

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 27

Number 11

July 1990

Thomas Hardy



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Obituary

Major General Sir Leonard Atkinson who has recently died was a leading collector of British Victorian stamps. Born in 1910 and educated at Wellington College, Berkshire and University College London (elected Fellow in 1977), he joined the Army in 1936 and retired as Colonel Commandant of the REME in 1972. He was a director of a number of companies and in 1987-8 Master of the Turners' Company. In recent years Sir Leonard was an active member of the Committee of the Friends of the National Postal Museum and contributed to the Friends' journal *Cross Post*. He was awarded a Large Gold Medal and the Great Britain Philatelic Society Engraved Glass Bowl for his exhibit "Queen Victoria Proofs, line engraved and embossed" at Stamp World London 90.

Successful Stamp World



Sir Bryan Nicholson, Chairman of The Post Office, opens Stamp World London 90 at Alexandra Palace on 3 May. Report page 272.

Cylinder News

The 20p Scottish Country stamp has recently been printed from plates Q5Q5 and Q6Q6. The Penny Black Anniversary stamp books printed by Walsall, issued on 12 June, were printed from plates W1W1 (£1.50 book), W1W1W1 (£2 book).

Bulletin Questionnaire

In the March *Bulletin* we asked readers to complete a questionnaire about the contents of this magazine. Over 3,800 completed questionnaire forms were returned — rather more than we expected. Our thanks to all who took the trouble to fill in the form; an analysis is now under way. The Penny Black Anniversary book has been sent to ten readers, whose questionnaires were drawn at random: J Beanes of South Australia, Miss W Wimbush of Kent, Miss I Jordan of Oxfordshire, A Timms of Berkshire, J Hedley of West Midlands, H Hayes of North Yorkshire, Major A Forster of Buckinghamshire, J Metcalfe of North Yorkshire, R van Dokkum of Netherlands and K Reader of Kent.

90th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

2 August 1990

The Royal Mail will issue four stamps on Thursday 2 August to commemorate the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. The four stamps feature portraits of Her Majesty under each of her four titles.



The 20p stamp (inland and EEC basic rate) shows a recent portrait of The Queen Mother, wearing one of her familiar hats and smiling in her characteristic way. The 29p stamp (worldwide postcard rate) shows a portrait of The Queen Mother as Queen Elizabeth, consort to King George VI; the 34p value (Airmail Zone B) portrays Her Majesty as Duchess of York. She was known by this title from the time of her marriage to the Duke of York in 1923 until the Duke became King George VI in 1936. The final stamp, 37p (Airmail Zone C) features a delightful study of the young Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

The Queen Mother was born on 4 August 1900, the ninth child of Lord Glamis, later 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne. She was christened Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon; her early life was spent at the family homes at St Paul's Walden Bury, Hertfordshire; Streatham Castle, Durham; and Glamis Castle in Scotland.

In April 1923 she married Prince Albert, Duke of York - the second son of King George V and Queen Mary, known in the Royal Family as Bertie. Their first child, Princess Elizabeth (now HM The Queen) was born three years

later and a second daughter, Princess Margaret Rose, was born in 1930. The Duke and Duchess undertook much charity work and made several overseas visits. They were amongst the most popular members of the Royal Family. On 2 November 1934 they opened the extension to London's Mount Pleasant sorting office; a special slogan postmark was used that day on about 400 items of mail, probably all addressed to VIPs.



OPENING OF MOUNT
PLEASANT SORTING
OFFICE BY T.R.H. THE
DUKE & DUCHESS OF YORK



The Duke and Duchess of York applying the special slogan postmark at the opening of Mount Pleasant sorting office, 2 November 1934

In January 1936 George V died and his eldest son, the Prince of Wales succeeded as King Edward VIII. His younger brother, the Duke, then became next in line to the throne of the unmarried king. Eleven months later, Edward VIII had given up his throne and the Duke and Duchess moved into Buckingham Palace as

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The new king did not have a peaceful reign, less than three years after his accession the country was at war and for long after the war his people were subject to austerity. His brother, the Duke of Kent, was killed on war service and part of Buckingham Palace was severely damaged by a bomb. Queen Elizabeth was a pillar of strength to her husband during the war years; their popularity was evident when they appeared on the Palace balcony after the end of hostilities.

There were happier times — the marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Prince Philip of Greece in 1947 and the births of their grandchildren, Prince Charles in 1948 and Princess Anne in 1950.



When King George died suddenly in February 1952, his widow took on the new title of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and a new role which she has fulfilled with great dignity and enthusiasm, earning her respect worldwide. She still undertakes numerous public engagements and even overseas trips. The affection in which she is held is demonstrated each year on her birthday when crowds gather outside Clarence House, her London home, to sing "Happy Birthday" and present her with gifts and flowers.

The new stamps will be a welcome tribute to a very popular lady, doubling the number of British stamps featuring The Queen Mother. She was first shown, with George VI, on the 1937 Coronation stamp, and then on 2½d and £1 stamp issued in 1948 to mark their silver wedding anniversary. A 12p stamp, featuring a well-known photograph by the late Norman Parkinson, was issued in August 1980 to celebrate Her Majesty's 80th birthday. That was the first British stamp to commemorate a royal birthday.

Technical Details

The Queen Mother stamps were designed by John Gorham and printed by Harrison and Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of vertical format, 30 x 41mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 15.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 210) will cost £1.50: it was designed by John Gorham with text by Mike Barden and printed by Moore and Matthews (Printers) Limited.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards, numbered 128A-D, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue. Price 18p each.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 2 August, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau, the other for City of Westminster, London SW1.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 2 August.

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

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Westminster
London South Special Handstamp Centre
SW London LDO
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Pack number: 310
 Date of issue: 2 August 1992
 The first stamps were designed
 by John Graham
 Printed in photogravure
 for Harrison & Sons Limited
 Stamp designs: Royal Mail 1992
 Format: vertical Size: 50mm x 41mm
 Perforations: 13 x 15
 Number per sheet: 100
 Paper: unwatermarked phosphor coated
 gum, PVA Dextrins

Manuscript acknowledgements:
 Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon
 by Rita Martin
 courtesy of Historic Picture Company
 Elizabeth Du Ross de Lusk
 by Bettina Park
 courtesy of Gilbert Adams
 Queen Elizabeth
 by Dorothy Wadding
 courtesy of Poppelko
 Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
 by Norman Park Lincoln
 courtesy of Hulton-Photosearch Limited

Related stamp issue:
The Sixtieth Birthdays of Her Majesty
The Queen 1960.



Pack designed by John Graham.
 Text by Mike Barden.
 Made and printed in Great Britain
 by Mace & Marther Printers Limited.
 Further details about British postage
 stamps and philatelic facilities can
 be obtained from the British Philatelic
 Bureau, 20 Brandon Street,
 Falmouth, F.H. 1 1 1.

