

Philatelic Bulletin

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- 118 Editorial
New illustrated Stamp Books
Book Review
- 119 British Special Stamps 63. Investiture of
HRH the Prince of Wales, 1969
- 120 The Winnipeg Trials
- 123 Gems from the RM Phillips Collection
LXXVI 'Posted on Sunday'
- 124 London Landmarks Stamp Issue 7 May 1980
- 126 London 1980
- 127 Definitives – AOP or PCP
National Postal Museum notes
Scottish Regiments Airletter
- 128 Collecting the Victorians
4. The Surface-Printed Issues
Forthcoming Events
- 129 Forces Covers
- 130 Commemorative Covers
- 131 Rainhill Trials, Liverpool
Commemorative Cover

London 1980 is almost upon us and next month will bring the special souvenir Bulletin we have spent so long in preparing. This will be the largest Bulletin ever and we hope that it will long remain as a reminder of a highly successful International Exhibition.

This month's edition – whilst more mundane – still contains something for everyone. We are able to give an indication of our stand at Earls Court to whet the appetite of those intending to call upon us. For those who have been following our recent statements about new definitives we are more than pleased to be able to amplify some of the mysteries of the phosphor content and as an added bonus show something of the Canadian Post Office's use of the phosphor processes.

Book Review

Great Britain First Day Covers 1980

Published by BB Philatelic Publications Ltd.

PO Box 12, Evesham, Worcs. or 24 High St., Hythe, Kent CT21 5AT, or from most book shops including W H Smith. Price £1.20.

This is the eighth edition of a pocket size catalogue which has deservedly earned the respect of everyone interested in GB cover collecting. It lists not only FDCs from six reigns but also Channel Islands, IoM, Air Letters, PO postcards and Booklet panes as well as Presentation packs.

A publisher who provides this sort of comprehensive listing in a clear typeface and does so with plentiful illustrations and realistic pricings is on to a certain best-seller.

A few words on prices. They continue to escalate rapidly and show no sign of calling a halt. A good example is the 1s 3d. Forth Road Bridge presentation pack of 1964 which now retails at £160.

At £1.20 this book with its well laid out pages and clear illustrations will be found invaluable by experienced collectors and beginners alike. Altogether very good value for money and not to be missed.

New Illustrated Stamp Books

No 3 of the second series of illustrated stamp books will be issued on 28 May 1980 and will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, and most other offices as current stocks become exhausted.

Details of the make-up of each book is as follows:–

50p book: 2 x 12p; 2 x 10p; 3 x 2p illustrating a 1903-1905 Vauxhall motor car. £1 book: 10 x 10p depicting a Hawker 'Fury' and a Handley Page 'Heyford' aircraft. £1.20 book: 10 x 12p illustrating tin mines in Cornwall.

British Special Stamps

63. Investiture of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, 1969



Amidst the most colourful Royal pageantry within the great walls of one of the finest of all the old Welsh castles, Caernarvon, Her Majesty the Queen invested Prince Charles as Prince of Wales on the 1 July 1969. The investiture ceremony dates back to 1284 when King Edward I's infant son was carried on a shield to the castle entrance and proclaimed Prince of Wales, the title which has since been bestowed on the eldest son of each successive British Sovereign. It was the second time during the present century that the investiture of a Prince of Wales had taken place at Caernarvon. The last was in July 1911, when the Duke of Windsor was invested with the title by his father, King George V.

David Gentleman's accepted stamp designs were in keeping with the grandeur of the occasion, the ancient Welsh background and, by means of a striking portrait, the subject of the Royal investiture. The stamps were issued on the day of the ceremony – 1 July. The three 5d stamps depicted the most prominent edifices of Caernarvon Castle – the King's Gate and Queen Eleanor's Gate, two of the three places where the newly-invested Prince of Wales was presented to the people by the Queen with the Duke of Edinburgh after the ceremony; and the Eagle Tower, a key point in the investiture proceedings. It was in a small room of this tower, according to tradition, that the first Prince of Wales was born of Queen Eleanor nearly seven hundred years ago. Here also the Prince of Wales' personal banner was broken as he arrived at the castle.

