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Commemorative Covers

This month sees the British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE) which will be held in both Halls of the Royal Horticultural Society, LONDON SW1, from 15-20 October. The Post Office will again be attending, as we announced in the August issue of the Philatelic Bulletin. There will be the usual Post Office stand offering a full range of philatelic services throughout the exhibition. Collectors might like to note that the stand will be sited in the Old Hall, Vincent Square, this year, and not in the normal position occupied by The Post Office in the New Hall.

We are pleased to include a special feature in the Bulletin this month by Sir Richard Attenborough, who is President of the steering committee for British Film Year. The history of British Films, past, present and future, forms an important part of our cultural heritage. Interest in both films and photography as hobbies has much in common with stamp collecting. The British Films stamps are being issued on 8 October, and as well as the normal philatelic products associated with a special stamp issue, there will also be a souvenir book. Costing £2.00, this includes the special stamps, and consists of 24 pages of information about British Films, including many illustrations.

Readers may have seen a recent press advertisement for what they term Bernera 'stamps' celebrating HM the Queen Mother's 85th birthday, which quotes an extract from a Foreword, written by the Editor of this Bulletin, for an as yet unpublished edition of the Rosen Catalogue. This quotation was used out of context and without The Post Office's or my prior agreement being sought or given. Although we have included articles in recent Philatelic Bulletins on the Railway Letter Service and some British local issues, such articles dealt with items which have a genuine, albeit peripheral, delivery function outside the official mail system. The labels featured in the above-mentioned advertisement are not recognised as having national or international postal validity.

Finally, the index for volumes 21 and 22 of the Philatelic Bulletin is included with this issue.

CHARLES GOWEN



BPE handstamp, 15-20 October 1985.

The Air Mail Service between UK and Australia, 1931-1938

Part 1

In March 1919 the then Prime Minister of Australia (W M Hughes) announced a prize of £10,000 for the first Australian airman to complete a flight from Great Britain to Australia. Various conditions were imposed and the flight was to be completed within 30 days, and not later than 31 December 1920. The race was to be started at Hounslow Aerodrome or, if a seaplane were used, at Calshot, and terminate in the region of Port Darwin. Of the several contestants, the winners were Captain Ross Smith and Lieutenant Keith Smith together with their mechanics Sergeants Shiers and Bennett. They left Hounslow on Wednesday 12 November 1919 and reached Fanny Bay, Darwin, on Wednesday 10 December, taking 137 hours for the 11,340 mile journey. The plane they used was a twin-engined Vickers Vimy, G-EAOU. After reaching Darwin they flew to Adelaide by way of Charleville, Sydney and Melbourne, making the entire journey 14,350 miles. The two Smith brothers were knighted for their achievement. A small number of covers was carried unofficially, to which were affixed a special 'stamp' and a hand cancellation.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of this historic flight Great Britain issued a 1s 9d commemorative postage stamp on 2 April 1969. A special re-enactment flight by the R.A.F., carrying philatelic mail left Hounslow on Wednesday 12 November 1969, reaching Darwin on the following Sunday afternoon, 16 November. Comparative details of the two flights are:

	1919	1969
Type of plane	VIMY G-EAOU	COMET XR 399
Pilot	Capt. Ross Smith	Sqdn.Ldr. J L Buist
Flying time	136 hrs. 55 mins.	24 hrs. 20 mins.
Elapsed time	27 days, 20 hrs. 5 mins.	3 days, 19 hrs. 32 mins.

An illustration appears at Fig. 1 of the Ross Smith 'stamp' of which less than 400 were affixed to the mail carried on the 1919 flight.

The Experimental Flights, 1931

On 31 March 1924 British Marine Air Navigation, Daimler Airways, Handley page Transport and Instone Airlines amalgamated to form Imperial Airways. They began flying from London to Delhi in



Fig. 1

1929 and two years later decided to extend this route for two occasions only, and fly through to Australia. The flights selected left London on 4 and 25 April 1931 and were known as the First and Second Experimental Flights. Postage to Australia was fixed at 1s 4d per half ounce and 1s 11d in the reverse direction. (This latter amount was made up of 2d per ounce postage within Australia and 1s 9d per half ounce air mail fee). For the First Experimental Flight Imperial Airways issued a special envelope printed in blue, showing an outline map of Australia and eight lines of lettering which read: 1st/ENGLAND/AUSTRALIA/OFFICIAL/AIR MAIL/1931/by/IMPERIAL AIRWAYS. Enclosed in the envelope was a letter from the Managing Director of Imperial



Fig. 2

Airways pointing out the time saved in sending letters by air. For the return flight a special envelope was issued by Qantas, and a cachet struck in violet was applied by the Australian Post Office to all items of mail. On the Second Experimental Flight, Imperial Airways did not issue a special envelope, and the Australian one differed from the earlier one only in the date of the flight and the replacement of 'First official flight' by 'Second official flight'. In neither case were cachets applied.

Timetable of the Experimental Flights, 1931

	First Flight	Second Flight
Croydon Aerodrome	4 April	25 April
Darwin	25 April	11 May
Melbourne	29 April	14 May
Melbourne	23 April	16 May
Darwin	27 April	19 May
Croydon Aerodrome	14 May	4 June

On the first flight the plane crashed at Keopang (now Kupang) on the outward journey, delaying the arrival of mail by six days. The only known autographed covers are some by Kingsford Smith and Hudson Fysh on the flights from Australia.

Whilst cachets (in violet) were only applied to mail leaving Melbourne on 23 April, some (in magenta) were applied in Burma on the first flights only. An example of this is shown in Fig. 3. Mail to or from Singapore received a five-line machine slogan postmark in black, reading IMPERIAL AIRWAYS / LTD / LONDON-AUSTRALIA / AIR MAIL / FIRST FLIGHT. A similar slogan appeared on mail carried on the second flight, but in four lines and with the words FIRST FLIGHT deleted.

The first All-Australian flight, 1931

After Australian National Airways decided to withdraw from interstate services in June 1931, they organised the first All-Australian air mail to England. The plane, SOUTHERN SUN, with Capt. G U



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Allan in command left Hobart on 19 November and calling at Melbourne and Sydney on the next day, then flew to Alor Star. On 26 November Allan crashed and the plane was wrecked. Fortunately, all the mails were saved and transferred to a relief plane SOUTHERN STAR (piloted by Kingsford Smith) which arrived at Croydon on 16 December. Misfortune befell the plane and the return flight, intended to carry Christmas mail from England to Australia was unable to leave until 7 January 1932. Owing to this delay mail for the return flight was accepted in London up till 6 January. It arrived in Melbourne on 22 January, and in Hobart the next day. Special envelopes were issued for each flight: a buff envelope of 91mm x 129mm was provided for the flight to England whilst a drab blue-grey envelope 146mm x 119mm was used for the return. A letter dated 30 November 1931 from the Publicity

Dept. of Shell-Mex Ltd., London, said that the special envelopes for the return flight would be available about 7 December at Messrs. W H Smith & Sons bookshops, and retail at about 6d per dozen. Included with the special envelope for the return flight was a printed note with the message "This letter was carried by air from England to Australia in the SOUTHERN STAR the first All-Australian Mail Aeroplane to leave England. Piloted by Air Commodore C E Kingsford Smith and Mr. G U Allan. Left London 22nd December 1931". A cachet in violet was applied to the London-bound mail, Fig. 4 shows a return cover autographed by G U Allan. It is postmarked LONDON 21 DE 31 and back-stamped SYDNEY 21 JAN 1932.