Photographs: courtesy of
Copyright reserved to:
Her Majesty The Queen
National Portrait Gallery, London
Hamilton Photographers Limited
Paperfoto
Rev Features
Hay Wrightson



Left: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
in the Garden at the Castle of Mey, Scotland
by Norman Parkinson

wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

A pictorial First Day postmark, showing the arms of the City of London, will be used at the London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Durham Post Office will be using a pictorial First Day handstamp showing the cathedral. Items for this postmark should be sent to: Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, Durham Post Office, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 2 August - details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 3 August, price 18p. This will be on sale for one year.

Stampway to the World

The Stampway exhibition, sponsored by the Stamp Publicity Board, was first staged in Liverpool in 1988, later moving on to Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne and to Alexandra Palace for the Stamp World exhibition. At each venue it has proved very popular. At Alexandra Palace the ten panels dedicated to London attracted a great deal of praise. There were hundreds of entries to the Stampway competition and 50 winners have now been sent Royal Mail Collectors' Packs.

Stampway moves to its fifth venue in October at the Glasgow Museum of Transport where it will be on show until early January 1991. Also on show at the Museum will be a separate "Post in Scotland" exhibition.

Details of Stampway and of the Stamp Publicity Board can be obtained from the SPB office: 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, Tel. 071-253 1231.

Bristol Philatelic Convention

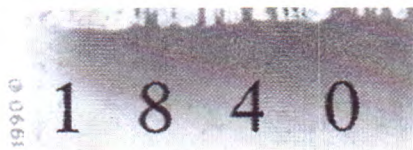
The Annual Convention of the **Bristol and District Federation of Philatelic Societies** will be held in the Somerset Hall, Portishead, near Bristol from 10am to 6pm on 11 and 12 August. The Post Office will have a stand and many national societies will be holding local meetings during the event. Some 40 dealers will

be present, there will be activities, including a competition for young collectors and the programme includes a crossword with a Penny Black as the prize. The event is always well-attended and popular. Further details from: John Tovey, 36 Northville Road, BRISTOL BS7 0RG.

Thomas Hardy Stamp

A 20p stamp marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hardy, eminent novelist and poet, will be issued on 10 July. The stamp was previewed in last month's *Bulletin*.

Sharp-eyed readers may have noticed that in addition to the year "1990" in the bottom left margin of the stamp, there also appears the C in circle copyright symbol. It is intended that this should appear on all future issues of British special stamps.



An unusual study of Hardy the cyclist in a country lane in his native Dorset, c.1890. Photo courtesy of The Trustees of the Thomas Hardy Memorial Collection, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester

Our front cover this month features the novelist's signature and a portrait of Hardy, courtesy of the Mary Evans Picture Library.

New Scottish Aerogramme



The Warwick Vase,
Burrell Collection



Ironwork lamp-post,
Peeplo's, Salt of Arms



Railway station,
Rugby, Northampton



Stirling's House,
Royal Exchange Square

Peeplo's Palace,
Glasgow Green



Great Britain
Postage

By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme

Scotlands (Scottish) Aerogramme

SECOND POST HERE: INDIANA POLA KUHNSCH

Postcode

An aerogramme should not contain any
enclosure. The card must be sent with
a stamp on the back.



Glasgow 1990
European City of Culture
Illustrated by Sarah McMenemy
Printed by Midway Press
Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

THIRD POST HERE: AN LEO THALDACH AN SES

King's Theatre, Bath Street, opened in 1904



Shown here is the new Scottish aerogramme to be issued on 17 July; it commemorates Glasgow as European City of Culture for 1990. The aerogramme, featuring illustrations by Sarah McMenemy, will be available from post offices in Scotland, the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, price 40p.

150th Anniversary of the birth of Edward Stanley Gibbons

Michael Briggs

Edward Stanley Gibbons was born at 15 Treville Street, Plymouth on 21 June 1840, just a few weeks after the issue of the world's first adhesive postage stamp — the 1d black and 2d blue. He was the youngest of five children, having two brothers, William and Alfred, and two sisters, Elizabeth and Catherine. Little is known of Edward's early years. He went to school at Messrs. Halloran's Collegiate Establishment in Torrington Place, Plymouth, and it was there, he was to recall later, that he had his first contact with postage stamps, possessing a small pocket book containing some 20 stamps. As a young man he took part in various social organisations in the city, amongst these were the Plymouth Mutual Improvement Association and the Plymouth Literary Association. He also managed "the Amateur Colosseum of Science and Art", this was a room at Treville Street "fitted up with Curiosities from all parts of the World, a Library, Museum, and Philosophical Apparatus".

After he left school Edward was employed at Plymouth's Naval Bank, but had been there only a short time when the sudden death of his eldest brother, William, probably in 1854, caused him to be taken into his father's pharmaceutical chemist's business at Treville Street. He seems to have maintained an interest in stamps — and realised their business potential — for in his spare time as chemist's apprentice he began dealing in them, laying the foundations of what has become one of the world's best known philatelic businesses.

Specialising in Stamps

With the encouragement of his father, who allowed him space in the shop, the stamp business grew, soon overtaking that of the drugs, to which Edward succeeded on the death of his father in 1867. For a while he endeavoured to keep both businesses going, but eventually the pharmaceutical side was sold and in 1872, after marrying his first wife, Matilda Woon, he moved to 8 Lockyer Street, near Plymouth Hoe.

It was during this period of expansion, in 1863, that Gibbons made his legendary purchase



Stanley Gibbons photographed during one of his world tours, probably mid-1890s

of Cape Triangulars from two sailors — a kit bag full of these famous stamps in multiples, different printings and woodblocks, all for £5! Gibbons later estimated that he made £500 from this purchase. Other milestones of this period were the publication, in 1865, of *A Descriptive Price List and Catalogue of British, Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps* — forerunner of the authoritative Gibbons' stamp catalogue of today — and the first Gibbons' album, *The Improved*, so called because he considered it an improvement upon other albums available at that time. At Lockyer Street the *V.R. Album* — pioneer of the *Imperial Album* — was published, the first

stamp album to have entirely detached squares for the placement of stamps.

Move to London

In 1874 Gibbons decided to move to London, taking a house at 25 The Chase, Clapham. He was soon forced to move because he could not convince his landlord that he was not running a girls' school — the comings and goings of his lady clerks had been noticed by his neighbours! In 1875 he was established at 8 Gower Street, Bloomsbury, not far from the British Museum. Shortly after, in 1877, his wife died, but 10 years later he married his second wife, Maggie Casey; she died in 1899. He remained at Gower Street, continuing to build a prosperous business (aided by his brother Alfred, a naval officer, who was able to procure stamps on his voyages around the world) until 1890. In June of that year, with his health not as good as he could wish, he sold out to Charles J Phillips, a Birmingham dealer, for £25,000, becoming Chairman of the new private limited company — Stanley, Gibbons, & Co.

