

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Following the good news in April that the Bulletin will not be having a price increase, we are happy to announce another benefit for readers. The last two issues have both contained an extra four pages, and due to making economies, the Bulletin will now have 20 instead of 16 pages until the end of the year at least. The extra space will be devoted to bringing collectors more information on current activities in the stamp world as well as additional special features.

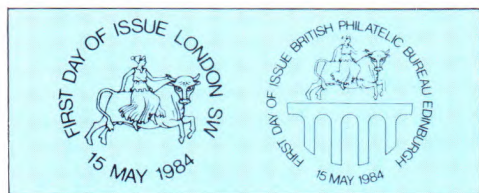
On 15 May the special stamp issue commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) and the second Direct Election to the European Parliament is released. These Europa stamps, as they are known, are unusual in several different ways. This is the first time that such an issue has had a common design for all European Postal administrations including Great Britain. Finally, these are also the first British se-tenant stamps which have commemorated different organisations or events.

During recent months, an attempt has been made to standardise existing handstamping procedures by requiring post offices to observe all the existing rules. One particular regulation, which we quoted in an earlier Bulletin, was the one concerning the positioning of stamps on first day cover envelopes. Since the Cattle issue on 6 March, handstamping offices have been instructed not to refuse covers where stamps are not affixed in a horizontal line across the top of the envelope from the top right hand corner of the face side. This is good news for collectors of covers. Additionally all handstamping rules are currently being examined by Postal Marketing staff to see how they affect philatelic mail.

In October, we thanked readers for their past help and asked that no more photographs of interesting postboxes be sent. Since then we have still received several every week, and while we are very grateful for the interest shown, we really do have sufficient in stock for the foreseeable future (and beyond!), and are unable to accept any more.

CHARLES GOWEN

Europa Handstamps



These are the pictorial handstamps to be used to cancel 'EUROPA' first day covers from the 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' and 'London SW' on 15 May 1984.

Choosing the right designer for the job

Stamp design has proved a very satisfying medium for most designers and artists who have worked in this form of minuscule art. It is also a very challenging medium, not least because of some of the disciplines it imposes.

The most obvious, and often most daunting discipline is size. For no matter how impressive a design may appear when viewed as a full-scale canvas, if it does not work at stamp size the result is failure.

It does not take a genius to imagine what is likely to happen to the delicate lines depicting ship rigging in a Turner painting when the whole is reduced to an area the size of a stamp. Such fine detail can disappear altogether at stamp size or, if the details are closely spaced, may end up as a single solid image.

In an ideal world, the simplest solution might be to commission only designers and artists who can work at small size. Such people, unfortunately, are few in number. If we were to pursue such a restrictive policy, it would undoubtedly result in a much narrower range of subject treatments than we would wish — and which we now currently enjoy.

We have to accept that many designers and illustrators prefer to work at a larger scale so they can exploit the full range of their creativity. What we have to do is strike a balance between creative freedom on the one hand and production process requirements on the other.

So what essential qualities should a stamp designer or artist possess?

In the first instance, one is attracted by the quality of work, in particular, work that makes a personal statement and clearly demonstrates an ability to think and distil ideas in visual and non-visual terms.

In recent years, we have taken the broadest possible look for suitable designers and artists. By keeping a constant watching brief on exhibitions, published work and other sources which will reveal emerging talents, we have built up a comprehensive portfolio of suitable people.

Lack of previous experience in stamp design is not regarded as a handicap. Proof of that can be clearly seen in the 1982 stamp programme for, of the 23 different people commissioned for that year, only five had ever produced stamp designs before! We aim to continue a policy of introducing new talent

because it ensures a high degree of creative innovation from one stamp to the next.

What is most important to us is demonstrable experience and aptitude in a particular field — figures, portraits, graphics, flora, fauna, engineering or technology to name but a few. And when it is decided that a different production process, such as litho printing instead of gravure, is to be used, an understanding of the requirements of that process becomes an extra consideration. An example of that was the car issue in 1982 by Stanley Paine where we took the opportunity to capitalise on litho printing's ability to produce sharp, fine lines.

This brings us to the question of how designers are chosen for a particular stamp subject and what brief they are given.

It may surprise some to know that initial design work is not done by the designers who will be asked to execute the stamp. We do not say to the designer we want a stamp on a particular subject and then leave him or her to get on with it. Even before the choice of stamp subject is finalised, a considerable amount of research will have been completed into the design possibilities. This research, in fact, could well have a bearing on whether a subject is chosen or not.

The research establishes the design opportunities contained within the subject. For instance, the recent Army stamp issue had as its starting point the 350th anniversary of the Royal Scots, the senior regiment of the British Army. Bit by bit after much pruning of possible approaches, this theme was developed and refined as a set of stamps on the British Army. Further work and discussion determined a final short list of different treatments — transport, uniforms and famous commanders.

Having arrived at this point, the next stage is to determine the designers and artists to execute each of these approaches. Stanley Paine was chosen for the transport theme because of his knowledge of the subject and the quality of his technical illustrations. We chose Eric Stemp to develop the uniforms theme because he had specialised in figure work — a very demanding art — for many years and could produce particularly fine line illustrations.

The third and final choice had an added dimension because we felt the famous commanders

approach offered an opportunity to explore the possibilities of a combined photogravure and recess (intaglio) printed set of stamps. We, therefore, approached Harry Eccleston of the Bank of England because of his extensive engraving design experience on banknotes.

As can be seen, each of these people was chosen because they were specialists in the fields already determined by our initial design research. It will also be noted that each was asked to work on an entirely different brief — it is rare that we ask designers or artists to compete on exactly the same brief. What is more, at the time when these three people were commissioned, no one could predict with certainty which approach was likely to be accepted in the final analysis. The path through the Stamp Advisory Committee and, ultimately, to the Royal Approval can be laden with surprises.

The brief given to each designer or artist is usually fairly comprehensive. All the research material already collated by The Post Office is made available. This includes background information gathered from libraries, organisations associated with the subject matter, and other sources. Visual references are also provided as well as a list of useful sources of further information and research. Finally, any useful hints gleaned during the preliminary research are passed on. These could include the fact that when portraying a particular subject, a horse for instance, the Society or organisation involved has long-established but unwritten rules about how it should be presented — should it be full profile, looking left to right or vice versa, how should the legs be arranged? Failure to observe such protocols from the outset can cause no end of trouble at a later stage. This is yet another reason for choosing artists who have specialised in the subject.

Having chosen our designers and artists and briefed them on the approach each is to take, the next stage is up to them. Each will have to decide how much further research is required and, of course, on the creative treatment.

We do ask designers and artists to keep in close touch with us throughout a project, especially in the early stages. It is important that they check with us, through preliminary ideas or sketches, before committing themselves too far down the line. This is where we have to strike a balance between creative freedom and production requirements. There is no point, for instance, in the designer proceeding with a particular creative treatment if we know it simply will not work at stamp size. It is, therefore, vital that we gently guide the direction in which the designer is proceeding if that proves necessary.