Postage rates were 1s 3d per half ounce from Australia and 1s 4d per half ounce from England.

DAVID R TAYLOR

[illegible]

The cylinder numbers do not appear in the issued booklets

DP60B	2 at 1p	T4/B2	B24	B57	CB	(24) Old Spot Pig	B24
	3 at 3 ¹ / ₂ p	T3d/D1	B9	–	–		B9
	3 at 12 ¹ / ₂ p	T3b/D1	B31	–	–	Incorrect rates column II only	B31 B57

As DP60 but miscut
The 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamps are
on right and the
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p are on the
right of pane.

Booklet Number	Page Content	Stamp Type/Head	Cylinders Ink	Phos	Bars	Initial Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Stamp Booklets Issue	Cylinders
DP70	3 at 1p 2 at 4p 3 at 13p	T1a/B2 T3a/B2 T2/D1	B27	B57	CB	8.7.1984	8.7.1984	DB9 Machine 50p (27) 1st Orchids	B27 B7

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Stamp Type/Head	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars			Initial Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Stamp Booklets Issue	Cylinders									
The 4p stamps are on the left and the 13p on the right of the pane.			B26	B57	CB	30.7.1984			B8									
			B7	—	—				B57									
			B8	—	—													
			B27	B57	CB	1.8.1984			B26	B27								
			B6	—	—				B7	B6								
			B8	—	—				B8	B8								
			B26	B57	CB	28.12.1984			B57	B57								
			B7															
			B9															
			The cylinder numbers now appear in the booklets, column I – ink in binding margin above left column, phos above right column, column II – ink in wing margin below left column, phos below right column. Sometimes the phosphor cylinder cylinder is unsynchronised – the number appearing in a different position, the phosphor bars on the stamps are unaffected.											Column II only	B26			
B7																		
B9																		
B57																		
(28) 2nd Orchids	B27	B26																
B7	B7																	
B8	B8																	
B57	B57																	
B27	B26																	
B6	B7																	
B8	B9																	
B57	B57																	
(29) 3rd Orchids	B27	B26																
B7	B7																	
B8	B8																	
B57	B57																	
DP70A	3 at 1p	T1a/B2					B26	B57						CB	(27) 1st Orchids			B26
	2 at 4p	T3a/B2					B7	—						—				B7
	3 at 13p	T2/D1					B8	—						—				
As DP70A but the ink cylinders unsynchronised.										Book 5	B57							
										Book 6 column II only	B8							

L F NEWBERRY

Royal Mail Special Stamps 1985 Yearbook



Following the success of the first Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook which was issued in 1984, a new Yearbook is being issued for 1985 on 19 November. This will contain a complete record of the 1985 special stamp issues. It is a hard-bound quality publication which contains a wealth of information about the stamp subjects, designs and designers and full descriptions of individual stamps. The book includes all the eight 1985 special stamp issues, and the richly illustrated pages have spaces for them to be displayed behind transparent strips. To maintain the book in first class condition a slide-on cover is provided with the title of the book printed on it.

The 1984 Yearbook won Gold and Silver awards at The Design and Art Directors' Awards, and the 1985 book which is being produced to the same high standards contains more pages. It also incorporates many of the valuable suggestions made by collectors. This book will enrich the experience of everyone interested in British Stamps as it contains not only all the Special Stamps issued in 1985, but also the fascinating facts behind them. It will be available from 19 November 1985 at all philatelic counters, many post offices, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. The price of the 1985 Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook is £15.95.

philately, and I should like to take this opportunity of inviting readers of the Philatelic Bulletin to learn more about the Study Circle. The BDSSC, which is now in its second decade, has developed an unrivalled expertise in this fascinating and popular area of collecting, and details may be obtained by writing to the Membership Secretary at 20, The Greenway, DAVENTRY, Northants, NN11 4EE.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Daniels
Hon. Secretary
BDSSC

GILLINGHAM
Kent

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir

"Recently I received a letter from Colwyn Bay – N. Wales – with a date stamp reading Chester-Clwyd-Gwynedd, and to my surprise the month was in Roman numerals. Amongst my accumulated covers I have now found one dated 24 VII 1984.

I have never seen a reference to this unusual style of dating in the Bulletin, a concession to the Welsh speaking population, I assume. I do not receive other stamped mail from Wales so do not know if this is exclusive to Chester or when it began".

Yours faithfully,
A W Morley

GLOUCESTER

The answer to the two points raised are as follows:

1. The use of Roman numerals was introduced into the Chester Mechanised Letter Office (MLO) area in June 1983 as a result of a request from the Welsh Office, when mail from the North Wales coast, ie Gwynedd and Clwyd was concentrated upon Chester.
2. The use of Roman numerals to depict the month is exclusive to mail posted within the Chester MLO area only within the Wales and The Marches Postal Region.

Dear Mr Gowen,

May I, on behalf of The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle, record our thanks to Frank Brench for all his informative help to collectors over the years, with every good wish for a happy retirement. There can be little doubt that it is because of the enthusiastic approach to their work of people like Frank that there is so much active interest in current GB

Dear Sir

Concerning the Decimal Stamp Booklets mentioned on pages 225, 226 and 227 of the August edition of the British Philatelic Bulletin, I have the following queries:

1. I can find no trace of a phosphor number in DB8 books, including the discount ones, as I can with DB7 and DB11. Why?
2. Similarly I can find no trace of B57 (presumably the phosphor number) in DB9 books. Why?
3. From DB9 booklet I have a used 4p with only B7 B8 in the selvedge. Why?

Yours faithfully,
Lt Col E L Sawyer

WARMINSTER

Len Newbery writes:

1. DB8 series is a series of First Class Counter Sale stamp books and are invariably printed these days on phosphor coated paper (PCP) and do not have phosphor bars printed on the surface by a separate cylinder hence no phosphor number.
2. The phosphor cylinder number B57 in the current B9 series of 50p machine vended stamp booklets occurs in normal synchronised booklets on the adjacent stamp margin to that of the colour cylinder numbers ie above the right hand 1p in the top margin and below the 13p in the bottom margin.

In the case of synchronised printings the phosphor number there are examples in which the B57 is superimposed on the colour number B27. Other examples have the colour numbers in one book and the phosphor number in another.

3. Your used 4p with only B7 B8 is new to me. I have an example in a plated column with B8 in one booklet and B26 B7 in the adjoining booklet. These are examples of the colour cylinders being misaligned.

In the combination B27 B6 B8 examples can be found with the B27 getting fainter and fainter and ultimately completely missing – this is due to a worn or clogged number.

122. 25th anniversary of the Coronation, 1978

Once again the British people and those of the Commonwealth territories caught the infectious 'Coronation fever' with memories revived of the majesty and splendour – yes, and sanctity, too – of the Queen's Coronation in 1953. The Post Office were obliged to produce something special in commemorative stamps to mark the anniversary and this – with the aid of veteran designer, Jeffery Matthews, and the indefatigable printers, Harrison & Sons – they did, with undoubted success. The four stamps, issued on 31 May 1978, reflected all the 'pomp and circumstance' of the great event, depicting in gold ink the solemn objects and attributes of sovereignty and of the coronation itself.