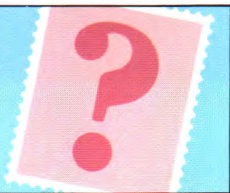
Enjoying his Retirement

After his retirement Gibbons travelled the world, visiting Egypt and the Middle East, North and South America, China, Japan, India, Ceylon and Singapore; many of his adventures abroad, including the derailment of the Orient Express in 1894, were reported in letters published in the firm's *Monthly Journal* (forerunner of today's *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*). He also married at least twice more (possibly four times), one wife dying in Ceylon, but seems to have had no children. At home he entertained his family and friends at his Twickenham villa, where he lived until 1911. Edward Stanley Gibbons died on 17 February 1913 at Portman Mansions, Baker Street, London.

I would like to thank John Holman, Editor of the *Bulletin*, for allowing me to see his recent research into ESG's family history when writing this article — this has thrown considerable light onto a previously shadowy figure.

Michael Briggs has worked for Stanley Gibbons since 1964; he is News and Art Editor of Gibbons Stamp Monthly. As well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of their founder's birth, Stanley Gibbons are also this year marking the 125th anniversary of the publication of the first catalogue, the centenary of their magazine and of the firm becoming a limited company. Editor.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £50 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the six questions below, the answers to five of which will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: July Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 August.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £50 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Kew Gardens stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the October *Bulletin*.

1. Which Royal Couple opened the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in 1934?
2. Which Scottish city is featured on a new aerogramme, issued on 17 July?
3. Who is featured on Card No. 4 in the National Postal Museum's Postal Personalities postcard series?
4. On what date were the first Machin (£sd) stamps issued?
5. How many students entered the RSA competition to design Student Games stamps?
6. Who opened Stamp World London 90 at Alexandra Palace on 3 May?

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

The winners of the April Competition were: R Abrahams of Dorset, M Magones of Zimbabwe, D Foster of West Midlands and J Swell of Hertfordshire.

The answers were: 1. J A C Harrison, 2. 22p, 3. 1974, 4. 8 May 1984, 5. Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 6. James Mackay.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Posting Boxes

112. Victorian Wall Box

This month we again feature a Victorian wall box — but with a difference! The first picture shows the box in the wall outside the East Birmingham Hospital in Yardley Green Road. The hospital used to be a TB hospital and so that the staff on duty need not go out into the street to post letters, the box had two openings. The



second picture shows the opening on the inside of the wall. This is without the times of collection plate and lock; the postman emptied the box from the street side. We are grateful to Mr R Lucas of Solihull for submitting the photographs.

Posting Box Postcards

In the March *Bulletin* mention was made of four cards, published by David Shaw, on sale at the National Postal Museum. A further seven of

these attractive cards in Mr Shaw's "British Postbox Series" are now available from the Museum: No. 6 — Edward VIII postbox at Bawdsey Post Office, Suffolk; 7 — Victorian Postbox at Old Post Office, Tintagel, Cornwall; 8 — Penfold box at Buxton, Derbyshire; 10 — Victorian box at Eastgate, Warwick; 11 — George V box at Norwich, Scotland (most northerly box in the British Isles); 12 — Victorian box at Matlock Green Post Office, Derby; and 13 — George V box at Horton Post Office, Ilminster, Somerset.



The cards cost 20p each. They can be ordered by post from the Museum, minimum order 60p plus handling charge of 20p on orders up to £22, £1.75 over £22 (sent by registered post). Orders to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Readers interested in letter boxes are reminded of the existence of the Letter Box Study Group — details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BS.

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies sent in by readers for this "Posting Boxes" feature — enough to last for the next few years. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.

NPM Postal Personalities Postcards



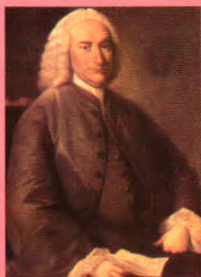
1. Sir Brian Tuke



2. Coke and Windebanke



3. Henry Bishop



4. Ralph Allen



5. John Palmer



6. Sir Francis Freeling



7. Sir Rowland Hill



8. Robert Wallace



9. Sir Henry Cole



10. William Wyon



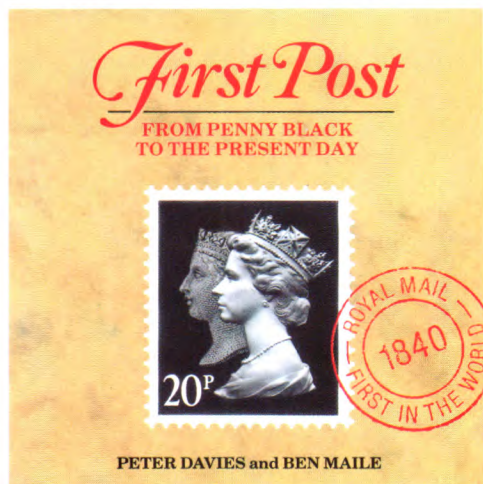
11. Charles Heath



12. William Mulready

Shown here are the 12 Postal Personalities cards issued by the National Postal Museum between July 1989 and May 1990; the cards were issued to promote Stamp World London 90. The cards are available from the Museum, price 20p each plus usual handling charge.

Not only stamp collectors will enjoy **First Post: From Penny Black to the Present Day** by Peter Davies and Ben Maile — recently published, jointly, by The Post Office and Quiller Press of London. With the introduction in 1840 of uniform penny postage — and the world's first postage stamp — the Post Office became a central part of British life. 150 years later the Royal Mail remains a national institution of crucial importance. Drawing on an extensive archive of previously unpublished material — posters, paintings and photographs — *First Post* is the most comprehensive illustrated history of



an organisation that affects our daily lives. The 15 chapters deal in turn with The Penny Black Era; Before the Penny Black; The Pillar Box; Post Offices; The Royal Mail Abroad; Postmen in Uniform; Parcels by Post; By Air, by Land, by Sea, by Hand...; The Mail Goes Underground; Travelling Post Offices; The Post Office at War; The Post Office takes up Philately; Machines to Sort the Mail; Postbus — the Modern Mail Coach; and The Post Office Today. Thus the book covers all the importance aspects of The Post Office's businesses — Royal Mail (letters), Royal Mail Parcelforce and Post Office Counters Ltd. Amongst the many fine illustrations are pictures of famous people in the

history of the post, the Post Office underground railway in London, travelling post offices, pioneer and modern letter sorting machinery and, of course, stamps and postmarks. Particularly attractive are the specially prepared endpapers featuring penny stamps of each reign since 1840. Chapter 12 (The Post Office takes up Philately) provides a clear and concise history of Post Office involvement in philately since the 1960s when special stamp issues became more frequent and the Philatelic Bureau and Postal Museum were established.

