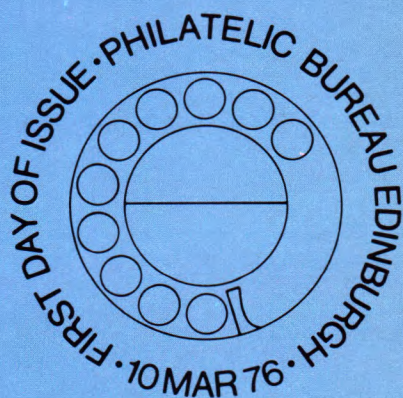


Philatelic Bulletin

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Recent Changes

New Stamp Rolls

Two new stamp rolls—RL500 × 6½p and TL500 × 8½p—at £32.50 and £42.50 respectively, went on sale on 28 January. They are suitable for use with the newer type of stamp affixing machines used by business houses. The complete rolls are obtainable from most post offices and philatelic counters, as well as the Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BB.

Introduction

In the November 1975 Bulletin we pointed out the care we take to prevent faulty stamps reaching the market. It would, of course, be folly to deny that isolated defective stamps evade the many security checks and are sold. It is equally true, that there is considerable interest in the ways in which the various flaws occur and we have been fortunate enough to persuade John Sugden—well known as the Editor of the *Woodstock Catalogue*, and a former winner of the Post Office Stampex Trophy to produce two articles for us. The first commences on page 4.

Stampex 1976

Britain's National Stamp Exhibition, Stampex, will take place in the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall, Greycoat and Elverton Streets, London, SW1, from 24-28 February 1976.

The Post Office will provide a special sales counter and philatelic information point.

New Postmarking Service

A philatelic handstamping service was introduced at Windsor Berks in October 1973. For the benefit of collectors it has now been decided to extend the service to Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. New pictorial handstamps will be introduced on 1 March 1976, and will bear designs relating to each of the three capitals.

The service will not operate on first days of issue of new stamps when the normal first day cancellations will be used.

All items for handstamping should be properly addressed postal items and should bear ½p in excess of the normal postage.

Covers will be cancelled carefully and after handstamping sent forward as normal mail.

The normal reposting facility will apply and philatelic items sent forward using this service should have the outer cover marked 'Philatelic Mail'.

Gems from the RM Phillips Collection

XXXII Paper Control Marks



In 1860 the Inland Revenue decided to adopt new measures for controlling the watermarked paper used for postage stamps. The very strictest control on even the smallest piece of watermarked stamp paper has been (and still is) exercised by officers of the Inland Revenue and (later) the Post Office ever since 1840. The security printers—in this case Thomas De La Rue—were recorded as having received a specified number of sheets of watermarked paper which had to be most strictly accounted for when printing was completed.

The new measure introduced in July 1860 was to stamp each sheet twice, in the top right and bottom left corners, with a marking reading 'Crown/POSTAGE/—4d' in three lines. The third line indicated the value of the postage (or Revenue or Telegraph) stamps to be printed on that sheet. The marking was struck on top of the words 'MARK' which formed parts of the watermark on the sheets. The use of these Crown marks ensured that

the correct stamp was printed on the paper supplied. The Crown marks were printed in blue until 1875 and thereafter in red. Their use was discontinued in 1881.

This month's 'gem' shows a proof of the Crown part of the control mark, approved on 11 August 1874 by Ormonde Hill, (son of Rowland Hill) who was in charge of the Postage Department at the Inland Revenue.

A G RIGO DE RIGHT

Downey not MacKennal

In the December Bulletin we reproduced a cover sent to us by Mr Croswell-Jones of Densol, Folkestone. Reference was made to the three quarter profile of King George V and we said that it was the 'Mackennal' head. This is quite wrong, it is of course the 'Downey' head. The error was caused, we feel sure, by our excitement at seeing such unusual 'stamps'.