The 9p stamp illustrated the Gold State Coach in which the Queen rode to her crowning at Westminster Abbey – the coach was completed in 1762 and had been used for every Coronation since that of George IV. Drawn by eight postillion horses, the coach is gilded overall and has painted panels depicting allegorical scenes. The St. Edward's Crown, originally made for the Coronation of

Charles II in 1661, is shown on the 10½p – it is worn only once in the sovereign's lifetime, for the coronation ceremony. The framework is of gold, set with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and pearls, surmounted by a jewelled cross. The 11p stamp depicts the Orb – a globe of gold encircled by a band of precious stones and surmounted by a great amethyst set beneath a gold cross. During the state procession back to Buckingham Palace after the ceremony, the Queen carried the Orb, also the Sceptre with the Cross, with her in the coach. The Imperial State Crown (13p) was worn by the Queen on the return journey. It was originally made for Queen Victoria's coronation and remade for George VI in 1937.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 5 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'All-over' phosphor. The listed varieties were mainly odd spots and dots, broken letters and retouches. Quantities issued were: 9p 66,700,000; 10½p 16,430,000; 11p 15,200,000; and 13p 14,080,000.

JAMES WATSON



Book Reviews

A Guide to Rare British Letter Boxes by Martin Robinson

Readers of the Philatelic Bulletin will be familiar with the series of photographs depicting unusual letter boxes. Although they are often taken for granted, there are nearly 400 different types of letter

boxes, including varieties dating back as far as 1852. Pillar boxes, wall boxes of various types and lamp boxes are included in this 30-page A5 booklet into which the compiler, Martin Robinson, has tried to pack as much information as possible. The booklet is largely based on the records of the Letter Box Study

Group, and consists of a general introduction, a chronological list of rare letter boxes and some 420 locations with a brief commentary and description, 4 pages of illustrations to help identification, an alphabetical list of post towns and rare letter boxes in their areas, 8 pages of maps showing locations in the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, and an appendix mentioning other uncommon types of letter box.

The booklet is cross-referenced in such a way as to facilitate tracking down rare letter boxes locally or when on holiday. Costing £2.50, including inland postage and packing, the booklet can be obtained from the author. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: Martin Robinson, 31 Tuckwell Close, Stockton, RUGBY, Warwickshire CV23 8JP.

Stanley Gibbons Part 1 British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, 1986 Edition

The 1986 Edition of this catalogue is now available. The contents have been improved and updated, and details are now included on the various Postage labels (Framas). The catalogue also reflects that the steady consolidation of prices has, in general, been sustained, particularly for earlier issues. It also reflects a revival of interest in used stamps, as well as increased demand for errors and varieties. A special effort has been made by the catalogue editor this year to provide prices for these items, which have previously been left unpriced.

The catalogue can be obtained from most stamp dealers and bookshops, including Stanley Gibbons 399 Strand Shop, price £17.50. Copies can also be supplied by post, and orders with appropriate remittance (plus £1.30 for inland postage and packing, £2.25 for overseas surface mail), should be sent to: Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

Post Office Archives

In this historic year for the Post Office, it is worth reminding our readers that some 350 years of records are held in the Archives Unit at Freeling House, 23 Glasshill Street, LONDON SE1 0BQ (telephone: 01-261 1145). These are freely open to the public every weekday between 9am and 4.15pm, and no prior appointment is necessary.

These unique and comprehensive records provide a wealth of research material for the collector studying the postal development of say a particular town or village, or the history of a particular service. They offer much, too, to the philatelist since the files

containing background information on British issues and related subjects are also held in the Archives Unit (although, of course, if the researcher wished also to examine the actual stamp artwork or essays etc. produced he or she would also need to visit the National Postal Museum, where such material has been specially deposited for display and because of its high value).

All this is supported by a specialist library and photographs to order on a range of historical subjects, as well as a series of Historical Summaries on popular postal history themes, which are freely available upon request (for postal requests a self-addressed label is asked for).

Archives' well-equipped Search Room provides photocopying facilities and a researchers' post-box for the exchange of information between individuals. It also provides new researchers with a useful link with several specialist societies whose programmes, membership forms and journals form a special feature there.

JEAN FARRUGIA

New Definitive Stamps

Two new definitive stamps, 7p and 12p, will be issued on 29 October 1985.

The 12p stamp will cater for the new rate recently announced for second-class post. The colour of the 12p stamp is emerald green and they will have a series of small non-toxic stars printed diagonally across the reverse. The stamps will also be available printed on plain paper from all philatelic counters and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh.

The colour of the 7p stamp is brick red, and they will be printed on plain paper.

First Day Cover Service

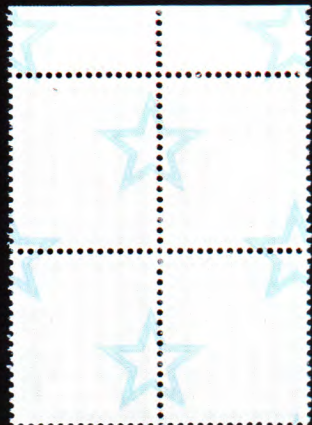
SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official Post Office cover – price 15p – addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing both stamps. The cover will be cancelled 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' or 'Windsor, Berks,' as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

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

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British



Philatelic Bureau, and at Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 18 October 1985. The following charges will apply:

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
Service 'A'	£0.51	£0.45
Deposit a/c Customers	£0.46	£0.40
Service 'B'	£0.36	£0.32

Technical Details

Printer:	Harrison & Sons Limited
Process:	Photogravure-Jumelle
Perforation:	15 x 14
Adhesive:	PVA dextrin
Paper:	Phosphor-coated, unwatermarked (7p). Single phosphor bar, unwatermarked (12p).

New Stamp Book

A new 50p machine-vended stamp book will be issued on 4 November 1985. The book will contain 3 × 17p definitive stamps and one label with the message 'Please use the Postcode' printed on it. The stamps will have two phosphor bars and will be printed on unwatermarked paper with a series of small non-toxic stars printed diagonally across the reverse. Both the stamps and booklet cover are printed by Harrison & Sons Limited; the stamps in photogravure on the Chambon press and the covers on the Libra book making machine. The cover design will feature a postbox as will the £1.70 stamp book.

The book is available from philatelic counters, the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EHB 5TT, and vending machines.

1986 Special Stamp Issues

Provisional dates for the 1986 special stamp issue programme are now available. These are listed below together with the official title of each individual issue.

14 January 1986	– Industry Year
18 February 1986	– Halley's Comet
21 April 1986	– The Sixtieth Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen
21 April 1986	– 21 April 1986
20 May 1986	– Nature Conservation – Endangered Species (CEPT)
17 June 1986	– Medieval Life
22 July 1986	– Sport
16 September 1986	– The Royal Air Force
18 November 1986	– Christmas

The first day of issue will remain as Tuesday, with the exception of The Sixtieth Birthday of H.M. The Queen issue which will be Monday.