Peter Davies is a newspaper journalist whose has edited both *Courier*, the Post Office's staff newspaper, and *Aerial*, the BBC paper. Many of the illustrations are by Ben Maile whose success has taken him and his paintings into famous collections all over the world. 140 pages, hard-bound, printed on fine art paper. Price £14.95, postpaid from: Quiller Press Ltd, Sparrow Hall, Hindringham, FAKENHAM, Norfolk, NR21 0DP. Payment may be made by Access or Visa, quoting account number and expiry date. The book is also available, to callers, at the National Postal Museum sales counter.

The fourth part of **British Stamp Booklets** by Jean Alexander and Leonard F Newbery has recently been published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society. This deals with "Series '6'" booklets, issued from vending machines, from the 1930s to the last pre-decimal machine books of 1970. As in previous parts in this series, detailed information is given about the dates of issue, covers, interleaving and make-up of each booklet, also (where known) the numbers produced. Some of these machine books were produced in very small quantities, for example only 5,200 of a 1 shilling book issued in November 1948 (S.G. BD6, BD6a) were produced and of these only two complete examples and a few exploded booklets are known outside the National Postal Museum. Only 11,800 of the 1 shilling book sold from vending machines at the Festival of Britain were produced, many of these bear the exhibition handstamp on the unprinted cover. The issues of 1965-8 containing 1d and 3d stamps are rather complicated, all fully documented here, as are the 1963, 1964 and 1965 2 shilling "Holiday Booklets".

This latest part is available from: GB Philatelic Publications Ltd, 14 Glyndale Grange, Mulgrave Road, SUTTON, Surrey, SM2 6LP, price £4.50 plus 50p postage. Remittances should be made payable to: "P L High". Parts 1-

STOP PRESS

New NVI Stamps

On 7 August the Royal Mail intends to issue new Non-Value Indicator stamps for use on basic rate first and second class mail. The stamps will be valid, as will the first NVI issues, for future use at whatever the prevailing rate for first and second class mail. As before, the stamps will appear only in the red and yellow stamp books.

The books are being issued in advance of the postal tariff increases proposed for 17 September; the NVI stamps being intended to help customers during the period of the tariff change. For example, it will not be necessary to make a special trip to the post office to buy make-up stamps.

In line with international postal regulations, the books will carry advice to customers that the stamps should not be used on overseas mail. However, should this happen inadvertently, the items will be treated in the normal way. They will not be surcharged or delayed.

The new stamps will be coloured flame for 1st class and dark blue for 2nd class. They will be sold in books of ten and four, initially costing £2 and £1.50, and 80p and 60p respectively. The price of the books will later change in line with tariff increases.

Technical Details

Eight new books which will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres and philatelic counters from 7 August. Other post offices will receive a selection of

these books at random as available for the first day of issue. The books comprise: 4 x 1st class (80p), 4 x 2nd class (60p), 10 x 1st class (£2) and 10 x 2nd class (£1.50) printed by Walsall; 10 x 1st class (£2), and 10 x 2nd class (£1.50) printed by Harrison and 10 x 1st class (£2) and 10 x 2nd class (£1.50) printed by Questa.

The Walsall books contain litho-printed stamps, 2nd class with centre phosphor band, 1st class on Phosphor Coated Paper; panes have straight edges along two sides. The Harrison books have photogravure-printed stamps, the 2nd class with centre phosphor band, 1st class on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP). The panes of these books will have straight edges top and bottom. The Questa books have litho stamps, 2nd class with centre phosphor band, 1st class on Phosphor Coated Paper; the stamps are perforated on all sides.

First Day Facilities

The standard Royal Mail Definitive FDC will be used for this issue and will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and most main post offices, price 18p. Pictorial First Day postmarks will be available for the FDC service, one for the Bureau, one for Windsor. The Bureau will provide covers with single stamps (straight edge at top) from Walsall books. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned by 7 August. First Day posting boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial First Day handstamps.

Collectors requiring the Bureau and Windsor postmarks may send covers, under the reposting facility, on 7 August to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or South East Special Handstamp Centre, Windsor PO, 38 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks, SL4 1AA.

David Dale, Manager Definitive Stamps, Royal Mail Stamps and Philately writes:

Book Issuing Policy

The demand for the stamp books continues to be very high with the books of 10 stamps being the most popular. Accordingly Royal Mail is continuing with the policy of using three suppliers and this does lead to more varieties of interest to collectors.

Some thought has been given to limiting the number of varieties and for this new version of the books the option of using stamps printed by Harrisons in covers printed by Walsall has been

abandoned. In addition the format of the Walsall stamp panes has been changed so that they will in future have two straight sides rather than three.

All the varieties of NVI book that are proposed are being issued on 7 August. There are expected to be just four other stamp book issues this year. They are a new book of postcard stamps, new 50p and £1 books and a book of second class Christmas stamps. However it is possible that the supply situation for stamp paper will result in Walsall printed NVI stamps appearing with Harrisons paper, and if this happens we will announce a sale date in the *Bulletin*.

Book Covers

This issue (7 August) sees a marked change in the design of the front covers of the books with the new Royal Mail logo appearing for the first time. Also new is the "pull to open" instruction on the yellow tab and the reproduction stamp is now smaller than actual size.

"Collections" Centres

There are now six "Collections" centres in operation at: London (Trafalgar Square), Cambridge, Colchester, Gloucester, Liverpool and Windsor. The Colchester centre opened on 4 June, that at Liverpool on 19 June. This is sited in the magnificent new Lyceum Post Office, 1 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HQ. The philatelic counter at the Liverpool Whitechapel office has now closed. A further "Collections" will open

shortly at The Galleries PO in Broadmead Shopping Centre, Bristol and others are planned for Belfast, Chester, Edinburgh (or Glasgow), Guildford and York. Further details will be published in the *Bulletin* as they become available.

In addition to Royal Mail philatelic products, "Collections" also sell a wide range of albums and accessories, phone cards, coin sets and a new range of Post Office Counters Ltd postcards featuring historic post boxes.

3 are still available; they were reviewed here in September 1987, October 1988 and August 1989.

The current Castle high values have probably renewed interest in the previous Castle issues of 1955-8. The GB Overprints Society have recently published **The Queen Elizabeth II Waterlow 'Castle' High Values 1955-1958** by Gerry Bater and The Lord Spens which provides a highly detailed account of these popular stamps. The background to the issue is followed by a description of the printing process and details of the Waterlow printer's marks found in the sheet margins, the perforation and watermark. Varieties and re-entries are described and illustrated. The book records two states of the 2s 6d which can be found se-tenant. Diagrams show the distribution of the two states within sheets from plates 1-4 (two panes per printers sheet). These stamps were overprinted for use in Tangier and in British Postal Agencies of Eastern Arabia and the Gulf. The account of these quotes dates of issue and numbers printed or sold — some in small quantities. Details of overprint varieties also given. A useful book for the specialist collector. 76 pages, profusely illustrated, card covers. Available from: G D Bater, 23 Wind Down Close, BRIDGWATER, Somerset, TA6 7NU. Price £12.50, postage 75p; remittances payable to "Castlecrest".