Defective Stamps (Part One)

The title of this, and the article to follow, may seem a curious one, but then, as Professor Joad used to say, 'It all depends what you mean'. My brief is to explain how various faults arise, and to put them in perspective. Before I can do so I must give more precise definitions to the three loosely used terms commonly applied in this field. These are 'Errors', 'Varieties', and 'Flaws'. 'Variety', is a very loose term applied to anything from a missing colour to a slight variation in shade. 'Error', or 'Major Error', is normally used to describe something big, which should not have appeared at all, and 'Flaw', to those minor imperfections which are accepted by all except philatelists as being inherent in the printing process.

Using these definitions, one is bound to comment at once that, in terms of the number of stamps printed, the proportion of really significant errors escaping detection is minute. Regrettably, many of the more recently reported 'Major Errors' on stamps have not been in this category. They have been no more, and no less, than printers waste, which came on the philatelic market by unauthorised means. Lesser varieties, on the other hand are obviously more common, and are the food of dealers, and the main interest of the average collector. For ease of understanding, I prefer to make a further distinction here. I normally use the term 'Flaw', in relation to positional defects, and the 'Variety', for non-positional ones. The former are totally unavoidable and, as the 'plating', of 21 row cylinder booklet panes by using them shows, it is doubtful whether a single perfect photogravure stamp is ever printed. Normally, however, they are minute and insignificant, and it is only when they reach a certain size, or have an obvious effect on the appearance of the stamp, that they become noteworthy. It should be remembered that, notwithstanding the possible alternative reasons for issuing stamps argued in my article of October, 1972, their purpose is primarily functional. For the main, both the printers, and the Post Office, are concerned

only that those which are issued reach an acceptable standard, within the economics of a commercial printing job, and that errors are kept to a minimum.

Coming now to my main purpose, the description and explanation of the various defects, I propose to try and take them in logical groups starting with perforation 'flaws'. Up to a year or two ago, all modern British stamps were comb perforated, now they are almost all rotary perforated. The simplest flaw on comb perforated stamps was the missing pin. Mostly the stamps were perforated in sheets, seven at a time. Paper is a tough material, and a weak pin would break off the comb relatively often. If this wasn't noticed, or a replacement comb wasn't immediately available, sheets would appear with a blind perforation. The frequency with which this was repeated was one way of knowing how many rows there were to the comb used. Occasionally more than one pin broke.

We can take together the partial imperforate errors, including imperforate between sheet and margin, the encroachment errors, and the double perforation errors. All these originated in a similar fashion. Sheets for perforation were fed into the Grover perforators seven at a time by operators. As the previous seven sheets were completing their perforation, they put the next seven sheets on a platen, fixing them in position by means of the perforation guide holes in the side margins. Theoretically they were then advanced automatically by, usually, two rows, after each strike of the perforating head. The top of the sheets entered first, and if the platen was too far advanced into the machine before the first strike of the comb, then partial imperforate varieties arose. In reverse, if the previous batch of sheets was not clear of the machine before the first strike for the next batch, then encroachment perforations appeared in their lower margin, or some doubling of the perforations resulted. Finally, if the smooth progress of the sheets through the perforator was interrupted or they were not correctly

fed in, misplaced perforations resulted. Obviously one must include with incorrect feeding, the corner fold. Perhaps, as a rider, one should state the obvious, that the rare imperforate sheet was simply not passed through the perforator at all.

Rotary perforation is entirely different. To date missing pins have been a frequent occurrence, sometimes several to the sheet, but they only re-occur once every two sheets or so. Similarly, misaligned perforation holes due to bent pins are quite common. However, as perforation is done on the reel, it is difficult to know how many of the imperforate varieties found could possibly have occurred.