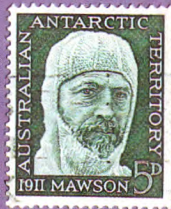
Venturing South

The Antarctic is a very popular collecting area, partly I think because there is a fascination in exploration and existence in a land totally inimical to man, and partly because its boundaries can be set precisely if one chooses to concentrate on only certain specific territories. A thematic collection can trace the opening up of the Southern Continent historically by the many ships and men involved, or it can illustrate the slow shift of emphasis from straightforward exploration to the scientific. Expeditions can be collected, either generally or limited to those of a particular nationality, and each one can be slotted into a larger canvas, providing the wording of the main heading has been carefully chosen to cover the material displayed. It would be inappropriate to include Antarctic flora and fauna in a thematic reconstruction of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition, which was of dire necessity concerned only with survival, but they could indeed be part of the current

Joint Services expedition to Brabant Island which is investigating life in that area.

Whether a collection is intended for display or competition, a linking uniformity is achieved by using the same paper and method of writing up in ink for the whole collection, either by handwriting, or stencil, or typewriter. Look at other exhibits at national levels and above. They will give guidance and teach what *not* to do, as well as suggest new ways of presentation that might appeal. Do not overcrowd a page, and reduce writing to a minimum. There are many specialist societies designed for collectors of specific subjects like music, railways, ships. Do not let the word 'specialist' put you off, but join! Membership brings new friends, and a wealth of help, information and material otherwise, particularly for polar enthusiasts, most difficult to find.

The Yorkshire-born Australian Douglas Mawson was the last of the giants of Antarctic exploration





who had to rely on human endurance rather than modern technology. A quiet, big-framed man of great physical stamina, he is consistently overshadowed by the exploits of his contemporaries, Scott and Shackleton (Ross Dep. 1957 4d). He trained as a geologist, and at Sydney University made a life-long friend of Professor Edgeworth David who interested him in chemical geology. Later he was to be the first professor of geology and mineralogy at Adelaide for 32 years.

Shackleton persuaded Mawson to join his 1907/9 British Antarctic Expedition as physicist under Edgeworth David (Australia 1968 5c) who was head of scientific staff. The expedition set out in the 200-ton wooden ex-sealer *Nimrod* (A.A.T. 1981 15c), and winter quarters were established at Cape Royd in February 1908 (Ross Dep. 1972 5c). Mawson was one of the Professor's party of six who climbed Mount Erebus to make a geological survey of the active volcano, which is shown by Ross Dependency (1957 3d) with *HMS Erebus* after which it was named. The B.A.E. was privately sponsored, and its two objectives were to reach the South Pole, and the South Magnetic Pole. The former is geographically static, but the latter moves position according to the fluctuations of earth's magnetic field.

While Shackleton's polar party made an unsuccessful attempt on the South Pole, getting to within 97 miles of their objective in January 1909, a 3-man team consisting of Edgeworth David, Mawson and the surgeon Dr A F McKay set off at first in the car that Shackleton wanted to test experimentally in the Antarctic. This was very soon abandoned as useless, and the party continued by man-hauling their sleds some 200 miles along the unknown Victoria Land coast, and climbing up 7000ft to the polar plateau. Suffering badly in the rarified air, and combatting snow blindness, frostbite, and searing winds that cracked the skin, they made a final effort on 16 January 1909. Leaving their loads behind on the ice

they made a dash for their target. The photograph they then took of themselves and the Union Jack was later reproduced as a stamp (A.A.T. 1959 5d). The 75th anniversary in 1984 of this event was marked by two stamps illustrating a prismatic compass and Lloyd-Creak dip-circle (AAT 30c), and an aneroid barometer and theodolite (85c), all instruments used which proved that they had indeed reached the correct position. The return was a desperate race against the elements and a shortage of food as they tried by a series of forced marches to reach the rendezvous where *Nimrod* had arranged to pick them up. The exhausted men were too late. *Nimrod* had already gone, but after a few days she unexpectedly returned, having hovered off the ice for the men who had completed one of the most sensational treks ever undertaken. They had man-hauled sledges over 1,260 miles of unexplored territory for 122 days on short rations, a feat which earned a knighthood for the Professor.



In 1910 Mawson was invited to join Scott's (GB 1972 9p) last expedition, but he was eager to lead his own scientific expedition to explore the unknown area between Adelie Land and Victoria Land. This was later named George V Land and became part of the Australian sector. The Government-sponsored Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911/14 (AAE) sailed on the sturdy 380-ton *Aurora* (A.A.T. 1980 1c), an auxiliary wooden barquentine built as a sealer in 1876. They paused en route to leave a party of scientists and radio operators on Macquarie Island to set up a permanent base, before continuing to the continental coast where they landed 6 January 1912 at Commonwealth Bay to establish the main base. Mawson called it 'the home of the blizzard' because it was impossible to stand in the howling gales without spiked boots. A party of seven set up a second base some 1500 miles to the west. Both areas were claimed for the King, and the two bases kept in radio contact.

In November Mawson, Lt B E Ninnis of the Royal Fusiliers, and the Swiss lawyer Dr Xavier Mertz started out with 3 sledges and 17 dogs, working their way over the deep crevasses of the huge Ninnis and Mertz glaciers, travelling eastwards. The return journey was horrific. Ninnis plunged into a crevasse and perished with his dogs, the tent and most of the food and equipment for survival, leaving his companions bereft of even shelter, 300 miles from base. Ignoring all safety precautions for the sake of speed, the two men force-marched hoping to avoid death by freezing or starvation. Mertz died of exhaustion, and Mawson completed the last hundred miles of the nightmare alone, with no dogs and almost no food, surviving through a stubborn refusal to give in. At the extremity of hunger he stumbled across a food cache left by one of his search parties, and staggered into the base on 8 February 1913. It

was the finest solo journey ever undertaken in the Antarctic without even the most elementary equipment. Five of his men had voluntarily stayed behind when *Aurora* left in case he returned, and the ship arranged to come for them when ice conditions allowed the following season. Radio contact was made with the base on Macquarie Island, and for the first time an Antarctic expedition was in touch with the outside world. Despite the loss of Ninnis and Mertz this A.A.E. was a most valuable enterprise. Its scientific and geographical discoveries were temporarily neglected because of the war, but Mawson's knighthood recognized his achievements. The 50th anniversary of the A.A.E. was marked in 1961 by a portrait of the explorer (AAT 5d).

Sir Douglas advocated steadily for an Australian sector in the Antarctic, and his third venture south was as leader of BANZARE 1929/31. The expedition ship was Scott's famous *Discovery* (FID 1954 6d) which cruised during the two summer seasons as near to the land as the ice permitted, and roughly charted some 2,500 miles of mainly unknown coast, with the help of sledge journeys and exploratory flights from the ship. On 14 January 1930 Mawson met the Norwegian explorer Riiser-Larsen on ss *Norvegia* (AAT 1981 50c), and the two men fixed the boundary between the Norwegian and British sectors along longitude 45°E. The vast wedge-shaped territory lying between 45° & 160°E (excluding French Adelie Land) was taken over by Australia in 1933. Sir Douglas died in Adelaide in 1958, the recipient of many British and foreign awards for work in Antarctic and geological fields. Retiring by nature, this very great explorer was accorded a state funeral. His birth centenary was commemorated in 1982 by stamps showing his portrait against the Australian Antarctic that he had so actively advocated, and Mawson Base perpetuates his name in that part of the continent that he had done so much to explore.