The choice of designer or artist is critical to the success of a set of stamps. This is why a great deal of time and effort is devoted to this task within the Design Division of The Post Office. At the end of the day, it is not just the designer's creative reputation which is at stake but also that of The Post Office and the international standing of British stamps.

To work in this medium is invariably considered a high honour — as those who have been commissioned will readily acknowledge. The fact is that there is probably no better or more international showcase for the British designer and artist. Almost certainly, it will be the largest print run that any of their work has ever involved. More than that, it provides a memorial to their talents which will live on as long as people collect stamps.

Postscript

Earlier articles in this series have generated a steady stream of correspondence on the subject of stamp design and production. I am grateful for all your opinions, complimentary or otherwise (yes, there have been a few like that). Unfortunately, pressure of work prevents me from replying individually to all who wrote in. However, I hope to answer the points you have raised through this column. Some of these points may not be answered immediately as I intend dealing with these in greater detail in subsequent articles.

In an interesting letter, Mr J H Wiggs of Watford takes me to task over my 'admission', as he called it, that the planning of a new stamp may take up to five years. This, Mr Wiggs suggests, is indicative of a cumbersome system and proof of The Post Office's failure to respond to events.

Five years may appear a long time but not when one considers that we are talking about the time from initial planning to first day of issue — the actual timescale for design and production is considerably shorter. This year, for example, we will be crystal-ball gazing ahead as far as 1989. That, however, does not mean that the 1989 stamp programme will be irrevocably decided this year, or even next year come to that. What we are doing now is looking at the possibilities for 1989. Let's say that one of those possibilities is a minor anniversary — that of a bus company. And say that in two years' time it is decided by some international body to hold a world celebration of bus travel in 1988, 1989 or 1990. This turn of events would be carefully considered and, if it were deemed to fit in with the overall balance not only of that year's programme but of both preceding and succeeding ones, a set of stamps on bus travel would become a very distinct possibility.

As I said in my previous article, the timescale for some new issues is considerably shorter than five years and gave the Royal Wedding set as an example. There are others. The 1982 Information Technology issue was completed in a very short time because we had little advance warning of Information Technology Year. Our flexibility to respond to recent events may not always be apparent. For example, the decision to include a stamp on the Parachute Regiment in last year's British Army issue was taken at a late stage in recognition of that regiment's significant role in the Falklands Campaign.

Mr Wiggs also takes issue with me on the subject of suitability for postal use. He singles out the Gardens issue for criticism, in particular the 16p stamp about which he says the design is too crowded and, in certain light, the value and the Queen's head can not be seen. Mr Wiggs poses the question whether The Post Office is simply issuing collectable sets of stickers that can be used for postage.

The simple answer to that is a definite no. The Garden set posed a number of challenges. On the one hand, we had to capture the essence of Liz Butler's style — that is, small intimate paintings set on large sheets of paper. On the other, we had the operational requirements of mechanised sorting equipment to consider. The subject, obviously called for a preponderance of green, of which yellow is a principal constituent. And yellow happens to be the chief offender in blotting out phosphor. The solution — namely, fractionally larger borders — therefore satisfied both artistic and practical aims.

Mr E Hammond of Harrow would like to see more background information on people involved in the design or production of particular stamps as well as details of how each approached the subject. I have touched upon this in my article above and hope to come back to this interesting topic in greater depth at a future date.

Philatelic Counter Handstamps

As from 15 May 1984 Londonderry, Bradford and Lincoln philatelic counters will have their own pictorial handstamp available to cancel mail.

This completes our programme for the time being, of introducing permanent pictorial

handstamps at philatelic counters, all 63 offices having their own local postmark.

The new handstamps incorporate an off-centre interchangeable date and will be available on all days the philatelic counters are open.

Items to receive the special cancellation must be properly addressed and bear 3p in addition to the correct postage. After handstamping, the items will be delivered with the normal mail.

For those customers wishing to obtain a cancellation but who are unable to visit the office, the normal reposting facility will apply. Covers should be sent in an outer envelope to the offices shown below, bearing the appropriate postage, and endorsed, 'Special Philatelic Counter Handstamp.'

In addition to the name of the office, each handstamp bears the wording 'Philatelic Counter.'

Office	Handstamp depicts	Reposting Address
Londonderry	The Guildhall	The Head Postmaster Head Post Office 3 Custom House St. LONDONDERRY BT48 6AA
Bradford	Rural/ Industrial Scene	The Head Postmaster Head Post Office 2 Forster Square BRADFORD W Yorks BD1 1AA
Lincoln	The Cathedral	The Head Postmaster Head Post Office 19-20 Guildhall LINCOLN LN1 1AA



109. Bicentennial of American Independence, 1976

109. Bicentennial of American Independence, 1976
One great man and one stamp were deemed sufficient to commemorate the 200th anniversary of what was probably the most significant event in the history of the United States of America — the Declaration of Independence (from British rule) on 4 July 1776. The man was Benjamin Franklin (1706-90), American printer, statesman and scientist, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts. The 11p stamp was designed by Philip Sharland and showed a likeness of Franklin after a bust by Jean-Jacques Caffieri in the Franklin Room at the headquarters of the Royal Society of Arts in London.

At the age of 12 Benjamin became apprenticed to his brother, James, a printer and proprietor of a small provincial newspaper: subsequently he made his way, almost penniless, to Philadelphia, where he found employment as a printer. In 1724 he came to England and for 18 months laboured at his trade in London whence, returning to Philadelphia, he established his own printery with the help of friends, and in 1729 purchased the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. In 1732 he commenced the publication of *Poor Richard's Almanac* which was a great success. Four years later he entered upon a public career, rising through various offices to the position of Deputy Postmaster-

General for the Colonies and sitting in the Assembly. He undertook important missions to England in 1757 and 1764, and was prominent in the deliberations which ended in the declaration of American independence in 1776. His numerous discoveries included those of the identities of electricity and lightning.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 5 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. There were no recorded varieties.

JAMES WATSON

Scottish Rugby Union Grand Slam Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover produced by the Post Office in association with the Scottish Rugby Union will be available on 8 May 1984. The cover commemorates the Grand Slam achieved by Scotland when they defeated France at Murrayfield on 17 March. Scotland last won the series by defeating England, Wales, Ireland and France in 1925.

The cover, priced at 14p, will be available before 8 May from all philatelic counters, all main post offices in Scotland, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT.

Cover Service

The following cover service is offered by the British Philatelic Bureau, which includes cancellation with a special Edinburgh pictorial handstamp. The service includes supplying the cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing the 16p, 20½p, 26p and 28p Scottish definitive stamps. The charge is £1.25.

Orders for bulk quantities of mint covers—from the Bureau only, are priced as follows: £25 for 250 or £80 for 1000.