The 9d stamp depicted a Celtic cross at the

12th-century Cistercian abbey of Margam in South Wales, while the 1s stamp showed a bold, full-face portrait of Prince Charles, from a photograph by G. Argent. The stamps were inscribed 'Prince of Wales' in Welsh (*Tywysog Cymru*) and English, only the second occasion that the Welsh language had appeared on British stamps (the first was the 1s 6d Menai Bridge (Pont Menai) of 1968), and the first time bilingual inscriptions were used throughout a special stamp since. The three 5d stamps were issued in the form of a triptych – together *se-tenant* in strips of three within the sheet – and were in eight colours, predominantly silver-grey, the 9d in four colours (including a gold background) and the 1s in black and gold. The stamps were the result of a full year's careful planning, design and research, and the silver backgrounds of the three 5d stamps required and involved new and revolutionary printing techniques.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 72 (5d 12 x 6) or 60 (9d and 1s 10 x 6) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. Recorded varieties include the omission of various colours on the 5d stamps, invariably occurring on all three stamps in the strip; phosphor omitted, noted on all values; and, on the 5d Eagle Tower stamp, a grey line just below the turrets, constant on Row 6, Stamp 2 in the sheet. Quantities sold were: 5d 99,467,496; 9d 13,384,380; 1s 12,972,720; English presentation packs, 256,709; German packs, 9,360; and Welsh schoolchildren's packs, 146,958.

JAMES WATSON

The Winnipeg Trials 1962-74

by C. F. Forster

Charles Forster joined the Post Office Laboratories from the Admiralty Materials Research Labs in 1949. He worked on the first Transatlantic Telephone cable as Materials Inspector during 1954/55 and was also in control of a paper and textile testing laboratory.

In April 1957 Charles was transferred to the PO Research Station, then at Dollis Hill; his terms of reference being to develop materials for mail coding techniques, as part of the growing postal mechanisation programme.

His initial work on organic phosphors involved a number of proprietary malamine resin 'syrops', marketed as adhesives, obtained from ICI Ltd, but soon he was synthesising his own novel resins, for which a patent was taken out in 1959.

In all, he manufactured and tested over one thousand different potential phosphors, many being found unsuitable for technical reasons, and some being possible health hazards, these of course being rejected.

Already a BSc, Charles was granted a MSc by Durham University after submitting his thesis on the Chemistry of Organic Phosphors.

Since his retirement, he has been able to enjoy leisure activities which include philately, golf, bridge, and genealogy.

In 1957, a research project was initiated at the Post Office Research Department (then at Dollis Hill) to investigate luminescent materials for possible use as destination code marks for letter mail. This would permit automatic machine-sorting not only at the originating sorting office, but also at intermediate or final sorting offices without the necessity for human reading.

The project resulted in the discovery of a new class of organic phosphorescent compound, (that is, luminescent compounds possessing an 'after-glow' after extinction of the irradiating source). These are cheap and simple to manufacture, and unlike the comparatively coarse crystalline inorganic metallic phosphors such as doped zinc sulphide, silicates, etc, are crisp but soft enough to be reduced to a fine powder suitable for inclusion in printing inks without serious loss of

phosphorescent efficiency.

The first discovery was a urea-formaldehyde resin, containing a small amount of 'amino G acid', which gave a bright yellow afterglow following a brief exposure to ultra-violet light. This led to an extensive investigation of various resin systems and activating substances which produced a wide range of phosphors having differing properties such as sensitivity to different frequencies of ultra-violet light, different optical-decay periods, and a range of afterglow colours from deep violet through blues, green, yellow, to orange. Red emitters were also synthesised but these were not colourless in normal light, which at that time was a requirement for address code-marks.

During 1958, Geoff Copping, the engineer in charge of the Automatic Letter Facing machine experiments, asked the author if one of the substances described above could be used on postage stamps in place of the graphite lines then under trial. An essential requirement would be that the stamps must not interfere with subsequent automatic destination code reading. In other words, any phosphor used on stamps for Automatic Facing operations must not respond to the ultra-violet light source used in address sorting equipment.

Luckily, by this time we had two new phosphors, known in Research Department as PHD and CSA. These have been described in earlier articles. As PHD is almost inert to long wave UV irradiation, it could be used for the stamps with no danger of confusing the address code readers if CSA were chosen for this latter purpose.

Clearly it would then be necessary to fit 'short wave' UV lamps in the letter facing machines, and 'long wave' UV lamps in the address code sorting machines.

For commercial reasons, Harrison & Sons, our stamp printers, decided to manufacture these phosphors under licence from the Post Office. For their own use, PHD was named 'Lettalite B,' because it was thought that the optical emission looked blue to the eye. Compared with CSA however, PHD seems to have an afterglow with a



Fig. 1

greenish tinge and so became known to philatelists as the 'green phosphor'. Harrisons called CSA 'Lettalite B2'. Because CSA gives a brighter emission than PHD, it was 'borrowed' for use on stamps until it was required for address coding. This situation did not arise until 1965, but by this time a better alternative to PHD had been discovered, known as TPA, which replaced CSA on stamps. Officially, PHD was not again used on British postage stamps, but as large stocks were in hand, and it was also used for other security printing, it is not surprising that some was used in error, as on the 2½p Machin designed stamp in 1972.