I propose to deal next with a small group, the watermark errors. The watermark on modern British Stamps normally appeared upright, and in reverse, as seen from the front of the stamp. Normally occurring watermark varieties were, with certain exceptions, due to the stamps themselves having been printed on the paper either sideways, or upside down. One or two special issues including the National Productivity Year Issue of 1962 were printed on paper reels which had required additional trimming of their edges and had, therefore, been re-reeled once more than usual. As a result, the watermark on these stamps was inverted. The large number of the 9d Flowers Issue of 1967 with inverted watermark probably resulted from the same thing. The only genuine watermark error possible on reel fed printings was the single inverted, distorted, or missing 'bit'. That is to say, if, for instance, a single crown was welded on to the dandy-roll upside down, then one small part of the paper would be incorrectly watermarked when it was being made. Otherwise all watermark errors on modern stamps have been the result of the paper for sheet fed printings being fed into the press the wrong way round.

A fairly large group of defects come under the general heading of 'printing flaws'. Although, technically, phosphor errors are also printing flaws, I will be dealing with these separately later. The group includes major

errors such as partial and completely omitted colours, double printing, cylinder mis-alignments, colour shifts, doctor blade flaws, dry prints, and such things as ink blots and ink smudges. With omitted colours, one must differentiate between those occurring on reel-fed, and those occurring on sheet-fed printings.

With reel-fed printings, and I am excluding here errors originating from the Jumelle Press, now being used exclusively for our special issues, missing colours occurred over a maximum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ rows on a sheet. As the reel goes from one colour cylinder to another the registration of the paper is electronically monitored. If it was outside the accepted limits, then the next cylinder automatically lifted off long enough for the paper feed to be corrected. The time interval allowed the passage of up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ rows of the normal size special issues of the period, and in theory the defective sheet was later extracted by the checkers. On sheet-fed printings, missing colours were normally the result of the stamps being partially printed on one run, and then being completed on a second run. If two partially printed sheets passed through together the second time, then any number of colours from one to four could be omitted.

The origin of colour shifts is obvious. It is in a failure of the automatic registration of successive colours, either vertical or horizontal. Minor variations in registration are, in fact, normal and are often allowed for by extending size of light coloured features, and then overprinting the excess with dark coloured background. More interesting are the 'colour shifts' due to mis-alignment of cylinders. One must assume they do, in fact, result from faulty mounting of a cylinder, since it is difficult to visualise the paper reel running straight through one cylinder, and diagonally through the succeeding one.

Doctor blade flaws are a relatively common finding, though usually minor. They invariably run slightly diagonally, either up and down, or across the sheet, and can either be pale or dark. The greasy ink used for photogravure printing

is transferred from the ink duct to the surface of the printing cylinder by a series of two or three inking rollers, which move in contrary motion in relation to each other. Any excess is then wiped off by the doctor blade (duct blade). If dirt interferes with the inking of the cylinder, a pale doctor blade flaw results, and if a small lump of undispersed pigment gets on to the cylinder, a dark flaw is produced. It should, perhaps, be added that just occasionally flaws greatly resembling doctor blade flaws appear, which are due to damage to the printing cylinder. A fine example was the multiple lines found down the righthand margin of the no stops sheet of the Machin sterling 4d Red from cylinder 13. The difference between these and doctor blade flaws is that these appear in the same position on a succession of sheets.

Of the other flaws in this group, the hardest to explain is the double printing of a reel-fed photogravure stamp which is occasionally found. One can only presume that double impressions occur when the press stops for some reason, and that they are, therefore, related to missing colours in their origin. On the other hand, double impressions on sheet-fed typographed postage dues such as $\frac{1}{2}$ d crown watermark are easy enough to understand, as are the occasional ink blot, or smudge.

We now come to a group of flaws which, although they make for defective stamps, have nothing to do with the defective printing of them. These can be called paper flaws. In recent times, the most sought-after have been the uncoated paper printings. The paper reaches the printers in a virgin state, and is both gummed and coated by them before use.