Reposting Facility

Normal reposting facilities will apply. Customers requiring the special handstamp should send their covers correctly addressed and bearing a minimum of 15½p in postage stamps in an outer envelope fully addressed and bearing the appropriate postage to: Edinburgh Head Post Office, 2/4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH, EH1 1AA by 8 May 1984, marking the envelope "Scottish Rugby Union Postmark".



Before 1840

To many stamp collectors throughout the world the date that looms large is the date when it all began, 6 May 1840, when the first adhesive stamps, the Penny Black, was brought into service. The postal service, however, goes back just a little further than that.

It is said that the first postal services in the world were in China about 4000BC, and in Egypt and Assyria about 3000BC. These were in the main for the use of court officials but the Assyrian system was apparently open to the merchant classes as well.

There are references to postal services in the Old Testament of the Bible. Nehemiah 2: 7-9, states "Moreover, I said unto the King, If it pleased the King, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come to Judah; . . . Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the Kings letters.' This took place in the month Nisan in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the King" (ie c446BC). Further references can be found in Esther 3: 12-15 and 8: 10-14.

That a form of postal service should exist at such early times demonstrates that where there is a central authority, be it Government, Monarch or Baron, there is a need for a communication system. And where the level of literacy permits, what better system than one of the sealed written message or letter. It was in this manner that postal services existed for several centuries.

The first 'mails' in Britain were undoubtedly those of the Roman conquerors and the postal service remained entirely for the private use of King and Court until 1635. Then by Royal Proclamation of Charles I, the public were allowed to use the Royal Post in return for a fixed fee based on the number of sheets of paper making up the letter. In truth, it must be said that the main motivation for this 'reform' was the need to raise revenue rather than the desire to offer a service.

By the early years of the nineteenth century, criticism of the British postal service and demands for improvement were growing. It was becoming clear that high postal charges by throttling written communications were seriously affecting the spread of learning and literacy and even more the expansion of trade and commerce. Nobody demanded improvement more bluntly than the fiery MP for



Greenock, Robert Wallace; it was Wallace's much publicised speeches that brought into the fray the champion of the common people, an ex school teacher, Rowland Hill.

In 1837 Hill produced a small pamphlet entitled 'Post Office Reform; its Importance and Practicability' in which he simply but skilfully analysed the Post Office finances and operations and put forward his reforms. This pamphlet, enthusiastically supported by the people, led to Hill being invited to appear before Lord Duncannon's 'Post Office Commission of Inquiry' of 1837, and was ultimately to lead to the cause for remembrance of 6 May 1840.

It is doubtful if even the clear sighted reformer which Hill undoubtedly was, foresaw when he was beaver away by candlelight on his pamphlet, the enormous world-wide primary and secondary effects his reforms would have, and which were to immortalise his name. Hill's reforms not only led to the tremendous expansion of postal services and therefore to the creation of many thousands of jobs within those services, but also the secondary facet, the stamp collecting hobby that today is enjoyed by millions throughout the world and creates thousands of jobs.

It is fitting therefore that at the beginning of the R M Phillips Collection, housed at the National Postal Museum, is featured a portrait of Rowland Hill.

JOHN MEMMOTT
Assistant Curator

London Economic Summit 1984

Commemorative Stamp Issue 5 June 1984

The annual economic summit conference involving leaders of all the major western industrialised nations will be held in London from 7-9 June this year — the first time it has been held in the UK since 1977.

To mark the event, the Post Office will issue on 5 June 1984 a 31p stamp and first day cover, both of which have been specially designed by Paul Hogarth, the eminent British artist and Royal Academician. The design will depict Lancaster House, London, as it will appear when the conference is in session: the balcony overlooking the Mall.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'London SW' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.'

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover — price 14p — addressed to the correct postal address of the

destination required and bearing the stamp. The cover will be cancelled, 'London SW' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh,' as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address will be given the stamp, cancelled as requested and despatched.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	64p	56p
Deposit account customers	58p	51p
Service 'B'	50p	44p

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 25 May 1984.

Printing Details

The stamp is printed photogravure by Harrison and



LONDON
ECONOMIC SUMMIT
1984

ROYAL MAIL
FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd in sheets of 100. The format is vertical and the size is 30mm & 41mm with 14 x 15 perforations. The paper is unwatermarked, phosphor coated and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

Postcards

A postcard reproduction of the stamp will be on sale, price 13p, from the British Philatelic Bureau and most Post Offices from 22 May 1984.

Souvenir Covers

Souvenir covers — price 14p each — designed by Paul Hogarth will be available from philatelic counters only on the day after the stamp issue, 6 June 1984.

Europa Stamps Issue

We were unable to supply details in the April edition of the Philatelic Bulletin, of the cylinders used for the printing of the 'Europa' stamps. We are pleased to do so now.

16p: 1a, 2b, 1c, 1d.

20½p: 3a, 2b, 1c, 1d.

Greenwich Meridian Stamp Issue 26th June 1984

From 1884 onwards all countries adopted the Greenwich meridian as the zero of longitude. To commemorate this event the Post Office will issue four new postage stamps on 26 June 1984.

The subjects and denominations are as follows: Astronomy (The World from Space) 16p; Navigation (Chart of the English Channel) 20½p; The Observatory 28p; Time (Airy's Transit Telescope) 31p.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two handstamps will be available, 'London SE10' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.'

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover — price 14p — addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'London SE10' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh,' as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.38	£1.20
Deposit account customers	£1.33	£1.16
Service 'B'	£1.24	£1.08

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 15 June 1984.

Phosphor Coated Paper

A number of correspondents have enquired into the difference between the coatings used for 'PCP' (Phosphor Coated Paper) and 'ACP' (Advanced Coated Paper), both used for British Postage Stamps other than 2nd tier rate, some book stamps, and 'high values.'

The chemical phosphorescent resin is the same in both, but the synthetic route used differs. The process used for 'PCP' has proved in practice to be difficult to control with sufficient precision on a production scale.

This has resulted in variations in 'ink absorption,' leading to differences in the gloss of printed images. It also, on occasions, produces slight discoloration of the white coating itself.

To overcome these problems and simplify the process, the chemists in our printer's laboratories devised a novel chemical route to yield the same end-product but easier to control with the necessary precision. It also produces a brighter more stable phosphor, but there is another side to every coin, and in this case it is an enhanced sensitivity to the ultra-violet source used for address-code mark reading. To off-set this 'long wave' sensitivity it has been necessary to add an increased amount of fluorescent brightener which soaks up unwanted longwave UV.

This offers philatelists the easiest way to differentiate between PCP and ACP — the latter has a brighter fluorescence under 'long wave' UV (365nm). A Wood's glass (black light) filter accentuates the difference. 'Black light UV' lamps are particularly suitable.

A note of caution, however. Phosphor coated papers are also manufactured for printers using the wet-offset lithographic process, and these papers incorporate a coating with a different inert filler which reduces the visible difference between PCP (litho) and ACP (litho).

It may be of interest that 16p stamps from £1.60 books are currently printed on PCP whereas the sheet printings of 16p are on ACP. This enables interested collectors to compare the two directly.