For expedition mail on *Aurora* 1911/14 a special circular rubber handstamp was used either as a cancellation or cachet. Similarly during the second season of BANZARE 1929/31 a circular cachet with a penguin cancelled mail, and although unofficial this was accepted by the Post Office. During 1985 the Project Blizzard Expedition visited Mawson's Hut, Commonwealth Bay, to assess what restoration was needed, and Australia used a special commemorative handstamp on 11 January 1985 marked 'Commonwealth Bay' although there has never been a Commonwealth Bay Station. All these items are well worth including in a Mawson story.

BARBARA LAST



11. London's Mount Pleasant

There are numerous Mount Pleasants scattered throughout the world – several in Greater London and elsewhere in the U.K., one in Australia and another in New Zealand, seven (at least) in the United States, and, of topical interest, the name of the new airport in the Falklands Islands – but none are quite so famous as The Post Office's Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in London, still the largest and busiest of its kind in Europe. It was in the news recently in connection with the introduction of new technology in the field of mechanisation – OCR or 'optical character recognition' – to speed up the sorting of mail.

The modern post office buildings, completed in 1900 and, according to Harold P Clunn in *The Face of London*, 'sarcastically renamed Mount Pleasant', stand on the site of the old Cold Bath Fields House of Correction (built in 1794 for the 'reform of convicted felons'), in Farringdon Road at the junction with Rosebery Avenue, and were intended to handle the busy and successful Parcel Post Service introduced in 1883, and the London letter post transferred from the office at St. Martin's-le-Grand. Necessary expansion and reconstruction resulted in completely new sorting office buildings covering 9 acres, inaugurated

by the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and his consort, now the Queen Mother), on 2 November 1934. A commemorative machine cancellation – 'Opening of Mount Pleasant Sorting Office by T.R.H. The Duke & Duchess of York' – was used at Mount Pleasant on that day, and is now quite rare.

My 'Facet' this month is the distinctive 'Colombia'-type 'London M.P.' machine cancellation of 1905 – a variation of the contemporary 'London E.C.' mark comprising a circular datestamp with three groups of wavy bars and the code '3' within the central bars.

MALCOLM JAMES

British Philatelic Exhibition 1985

The 1985 British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE) is being held in both Halls of the Royal Horticultural Society, London SW1, from 15-20 October 1985. The number of stamp collections exhibited at BPE 1985 is almost 50% up compared with 1984. Stamps worth well over 1 million pounds will be on display in almost 400 frames. In addition to the normal exhibition classes, there will be a section of the "International Classes" with outstanding exhibits of International standard. Junior philately will be represented by over 40 frames of the Melville Competition. The Postal Mechanisation Study Circle and the Egypt Study Circle will also be participating this year with their own interesting displays.

There will be a British Post Office stand at BPE this year, providing a full range of philatelic services. Some 130 stands will also be manned by British and Overseas dealers as well as by representatives of overseas postal administrations. The opening hours are as follows:-

Tuesday 15 October:	1.00 pm to 8.00 pm
Wednesday 16 –	
Friday 18 October:	10.30 am to 8.00 pm
Saturday 19 –	
Sunday 20 October:	10.30 am to 6.00 pm

Admission prices have not been increased since 1984 and are £2.00 on the opening day, and £1.00 for adults on other days. For senior citizens and children the prices are 50p, Wednesday to Sunday, and 25p after 4.00 pm. Season tickets are available at £4.00 each, which includes an exhibition catalogue – (normally 50p). Party rates are also available as are discounts for current members of the National Philatelic Society and British Philatelic Foundation.



THE ARRIVAL OF THE RED LION MAIL AT MOUNT PLEASANT, LONDON, 1900

British Films Stamps

Colours and Cylinder Numbers

17p:	Grey-black, olive-grey, gold, silver			
22p:	Black, brown, gold, silver			
29p:	Black, lavender, gold, silver			
31p:	Black, pink, gold, silver			
34p:	Black, greenish-blue, gold, silver			
17p:	1A	1B	1C	1D
22p:	1A	1B	1C	1D
29p:	3A	1B	1C	1D
31p:	1A	1B	1C	1D
34p:	2A	1B	1C	1D

Safety at Sea Stamps

Colours and Cylinder Numbers

17p:	black, azure, emerald, ultramarine, orange-yellow, vermilion, bright blue, chrome-yellow.			
22p:	as 17p value.			
31p:	black, azure, emerald, ultramarine, orange-yellow, vermilion, bright blue.			
34p:	as 17p and 22p values.			
17p:	2A	2B	2C	2D 2E 2F 2G 2H
THEN:	2A	2B	2C	2D 2E 2F 3G 3H
THEN:	2A	3B	2C	2D 3E 2F 4G 4H
22p: all	3A	3B	3C	3D 3E 3F 3G 3H
31p:	2A	2B	2C	2D 2E 2F 2G
THEN:	2A	2B	2C	2D 2E 2F 3G
34p: all	2A	2B	2C	2D 2E 2F 2G 2H

Forthcoming Events

Society of Olympic Collectors

The Society of Olympic Collectors will be holding its next meeting at the British Philatelic Exhibition on Sunday 20 October. It will take place in the Orchid Room of the New Horticultural Hall at 2.00 pm. All SOC members as well as collectors interested in Olympic and sports philately are welcome to attend. Members will be giving displays as well as talking about their way of approaching Olympic philately. Further details about Olympic and sports philately can be obtained from the Society Secretary, John Osborne, 236 Bexley Lane, SIDCUP, Kent, DA14 4JH. (An SAE should be enclosed.)

Ray Watts – Stamp Fairs

Fairs will be held by Ray Watts – Stamp Fairs – at the following locations:-

ILFORD: to be held on 19 October, 16 November and 21 December at the Ilford Labour Hall, 400 High Road, ILFORD.

CHINGFORD: to be held on 12 October at St Edmunds Church Hall, Chingford Mount Road, CHINGFORD.

CAMBRIDGE: to be held on 9 November at the Wesleyan Church Hall, King Street, CAMBRIDGE.

BRENTWOOD: to be held on 7 December at the Cathedral Social Centre, Ingrave Road, BRENTWOOD.

Further details can be obtained from Ray Watts – Stamp Fairs, 157 Chelmsford Road, SHENFIELD, Essex.

GM Stamps – Fairs

Fairs will be held by GM Stamps at the following locations:-

DUNSTABLE: to be held on 5 October, 9 November and 21 December at the Queensway Hall, Queensway, DUNSTABLE.

LETCHWORTH: to be held on 27 October and 29 December at the Plinston Hall, Broadway, LETCHWORTH.

ST ALBANS: to be held on 2 November and 14 December at the Jubilee Centre, Catherine Street, ST ALBANS.

HERTFORD: to be held on 10 November and 15 December at the Castle Hall, Fore Street, HERTFORD.

BISHOPS STORTFORD: to be held on 23 November and 4 January 1986 at St Joseph's Hall, Apton Road, BISHOPS STORTFORD.

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.

Burnley and District Philatelic Society

Burnley and District Philatelic Society will be holding its annual Stamp Fair on Sunday 6 October 1985. This will take place at St Theodore's School, Burnley, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Further details can be obtained from the Society Publicity Officer, B Needham, 45 Scott Park Road, BURNLEY, Lancs, BB11 4JR.