For reasons which can be easily deduced, and are similar to the reasons for defects in the printing of the stamps themselves, both the gumming and the coating of the paper can be defective. Similarly, the paper can be flawed before it even reaches the printers. Probably the commonest of such flaws is where the thickness of the paper is doubled, but occasionally one finds large holes in it, coloured

foreign matter included in it, etc. If such defects are not spotted by the checkers before the completed printings leave the printers they remain, to be found on the issued stamps.

Similar to paper flaws, in that the stamps are defective for a reason other than the faulty printing of them, are the varieties 'printed on ungummed paper,' and 'printed on the gummed side of the paper'. A few sheets of the Machin sterling 3d PVA were found showing the former, and several sheets of the 4d Bridges issue of 1968 were discovered showing the latter.

Out on its own is the tête beche error, found occasionally in stamp booklets. Sheets from which booklet panes are produced have a peculiar layout. For panes of 6, the lefthand three rows are printed upright, the next three upside down, then there is a wide gutter, and then six more rows in similar sequence. The booklet interleaves are similarly printed, so are the covers. When printed, full sheets of booklets are collated and sewn before being divided. If, at this stage, horizontally adjacent booklets swap a stamp on one pane, then the affected panes have only five of their six correct stamps and a fourth stamp attached to one row printed the wrong way up.

JOHN SUGDEN

New 9p, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 10p, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 11p and 20p, Definitive Stamps Issue 25 February 1976

Recent tariff changes have necessitated the introduction of three new definitive stamps, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ p and 11p, which are to be printed in the following colours:

9 $\frac{1}{2}$ p: Purple with a shaded background

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ p: Yellow with a lighter background

11p: Rose with a lighter background

At the same time, and in an effort to reduce printing costs, the 9p, 10p and 20p stamps are to be changed. The 9p and 10p, each of which is currently printed in two colours, are each to be printed in one colour, as follows:

9p: blue with a shaded background

10p: beige with a lighter background

The 20p is to be reduced in size to that of the low value definitive stamps, and will be grey on a light background.

All the stamps feature the Machin design of the Queen's profile, and will be printed in photogravure with two phosphor bars by Harrison & Sons Ltd.

Further Printing Details

Size: 19mm × 22mm

Format: Vertical

Perforation: 15 × 14

Paper: coated unwatermarked

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Sheet size: 200

Readers may have noticed in the January Bulletin we stated that the new definitive stamps are to be introduced on 16 February 1976. This should, of course, have read 25 February, while the date on which the application forms be returned to the Philatelic Bureau should have read, 16 February 1976. As the correct dates were quoted on the FDC application forms we hope that no inconvenience was caused.

Apart from the Philatelic Bureau handstamp, the usual cancellation, 'Windsor, Berks.' will be available.

Jane Austen Exhibition The British Library

An exhibition, commemorating the bi-centenary of the birth of Jane Austen, is currently in progress in the British Library—within the British Museum. The exhibition includes numerous books, many of which are first editions, as well as manuscripts, paintings, drawings and other objects which create a vivid insight into her life and times. A treasure house for the bibliophile and historian alike.

For the philatelist, there is a special section devoted to pencil sketches, artwork and essays

of the Jane Austen commemorative postage stamps.

The exhibition will close on Sunday 29 February 1976.

Centenary of the First Telephone Call by Alexander Graham Bell

First Day Cover Services

To commemorate the first words spoken on the telephone, by the inventor Alexander Graham Bell, the Post Office will issue on 10 March 1976 four new postage stamps, values 8½p, 10p, 11p, 13p.

The Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh will offer the following first day cover services.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and despatched for a charge of 60½p. For deposit account customers the charge will be 56p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers, bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 50½p.

Service C

For bulk orders of 50 or more covers all to the same address, under the conditions of Service A, the charge is 58p per item.

A special pictorial handstamp depicting a telephone dial will be applied. 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 1 March 1976.