The Origin of the Philatelic Bulletin

FJ Langfield

The following article has been submitted by Mr F J Langfield who was the Post Office official in post at the inception of the Philatelic Bulletin. We hope that readers find it of interest.

When the incumbent of the Stamp Duty retired in 1958 I took over as the next available man. It was therefore quite fortuitous that I found myself embroiled among other matters with postage stamps. My responsibilities on the stamp side were management of everything relating to postage stamps up to the point where I handed over finished artwork to the Supplies Department for production of finished stamps. All matters, national and international, relating to stamps — correspondence, criticisms, complaints, suggestions, exhibitions — came to me. I wrote briefs for artists, commissioned them, dealt with the Palace, wrote Press releases, attended functions to publicize new issues, and took part in exhibitions at home and abroad and by 1963 I had a good insight into the collector's mind. Thus, when Mr Bevins became Postmaster General, and I was faced with the task of establishing a philatelic bureau I knew exactly what I wanted to do. That is a story in itself and is perhaps for another time, but it did enable me to introduce the Philatelic Bulletin.

One of the more persistent complaints from stamp collectors was of lack of advance information about forthcoming issues. Although detailed Press releases were issued via the Public Relations Department their publication was at the discretion of recipient editors. To complainants I sent whatever information was to hand but this did not really meet their need which was for continuing and regular

advice. As soon as approval was given for the establishment of a bureau I was able to set up an advice sheet providing the required information which subscribers could receive as of right.

What was required was a speedy, accurate and complete information system produced as simply as possible and at the lowest cost. The advice sheet therefore had to be produced quickly, reliably and economically and be as up to the minute as possible so that subscribers need never miss any stamp issue, postmark or first day cover opportunity through lack of information. It also needed a title. Most of the simple and obvious words like Stamp or Magazine had long been appropriated by other publications. However, since I envisaged the production ranging over all aspects of stamp collecting with which the Post Office was concerned, Philatelic became the key word while Bulletin suggested the immediacy. The first issues of the Bulletin were therefore typed and the production priced just to cover direct costs such as materials and postage.

Having started off with such grand ideas about speed, the sheer pressure of work in bringing in the Bureau delayed the first issue for five months. Initially there were only three staff for the whole Bureau project and I was perforce author, editor, designer et al of the new Bulletin. Eventually I obtained more staff, and appointed Archie Page as assistant editor which gave me some relief. The Post Office was then still a Government Department and in keeping with the Civil Service tradition of anonymity no editor's name appeared on the Bulletins.

Because of the immediacy of the production we were able to experiment and many collectors will remember the first colour illustration achieved by including a cancelled 1s 6d Compac special issue stamp. Although a cheap method, the labour required to affix the stamps ruled out any extension. We also included other less demanding novelties such as specimen air letter forms and of course stock lists. All this intrigued readers and boosted circulation.

Sales quickly increased to the point where we could justify offset litho printing but still retain in-house production. This improved the printing quality and allowed the introduction of illustrations without sacrificing timeliness — the Bulletin could still be issued within a few days of writing the copy, and so it continued until I left the duty.

By September 1964 I had spent over six years on the Stamp Duty and it was time for me to move on to other fields, leaving a healthy Philatelic Bulletin, which has continued to grow and prosper.

13. Strike a light!

This month's picture postcard is one of a series — 'The Cries of London' — published by C W Faulkner. It illustrates one of the 18th-century engravings by Francis Wheatley (1747-1801), 'Do you want any Matches?' The vendor and her son are offering the primitive sulphur-tipped sticks used, with the aid of a spark produced by flint and steel, to ignite the contents of a tinder-box.

The origins of the ubiquitous safety match are quite enlightening. The first friction matches, or 'lights,' were invented in 1827 by John Walker (c.1781-1859), a chemist of Stockton-on-Tees, who called them 'Congreves' after the military rocket invented by Sir William Congreve. The invention was copied a few years later by Samuel Jones, a chemist of the Strand, London, who called his matches 'Lucifers,' a reference to the 'light-bringer' — the planet Venus. Another, somewhat dangerous,

type of match was the 'Promethean' (from Prometheus, who stole fire from heaven). This was a glass tube containing an explosive mixture wrapped in a paper spill: when the glass was bitten by the teeth, potassium chlorate ignited the spill.

Early in the 19th century Bryant & May of Bow, East London, commenced manufacturing 'Congreve lights' and 'Flaming fuses,' then in 1855 they acquired the sole British rights of production of the safety match invented by a Swede, J E Lundström — combustion was obtained only by striking the match-head on the specially-coated surface on the side of the match-box. Bryant & May also made the wax vestas, the wax-stemmed matches, forerunners of their current 'Swan Vestas', and are today the acknowledged leaders of the British match industry. Another famous name is that of Ivar Kreuger (1880-1932), the Swedish financier who founded the United Swedish Match Company in 1913 and began the series of acquisitions and mergers which brought him control of three-quarters of the world's match trade. He committed suicide following the disclosure of financial scandals involving various European governments.

MALCOLM JAMES

National Postal Museum News

To coincide with the issue of the Royal Mail Postage Labels on 1 May 1984, the National Postal Museum will mount an exhibition displaying European Stamp Labels. A new Museum postcard (A5) will also be issued on 1 May depicting an enlargement of the Postage Label, which may be used as a maximum card on the first day of issue. The card will be available from the Museum and from the offices of issue of the Royal Mail Postage labels, priced at 13p each. A handling charge of 17p will apply to all orders by post up to the value of £18, orders above that value being despatched by registered post at a handling charge of £1.17.

On 8 May 1984 a special National Stamp Day Exhibition opens in the museum and continues until 22 June 1984. A special postcard, SS23, is being issued on the opening day and will be on sale until the exhibition closes. It shows examples of different printers and types of printing since 1840. A special one day postmark will also be available for National Stamp Day on 8 May.



An exhibition of the 'British Post Office and the UPU' will open on 5 June 1984 and will continue until 27 July 1984. During the exhibition a special UPU postmark (illustrated in the April Bulletin) will be in use at the museum as well as the normal Maltese Cross marking. A special postcard, SS24, will also be issued on 5 June and remain on sale until 27 July 1984. The exhibition and postcard commemorate the 19th UPU congress at Hamburg and the 75th Anniversary of the UPU Monument in Berne which was unveiled in 1909. The postcard depicts the 3d value of the 1949 75th Anniversary of the UPU issue.

Both postcards, SS23 and SS24, will cost 20p each and normal pre-release facilities will be available. Handling charges will be the same as indicated above for the National Stamp Day postcard.

Scotland in Miniature

The Scottish Postal Board's Thematic Stamp Exhibition 'Scotland in Miniature' goes on show in Culzean Castle, Maybole, Ayrshire from 1 April to 31 October 1984.

Rich in natural beauty, culture and native genius, the United Kingdom is well endowed with subjects suitable for pictorial commemoration.