These experiments at Dollis Hill excited much interest among overseas postal administrations faced with problems similar to our own, and a stream of 'official visitors' arrived to study and appraise our progress. Many had already approached commercial organisations for assistance in developing machines for postal sorting. In general this resulted in attempts to adapt existing technology to mail handling requirements. All used some form of 'tagging', to use the American description, to permit machine-recognition of stamps. These were invariably fluors or inorganic crystalline phosphors. The merits and demerits of these have been considered in recent Bulletin articles.

Several Continental countries were interested only in the facing function and not separation into categories, and were therefore content to print their stamps on paper coated with a commercially available phosphor or fluor.

Others however appreciated the potential advantages of a machine such as the British ALF which is capable not only of facing the mail but also of sorting it into two separate categories at the same time.

The original British requirement was to hive off mail franked at the reduced 'Printed Matter' rate from fully paid mail, the Americans preferred to separate air mail from surface items. The Canadians who had a reduced rate for local letters (4c instead of 5c), saw immediately the convenience of separating these two categories so quickly.

The Americans used an inorganic crystalline

phosphor emitting a yellow-green afterglow for surface mail, and a similar material (but emitting in the red) for air mail. This meant that if two lower values were used to make up an air mail rate, the item would be assessed as surface mail and could be delayed.

The Canadian delegation to the British Post Office showed a keen interest in our system and after comparing it with that offered by the Americans finally decided to embark on a thorough practical trial by setting up an ALF machine in the Winnipeg Sorting Office in 1962.

In 1961 the Canadian Bank Note Company was directed to print CSA phosphor bars on the then current issue of postage stamps from 1c to 5c. The 4c used for local postage received one wide bar placed centrally; the others had two bars up the vertical margins.

The stamps themselves were recess-printed but the bars were applied by typography throughout the trials. As the phosphorescent printing ink was based on a vegetable drying oil, marked yellowing has occurred on storage, even in the dark.

Prior to the issue of the CSA 'tagged' stamps described above, the Canadian Post Office had some 4c and 5c stamps printed with similar bars but incorporating an American inorganic phosphor based on zinc sulphide, also in an oleo-resinous ink (illustrated in figs 1 and 2). Because of the relatively high cost of the inorganic phosphor pigments, the CBN Co was instructed to use three different weights of phosphor for these trial stamps. The ostensible reason given was a reluctance to detract more than necessary from the appearance of the stamps in the eyes of the public. Samples were despatched to the PO Research Station at Dollis Hill, who reported as follows:

	CSA (Lettalite B2)	Inorganic Phosphor		
		Heavy	Medium	Light
Half life	5 secs	2 secs	2 secs	2 secs
Light output as referred to CSA	100%	50%	40%	25%
Resistance to liquid water	20% loss after 3 minutes	No effect	No effect	No effect
Resistance to prolonged soaking in water	No response to UV after 2 hours immersion	No effect	No effect	No effect

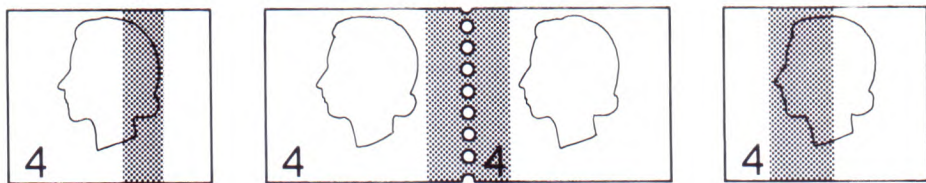


Fig. 2

It must be pointed out that the blue-sensitive photomultipliers used in British equipment did not respond as well as to the yellow emission from the zinc sulphide phosphor as to the blue emission from CSA.

It should also be remembered that the "half-life" figures had to be assessed without the benefit of modern equipment now available, and also that the zinc sulphide phosphor was probably quite different from that described in more recent philatelic articles.

The resistance to moisture by organic phosphors varies considerably, being affected by the composition or formula used, by the process of manufacture, the degree of cure, and final particle-size or "fineness of grind".