Centenary of the First Telephone Call by Alexander Graham Bell Issue 10 March 1976



The four stamps being issued on 10 March 1976 to mark the occasion of the Centenary of the First Telephone Call by Alexander Graham Bell, together with a first day cover, and presentation pack, were designed by Philip Sharland. The 8½p stamp depicts a mother making a social telephone call, the 10p illustrates a policeman making an emergency call. A call by a district nurse is shown on the 11p stamp while on the 13p stamp an industrialist can be seen at work.

Printing Details

Printer : Harrison & Sons Ltd

Designer : Philip Sharland

Size : 41 × 30 mm

Perforation : 14 × 15

Format : Horizontal

Paper : Coated, unwatermarked

Sheet Size : 100

Phosphor : All over

Colours : 8½p Greenish dull blue, deep mag-nolia red, dull ultramarine (weak) and black. 10p Deep bluish green, yellow olive, black. 11p Blue, carmine, bright mauve, black. 13p Brown, bright scarlet, reddish orange, black.

Post Office First Day Cover



The Telephone

invented by
Alexander Graham
Bell 1876



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



British Special Stamps

18. Post Office Savings Bank Centenary, 1961

Another Post Office commemoration, and one perhaps aimed at our pockets for rather more than the face value of the stamps! For the overall theme was 'thrift', and the centenary occasion was also adapted to a thinly veiled—but highly commendable—savings campaign. With more than 20 million savers on its books the National Savings Bank (as it is now known) has become a national institution as important as the Post Office itself in our daily lives. It was founded in 1861 as the 'first savings scheme for the man in the street, guaranteed by the Government', and that guarantee has successfully withstood



and the only vertical design.

'Thrift', or the state of thriving, comes from the Old Norse, *thrifa*, to grasp, and this flourishing, 'thriving' plant is the sea-pink (*Armeria*), a seaside and alpine member of the Plumbaginaceae. Its inclusion must have been a part of the artists' brief for it appears on another of the Savings Bank stamps.

Michael Goaman, who designed the 4d Coronation stamp of 1953, was responsible for the other two designs. The 3d orange-brown and violet depicted a fanciful 'nut tree' of stylised, geometrical proportions, a squirrel—familiar emblem of 'saving'—in the branches (its hoard of nuts on the ground), also a tiny bird with its 'nest-egg' and, in the top right-hand corner, the 'wise old owl'. For his 1s 6d red and blue design, Mr Goaman featured the thrift plant as, one imagines, it would appear in its natural environment. Both stamps include the same bold 'Wilding' portrait of the Queen with uniform capital

wars and inflation—long may it continue to do so!

The three centenary stamps were issued on 28 August 1961. The 2½d black and red stamp was designed by Peter Gault, a 'new boy' in stamp design and former art editor for Unilever, who later produced the 'Compac Cable' (1963) and 'Cathedrals' (1969) stamps. His motif comprised a figure '8' outline with the Queen's usual 'Wilding' portrait in the upper part, and a drawing of the thrift plant in the lower. It is the only stamp of the three which includes the word 'CENTENARY',

letters for the commemorative inscription and the years '1861-1961'.

The stamps were photogravure printed by Harrison & Sons on 'Multiple Crowns' water-marked paper (sideways on the $2\frac{1}{2}d$) in sheets of 120, and the issue was complicated by the use of two different presses—'Timson' and 'Thrissell'—for the $2\frac{1}{2}d$ and $3d$ denominations. Briefly, the printings may be distinguished by the deeply shaded and sharply defined portraits of the Queen on the 'Timson' stamps, lighter grey-black ($2\frac{1}{2}d$) and duller ($3d$) portraits on the 'Thrissell', the latter being the scarcer stamps. There are also differences in the respective sheet margins which are explained in detail in the *Gibbons Catalogue*.

The $3d$ is known with the orange-brown colour omitted, and there are numerous other listed varieties, mostly minor constant flaws. The total quantities sold were $2\frac{1}{2}d$ 24,720,000; $3d$ 114,360,000; and 1s 6d 7,560,000.