The postage stamps in this exhibition pay their own modest but delightful tribute to the UK in general, and above all the unique Heritage of Scotland. It shows people, places and things Scottish which have been depicted on British Stamps since 1955 and is illustrated with 31 different issues showing notables such as Robert Burns, Robert Bruce and Walter Scott, and places like Edinburgh Castle, Forth Road Bridge, Holyroodhouse and Pitmedden Gardens.

Culzean Castle, built by Robert Adam 1777-1792 was gifted to the National Trust for Scotland in 1945 by the 5th Marquess of Ailsa and the Kennedy Family. The castle is situated in 563 acres of Country Park, overlooking the Firth of Clyde. Castle and Country Park attract some 300,000 visitors each year and is an ideal venue for the 'Scotland in Miniature Exhibition.' The Castle is open to the public 10.00 to 18.00 hours 1 April-30 September and 12.00 to 17.00 hrs 1-31 October, last admissions 30 minutes before closing time.

Culzean is off the A719, 4 miles west of Maybole and 12 miles south of Ayr.



Decimal Booklet Pane Printings

Technical Details

by L. Newbery

Section V – Printing of multi value panes for Folded Machine Stamp Booklets

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
10p Booklet DP24	2 x ½p 3 x 1p 1 x 6p	B24 B15 B8 B5	Two	Jumelle 2	56 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	17.11.75 27 Jan 1976	5045
DP31	2 x ½p 1 x 7p 2 x 1p + label (postcode)	B28 B19 B5 B16	1 CB 1 CB 1 CB none	Jumelle 2	56 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	30.11.77 14 May 1978	5656
DP36	2 x 1p 1 x 8p + label (postcode)	B1P B25 B3	1 CB 1 CB none	Jumelle 2	56 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	19.9.79 14 Feb 1980	5667 B1P actually B19 but the 9 was engraved in reverse.
D336A	2 x 1p 1 x 8p + label (postcode)	B19 B32 B2	1 CB 1 CB none	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	17.6.80	
DP36A	2 x 1p 1 x 8p + label (postcode)	B21 B32 B9	1 CB 1 CB none	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	24.6.80	
50p Booklet DP27/27A	2 x ½p 2 x 1p 2 x 6½p 4 x 8½p	B26 B16 B10 B1	Two Two 1 bar L or R Two	Jumelle	56 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	5.11.76 14 Feb 1977	5339
DP28/28A	2 x 1p 3 x 7p 3 x 9p	B11 B18 B4	Two 1 bar L or R Two	Jumelle	56 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	25.11.76 22 Aug 1977	5434
DP33/33A	2 x 2p 2 x 8p 3 x 10p + label postcode	B11 B24 B1	Two 1 bar L or R Two none	Jumelle	56 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	5.7.79 15 Feb 1980	5673
DP38/38A	3 x 2p 2 x 10p 2 x 12p + label (postcode)	B15 B24 B10 B3	Two 1 bar L or R Two none	Jumelle	56 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	9.1.80 14 Feb 1980	5671

Section V to be continued in a later issue

Posting Boxes



No. 59. This unusual posting box situated at Highcliffe Post Office, Highcliffe on Sea, Dorset, is made of concrete. The photograph was sent to us by Mr Denys Worth of The Letter Box Study Group. Well done Mr Worth.

Book Reviews

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 2, King Edward VII to King George VI — 6th Edition

This new edition benefits from the research work undertaken over the last four years, particularly that carried out on the plates used for Edward VII issues. The layouts of the sections for George V, Edward VIII and George VI have been revised, and the listing now begins with the basic stamp and continues with information of controls, booklet panes, coils and die proofs. Some new varieties are listed, and the

information given for the booklet panes has been clarified. The coverage of the George VI 1d value has been expanded. The Stamp Booklet Section has also been completely re-written, and the priced listings are now incorporated into the descriptive text. A new stamp booklet numbering system has been introduced, similar to that used for booklets in the present reign.

As with previous editions of the catalogue, there is a wealth of detail and philatelic research which gives a fascinating picture of the philatelic intricacies of these stamps. Also, following the uncertainties of the philatelic market over the last four years, prices have been adjusted accordingly. Priced at £9.95, this catalogue can be obtained from most reputable stamp dealers and bookshops. Orders by post should be sent to Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants BH24 3SH. (£1 extra should be added for postage).

Telegraph and Telephone Stamps of the World

by Dr S E R Hiscocks

A great deal of research has gone into the production of this catalogue on a subject not recently covered in this form. While fiscal and revenue stamps have been increasingly well covered in recent specialised catalogues, this has not always applied to telegraph and telephone stamps. The catalogue has been very well produced and is packed with illustrations and information on these stamps. The listings are extremely well laid out and easy to follow, and items are priced.

Costing £15.00, this catalogue can be obtained from Dr S E R Hiscocks, PO Box 77, WOKING, Surrey GU22 0HB.

Collect British Stamps (34th Edition)

The latest edition of Stanley Gibbons popular publication will be available from 15 May at the usual philatelic outlets and all Post Office philatelic counters (including Taunton), at £2.25. It includes all issues up to and including the Cattle stamps. This checklist with stamps illustrated in full colour, remains the ideal guide for collectors of G.B. stamps wanting easy-to-follow listings. Stamps, stamp books, presentation packs, First Day Covers, PHQ postcards and gutter pairs are all included. The new edition comprising 100 pages with over 600 illustrations is also available from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants BH24 3SH plus 30p extra for postage and packing as well as the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT where normal handling charges will apply.

1984 British Philatelic Federation Yearbook

The 1984 BPF Yearbook and Philatelic Societies Directory follows the established format with all entries fully updated and some extended.

In addition to all the information on philatelic organisations worldwide — federations, societies, bureaux and permanent exhibitions, lecturers and details of BPF's own services, this volume lists all signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, winners of the Congress Medal and of the Awards of Merit. A list of all previous Philatelic Congresses is included with the names of individuals and Societies represented at the Bath Congress in October 1983. Included again this year are lists of Philatelic Periodicals, overseas philatelic organisations, Clubs and Periodicals dealing with Postcard collecting, also sources of films and slides, and charities which welcome philatelic material. Finally, lists of Federation members by Category (Dealers and Collectors) appear at the end of a volume likely to be well thumbed by Society Secretaries, individual members and non-members (as past sales attest).

Copies are provided free to all members, but may be purchased for £4.00 post free in the UK or Overseas (seamail), or £5.50 (airmail) if payment is by cheque in Sterling on a UK Bank, or by remittance directly into Girobank Account Number 585 3451; otherwise the equivalent of £1 extra if paying by cheque in the currency of origin. (Cheques in sterling payable overseas cannot be accepted).

Orders should be sent to: The British Philatelic Federation, 314 Vauxhall Bridge Road, LONDON, SW1V 1AA.

Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan Catalogue of Modern Commonwealth Stamps 1984 (20th Edition)

The Elizabethan Catalogue was first published in 1965 and has developed along with the improvements in design and printing techniques of modern issues. The listings in this new edition have been added to the computer database used for the Part 1 (British Commonwealth) Catalogue. The Catalogue numbers and type are also now identical in both catalogues. The Elizabethan also continues to list extra items of interest to the modern specialist, including inverted watermarks, missing colour errors, important shades, stamp booklets, presentation and souvenir packs, and the most significant plate and cylinder flaws. Prices are now quoted for sets of between two and four stamps, 'Specimen' overprints (in sets), printings with different imprint dates, Royal Events omnibus stamps in gutter pair sets, and GB 'Traffic Light'

gutter pairs and 'missing phosphor' stamps. A more detailed omnibus section is also provided. The Elizabethan will in future be published in Spring rather than later in the year.

Priced at £9.95 the Catalogue is available from most reputable bookshops and stamp dealers including Stanley Gibbons. Copies can also be supplied by post and orders with the appropriate remittance (plus £1 for postage and packing should be sent to Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants BH24 3SH.

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale on 24 May 1984:

'British Engineering' stamps and presentation packs.

Forthcoming Events

Lytham St Annes Philatelic Society

On Saturday 9 June 1984 a stamp fair will take place in The Drive Methodist Church Hall, Clifton Drive South, St Annes On Sea, commemorating the Silver Jubilee of Lytham St Annes PS. The fair will open from 10am — 5 pm and prices for admission are: adults 20p and children 10p. There will be philatelic displays and dealers stalls. A specially designed commemorative cover will be available, price 75p. Orders by post, accompanied by a large stamped address envelope, should be sent to: Mrs M A Barrowclough, 26 Berwick Road, ST ANNES ON SEA, Lancs, FY8 1JT.

Windsor and Slough Philatelic Society

The Windsor and Slough Philatelic Society celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1984. To commemorate this event it will hold a special Stamp and Postal History Exhibition and Fair at the Castle Hotel, Windsor, on Sunday 20 May 1984. There will be several philatelic displays by members as well as some 20 stamp dealers in attendance. The Exhibition and Fair will be open from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm, and refreshments will be available. Admission is 25p including a souvenir programme.

G M Stamp Fairs

Fairs will be held by G M Stamps at the following locations:

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: to be held on 12 May at St Joseph's Hall, Apton Road, BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

HERTFORD: to be held on 27 May and 1 July at the Castle Hall, Fore Street, HERTFORD.

ST ALBANS: to be held on 2 June at the Jubilee Centre, Catherine Street, ST ALBANS.

DUNSTABLE: to be held on 9 June at the Queensway Hall, Queensway, DUNSTABLE.

LETCHWORTH: to be held on 10 June at the Plinston Hall, Broadway, LETCHWORTH.

Admission is 20p at all venues (children free), and further details can be obtained from G A Sinclair, G M Stamps, c/o National Westminster Bank, WARE, Herts.

The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle

The BDSSC has appointed a new Membership Secretary: Mr Eric Wilding, 20 The Greenway, DAVENTRY, Northants, NN11 4EE.

Mr Wilding should be contacted for full details of membership and services available, which include regular newsletters, articles, meetings, auctions and the publication of the Circle's specialised catalogue.

The Northeast Philatelic Weekend

Following the very successful Philatelic Weekend held at The Airport Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne in June 1983, the Northeast Committee have arranged to hold another Philatelic Weekend at the same venue from 15th — 17th June 1984.

We look forward to meeting our old friends again, and many more who may like to take advantage of these enjoyable and instructive weekends.

Details can be obtained from: Mrs. Dorothy Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE3 4RY, upon receipt of a stamped addressed foolscap envelope.

Forces Covers

Ten Tors Expedition

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Ten Tors expedition will be commemorated with a special cover depicting three walkers approaching a Tor with '25th Anniversary' above, and, 'Ten Tors Expedition' below. The cover will bear a 16p 'Urban Renewal' stamp cancelled with a circular datestamp including, the legend, 'Ten Tors,' surrounded by 'Twenty Five Years,' '12 May 1874,' and 'British

Forces 1829 Postal Service.'

Order with remittances made payable to: 'Ten Tors A/C' should be sent to, Ten Tors Secretary, HQ SWDIST, Burford Camp, SALISBURY, Wilts, SP49NY.

Sinking of Russian Cruiser 'Oleg'

To mark the 65th anniversary of the sinking of the Russian Cruiser 'Oleg' (6,675 tons) by Coastal Motor Boat Number 4, a commemorative cover will be available on 17 June. It will depict the Motor Boat, the Cruiser and the Russian ensign. A 16p 'Europa' stamp will be affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp illustrating the badge of HMS 'Hornet,' MTB base in WW11. The cost is 90p.

Alternatively the cover bearing a 28p 'Urban Renewal' stamp, cancelled as above but signed by Rear Admiral J M Webster, Flag Officer Sea Training, Portland, and Commander R S Agar RN, nephew of Captain A W S Agar VC RN, is priced at £2.10. In addition the cover signed by Commander Agar only with a 20½p 'Europa' stamp affixed and cancelled, the charge is £1.35.

Orders with remittances made payable to, 'The Fleet Air Arm Museum,' should be sent to The Philatelic Officer, RNAS Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL, accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Royal Air Force

RFDC26 is the next in the series of RAF covers and carries the full set of 'Urban Renewal' stamps including one depicting the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol's dock area. The cover illustrates the close connection between the City of Bristol and aviation spanning 70 years, and is cancelled on 10 April 1984 with a special commemorative handstamp BFPS 1835 — '70th Anniversary of the First Flight of the Bristol Scout.' The covers depict the first flight of the Bristol built Concorde, and were flown aboard a British Airways Concorde and signed by the Lord Mayor of Bristol and the Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Locking, Bristol's nearest RAF station. Copies of this limited edition can be obtained from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON, NW9 5LL at a cost of £3.20 which includes postage and packing (UK only — overseas extra).

The Middlesex Regiment (DCO)

Korea 1950-1951

A further special cover in the series of six covers commemorating the Battle Honours awarded to the Middlesex Regiment during the first year of the Korean War was issued on 14 April (No. 5

KAPYONG CHON and 'KAPYONG') and (No. 6 KOREA 1950-1951) to be issued on 14 May.

Both covers bear a 16p 'Heraldry' stamp.

The British Forces Postal Service cancellation incorporates the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade formation sign (of 3 nines) and the serialized registration numbers 9995 and 9996 respectively — thus completing the series 9991 to 9996.

The limited issue to 1000 copies are numbered and priced as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1 to 250 (Signed Copies) | £3.50 |
| 251 to 1000 (unsigned) | £1.25 |

Copies 1-250 of issue No. 5 are signed by Major B St G Reed MC DL (recipient of the MC at KAPYONG) and Issue No. 6 by Colonel J N Shipster CBE DSO (Company Commander and author of the book 'The Diehards in Korea').