Samples made in the laboratory from urea formaldehyde and cured in a hot-air oven were very good in this respect, having excellent moisture resistance; those made from cyanuric acid and solid paraformaldehyde were not quite so good but still acceptable. When this material was made commercially however, the curing of the resin was incomplete, and early batches of "Lettalite B" made by Harrison & Sons were more vulnerable. Some of this material was tested by the Swiss PTT and given an unfavourable report after severe humidity tests. This report possibly affected the verdict of other potential users. Harrisons subsequently improved considerably the moisture resistance of their Lettalite B by postcuring the resin in a heated oven. This, coupled with the extra protection afforded by the ink varnish, resulted in a satisfactory material that resulted in no reported difficulties in over 20 years of usage even in our notoriously unstable climate.

Whatever consideration weighed most heavily in the minds of the Canadian Post Office personnel, the stamps eventually placed on service at Winnipeg in January 1962 were "tagged" with Lettalite B2 phosphor. They continued to use this material until 1972 when phosphorescent scanning was abandoned in favour of the so-called Ottawa machines which used fluorescence.

(Examples of Lettalite-tagged stamps are illustrated in Figs 1 and 2).

Various ideas to economise along similar lines to those in use in the UK were put into operation. For instance the 4c of 1963 originally had one central 4mm wide band; then it appeared with an 8mm band placed centrally, and finally with an 8mm band overlapping alternate vertical columns so that each single stamp appeared to have a single 4mm band up the left or right side. This last version was issued in December 1964.

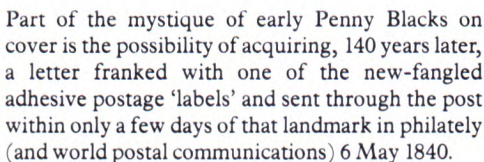
The British Post Office copied the idea and issued the Wilding 3d violet stamp similarly banded on 29 April 1965. The other idea with economy more in mind was to issue all values below the normal letter rate with only one band instead of two. Thus the 1c, 2c, 3c and 5c of 1967 were originally issued with two bands and the 4c with one band to right or left side. When the letter rate was raised to 6c early in 1968 these five values were changed to have only one 4mm band placed centrally. Subsequent changes in the postal rates to 7c and then 8c resulted in the 6c receiving only one band.

The last definitive stamps to receive the phosphor tagging were the 1972 small pictorials of 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c.

Other stamps issued with phosphor tagging were the various Christmas stamps issued between 1964 and 1972 and a few commemoratives.

In 1960 a sample of Canadian paper with a surface coating incorporating an inorganic phosphor was submitted to the British Post Office for evaluation. Some 2d Wilding stamps were printed by Harrison & Sons on this paper. Apart from the overall yellow phosphor response, these stamps are also distinctive by the absence of a watermark.

The use of phosphor tagged stamps was confined to the City of Winnipeg, so the quantities used must have been well below those of normal issues. It seems likely that some values may turn out to be quite scarce as time goes by. The first issue of 1962 was catalogued at the same value as "normal" stamps for many years - now that their scarcity is becoming appreciated rises in value especially for some of the later issues, are to be expected. Used copies of the 10c - 25c pictorials of 1969 and 1972 are not often encountered.



Among those early dates of usage few are more sought after than 10 May, the very first Sunday after the Penny Black stamps became valid for use. This month's 'Gem' is a particularly fine example of a stamped letter of that date, with the cancella-

tion partially clear of the Queens face, and a perfect strike of the datestamp. To gild the lily the recipient has written in manuscript 'Shaw Stewart, Edinr. 10 May 1840; recd 10 ditto ditto'.

It is a sobering thought that there *was* a time (albeit long before mails reached their present astronomic volume) when it was not only possible to post (and receive) letters on a Sunday but even, as in this case, for the Sunday – posted letter to be delivered on the very same day – as a matter of course.

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

London Landmarks Stamps Issue

7 May 1980

To coincide with the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition, to be held at Earls Court London between 6-14 May, the Post Office will issue on 7 May five special postage stamps – designed by Sir Hugh Casson – depicting well known buildings and monuments to be found in London. The subjects chosen are: Buckingham Palace (overseas postcard rate) 10½p; The Albert Memorial 12p; The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden 13½p; Hampton Court 15p and Kensington Palace 17½p.