The works of Messrs Parsons, Peachey and Pearson are well-known to postmark collectors. Those interested in British slogans should have in their library copies of *Collecting Slogan Postmarks* (listing slogans from 1917 to 1969) and *Slogan Postmarks of the Seventies*. To these can now be added **Slogan Postmarks of the Eighties** which completes the record to the end of 1989. The book is arranged under 11 headings: Introduction; Slogan Postmarks - Background; Postal History of the Eighties; "Post Code" slogans; General Slogans; Exceptional Uses; Local Publicity Slogans; Maritime Slogans; FPO (Forces Post Office) Slogans; Channel Islands & Isle of Man; and Miscellaneous Slogans. During the 1980s the number of local publicity slogans declined but in recent years there has been an increase in the number of general slogan campaigns. Human error results, occasionally, in slogans being used before or after the official dates of use — such instances are recorded here. The humble slogan hit the headlines with the controversial "Jesus is Alive"

campaign in 1988 and the use of green ink for the "Lead Free" slogan in 1989. The story of these two campaigns is given. From 5 January 1990 the ink for machine postmarks was changed from black to red and several slogans exist in both colours, having run over the change-over date. To bring the slogan story right up to date, details of these are recorded. The book can be updated by the listings published in the *Quarterly Bulletin* published by the British Postmark Society.

Slogan Postmarks of the Eighties is available from: C G Peachey, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH, price £5.95 plus 75p postage. It is also available from the National Postal Museum sales counter. The two earlier books are also available from Mr Peachey and the NPM.



The 1990 edition of the Stanley Gibbons **Great Britain Concise Catalogue** is now available. In a special eye-catching cover, featuring the Penny Black, the listings in the new edition go up to the Penny Black Miniature Sheet of 3 May. Within its 256 pages, the *Concise* provides a one-country listing, based on the standard SG catalogue (*Part 1, British Commonwealth*) with many additional features including prices for first day covers (special issues from 1924, definitives from 1952), gutter pairs, PHQ cards, presentation packs, Yearbooks and Post Office "Specimen" overprints. There is a separate sec-

tion for stamp books and a useful design index for special issues. Included in this new edition are two free commemorative postcards, one showing the Penny Black, Penny Red and Penny Lilac, the other Edward Stanley Gibbons (1840-1913) and the covers of his first catalogue (1865) and magazine (1890). The *Concise* is available from stamp dealers and good book shops and direct from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Price £6.50, postage £2 UK, £3.50 overseas.

Forthcoming Books

Stanley Gibbons Publications have announced their catalogue programme to the end of 1990. The following will be of interest to collectors of GB stamps: *Part 1 British Commonwealth Catalogue*, 1991 edition, to be published 31 August; *GB Specialised Catalogue — Vol 3 Elizabeth II Pre-Decimal Issues*, 8th edition, 14 September and *Collect British Stamps*, 42nd edition, 30 November.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until December 1990. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau codes are quoted.

*H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall, printers
PB = Penny Black Anniversary Definitive stamps*

8 Jan	RSCPA stamp cards (AQ103)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv stamps (DS906)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv pack (DP012)
10 Jan	NPM Personalities cards (NQ901)
10 Jan	NPM Penny Black Maxi Card (NQ902)
23 Jan	RSPCA stamps (AS398)
23 Jan	RSPCA pack (AP084)
30 Jan	50p machine book, H (TB001)
30 Jan	£1 machine book, H (TB002)
30 Jan	60p stamp book, W (UB002)
30 Jan	80p stamp book, W (UB003)
30 Jan	£1.50 stamp book, H (UB004)
30 Jan	£2 stamp book, H (UB005)
30 Jan	£1 trial book, W (TB003)
6 Feb	Greetings Stamp Pack (JB001)
19 Feb	Europa stamp cards (AQ108)
27 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card (EQ017)
6 Mar	Europa stamps (AS403)
6 Mar	Europa pack (AP085)
13 Mar	50p Definitive — "sand" (DS502)
20 Mar	London Life Prestige Book (YB001)
26 Mar	Queen's Awards stamp cards (AQ113)

10 Apr	Queen's Awards stamps (AS408)
10 Apr	Queen's Awards pack (AP086)
17 Apr	Aerogramme — new logo (QO025)
17 Apr	as above, pack of 6 (QO026)
17 Apr	4 x 20p PB book H/W (UB011)
17 Apr	10 x 15p PB book Q (UB013)
17 Apr	10 x 20p PB book Q (UB014)
17 Apr	4 x 29p book, PCP, W (UB012)
24 Apr	Forth Bridge aerogramme (QS025)
3 May	Penny Black Miniature Sheet (NZ003)
3 May	Penny Black Souvenir Book (AW053)
3 May	Stamp World exh. card (EQ019)
3 May	NPM Personalities cards (NQ903)
3 May	NPM Miniature Sheet card (NQ904)
3 May	PO Archives cards
21 May	Kew Gardens stamp cards (AQ118)
2 Jun	Belgica exh. card (EQ021)
5 Jun	Kew Gardens stamps (AS413)
5 Jun	Kew Gardens pack (AP087)
12 Jun	10 x 15p PB book W (UB016)
12 Jun	10 x 20p PB book W (UB017)
25 Jun	Thomas Hardy stamp card (AQ123)

Forthcoming

10 Jul	Thomas Hardy stamp and pack
17 Jul	Scot aerogramme (Glasgow)
23 Jul	Queen Mother stamp cards
2 Aug	Queen Mother stamps and pack
24 Aug	New Zealand exh. card
28 Aug	Gallantry stamp cards
11 Sep	Gallantry stamps and pack
11 Sep	NPM Postal Reform cards
1 Oct	Astronomy stamp cards
16 Oct	Astronomy stamps and pack
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
13 Nov	Christmas stamps and pack
13 Nov	1990 Collectors Pack
13 Nov	1990 Year Book
13 Nov	NPM Christmas Posters cards

Friends of the NPM

The Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum had a successful Stamp World, signing up over 100 new members during the exhibition. The Friends had on sale an attractive map of London, prepared by David Rutt, showing people, places and events connected with the genesis of the Penny Black. The map shows the area from Alexandra Palace, south to the Thames. The map is still available, price 75p UK, £1 overseas (includes postage). Orders to: Hon. Secretary, Friends of the NPM, c/o National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Remittances should be payable to "Association of Friends of the NPM".