Orders with remittance payable to 'The Middlesex Regiment Korean Club' together with a SAE 9 ins x 4½ ins should be sent to the secretary, Mr S Webb, 38 Yarmouth Road, Symonds Green, STEVENAGE, Herts, SG12 2LW.

Commemorative Covers

Thames Barrier and London Marathon

To commemorate the official opening of the Thames Flood Barrier by the Queen on 8 May 1984, a special philatelic cover is being produced. It will be issued with a coloured photograph of the Barrier itself, and will bear the 20½p Engineering Achievements stamp, which depicts the Flood Barrier, duly cancelled with a special pictorial postmark.

A special philatelic cover is also being produced for the London Marathon on 13 May 1984. It will be issued with a coloured photograph of the race, and will bear the 16p Heraldry stamp, duly cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp.

The cost is £1.10 and £1.00 for the Thames Barrier and London Marathon covers respectively. Alternatively, customers can order both covers for £2.00. Orders with remittances should be sent to K & D Covers, Freepost, LONDON, SE17 2BR.

International Economic Summit Talks

To coincide with the issue of a special stamp on 5 June 1984 commemorating the International Economic Summit talks being held in London, two special philatelic covers are being produced. These die-stamped covers will bear an illustration of either Lancaster House, where the talks are being held, or the Houses of Parliament. Only a limited number of

covers (1000) will be produced and they will all be numbered on the reverse. The covers will be cancelled with a special handstamp, and are available at £2 each £3.75 for the pair. Orders with remittances made payable to A G Bradbury, should be sent to A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

The Greenwich Meridian

Two commemorative covers have been produced by Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd to celebrate the issue of the Greenwich Meridian stamps on 26 June 1984. The first cover featuring the Airy Transit room — the brass strip in front of which marks the Meridian Line, will be cancelled with a special handstamp at Greenwich. The second cover depicts Flamsteed House, the home of the first Astronomer Royal, Sir John Flamsteed, and will be cancelled with a FDI postmark at Greenwich.

Both covers will bear a full set of the Greenwich Meridian stamps and are available at £3.00 each plus 30p for postage and packing. Further details on signed covers and any varieties, plus the above covers, can be obtained from Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry

To celebrate the Society's coming of age, it has applied for and is being granted Armorial Bearings. At a special ceremony on 5 May 1984 in Birmingham, Sir Colin Cole, Garter Principal King of Arms will officially hand over the Letters Patent to the Society. To commemorate this event, a special philatelic cover is being produced. The design features the Society's new Arms and the 16p Heraldry stamp which depicts the Arms of the College of Arms will be affixed. The covers will be cancelled with the Birmingham Philatelic Counter handstamp.

A limited number of covers bearing the full set of Heraldry stamps and signed by Garter, Principal King of Arms will also be available. The price of the covers is £3 for those bearing the single 16p stamp, and £8 for those signed and bearing the full set of stamps. The surcharge of £5 on the signed covers will be donated to the College of Arms for the purpose of the College's Restoration Appeal Fund.

Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to BMSGH (Covers) should be sent to: The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, c/o 1 Wash Lane, Yardley, BIRMINGHAM, B25 8SB, accompanied by an 8½" x 4½" stamped addressed envelope.

St Peter's School, York

To commemorate the opening of the new Science and Technology Centre at St Peter's School, York, by the Archbishop of York on 25 May 1984, a special philatelic cover has been produced. The covers will have a 16p Heraldry stamp affixed and will be cancelled with a special handstamp which has been designed at the school. The cost of the covers is £1 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'St Peter's School' should be sent to: The Appeal Secretary, Appeal Office, St Peter's School, Clifton, YORK, YO6 3AB.

Dover Harbour Board

To coincide with the issue of the Europa stamps on 15 May 1984, a special philatelic cover has been commissioned by the Dover Harbour Board. It depicts the Eastern Docks Terminal at Dover, together with the Board's coat of arms die stamped in gold. Bearing the full set of Europa stamps, the covers will be cancelled at Dover Post Office with a special pictorial postmark. A limited number of covers will also be available, signed by Vera Lynn, who immortalised the song 'The White Cliffs of Dover'. The covers are available at £3.25 or £5.75 for the signed version. Orders with remittances made payable to A G Bradbury should be sent to A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL. The prices are inclusive of postage and packing inland, but overseas customers are requested to add £1.

Beaminster Market Charter

To mark the 700th anniversary of the granting of a Market Charter to the town of Beaminster in 1284 by King Edward I, a special commemorative cover has been produced. The design depicts the seal of Edward I and the town's Market Cross. Covers will have the 16p Heraldry stamp affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp on 13 June 1984, the anniversary date. The cost of the cover is £1.16 including postage. Orders with remittances made payable to Beaminster Charter Celebrations Committee should be sent to: Mr N C Welsford, 3 Greens Cross Drive, BEAMINSTER, Dorset, DT8 3DH.

Manchester Society of Architects

A special philatelic cover has been produced by the Manchester Society of Architects who are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Royal Institute of British Architects with the festival of architecture. The cover has been produced to coincide with the issue of the Urban Renewal stamps on 10 April 1984. It will bear the complete set of

these stamps, cancelled with either the 'Wigan Pier Project' handstamp or 'Manchester Philatelic Counter' handstamps. The cover depicts the Manchester Society of Architects emblem in blue together with an anniversary logo, and the filler card bears an anniversary message from the MSA President Mr Robert Stones. The covers cost £3 each including postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to the Manchester Society of Architects should be sent to Mrs C Worrall, Michael Hyde and Associates, 51 Barton Arcade, Deansgate, MANCHESTER, M3 2BH.

Quater-Centenary of the Rebuilding of Nantwich, Cheshire

Nantwich, Cheshire, which is a tourist attraction with its many black and white buildings is celebrating the quater-centenary of the rebuilding of the town in 1584 following the great fire in December 1583. The importance of the town in trade, communications and defence of the crown was quickly recognised by Queen Elizabeth I who gave £1000 to open a rebuilding fund and granted concessions to local traders to aid prompt re-establishment of the town.

The Civic Society of Nantwich are marking the event with the issue of two commemorative covers, 1 May 1984. Both covers feature a pen and ink montage of the town's black and white buildings, by the Nantwich artist Mr J Hayden Jones.

Cover No. 1 will have a 16p 'Urban Renewal' stamp affixed and will cost 90p. Cover No. 2 will bear the full set of 'Urban Renewal' stamps and will cost £1.65. Both covers will be cancelled with a pictorial special handstamp.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Nantwich Civic Society' should be forwarded to: Mr R K Ward, 36 Wellington Road, NANTWICH, Cheshire, CW5 7BX, accompanied by a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

The Landscape Institute

To commemorate the major contribution by members of the Landscape Institute to the overall design of the International Garden Festival site at Liverpool, a special limited edition philatelic cover has been produced to coincide with the issue of the Urban Renewal stamps on 10 April 1984. The cover depicts an aspect of the landscape design of the Liverpool Festival site. It is available bearing the full set of Urban Renewal stamps or the 16p value only, cancelled with a special Liverpool handstamp incorporating the official Landscape Institute Crest in its design. The cost of the covers is £3.00 for those bearing the full set of Urban Renewal stamps, and

£2.00 for those bearing the 16p Liverpool Festival value only. A special edition of the single stamp cover, signed by the President of the Landscape Institute is available at £3.50. Orders with remittances made payable to the Landscape Institute, and including 30p to cover postage and packing, should be sent to J M Whalley, Pall Mall Court, King Street, MANCHESTER, M2 4PD.