Printing Details

Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure Adhesive: PVA dextrin

Format: Vertical Phosphor: In the coating

Perforation: 14 x 15 Size: 30mm x 41mm

Sheet size: 100

Paper: Coated un-watermarked

Values and Colours

10½p greenish-yellow; yellow green; pale blue; grey black; rosine; silver

12p greenish-yellow; sage green; ochre; rosine; blue black; silver

13½p greenish-yellow; flesh; bluish grey; grey black; silver

15p greenish-yellow; yellow orange; dull green; indigo; blue black; silver

17½p greenish-yellow; chestnut; deep bluish green; drab; dull yellow green; grey black; silver

Presentation Packs

Presentation packs, price 82½p, containing all five stamps, will be available from 7 May 1980.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date of the stamps, price 8½p each.

First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services are offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, including a choice of two handstamps, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and Kingston-upon-Thames.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled as requested, and despatched.

Service B

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

Charges

	Inland	Overseas
Service A	99½p	86½p
Deposit A/C customers	95p	82½p
Service B	88½p	77p

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 28 April 1980.







The British Post Office stand at 'London 1980' 6-14 May will have something to attract those interested in past, present and future, with the full range of current philatelic items available from 24 counter positions.

In addition to the philatelic sales facilities, there will be a special section dealing with requests for philatelic information and a counter for general post office services.

Customers at the stand will be able to take advantage of a special postmarking service, with a different hand-stamp available on most days of the exhibition and special posting boxes will be set up. A shop on the first floor of the stand will offer facsimiles of interesting historical documents and other Post Office publications for sale.

The National Postal Museum's special display on the stand will be devoted to the theme 'Carrying British Mail'. This tells the story of 300 years of mail transport from the time of Elizabeth I to the present day. Dealing first with inland mail, it covers the spread of the postal service from the mounted postboys of the 16th century, tracing the story through the coaching era and on to travelling

post offices on the railway and the development of motor transport.

It also traces the growth of overseas services from the days of packet ships and early services to British colonies in the West Indies, North America, India and Australia, to the growth of regular air mail flights in the 20th century. The story closes with a look at how the Post Office transports mail today, for example, by containerisation and by Concorde for Datapost.

The Post Office has been actively promoting the London 1980 exhibition through several philatelic items already issued. Two special miniature sheets were issued in 1978 and 1979 featuring the complete sets of stamps from the British Architecture and Sir Rowland Hill issues. A third miniature sheet, based on a 50p stamp commemorating the 1980 exhibition itself, will be issued on 7 May 1980. Part of the money raised by the sale of these sheets is being donated by the Post Office to help finance the event.

As well as the Rowland Hill miniature sheet issued on 24 October 1979 a new pictorial air letter was released on the same date with a Rowland Hill theme and carrying the 'London 1980' message.



Definitives – AOP or PCP

We regret the confusion over terminology, for which we in the technical section must accept some responsibility. When phosphor coated paper was first introduced on the 1s 6d definitive, we coined the phrase 'all over phosphor' as a description of the *paper*. We were unhappy at the application of this term to printed stamps, as 'all under' would be more appropriate! At that time, no one had thought of printing phosphor over the entire sheets of stamps; this was adopted at the request of designers of special issues for aesthetic reasons. These then become known as 'all-over phosphor', which was correct as the phosphor was gravure printed over the colours.

More recently, the description has been used incorrectly. We ourselves now use the terms 'PCP' for phosphor coated paper, ie the phosphor is part of the coating; PPP for prephosphor printed paper, and reserve AOP for the now rare occasions when phosphor is gravure printed *over* the colour.

The description 'AOP + 2 bars' is incorrect, it should be 'PCP + 2 bars' and exists, on the 10p only, because the experimental phosphor coated paper used had variable luminescent properties.

A summary of the position regarding recent printings is as follows:—

The newly issued 11½p, 13p and 15p are on PCP and *not* PPP.

The 1p and 2p exist in two forms. The 1p, colour cylinder 12/12 dot, phosphor cylinder 37, on PPP; also with the same colour cylinder but no phosphor cylinder on PCP. The 2p colour cyl 13/13 dot, phosphor 37, on PPP and without phosphor cylinder on PCP. The PCP printings are much more glossy than the PPP ones, owing to the presence of the highly-cured phosphor resin in the coating.

The 5p and 20p values printed in September 1979 are both on PPP.

The 10p exists in many forms:—

Cylinders 7, 8, 9 are Chambon printings; originally on reject PCP, overprinted with 2 bars from phos-cyls 34, 36 or 37. These are reprinted on FCP. Cylinder 2 is a Jumelle printing; if no bars are present it is on PCP, whereas the Cylinder 3 Jumelle printing is on PPP.

PPP may sometimes be recognised because the

150 phosphor screen may cause interference patterns with the 250 colour screen, and so cause rather odd visual effects.