Letters to the Editor



R A G Lee

Dear Mr Holman,

I was saddened on reading the obituary notice for Mr R A G Lee in the May issue. I recall so well his leadership and long support of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation for many years from about 1950. For over 16 years I was Secretary of the Standard Telephone & Cables and New Southgate societies which with a number of North London societies were founder members of the Middlesex Federation. Ron took great interest in its work and his almost automatic attendance at the annual Junior's Stamp Day was appreciated. Ron Lee will be fondly remembered by so many who knew him. I recall the whole-hearted support he gave Federation conventions and many other local philatelic events, also the support given by his wife Alma to whom I extend my condolences. His passing so near to Stamp World London 90 was particularly sad.

GAVIN HAMILTON, Bournemouth.

The Palm House at Kew

Dear Sir,

The Palm House at Kew opened (as stated in the May issue) in 1848 could not have been inspired by the Crystal Palace for the latter giant structure was designed in nine days by Joseph Paxton (1801-65) and erected within seven days in Hyde Park to house the Great Exhibition that was formally opened on 1 May 1851 by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

The Crystal Palace covered nearly 19 acres, measuring 1,848 feet in length and 456 feet in extreme width. It was designed on the principles adopted by Paxton in the construction of a Victoria Regia house at Chatsworth, the Derbyshire estate of the Duke of Devonshire, where he was superintendent of the garden. The 300 feet long conservatory was begun in 1836 and completed in 1840. Paxton was knighted in 1851.

H JACK HADEN, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Railway Letter Stamps

To commemorate the centenary of the locomotive *Elidir*, the Llanberis Lake Railway in north Wales, issued two new railway letter stamps on 10 April. The locomotive, still in regular use, is depicted outside the former Dinorwic Quarry workshops, which have now become home for the Welsh Slate Museum, run by the National Museum of Wales. *Elidir* was built by the Hunslet Engine Company, Leeds and worked in the Dinorwic quarries until 1957. She was



rebuilt and returned to service on the Llanberis Lake Railway in 1972. The stamps are printed in sheets of 10, five inscribed in English, five in Welsh. They were designed by M Seymour and printed by Faulwood & Herbert Ltd. Price 50p per pair, £2.50 per sheet, first day covers £2.20 (handling charge 25p). Orders/enquiries to the LLR's philatelic agent: H C Creamer, Swn-y-Wylan, Cae Eithin, Minffordd, PENRHYN-DEUDRAETH, Gwynedd, LL48 6EL.

The Festiniog Railway issued three 25p stamps on 10 April, comprising surcharges on the three 20p stamps issued in miniature sheet format in April 1986 to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway for goods traffic. The stamps are available at face value, plus postage, from: Festiniog Railway Company (RLS Dept), Harbour Station, PORTHMADOG, Gwynedd, LL49 9NF.

The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway issued two new 25p stamps — one English version, one Welsh — on 10 April. The stamps can be obtained at face value, plus postage, from the Railway's Postmaster, Mr R H Brough at: 13 Shrigley Road North, Higher Poynton, STOCKPORT, Cheshire, SK12 1TE.

The Mid Hants Railway issued a 15p railway stamp in 1979 but a few years later withdrew the service. This has now been reintroduced with a 25p definitive stamp on 9 June and a special "Mid Hants 125" 25p stamp on 30 June. The stamps are printed in sheets of six which are available at £1.50 per sheet plus 25p postage from: Postal Co-ordinator, Mid Hants Rly PLC, ALRESFORD, Hants, SO24 9JG.

Stamp World London 90

A Preliminary Report

Despite some of the pessimistic predictions about this exhibition, Stamp World London 90 was a great success, with over 85,000 visitors. Your Editor paid several visits, each time finding far more people there than he expected. The choice of location had been heavily criticised but few who visited the exhibition could have been unimpressed with the magnificent restoration of Alexandra Palace, making it a fine setting for this prestigious exhibition. The stylishness of the premises, and the arrangement of the exhibition and trade and postal administration stands surpassed Olympia in 1970 and Earl's Court in 1980, putting (in my view) Stamp World London 90 on a par with the 1960 exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall.

Weather-wise, the organisers could not have hoped for a better opening day, with London temperatures the highest for May for over a century. In his remarks at the opening ceremony, the exhibition chairman, Dr Alan Huggins, spoke of the dedication and workload of his team, in particular of the enthusiasm and negotiating powers of his Chief Executive Leon Rapkin. He commended to all visitors the Stampway to the World display, the Stamp Land area for young visitors and the "never to be seen again" display in the Court of Honour, praising the decision to present a unified display from the Royal Collection, the National Postal Museum and the British Library.

The Chairman and Chief Executive of The Post Office, Sir Bryan Nicholson, in opening Stamp World, described the exhibition as "the year's most important philatelic event for stamp lovers throughout the world ...". As was to be expected, Sir Bryan spoke of the 150th anniversary of postal reform and the issue of the world's first adhesive postage stamps. "Sir Rowland Hill's reforms", he said, "profoundly changed Britain's social and economic life, but few could have foreseen the long-lasting beneficial effects of world wide communication and the common bonds of international friendship and understanding forged by the pursuit of the hobby of stamp collecting". He reminded his audience that despite the vast expansion of the

postal service since 1840, "the principle that there should be a uniform price to deliver to all parts of the country, however remote, remains". Today the Royal Mail handles a staggering 13,000 million items a year — almost as many in a day as were being posted in an entire year in Victorian times. The Chairman went on to outline Royal Mail philatelic services for the collector, mentioning the *Bulletin* as keeping 50,000 subscribers "in touch with the latest news and providing articles of absorbing interest". He highlighted the important work done by the Stamp Bug Club in attracting new collectors.



Sir Bryan Nicholson meeting Stamp Bug in the Stamp Land marquee

Business was brisk at the main Royal Mail and National Postal Museum/Post Office Archives stands. The Court of Honour attracted many visitors and it was pleasing to see many collectors looking at the exhibits, not just touring the dealers' stands.

Those interested in stamp printing were welcomed at the stands of Harrison and Sons, The House of Questa and Walsall Security Printers. Chris Matthews, engraver of the Penny Black Miniature Sheet, spent hours talking to visitors on the Harrison stand and signed several hundred first day covers.

The exhibition received some constructive media coverage (newsmen too often only seem interested in bad news about stamp collecting) and was widely advertised on London underground stations. On each of my visits I used the courtesy coach from Wood Green station; this was efficient and welcome in view of the hot weather. All-in-all, Stamp World was a fine celebration of 150 years of British stamps; an exhibition that will be talked about for a long time to come.

Student Stamp Designs

Each year the Royal Society of Arts organises a Design Competition for students at colleges of art; the competition is sponsored by leading companies and organisations including Royal Mail Stamps. Sponsorship of £300,000 was raised towards the funding of the 1989/90 competition which covered 15 design areas and offered competitors a choice of 40 design briefs. Some 2,300 students from 91 colleges took part and some 105 attachment and travel awards were made. The RSA Competition is the major annual competition for design students in the UK. Established in 1924, its aims are to identify and encourage young designers of outstanding promise and to bring their talents to the attention of industry.