Football League Milk Cup Final 1984

A special cover has been produced in the Official Football series to commemorate the Milk Cup Final between Liverpool and Everton football clubs on 25 March 1984. This is both the first time that the final has been played on a Sunday and that these two football teams have contested it. The covers, issued in conjunction with the National Dairy Council bear the details of the match and the 16p Cattle stamp cancelled with a special Sunday handstamp. The covers are priced at £1.25 including postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to Dawn Cover Productions should be sent to them at 27 Ashfield Road, DAVENPORT, Stockport, SK3 8UD.

RIBA

A special philatelic cover has been produced by RIBA Services Limited, to coincide with the Urban Renewal stamps issued on 10 April 1984. The specially designed and embossed envelope features the famous Eric Gill adaptation of the RIBA's official badge. Bearing the complete set of Urban Renewal stamps, the covers will be cancelled with a special 'RIBA 150 Years Festival of Architecture' handstamp. The cost of the covers is £3.00 each inclusive of postage and packing. A limited number is also available at £5.00 each, signed by the President, Michael Manser. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to RIBAS Limited should be sent to: First Day Cover Dept, RIBAS Limited, 66 Portland Place, LONDON, W1N 4AD.

Greenwich Meridian Centenary

To commemorate the Centenary of Greenwich as the Prime Meridian, a limited edition of commemorative covers has been prepared on behalf of The Royal Institute of Navigation whose Patron is HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT, OM, Baron Greenwich. The cover illustrates the Emblem of the Institute printed in navy blue.

The following charges will apply: with a single 20½p 'Greenwich Meridian' stamp depicting a navigational chart of the English Channel, the cost is £1.30. Bearing the full set of 'Greenwich Meridian' stamps the cover will cost £2.50, and with the full set

of stamps affixed, and signed by the Director of the Institute, Rear Admiral R M Burgoyne CB, the charge is £4.75. To these prices please add 25p postage and packing: for overseas customers please add 50p.

Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Design Encounter' should be sent to: Design Encounter, PO Box 210, CROYDON, CR9 6AX.

UCW Conference, Blackpool

To commemorate the Annual Conference of the Union of Communication Workers (UCW) at Blackpool, a special philatelic cover and postcard are being issued on 18 May 1984. The theme of the design is the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Blackpool to Isle of Man air mail service, symbolised by a De Havilland Dragon biplane. The covers and postcards will bear a 16p Europa stamp cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp. The cost of the covers is £1 each, and 50p for the postcards. Mint postcards are available at 30p each. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Mr K Vickers, UCW, Head Post Office, Abingdon Street, BLACKPOOL, FY1 1AA.

D-Day Museum, Portsmouth

To celebrate the opening of the only Museum devoted to D-Day, where the Overlord Tapestry named after the invasion code name will be displayed, a special philatelic cover is being produced by J & M Arlington Ltd. The covers will be printed in two colours and have a 16p Heraldry stamp affixed. They will be cancelled with a special handstamp on 6 June 1984 and will also bear a special cachet. The cost of the cover is £1.50 inclusive of postage and packing, and only a limited number are being produced. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the D-Day Museum should be sent to: Mr R Thorne, City Museum, Museum Road, PORTSMOUTH, PO1 2LJ.

75th Rotary International Convention

To commemorate the 75th Rotary International Convention which will be held in Birmingham from 3-7 June 1984, three philatelic covers are being produced. Covers will be available bearing either a full set of the Heraldry stamps issued on 17 January 1984 or only the 16p value. A special Rotary postmark has also been produced for each day of the Convention, 4, 5 and 6 June, featuring the Rotary Wheel.

The covers, priced at £2.50 for those bearing the full set of stamps and £1.70 for those bearing the 16p value only, are available from:— Rtn. Peter Offer,

Philatelic Co-ordinator, 212 Kenpas Highway, COVENTRY, W Midlands, CV3 6PB. A limited numbered edition of covers will also be available, bearing the full set of stamps and postmarked on the first day of the Convention only, signed by the R I President, Bill Skelton, priced at £5.00 each. Prices include postage and return under separate cover. All profits from the sale of the covers will be donated to Rotary Charities.

Lincoln Cathedral

To coincide with the issue of the Greenwich Meridian stamps on 26 June 1984, Lincoln Cathedral has commissioned a special cover. It commemorates the contribution to horology by John Harrison who was born in 1693 and brought up in the small village of Barrow-on-Humber. John 'Longitude' Harrison created the first clock which could determine longitude at sea within close degrees of accuracy. In 1749 he was awarded the highest distinction by the Royal Society, the Copley Gold Medal, awarded annually for the most important scientific discovery or contribution to science.

A special one-day handstamp has also been produced for use with the cover. Only a limited number of covers will be produced (500) and all will be numbered. The covers will cost £3.50 each for those bearing the full set of Greenwich Meridian stamps, and £2.20 each for those with the 20½p value only (depicting the navigational map). Orders with remittances made payable to A R Palmer should be sent to him at 109 Gainsborough Road, Lea, GAINSBOROUGH, Lincs, DN21 5JJ. All proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to the Lincoln Cathedral Fabric Fund.

Grimsby and Cleethorpes

To commemorate the fact that Grimsby and Cleethorpes are the most northerly conurbation through which the Greenwich Meridian passes, a special philatelic cover has been produced for the stamp issue on 26 June 1984.

The cover illustrates the line consisting of three steel plates suitably inscribed which indicate 0°0'0" together with the signpost pointing to the North and South Poles showing the respective distances. Bearing the 16p Greenwich Meridian stamp, the covers will be cancelled by a special handstamp at Grimsby. All covers will bear authentication together with a logo and individual number. The cost of the covers is £1.25 each and the closing date for orders is 16 June 1984. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to J V Starkey, 23 David Street, GREAT GRIMSBY, South Humberside, DN32 9NL.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

To commemorate the centenary of the Wolverhampton Art Gallery on 30 May 1984, a special commemorative cover and handstamp have been produced. The cover depicts a full-colour illustration of the gallery's distinctive facade, and contains an attractive brochure outlining the history and collections of the gallery. The cover, handstamp and brochure have all been designed by Paul Brazier, a final-year student in the Visual Communications department of Wolverhampton Polytechnic's Faculty of Art and Design, as part of a joint project with the art gallery.

The covers, bearing a single 16p Europa stamp and cancelled with the special handstamp will be available at £2.00 each, including postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to 'Wolverhampton Art Gallery' should be sent to the Curator, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 1DU.

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