Post Paid" mark on an entire from Aberdeen to Ghent in 1782 to the latest printed postage impressions and unusual date-stamps found on recent mail. Mr John Moy provides an interesting feature on the "Use of the 1894 Code Time System in Wales"; similar

features on Ireland and Scotland were published in the 1987 and 1988 annuals. This work provides a convenient and economical way of keeping up to date with new postal markings and changes to postal services as well as with research into older postmarks.

Posting Boxes

No.97. Several George VI posting boxes have been shown in this feature over the years but we have not previously shown a lamp box actually mounted in the way it was intended. Posting Boxes No. 56 (February 1984) showed such a box mounted in a wall on Osea Island, Essex. Illustrated here is the box in Murchison Avenue,



Bexley, Kent outside the home of Mr R Bodman who submitted the photograph. Lamp boxes were first introduced in 1896, originally with a rounded top. A flatter top was introduced in 1935 and the current flat top design was brought into use in 1949. In addition this style of box has a wider posting aperture, extending the full width of the body. This type of box was designed in 1940 but introduction was delayed by the Second World War.

Letters to the Editor



Railway Letter Stamps

Sir,

In his excellent precis of Railway Letter Stamps in the November *Bulletin*, Mr Chapman refers to Ewen's book as the standard reference work. May I draw your readers attention to a more up to date book? This is Captain Jackson's *Railway & Airway Letter-Stamps of the British Isles 1891-1971* published in 1979 by Harry Hayes.

HAROLD S WILSON, Littleover, Derby

Captain Jackson's book is available from Harry Hayes, 11 Chatsworth Drive, Towthorpe Road, Haxby, YORK YO3 8QS, price £10 plus 90p postage. Ed.

Displaying Aerogrammes

Sir,

In re-reading my copies of the *Bulletin*, I came across the enquiry from Mr Roy Dehn in the April 1988 issue. He asked for ideas on how to display aerogrammes. Most of mine are stored in poly-sleeves in small drawers. However, as time and money permit I am mounting them on standard blank album pages (I use Stanley Gibbons *Windsor*) with two hinges and enfold each page in a sheet of Mylar (pure cellulose acetate) which is completely free of any plasticizers or solvents. The modern, large aerogrammes are simply folded around the edge of the page on a fold line. The clear Mylar protects the whole assembly.

Since I use spring back binders I purchase the Mylar in the form of clear draughting film, pre-cut to 12 x 24 inches from a stationery supplier. I then cut the sheets to the right height and 1½ inches less than double the page width. Fold each sheet so that one edge meets the left (hidden and clamped) edge of the album page. Then, when the sheet is folded back around the page, the far right hand edge of the sheet will not extend all the way to the edge of the album page and so will not be held by the binder's clamping action. The static

charge is ample to hold the sheet closed, yet you can easily open it up if necessary without springing open the entire album.

Most collectors will find sufficient space on the album page for their write-up. However, I find it very convenient to be able to use a draughtsmans pen, ink and lettering guide to print right over the aerogramme on the Mylar in appropriate places for identifying the varieties on the older types and for identifying the printing positions as listed by the specialist dealer, Andrew A Whitworth.

Incidentally, I use this method of protecting all my album pages – not just those used for aerogrammes.

GEORGE C RUSSELL, Long Valley, New Jersey, USA



Stamp Bug at Large

Stamp Bug, the Post Office's colourful character, visited Folkestone shortly before Christmas to promote stamp collecting. Armed with a giant magnifying glass and assisted by two young gnomes, Stamp Bug, was a great success with passers-by, both young and not-so-young. His tour of Folkestone ended at the Folkestone Stamp Shop where Christmas gifts were given to young stamp collectors. *Photo courtesy of Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd.*

FREE ENTRANCE

Spring Stampex 1989

Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1

This voucher may be exchanged at the ticket desk for one entrance ticket (adult or junior) to Spring Stampex on Wednesday/Sunday 1-5 March. Not valid on opening day (28 February).

Presented in *British Philatelic Bulletin*, February 1989

February Digest

Issued in February

- 1 February **NPM cards (3) – Atlantic Ocean Exhibition – Postal Notices of 1876 & 1840 and Trans-Atlantic Line poster of c. 1880 (89/1-3) 20p each**
- 6 February **Royal Mail Stamp Cards Multipack No. 1 – 3 sets of Birds cards in wallet, price £1.99**
- 20 February **Food & Farming Royal Mail Stamp Cards (PHQ cards) (Nos 117A-D), 16p each**

Withdrawn in February

- 8 February **£5 Financial Times Prestige Stamp Book**
- 22 February **2p and 75p National definitives**
Questa printings of 25 February 1986 and 7 October 1986 respectively (Bureau codes DS024, DS752)
- 28 February **Welsh Bible issue – all items**

Rowland Hill Statue

Shown here is the statue of Sir Rowland Hill outside London's Chief Post Office in King Edward Street, EC1. The picture is unusual because of the angle from which it was taken, making it appear that the statue is on a level with the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. We are obliged to Dr David Hill for allowing us to reproduce this interesting photograph.



Stamp Collecting with the Sunday Times

Details were given in last month's *Bulletin* of a series of articles on stamp collecting in *The Sunday Times* from 15 January until 12 February. Readers are reminded that each issue will include a free gift of interest to stamp collectors.

New Railway Letter Stamp

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway will issue a new 20p railway letter stamp on 2 February; this will depict locomotive *Mirvale* in deep snow near Goathland, based on a colour slide by Chris Reattig. A complementary cover will be available – this commemorates the 20th anniversary of the first engine movement on the NYMR, from Pickering to Grosmont in 1969.

A cover showing an illustration of Goathland Station, bearing the *Joem* stamp issued last August (see November *Bulletin*) will be serviced on 7 March. A Newsletter will be available early February; all orders/enquiries should be sent to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Holman

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

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