The earlier cylinder 3 10p with 2 bars from phos. cyl. 7 was a Halley printing.

These varieties were not made to confuse the philatelist, but arose because the printers' chemists simply couldn't keep pace with the unprecedented demand from the PO; even working late hours the production of phosphorescent coating was insufficient, so it was necessary to pre-print phosphor on another machine to leave all the cylinders on Jumelle available for special issues and definitive printings (both at the same time).

National Postal Museum Notes

New Museum publication

Carrying British Mails: five centuries of postal transport by land, sea and air.

This new, illustrated book on the development of British postal transport, researched and written by Jean Farrugia and Tony Gammons of the National Postal Museum to accompany the postal history display being mounted on the Post Office Stand at 'London 1980', is due to be published in May. Full details will be given in the next issue.

Scottish Regimental Airletter

A new Scottish Regimental airletter will be issued on 21 May 1980 price 16p (14p of which is postage). The postage stamp impression has two phosphor bars. The cover will be on sale from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters and post offices throughout Scotland.

It will illustrate the Free Fall Parachute Display Team of the Scottish Infantry Regiment; Pipe Major of the Gordon Highlanders, and the Regimental mascot of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders with handler.

Collecting the Victorians

4. The Surface-Printed Issues, 1855-1883

At first glance the typographed or letterpress-printed stamps engraved by the talented Joubert (Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté) and printed by De La Rue from 1855 onwards may seem dull and uniform. Familiarity, however, breeds appreciation rather than contempt, and Joubert's engraved head of the Queen, closely modelled on the Wyon Medal head, is – dare I say it? – superior to the similar head engraved by Charles and Frederick Heath for the Penny Black. Subsequently, frames, inscriptions and corner letters often detracted from the quality and simplicity of the head or 'diadem', but De La Rue's first stamp, inscribed simply 'POSTAGE' and 'FOUR PENCE', was exquisite.

A rich carmine in colour, the classic 4d stamp was first introduced to prepay letters to France (which may have induced the Frenchman, Joubert, to give of his best), and it appeared with three differing watermarks – the small (1855), medium (1856) and large (1857) garter types. There were also differences of paper and shade which are of interest to the specialist. Also in 1856, 6d lilac and 1s green stamps were issued, the watermark having national emblems – two roses, thistle and shamrock – in the four corners of the stamps. An interesting and rare variety of watermark is the 'three roses and shamrock' – a rose having been substituted for a faulty thistle on the dandy roll when the paper was manufactured.

The next series, 1862-64, ranged from 3d to 1s – five stamps each distinguished by small uncoloured corner letters and by a distinctive ornamental frame – and while the 'large garter' watermark continued for the 4d red, the 'emblems' were repeated for other values, including the error 'three roses and thistle' on the 6d lilac. Another rare variety is the 1s green with the letter 'K' within a white circle in the lower left corner (part of 'KD') – unused, only two copies are known. The series was repeated, 1865-67, with *large* uncoloured corner letters and watermarks as before, the original 'three roses and shamrock' error appearing on the 3d, 6d, 9d and 1s stamps. A 10d stamp is included here by virtue of another error of watermark – 'emblems' instead of 'spray of rose' which belongs to the following issue. It is an

extremely rare stamp.

The 1867-80 series with large coloured corner letters – watermark 'spray of rose' – was, like its predecessors, inscribed with tiny plate numbers, and included a 2s stamp for the first time, first in brown, then in blue. The 6d, with and without a hyphen between 'SIX' and 'PENCE', also changed colour from lilac (and shades ranging to mauve) to brown and then grey. Issues from 1873 to 1880 employed a bewildering mixture of watermarks and changes of colour – 'anchor' (2½d mauve), 'orb' (2½d mauve and 2½d blue), 'spray of rose' (3d rose, 6d buff and 6d grey, 1s green and 1s orange-brown) and 'larger garter' (4d vermilion, green and grey-brown, and 8d orange). The series of 1880-83, including the 1d Venetian red and other new designs as well as overprinted '3d' and '6d' stamps, bore the 'imperial crown' watermark. Other surface-printed issues will be featured in future articles.

JAMES WATSON

Forthcoming Events

Cameo – Stampway to London – 1980

London is to be featured on a 50p British stamp which will depict a montage of the London skyline. This stamp will be issued on 9 April and will coincide with the opening day of the next in the series of Stamp Exhibitions, staged at the Cameo Stamp Centre in London's Strand.

A Cameo commemorative First Day Cover and Exhibition postmark centred on Nelson's Column and his British Lions will also be available.