JAMES WATSON

National Postal Museum Photographs

It is not generally known that almost all the items in the National Postal Museum's extensive Great Britain collections, on display or in the archives, can be photographed on request.

Prints in black and white, or colour, of the items in the Phillips Collection and the Post Office Collection, including the imprimatur registration sheets, especially photographed for plating purposes, can be obtained at the following prices.

		£ p
Black & white	$24" \times 20"$	3.00
	<i>(Same size reproduction of Imprimatur sheets)</i>	
	$20" \times 16"$	2.00
	$15" \times 12"$	1.50
	$12" \times 10"$	1.00

	$10" \times 8"$	0.75
	$8\frac{1}{2}" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$	0.50
Colour	$15" \times 12"$	6.50
	$12" \times 10"$	5.50
	$10" \times 8"$	4.50
	$8" \times 6"$	3.50
	$6" \times 4"$	3.00

Plus VAT and a handling charge of 25p, which includes postage and packing.

For further details please write to the Curator, National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1LP.

Bicentennial of American Independence Special Issue 2 June 1976

To mark the Bicentennial of American Independence, a new stamp at the airmail rate to North America designed by Philip Sharland, based on a photograph of a bust of Benjamin Franklin, will be issued on 2 June 1976.

The original which stands in the Benjamin Franklin room in the Royal Society of Arts, was sculpted by Jean Jacques Caffieri and presented to the Society in 1791.

Harrison & Sons Ltd. are responsible for printing the stamp by the photogravure process, in colours of greenish stone, emerald, violet grey, black and gold.

Further Printing Details

Size: 41mm $\times$ 30mm

Format: Horizontal

Perforation: 15 $\times$ 14

Paper: Coated unwatermarked all over phosphor

Number of sheet: 100

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Illustrations of the stamp, cover etc. and details of FDC services will be published later.

The Kings Stamps 1910-1936 A Forthcoming Special Exhibition

The National Postal Museum's next Special Exhibition—The King's Stamps 1910-1936—is expected to open early in March. It will be devoted to the story of the preparation of the low value definitive stamps of the reign, as embodied in the choice of designs, the methods of printing, the selection of values and colours and the making of stamp books and coils.

Every British postage stamp bears the Sovereign's head and from April 1840 to the present day every stamp has had to receive the personal approval of the Sovereign before being issued. Indeed, there have been a number of occasions during this century when the Sovereign has turned down designs submitted for approval by the Postmaster General and fresh designs have had to be prepared.

When King George V succeeded his father in May 1910 a new series of stamps had to be

prepared and the King was determined both that the designs should be new and up-to-date (the Edwardian designs copied those of 1887) and that the stamps should be as excellent as possible; he was also prepared to use his special knowledge and experience in bringing this about. This special expertise had been gained by the King during a period of 20 years as a dedicated philatelist. The new King had frequently (as Prince of Wales) personally given displays to the Royal Philatelic Society, his particular interest lying in design and the making of printing plates.

Even the most cursory study of the design and production files on the 1911-12 and 1912-22 issues of low value definitives will reveal King George's considerable involvement in these stamps. Unfortunately, the change of printers in mid-1910 from Thomas De La Rue to Harrison and Sons (who had



Our illustration of one of the numerous unique exhibits, is that of the Eve Pillar design with three alternative size heads. This particular design was used for the 5d to 8d definitive issues of 1912-1922.

virtually no experience in the specialised stamp printing field) meant that not only was the actual printing in inexperienced hands but that the making of new dies and plates was transferred to the Royal Mint and their engravers who were also new to this work.

As a result of all this the story of the preparation of these first two Georgian issues is a complex but fascinating one. But the story of the 1934-35 issue of definitive stamps which marked the introduction of photogravure printing (making typography or surface printing seem as old-fashioned as the use of wood-blocks) is just as interesting and, perhaps, more important.