Darlington Philatelic Society

The Darlington Philatelic Society will be holding its first stamp fair on Saturday 12 October 1985. This will take place at the Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Admission is free. Dealers will be in attendance, and

the Society will be selling souvenirs including a new "Postmarks of Darlington" postcard. There will be ample car parking, and bar refreshment facilities will be available. Further information can be obtained from P F Lyons, 1 Polam Villa, DARLINGTON, Co. Durham, DL1 5JT.

Cornwall Federation of Philatelic Societies

The Cornwall Federation of Philatelic Societies will be holding its first Exhibition and Fair on Saturday 2 November 1985. This will take place at the Shire House Suite, Bodmin, from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm. Attractions will include a Post Office stand. Further information can be obtained from the Federation Publicity Officer, John Hilsdon, 79 Thorn Park Road, ST AUSTELL, Cornwall PL25 4DP.

British Thematic Association

The British Thematic Association will be holding its next meeting at the British Philatelic Exhibition on Saturday, 19 October. This will take place in Floral Room A of the New Horticultural Hall from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. All BPF and BTA members are welcome as well as anyone interested in thematic philately. The theme of the meeting will be the formation of thematic groups, and help from Societies and Groups would be welcomed. There will also be several displays and speakers at the meeting. Further information about both the meeting and the BTA, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, ESHER, Surrey, KT10 0QG.

1985 Collectors' Pack

Designed by Trickett & Webb Ltd, the 1985 Collectors' Pack, number 167, will measure 303 mm x 216 mm. It will contain all eight 1985 special stamp issues complete with background notes. Costing £9.94, the Collectors' Pack will be available from 19 November 1985 from many post offices, all philatelic counters, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau at Edinburgh.

Posting Boxes

No 76. Our photograph this month has been sent to us by Mr J E O Hobbs of Worthing, and is of a particularly interesting posting box. This is a George V airmail box (Carron 1932), type B (small), originally painted blue and fitted with double collection plates, one showing collection times, the

other airmail rates. Only about two dozen of these survive, but only the three listed can be easily identified by their double or single offset collection plate:

- i. Leamington Spa (Brunswick Street PO)
- ii. London N17 (Bruce Castle Museum)
- iii. Shoreham Airport*

The box pictured in the photograph is the one site at *Brighton and Hove and Worthing Municipal Airport. Thank you Mr Hobbs.



Withdrawn Items

No items are scheduled to be withdrawn from sale during the month of October.

The 1840 Dual Sketch

The Reginald M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum abounds in rare items important in the history of British postage stamps. One of the most important of these is the dual sketch design illustrated here. At first sight it might appear to be the original designs for the One Penny and Two Penny adhesives of May 1840, but this not the case.

These two water colour sketches were originally on the same piece of card as two almost identical sketches, now in the Queen's collection; all four were made for Rowland Hill about the end of February 1840.

In his book, *The Line Engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain*, Sir Edward Bacon writes to the following effect:

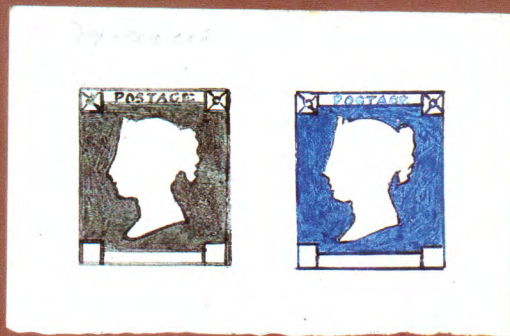
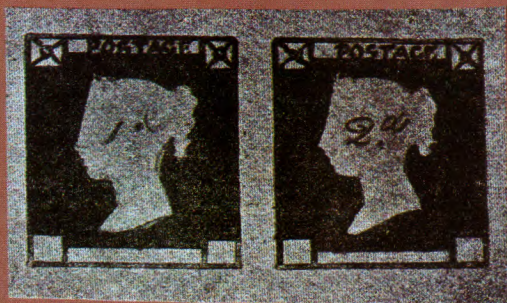
"In our opinion these water colour sketches were made for Rowland Hill in order to show

what effect the crosses in the upper corners would have on the appearance of the stamps, and we think that at the end of February 1840 was the date when they were executed – the fact that they have the word 'POSTAGE' at the top and crosses in the upper corners proves that they cannot have been made until after 22 February 1840, as it was intended at that period to have letters in the upper corners of the stamps".

The sketches were given to Francis Baring (afterwards Lord Northbrook) who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1839-40, by Rowland Hill.

These sketches can be seen in Volume 11 page 41 of the R.M. Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum.

JOHN MEMMOTT Assistant Curator



Special Stamp Issue – British Film Year

British Film Year could scarcely have been recognised in a more public manner than by the issue of the five special stamps on October 8 of this year. Indeed, it is the first time that our industry has been honoured in this way.

The main purpose of British Film Year is to re-establish in the public's consciousness the excitement and fascination of going to the cinema. Hundreds of actors, actresses, directors, producers, writers and many of the brilliant technicians who work behind the scenes have made appearances both here and abroad in support of this campaign.

Our films can rarely, if ever, have been held in higher esteem, both nationally and internationally, than they are at the present time. They have gained for this country not only worldwide acclaim and an appreciation of our society with its particular traditions, humour and skills but they also contribute millions of pounds to Britain's economy.

As is widely known, it is not permissible to depict the image of any living person on our stamps, save that of the Royal family. This means that many familiar film personalities who might seem obvious choices for inclusion are absent from this quintet. However, those who have been chosen – Sir Charles Chaplin, Peter Sellers, Vivien Leigh, David Niven and Alfred Hitchcock, all sadly no longer with us, – epitomise the international admiration and affection accorded to British movie makers who stand both behind and in front of the camera and, as a group, could scarcely be more representative of the United Kingdom's heritage of film making talents.

Charlie Chaplin was a genius, a colossus. Enriched by his British music hall roots, he has become timeless, instantly recognisable as the symbol of comedy and pathos, encapsulating the little man's eternal struggle against ill fortune and tyranny.

It is fitting that one of Charlie's greatest admirers should also have a place in this gallery. Peter Sellers, with whom I had the memorable pleasure of working in four movies, was unsurpassed as a comic chameleon. He had the ability to take on absolutely the idiosyncracies of any character he played; whether it was the self-important shop steward, Fred Kite, or the bumbling Inspector Clouseau.

Of all British stage and screen actresses, Vivien Leigh possessed an unrivalled combination of beauty,



charisma and passion coupled with an innate elegance which enabled her to endow every part that she played with extraordinary magic.

Niven, as he was known affectionately throughout the industry, embodied all the characteristics that went to make up a British gentleman during a certain period of our history. David Niven was consistently our perfect ambassador, never failing to exhibit those celebrated qualities of stoicism, exquisite manners, self-effacing elegance and good humour. He was a consummate screen actor and one of the most diverting and hilarious raconteurs that I have ever encountered.

The name of Alfred Hitchcock, coupled with the image of that inimitable profile, extending from head to toe, conjures up, in the public mind, the most familiar of all film directors. The nail-biting suspense that he created in a string of unforgettable movies and his extraordinary droll sense of humour, ensure his unique position in cinema history.