The Cameo Stampway to London Exhibition will illustrate the life and heritage of London in a unique way. The great landmarks of London will be seen through the eyes of the postage stamp. You will be able to visit London's great buildings, churches and Palaces and enjoy its ceremonies. You can take the Stampway to relive London's history and learn something of its culture, crafts and traditions. You can sail the Thames, ride the buses, Change the Guard, visit the Opera, play the theatre... and hear the cries of London!

'Stampway to London' will be opened at 1 pm on the 9 April and will continue through the Summer every day from 9-5.30 except Sundays. Admission will be free.

Iford and District Philatelic Society

On Saturday, 26 April, Ilford and District Philatelic Society will organise the Essex Stamp Day where awards for the County competitions will be presented. There will also be an exhibition of the entries, a fine auction and twelve local dealers. The venue is Valentines High School, Gants Hill, 10.30 am to 4.30 pm – admission is free.

Middlesex Stamp Day

The Middlesex Philatelic Federation's 30th Annual Convention and Stamp Fair will be held on 19 April, at the Kodak Social Centre in Harrow. It is being organised by the Kodak Stamp Club, who are also celebrating their 25th Anniversary.

As well as the usual competitive displays between the member societies of the Middlesex Federation, there will be the Inter County Dawes Cup Competition between Essex, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex, so there will be over 700 pages of stamps, postal history and thematics on display.

Almost twenty dealers will be present, and the Post Office will be providing a Philatelic Sales Counter. A souvenir cover has been produced, and this will be cancelled with a special Post Office handstamp, in use on 19 April. A souvenir stamp booklet is also being produced, featuring the Airgraph story. There will also be refreshments and raffles.

The doors will be open from 11 am until 5.30 pm, and admission is free. The Convention will be officially opened at 2.30 pm by Jeffery Matthews, designer of the 50p stamp to be issued on 9 April. A limited number of first day covers with this stamp, signed by Jeffery Matthews, will be available at the Convention.

Further details on the above may be obtained from the Secretary of the Kodak Stamp Club, John Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, PINNER, Middlesex, HA5 3BW.

HMS Cleopatra and Harrogate

In April last year the freedom of Harrogate was granted to HMS CLEOPATRA. The event was marked by the introduction of a commemorative cover illustrating HMS CLEOPATRA at sea, public gardens in Harrogate and the crests of both the town and the ship. The cover bearing a 9p definitive stamp cancelled with the pictorial handstamp is available at 50p from: 'The Welfare Fund Treasurer', HMS CLEOPATRA, BFPO Ships, LONDON.

A very limited number of the covers signed either by the Mayor of Harrogate or the Captain of the Ship are available £1 each. For details and orders please write as above enclosing a 7" x 5" SAE.

Battle of Narvik 40th Anniversary

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Narvik by the Second flotilla, a special cover is currently available illustrating the badges of HM Ships in that flotilla – HMS Hardy, Hunter, Havoc, Hotspur and Hostile.

A special pictorial handstamp, BFPS 1677, depicting the badge of HMS Hardy, is used to cancel the stamp. In addition, the covers will be signed by Captain G H Standing DSO RN (Rtd), who took the command of HMS Hardy when the Captain was killed, and Captain H F H Layman DSO RN (Rtd) who was Captain of HMS Hotspur in the battle. A 15p 'Rowland Hill' stamp is affixed and the cost is £1.85.

Alternatively, the cover signed by Captain Layman only and bearing a 13p 'Rowland Hill' stamp is available at £1.05. Unsigned covers with an 11½p 'Rowland Hill' stamp are 60p each.

Orders accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope, should be sent to the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS, YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HL, together with remittances made payable to the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

Commemorative Covers

Robert Raikes

The Robert Raikes Commemorative Cover is being issued by the National Christian Education Council to celebrate the bicentenary of Robert Raikes, a pioneer of the Sunday school movement. The cover will be released on 4 June 1980, in Gloucester, and will be specially cancelled by the Post Office.

The commemorative cover can be addressed and posted to you from Gloucester on the day of issue for £1.15 including VAT. Orders and payment for this service must be sent to NCEC, Robert Denholm House, Nuffield, REDHILL, RH1 4HW, not later than 15 May 1980.

A cover may also be sent to you anytime from 4 June 1980, in an outer envelope. This service costs £1.25 including VAT. Orders and payment should be sent to NCEC, Robert Denholm House, Nuffield, REDHILL, RH1 4HW.

Newcastle '900'

To coincide with the opening of celebrations commemorating the 900th Anniversary of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a cover is to be issued on 16 April 1980.