On show in the new special exhibition will be probably the most comprehensive collection of key items to illustrate this story ever displayed. Assembled together from the Post Office, Royal Mint and private collections will be accepted and rejected designs, complete colour schemes, sheets of issued and unissued stamps, and proofs and essays of all kinds. It is also hoped, by gracious permission of HM The Queen, to include some items from the Royal Collection showing King George the Fifth's activities as a philatelist.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle

The annual general meeting of The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle will take place on Saturday 27 March 1976 at Stanley Gibbons Auction Rooms, Drury House, Russell Street, London WC2, commencing at 2.30 pm., doors will open at 2.00 pm.

For further details please write to The Secretary, Mr A C Craigan, 28 Highclere Drive, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 8BY enclosing a SAE.

Special Stamps 1976

The dates of this years special issues are:

10 March: Centenary of the first telephone call by Alexander Graham Bell.

28 April: British Pioneering (Social Reformers).

2 June: Bicentennial of American Independence.

30 June: Roses.

4 August: Folk activities.

29 September: 500th Anniversary of the introduction of printing into Britain.

November: Christmas.

Further details will be announced later.

Book Reviews

Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan Stamp Catalogue 1976 Edition

Stanley Gibbons Collect British Stamps 17th Edition

The 1976 'Elizabethan' and the 17th edition of 'CBS' continue their respective formats and share a revised pricing of modern British stamps which reflects the continued demand for this material. So far as the basic listings are concerned there are significant increases for the higher values of the special issues of the decimal period. For these, mint and used prices are generally the same—evidence of the difficulty of obtaining fine used copies of these stamps.

Many additional varieties appear in the 'Elizabethan'. These arise from the newly added values in the definitives as well as recent special issues and discoveries in the earlier material. Both catalogues reveal the increased strength of the market for presentation packs of all periods: examples of new prices are Shakespeare £12.00 (from £3.00) and Ulster 1971 Paintings £4.50 (from £1.50). This trend extends to souvenir and collectors packs. The original Belgica 1972 souvenir pack has increased from £1.50 to £6.00 and even the 1973 collectors pack is now listed at £8.00.

The new 'CBS' offers a view of changes in the pricing of pre-1952 British stamps since the publication of the SG Commonwealth catalogue last August. As one might expect, there are many notable increases; two examples are the 'Jubilee' 1/- green SG211 which has

risen from £20.00(m) and £3.50(u) to £40.00 (m) and £7.50(u).

Since both catalogues can be regarded as current, would-be purchasers would do well to check which listing is being used as the point of reference.

Collect British Stamps 17th edition is priced 75p and *The Elizabethan Stamp Catalogue* 1976 edition is priced £6.50. Both are obtainable from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 391 Strand, LONDON WC2R 0LX.

Great Britain First Day Covers

In the December issue of the Bulletin we printed a review of the catalogue, 'Great Britain First Day Covers'. We have subsequently learned that this publication was compiled and produced jointly by Mr B H Townsend together with Mr A Buckingham of Benham A Buckingham, Hythe, Kent.

Philatelic Week-end 14-16 November 1975

The Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society held their fourth Weekend course, during the weekend 14-16 November 1975, at the Wansfell College for residential adult education near Epping. The course was, as usual, fully booked and proved a great success with students coming from as far afield as Newcastle, Wales and Germany.

The course opened with Air Marshall Sir Peter Horsley KCB, CBE, MVO, AFC RAF taking the students through the history of the postal reforms of the 19th century, at the same time showing his wonderful collection of material covering this important period.

Mr R West, Superintendent of the Philatelic Section of the British Library spoke about the British Library facilities for the student of philately, which proved to be an eye opener to most of the people present. Mr G South, MBE, RDP showed and talked about his fascinating collection of the development of Air Mail

services in Columbia, a session that did not end till 11pm on the Saturday evening!