As the impetus for the new special stamp issue, British Film Year brings these five giant personalities together in a manner that was never possible during their lifetime as representatives of the United Kingdom's rich and continuing tradition of film making. They join other great talents from the arts who have already been honoured in this way and, in translation from the large screen to the postage stamp, achieve a unique form of immortality.

The special issue, however, celebrates the past and although it is proper that we should pay homage to

those who helped lay the foundations for our industry's present high reputation, it is to the future that we should be looking in 1985. British Film Year is dedicated to wooing back those who no longer frequent our magic halls and to introducing younger generations to the unmatched excitement of seeing movies in the environment for which they are created.

Our education programme attempts to make film as natural and necessary within the school curriculum as books. Through our roadshow, the public are invited to peep behind the scenes at some of the exciting and intriguing technical aspects of film making and, indeed, on many occasions to meet those who create that magic.

British Film Year is already a proven success. Increased attendance at cinemas throughout the country has already exceeded many times the target that was set at its inception. There is undoubtedly a new fascination for the movies throughout the United Kingdom. Nothing could more truly endorse this campaign than the fact that anyone who receives a letter or a parcel during the latter part of 1985 is likely to be reminded by these five famous faces that cinema is indeed the best place to see a film.

RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH

Christmas Stamps Issue 19 November 1985

Five special stamps will be issued on 19 November 1985, with the theme of 'Pantomime'. The subjects and denominations are: 'Principal Boy' (12p); 'Genie' (17p); 'Pantomime Dame' (22p); 'Good Fairy' (31p); 'Pantomime Cat' (34p).

First Day Cover Service

A first day cover will be available, price 15p, and the following services will be provided, including a choice of two handstamps – 'British Philatelic Bureau' and 'Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed'.

SERVICE 'A'

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the

correct postal address of the destination required and given all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled with either postmark and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched. The following charges will apply:

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
Service 'A'	£1.63	£1.42
Deposit a/c customers	£1.57	£1.37
Service 'B'	£1.48	£1.29

Customers who specifically require the Bethlehem postmark, should send their orders to the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Section) LLANELLI, Dyfed, SA15 1AA (Direct Giro Transfer account number 405 6515). All orders for cancellations other than Bethlehem only, should be sent to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, to arrive not later than 8 November 1985.



First Day

Part 3

On 6 May 1840 Rowland Hill wrote in his journal 'Stamps came into use today. Cole went to the P.O. reports that about half the letters were stamped'. In addition to the General Post Office, stamps were probably on sale that day at the main offices of the London District Post, but no supplies were provided for the London letter receivers (clerks at small offices where letters could be taken for posting) until 13 May, when the licensing regulations were temporarily relaxed to enable them to sell the stamps.

Rowland Hill was certainly taken by surprise by the preference of the public for the adhesive stamps, but the shortage of Penny Blacks at this time was largely due to the productive capacity wasted in printing a large stock of 1d 'VR' stamps. Perhaps they were rejected because the 'ONE PENNY' duty inscription was not required on a stamp to be used for franking official correspondence.

Production of the Twopenny Blue adhesive

postage stamps had also been delayed: none were put on sale until after the Post Office had sent pairs of specimens to postmasters with circulars on 8 May. No date of issue was specified on these circulars: they ended 'It is at present understood that Postmasters and Letter Receivers will be required to sell the Adhesive Label Stamps and the Stamped Covers (but not the Envelopes) under License from the Commissioners of Stamps; upon this subject, however, you will receive full instructions when the issue of postage stamps is extended to other places than London'.

The chaos continued well into the following month. While postmasters in a number of cities were now licensed, business houses and law firms had become accustomed to purchasing their postage stamps at Stamp Offices. Members of the public taking their letters to small Post Offices generally had to prepay postage in cash. A recently recorded Post

Annotated proof of a Licence to Sell Postage or Revenue stamps made in 1882. Bokenham was then assistant Controller of Stamps, Inland Revenue.



THOMAS CLIFTON BOKENHAM,
LICENSED TO SELL
STAMPS.

Office circular, dated 'June 1840', reveals the situation.

'The Lords of the Treasury having directed that the sale of Postage Label Stamps and Stamped Covers by all Postmasters, Sub-Postmasters and Letter Receivers in the Country shall commence as soon as they can be furnished with the proper License from the Stamp Office, and with the necessary supply of Postage Stamps, measures for this purpose are in progress and the Stamp Office License and Bond will be transmitted as early as possible to those Postmasters, Sub-Postmasters and Letter Receivers not already licensed'.

Nine years later Stamps & Taxes was incorporated in the Board of Inland Revenue, which continued to control the designing, production and supply of all Great Britain postage stamps until the Post Office took over the work in 1915.

MARCUS SAMUEL

Forces Covers

40th Anniversary of 23 Base Workshop REME

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of 23 Base Workshop REME in its current location at Wetter in West Germany, a special philatelic cover has been produced. The covers are available bearing a 17p Arthurian Legend stamp cancelled by a special handstamp, BFPS 2340 on 3 September 1985, the first day of issue of the stamps. A limited number of covers are also available, bearing the full set of stamps, cancelled with the special handstamp, and signed by the Commander of the Workshop, Brigadier P Winchcombe. The price of the covers bearing the single 17p stamp is £1.00, and £3.75 for those with the full set of stamps. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to "The Philatelic Officer, 23 Base Workshop" should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, 23 Base Workshop REME, BFPO 20, together with a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

45th Anniversary of Swordfish Attack at Benghazi

To commemorate the 45th anniversary of the attack by Swordfish aircraft from HMS Illustrious on Benghazi, a special philatelic cover was produced. The cover depicts HMS Illustrious, Swordfish aircraft, 815 and 819 Squadron badges, HMS Illustrious badge, the White Ensign and Italian Ensigns. The covers have a 17p Arthurian Legend stamp affixed, cancelled with a special handstamp, depicting the badge of HMS Illustrious, on 17 September 1985. Signed covers are available, signed by Lt Cdr M G B

Manning RN Commanding Officer, 815 Squadron 1985, with some also signed by Lt Cdr J J Carter RN Commanding Officer, 819 Squadron 1985 as well. The covers were flown by 815 Squadron at Portland and bear a cachet to this effect. The price of the covers is 95p for unsigned, £1.40 for single-signed, and £2.15 for double-signed. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Fleet Air Arm Museum should be sent to: The Royal Naval Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, Royal Naval Air Station, YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HL accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Commemorative Covers

250th Anniversary of Stockton-on-Tees Town Hall

A special philatelic cover was produced by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council on 3 September 1985, to coincide with the issue of the Arthurian Legend stamps. The cover commemorates the 250th Anniversary of Stockton Town Hall, one of the oldest in the country which is still in use as the regular meeting place of a principal local authority. The covers have been addressed to the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, and depict one of the earliest illustrations of the building. The covers are available bearing either a 17p Arthurian Legend stamp or the complete set of stamps, cancelled with a special handstamp on 3 September 1985. The prices of the covers, including postage and packing, are £1.25 for those bearing the 17p stamp only, and £2.25 for those bearing the full set of stamps. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: 250th Anniversary Commemorative Cover, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, PO Box 11, Church Road, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Cleveland, TS18 1LD.