The cover illustrating the Anniversary Symbol will incorporate a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen Mother who is to open the festivities. A special hand stamp also depicting the '900' symbol will cancel a 13p 'Horseracing' stamp affixed.

The cost is £1.25.

Further covers, to form a matching set, will be issued during the course of the year in association with principal events in the '900' programme.

Orders should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope a little larger than 134mm x 191mm, and remittances made payable to City of Newcastle, should be sent to the Newcastle 900 Offices, Eldon Square Recreation Centre, High Friars, Eldon Square, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE1 7XY. Please mark your envelope 'Cover Request'.

Invicta 150 Railway

To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway and the restoration of Stephenson's Invicta Locomotive of 1830, the Canterbury City Council are holding an 'Invicta

150' festival. On the opening day, 3 May 1980, a special commemorative cover will be on sale with the Rocket railway stamps and cancelled by a special Invicta 150 handstamp. Some of the covers will be carried by rail from Whitstable to Canterbury – it is hoped with a British Rail letter stamp.

Cover with the Liverpool-Manchester stamp, price 85p.

Cover with full set of Liverpool-Manchester stamps, price £1.35.

A limited issue of 1,000 covers, carried on train from Whitstable to Canterbury, with a Rail Letter Stamp and 'carried' cachet, price £3.55.

20p extra should be added for postage and packing on orders within the UK. Orders from overseas should include an additional 50p which is for airmail postage and packing.

Orders should be sent to: Invicta 150 Covers, 13 Best Lane, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

Leicester Philatelic Society 75th Anniversary

To coincide with the London Landmarks Stamps issue on 7 May, the Leicester Philatelic Society will produce its own limited edition commemorative covers. They will bear the full set of five stamps cancelled with a special handstamp for the Society's 75th Anniversary. The cover design will depict famous Leicester buildings which will tie in with the subjects of the stamps.

The cost per cover (which includes postage and packing) will be £2.50, cheques etc. should be made payable to Mr. A. G. Bradbury and sent to him at 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER LE2 6FJ.

Joint Rotary Clubs of Cardiff

The 75th Anniversary of Rotary International was 23 February 1980 and to celebrate the occasion the Joint Rotary Clubs of Cardiff produced an attractive commemorative cover depicting a world map with the land masses in dark blue, overprinted on a light screened blue background for water.

The Rotary emblem – the Wheel – and the Rotary Anniversary numbers (75's) in gold embossed lettering are also shown.

The covers bear a 12p new definitive stamp, issued on 30 January 1980, cancelled with a special

handstamp. The cost is 61p each and some are still available, from Rotary Covers, PO Box 1001, CARDIFF, CF1 1AA.

Proceeds from the sale of the covers will be donated to Cardiff Royal Infirmary's renal unit and the special-care baby unit of St David's Hospital, Cardiff.

A number of covers are also available signed by Mr. Douglas Imrie-Brown, President: RIBI, priced at £1.50 each.

Independent Order of Foresters

The Independent Order of Foresters have now completed 4 years of fund raising and have donated 3 inshore lifeboats 'ATLANTIC 21' to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

J & M Arlington Ltd are producing on behalf of the IOF a special commemorative envelope with the 15p River Police stamp. A special handstamp will be used at Wembley on 26 April 1980 to coincide with the RNI Festival.

These covers are priced at £1 each. Those with special cachets are £1.20 each. Sir Alec Rose has promised to sign 500 and these may be purchased for £2.70 each.

All orders are to be addressed to the Independent Order of Foresters, 36-38 Peckham Road, LONDON SE5 8PX.

Rainhill Trials, Liverpool Commemorative Cover

As part of the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the introduction of the Liverpool-Manchester Railway, the Post Office is to issue a commemorative cover on 24 May 1980 to mark the famous Rainhill Trials. These trials were held to test the relative merits of 3 steam locomotives, Sans Pareil, Novelty and the Rocket. The latter was declared the winner. It may now be seen in London's Science Museum.

Cover Service

The following cover service is offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, which includes cancelling with a special pictorial handstamp, 'Rainhill Trials, Liverpool, 24 May 1980'.

The service includes supplying the cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all five Liverpool and Manchester stamps. The cover will be 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 12 May 1980.

For those collectors who wish to prepare their own covers these may be obtained from offices with philatelic counters. These stamped, addressed covers should be sent to the Head Postmaster, 22/24 Copperas Hill, LIVERPOOL L3 1AA with a request for the appropriate cancellations.

Philatelic Bulletin

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