On Sunday Peter Hobday showed his fascinating thematic collection on the activities of the Police at the same time giving helpful guidance on what to do and what not to do in preparing a thematic competition entry.

The course ended with Dr A K Huggins talking and demonstrating with a series of competition entries, how to prepare such entries whilst high-lighting pitfalls to avoid.

Other sessions included demonstrations by the Chelmsford members Ramond Goodey and Chris Rauch, on the use of the UV Lamp in sorting and identifying stamps and phosphor postal markings. A session where 'students' showed and discussed 10 sheets of their collection was very stimulating.

The course was organised by Marcel Fuller and the sessions were chaired by George W Smith of the Chelmsford Society.

The next weekend is scheduled for January 1977, further details will be issued nearer the time.

Leamington and Warwick Philatelic Society

The Leamington and Warwick Philatelic Society will celebrate its twenty-first anniversary this year. To mark the event the Society will be hosts to the Midland Philatelic Federation at a special exhibition to be held at the Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick School, Warwick on Saturday, 8 May 1976, from 10.30 am until 6 pm. Several dealers will be in attendance; refreshments will be available, and there will be adequate car parking facilities. Further details can be obtained from the secretary, Mr P Capper, 42 Rugby Road, Milverton, Leamington Spa CV32 65A.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate, should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used, marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

Until 13 July 1976

Wolverhampton—Centre of Progress.

To be used at Wolverhampton. First Class.

15 December 1975–29 February 1976

Tameside Theatre Opens Early 1976'.

To be used at Ashton-under-Lyne. First and Second Class.

29 December 1975–3 April 1976

'Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition Olympia London March 9 to April 3 1976'.

To be used at the following offices:

London Paddington

SWDO

NDO

ECDO

Mount Pleasant

NWDO

EDO

4 January–27 March 1976

'The Samaritans Distress Despair Tel Bournemouth 21999 in Confidence'.

To be used at Bournemouth. First and Second Class.

26 January–13 March 1976

'Barnes and Richmond OS the Mikado Richmond Theatre Spring 76'.

To be used at Twickenham.

23 March–22 April 1976

'Operation Gatepost Help Emergency and Public Services Put a Number on your Gate'.

To be used at Gt Yarmouth. First class.

A) 18 April–8 May 1976

'York Races Tues, Wed, Thur, 11, 12, 13 May.

First Race 2.00 PM'.

B) 24 June–7 July 1976

'York Races Frid-Sat 9-10 July.

First Race 1.30 PM Sat, 2.00 PM Frid'.

C) 19 July–15 August 1976

'York Races Tues, Wed, Thur, 17, 18, 19 August.

First Race 2.00 PM'.

D) 16 August–29 August 1976

'York Races, Wed, Thur, 1-2 September

First Race 2.00 PM'.

E) 7 September–4 October 1976

'Thur, Fri, Sat, 7, 8, 9 October.

First Race 2.00 PM. Thur, Fri, 1.30 PM Sat'.

'A' to 'E' to be used at York. Second class.

All (P)

Repeat Campaigns

1 December 1975–30 November 1976. (P)

'Great Yarmouth Wish you were Here'.

To be reused at Great Yarmouth. First Class 1 December 1975–30 November 1976, Second Class 31 May 1976–12 September 1976.

15 December 1975–12 June 1976 (P)

'Holiday Guide 15p from Room 7 Guildhall Tenby—Tenby and S Pembs'.

To be reused at Tenby and Pembroke Dock. First and Second Class.

1 January–31 March 1976

'It's all Happening Brighton and Hove'.

To be reused at Brighton. (2) First Class and (2) Second Class.

4–17 January 1976

11–24 April 1976 (P)

'Kirkcudbright Summer Festivities Mid July to end of August'.

To be reused at Dumfries. First and Second Class.

5 January–19 July 1976

'Make it in Livingston'.

To be reused at Livingston. First and Second Class. (With a change of die).

'P' denotes Pictorial.

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