The Postage Stamp section of the competition dates from 1971, and one of the winning designs in the 1984/5 competition was used for the 18p Isaac Newton stamp in 1987 (see March 1987 *Bulletin*). The 1989/90 stamp competition, sponsored by Royal Mail Stamps, Harrison & Sons Limited and The House of Questa, attracted entries by 238 students from 36 colleges. The brief was to design a set of four stamps commemorating the Universiade '91 (World Games for Students) to be held in Sheffield in 1991. The judges were: Dennis Bailey, RDI, ARCA, (Chairman), Keith Fisher (General Manager, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately), Derrick Howlett (Harrisons), Ronald Maddox, PRI, FCSD, FSAI (stamp designer), Barry Robinson, MCSD (Head of Design, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately) and John Tunney (observer for Universiade '91).

The winners, who will use their awards for foreign travel or study tours, were: Andrew Davies of the Camberwell College of Arts (£1,750); Philip Greenhalgh of Humberside College of Higher Education (£1,250), Emma Wiegold of Croydon College (£1,000), Ping Yip of Humberside College (£1,000), Robert Mann of Kingston Polytechnic (£750), Jane McCracken of Humberside College (£500) and Alison Cook of the London College of Printing (£500). Their ages range from 20 to 27.

The awards were presented by Czech architect Eva Jiricna at a ceremony at the RSA headquarters in London on 8 May. An exhibition of the students' work was on show in London until 23 May and will be going on tour from October, venues will include Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds and Manchester. Further



details will be published in the *Bulletin* later.

Three of the four designs by Philip Greenhalgh were shown in the May *Bulletin* and designs by Andrew Davies are featured here. All the award-winning designs were of a high standard, all tried to capture the excitement and action of sporting events.

"Sun" Queen Mother Covers

The Sun, with Royal Mail Stamps and Stanley Gibbons, will be offering a free souvenir cover bearing the Queen Mother 90th birthday stamps. The promotion will appear in the newspaper in the week commencing 30 July.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

175. Railway Parcel Stamps

Before the introduction of the Post Office Parcel Post in 1883, much merchandise was sent by rail. From the mid-1850s (if not earlier), railway companies issued stamps for use on general parcels, consignments of farm produce, etc. In all many hundreds of different designs, some rather attractive, were produced. Stamps were issued by small local railway companies as well as by the big and famous such as the Great Western Railway. These parcel stamps (and railway letter stamps) were quite popular with collectors in the early years of this century and interest has increased in recent years.



The Phillips Collection includes a few railway parcel stamps; those shown here were produced by the Great Northern Railway in the 1870s. Various values exist. They can be seen in the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP. The Museum is open Monday–Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm.

In Gems No. 173 (May *Bulletin*), it was stated that the town of Hopeman is situated about 20 miles from Edinburgh (information taken from the relevant album page in the Phillips Collection). Two readers have written in to say that Hopeman is in fact in Morayshire, about 175 miles from Edinburgh. We are pleased to set the record straight.

Royal Mail Celebrates 150 Years of Stamps

On a blazing May Day, the Royal Mail celebrated the 150th anniversary of the issue of the world's first adhesive postage stamp by the naming of two British Rail locomotives *Penny Black* and *Sir Rowland Hill*. Members of the national, local and philatelic press gathered at Euston station to see the Managing Director of Royal Mail, Bill Cockburn, CBE name the first locomotive *Penny Black*. Mr Cockburn spoke of the postal reforms of 1839/40 and the important principle of charging the same rate for a letter to all parts of the UK. He remarked that the Royal Mail now handles as much mail in one day at Christmas as it did in a whole year before 1840. The naming ceremony over, invited guests and the press boarded a special "First Post" train, headed by locomotive *William Webb Ellis*, for Kidderminster, Worcestershire, birthplace of Sir Rowland Hill. Amongst the guests were Lord Mason of Barnsley (as Mr Roy Mason, Postmaster-General in 1968), Rowland Hill (great, great grandson of Sir Rowland), Dr David Hill (great, great nephew) and Dr Hill's son Stephen. Attached to the train was a TPO carriage in which guests were able to watch mail being sorted at great speed.



Rowland Hill, great-great grandson of Sir Rowland (left) with Royal Mail's Peter Howarth (right) and British Rail director at Kidderminster station with locomotive "Sir Rowland Hill"

At Kidderminster guests walked the short distance from the BR station to the Severn Valley Railway station where the Royal Mail coach, driven as always by John Parker, was on show and Peter Howarth, Royal Mail Director of Operations, named the second BR locomotive *Sir Rowland Hill* and presented the Mayor of Kidderminster with a replica locomotive nameplate. Sir Rowland's great, great grandson spoke of the postal reforms, saying that in essence

nothing of the reform had been lost over the years. He reminded guests that before the reforms letter writing was restricted almost to a "small club of people" and that the reforms went against the grain of the establishment of the time. The strain on his great, great grandfather was considerable and his son Pearson gave up his career as an engineer to assist his father.

From Kidderminster the journey to Bridgnorth was made by steam (BR standard class 4 locomotive No. 75069); at Bridgnorth speeches were made by civic leaders and the District Head Postmaster of Wolverhampton presented the Mayor of Bridgnorth with a framed portrait of Sir Rowland. The band of the Royal Artillery played away the train back to Kidderminster where locomotive *Sir Rowland Hill* was waiting to haul the BR carriages back to London, arriving at Euston 10 minutes ahead of schedule.

Details of steam services on the Severn Valley Railway can be obtained by phoning Bewdley (0299) 40100.

Exhibitions

6 April-9 September: Tommy Atkins' Letters. Exhibition illustrating the history of the British Army Postal Service at home and overseas from the 1790s to the present, using original letters, maps, orders, postal artefacts, etc. At National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3, open Monday-Saturday 10am to 5.30pm, Sunday 2 to 5.30pm.

24 April 1990-26 April 1991: Postal Reform and the Penny Black. Exhibition telling the story of the campaign for postal reform, the introduction of cheap postage and the first postage stamps. Includes many items not previously on show to the public. Highlights are the proof sheet of the Penny Black (1 April 1840) and the original die. At National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm, admission free.

May-December: Celebration of the Jubilee of Inland Uniform Penny Postage. Exhibition of items (postmarks, covers, programmes, etc) relating to the special exhibitions at Guildhall in London and the South Kensington Museum in 1890 commemorating the golden jubilee of Penny Post. At National Postal Museum, address and opening hours given above.