Durham University

A special commemorative cover is being produced by Durham University to coincide with the British Films stamp issue on 8 October 1985. The cover depicts Charles Spencer Chaplin in his cap and gown after receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters at the congregation of 6 July 1962. The filler card has the full text of his introduction to the Chancellor. The covers will bear the 29p British Films stamp depicting Charles Chaplin, cancelled with either the Durham first day of issue handstamp or the Durham philatelic counter handstamp. (Customers should specify.) The price of the covers is

£1.50, including postage and packing. A limited number of covers will also be signed by Dame Margot Fonteyn de Arias, the present Chancellor of Durham University, and will cost £5.50 each. Proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to the fund for building a new Environmental Study Centre at the University. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Durham University should be sent to: Chaplin Cover, The Commercial and Public Affairs Office, Durham University, DURHAM, DH1 1LB.

Newcastle Evening Chronicle Centenary

To celebrate the centenary of the Newcastle Evening Chronicle on 2 November 1985, a special commemorative philatelic cover is being produced. The cover depicts a reproduction of an oil painting of a young Victorian paper-seller. It also contains a filler card giving a brief history of the newspaper. The cover will have a 17p Royal Mail; 350 Years of Service stamp affixed, cancelled with a specially designed handstamp on 2 November 1985. The price of the covers is £1.25 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: Reader Offer Department, Newcastle Evening Chronicle, Thomson House, Groat Market, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE1 1ED.

Blackpool Tramway Centenary

On 29 September 1885 Blackpool commenced operation of Britain's first electric street tramway, which has been operating continually ever since. To commemorate the centenary, a special philatelic cover has been produced. It depicts a drawing of three trams, and has a 17p Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service stamp affixed, cancelled with a special handstamp on 29 September 1985 (Sunday). The covers were all carried in one of the 1885 original conduit cars (number 4) which took place on 29 September in Blackpool, and bear a cachet to this effect. The price of the covers is £1.50 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: Blackpool Transport, Blundell Street, BLACKPOOL, FY1 5DD.

Mayor of Bradford 'Fire' Disaster Appeal

A special philatelic cover has been produced for the Mayor of Bradford 'Fire' Disaster Appeal. This commemorates the special football match played on 28 July 1985 at Leeds United football ground between the England and West Germany World Cup Final Teams of 1966. The cover depicts the team crests and has a cachet added listing the match result, also the names of the goal scorers and the whole England team. A 17p Safety at Sea stamp has been affixed to the covers, which have been cancelled

with a special handstamp on 28 July 1985. The price of the covers is £1.25 each. In addition, a limited number of personally autographed covers are also available signed by individual members of the England team, the Mayor of Bradford, Sir Alf Ramsey, Terry Wogan or Gloria Hunniford. All have given their service free to aid the appeal, and the fees have been waived. The individually signed covers cost £2.50 each and further details are available on request. Orders with the appropriate remittance, plus 25p for postage and packing, should be sent to: Rembrandt Philatelics, Regency House, Beacon Road, West End, SOUTHAMPTON, SO3 3BS.

National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, Bradford

A special philatelic cover is being produced by the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television at Bradford, to coincide with the issue of the British Films stamps on 8 October 1985. The cover celebrates the technological side of the film epitomised by the spectacular IMAX cinema at the Museum. (This is the biggest screen in Britain, and one of only two IMAX cinemas in Europe, with images 52" high and 63' 8" wide and a 6 channel sound system.) The covers will bear the complete set of British Films stamps, cancelled with a special handstamp, and will cost £3.50 each. Signed covers will also be available, and details can be obtained on request. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the 'National Museum of Photography, Film and Television' should be sent to: The National Museum of Photography, Film and Television Philatelic Agents, Westcliff House, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SZ. 30p should be added for postage and packing.

100 Years of Stamp Dealing in the City of London

The oldest established stamp firm in the City of London, Healey and Wise, celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. From 1885 their retail premises have remained open every working day including those during the bombing raids of the 1939-1945 war. The firm moved to its present premises following a compulsory purchase order on its old shop in 1972. To celebrate the centenary, a special philatelic cover and handstamp have been produced. Costing £1.00, the cover is available with a 17p Royal Mail; 350 Years of Service stamp affixed, cancelled with the special handstamp on 30 July 1985. Orders with the appropriate remittance, plus 17p for postage, should be sent to: Centenary Cover, Healey and Wise Ltd, 61 St Paul's Churchyard, LONDON, EC4M 8AA.

Reduction of Postage Rates

To mark the first reduction in postal rates since the introduction of uniform postal rates in 1840, a special philatelic cover is being produced. The covers will have a printed design and will be hand-coloured. Only a limited number of covers will be produced, one for each year since 1840. They will have one 12p and one 13p definitive stamp affixed, postmarked with a CDS cancellation at Williton. The cost of the covers is £2.00 each, including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to John Nash should be sent to him at: Flat 2, 5 South Road, WATCHET, Somerset, TA23 0DA.

Christmas '85

The Roadwater Players Amateur Dramatic Society will be producing their tenth pantomime this year, and a small quantity of Royal Mail First Day Covers will be available, each bearing the full set of Christmas (Pantomime) stamps, signed by the appropriate member of the cast and with a special pictorial cachet. The profits of this issue will go to the Roadwater Players. Please order now, with your cheques dated for 30 October 85; £4.00 each. Remittances made payable to 'John Nash' should be sent to him at Flat 2, 5 South Road, WATCHET, Somerset, TA23 0DA. Prices include postage and packing. Please add a little extra for air mail.

Girl Guide Funday '85, Harrogate

A special philatelic cover was produced to commemorate the Funday, involving about 70,000 Guides, held by the Girl Guides Association at Harrogate, North Yorkshire on 21 September 1985. This was part of the 75th anniversary celebrations being held by the Girl Guides Association this year. The cover depicts the 75th anniversary logo, and has a 17p Insects stamp affixed, cancelled with a specially designed handstamp on 21 September 1985. The price of the covers is £1.25 including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to The Girl Guides Association NEE should be sent to: The General Secretary, The Girl Guides Association, North East England, 106 Heworth Green, YORK, YO3 7TQ.

Motor Neurone Disease Association

The Motor Neurone Disease Association has two main objectives; to fund continual research into the cause of MND and, to assist sufferers and their families in every way possible until a cure is found. David Niven died of Motor Neurone Disease in the Summer of 1983. With the backing of many showbusiness friends, The David Niven Campaign

was launched last year to raise funds to enable the MND Association to continue and expand its work.

A special philatelic cover has been produced by the Association to coincide with the British Films special stamp issue on 8 October 1985. The covers will have the complete set of British Films stamps affixed, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp, and will cost £4.00 each. The cover is also available bearing a 22p British Films stamp only, depicting David Niven, cancelled with the special handstamp, at £2.75 each. In addition, a number of covers bearing the full set of stamps have been autographed by Douglas Fairbanks Junior, Deborah Kerr, Roger Moore, John Mortimer, Michael Parkinson and Sir Anthony Quayle, as well as several other celebrities. The price of the autographed covers is £10.00, and further details are available on request. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'Cotswold Client Account' should be sent to: David Niven Covers, Leigh House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wiltshire, SN14 8LZ.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

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