1988 Special Stamp Quantities

The quantities issued to counters were:

Linnean Society

18p	32,646,800
26p	5,859,000
31p	5,489,500
34p	5,116,700
Stamp cards (sets)	179,930

Welsh Bible

18p	32,996,000
26p	5,847,800
31p	5,441,800
34p	5,169,100
Stamp cards (sets)	144,795

Sport

18p	33,928,200
26p	5,787,500
31p	5,343,800
34p	5,106,400
Stamp cards (sets)	135,415

Transport & Communications

18p	32,346,500
26p	5,902,200
31p	5,607,400
34p	5,075,600
Stamp cards (sets)	145,600

Australian Bicentenary

18p (each)	21,501,850
34p (each)	5,183,100
Stamp cards (sets)	166,180

Armada

18p (each)	13,031,360
Stamp cards (sets)	144,836

Edward Lear

19p	32,711,000
27p	5,505,400
32p	5,226,700
35p	4,956,400
Miniature Sheet	2,770,352
Stamp cards (sets)	130,745

Christmas

14p	313,986,100
19p	160,348,100
27p	12,548,900
32p	12,535,800
35p	10,945,700
Stamp cards (sets)	160,032

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.35 Ship Letter and Packet Letter

The terms "Ship Letter" and "Packet Letter" both refer, in the main, to somewhat similar maritime postal services in the pre-adhesive era. However, they are best considered separately in view of the differing circumstances under which the appropriate handstamps were used.

Ship Letter

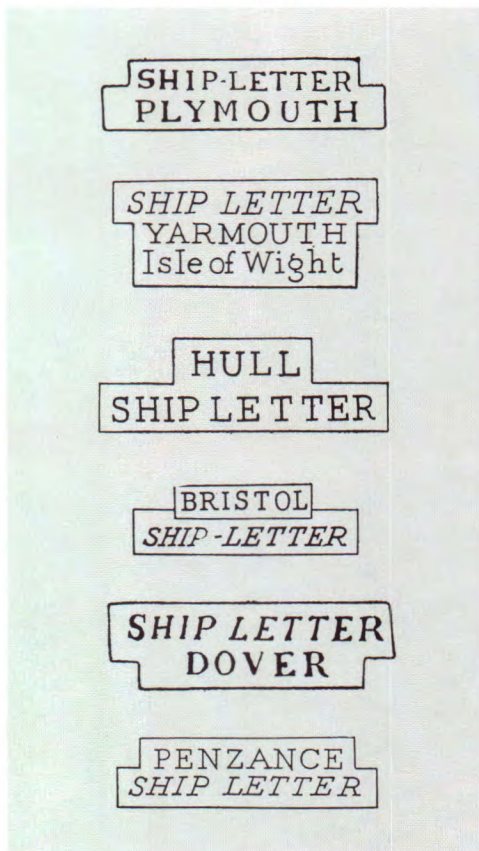
Until the setting up of the General Letter Office in 1660, letters brought into this country from abroad were free of official supervision; and most merchants made their own delivery arrangements once their mail had reached a British port.

The *Post Office Act* of 1660 made incoming letters brought by private ships subject to normal inland postage charges and penalties were imposed on any ships' captains, or other persons, who evaded the regulations and arranged deliveries by private carriers. These regulations laid down that letters should be handed over to the Post Office at the first port of call in Great Britain, irrespective of the ultimate destination of the vessel and of each letter concerned.

All letters were forwarded to London from the port of arrival and were assessed for inland postage from the port to London and then

each letter. The addressee was required to pay these charges in full before delivery.

Until 1760 (that is, for a hundred years), ship letters could only be recognised by manuscript endorsements such as, "By Ship", "By Ship via Liverpool" or "Ship Letter", supporting evidence usually being provided by the contents of these folded letters. From 1760 onwards, the Post Office supplied all the major ports (and many smaller ones where ship letters had been handed over) with handstamps naming the port and, at first, the wording SHIP LRE. This mark-



One of nine London handstamps in use 1820-58

onwards to the addressee. (This meant, for instance, a letter addressed to Falmouth and landed at Plymouth was charged mileage from Plymouth to London and London to Falmouth.) In addition, there was a Ship Letter charge and a small "Captain's gratuity" which applied to

A selection of "step" type handstamps in general use 1814-39, the exception being the Bristol handstamp first used in 1806 and later adapted for general use without the lower line boxing in the port name

ing was applied to all mail on arrival and gave the London postal clerks, who assessed letters for charging, guidance on the total mileage involved. Over the years there were several types of ship letter handstamps — circular, oval, rectangular and the "step" type with the port

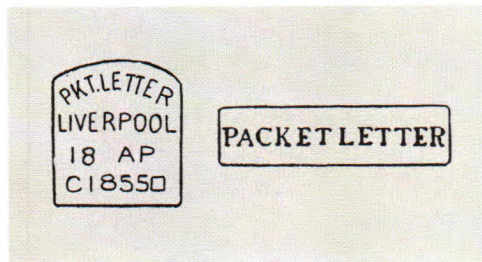
name above or below the words SHIP LETTER.

Beyond these standard types, some ports used marks, peculiar to themselves as to shape, inclusion of a date or some pictorial device, for example, a sunburst at Newry and a ship at Edinburgh. From 1799 to 1820, a double-lined oval enclosing a crown and the name of the port was in widespread use. A *single-lined* oval was used between 1812 and 1815 at a few ports which received letters from naval vessels as distinct from private ships.

Packet Letter

The transmission of letters by private ships which had no connection with the Post Office tended to be haphazard and unreliable. To provide ships exclusively for mail would have been too costly but a selected few of the larger sailing ships were appointed under contract to be mail-carrying "packets" (from the French *paquettes*) on specific routes and at specified times. Run to a timetable, the posts were more reliable, an advantage to importers and other commercial undertakings.

Masters of ships contracted for this service were paid an agreed fee irrespective of the amount of mail handed over in sealed bags at a stipulated port from where they were forwarded, still sealed, to the GPO. There a handstamp reading PACKET LETTER was applied to each letter. The charge for this superior



Left: Specific port handstamp of 1855. Right: General type in use 1818-48. An unframed handstamp was also used 1802-63 and a boxed italic handstamp 1836-43

service was more than for a ship letter and the "Packet Letter" handstamp guided the assessors on the proper charge to make, the packet letter fee being additional to the mileage rate applicable to individual letters.

Some later packet ships were armed men-o-war provided by the Admiralty but sailing to a Post Office timetable. In terms of war, or periods of active piracy, these armed vessels

were more likely to survive than were the unarmed packet ships.

The famous Falmouth Packet Station operated until 1850, eventually only handling mail from Maderira and Brasil. The bulk of mail-carrying had been transferred, under contract, to the growing shipping lines, principally Cunard, Royal Mail (West Indies) Company and the Peninsula & Orient Company, all of whose scheduled services had become reliable and, of course, their big ships could carry any amount of mail.

Note: This brief explanation of the Ship Letter and Packet Letter services does not deal with the outward ship and packet mails and their markings. A detailed account of these and all other aspects of maritime mail, is to be found in the late Alan W. Robertson's monumental work *The Maritime Postal History of the British Isles*, the principal source of information in this article.

The illustrations are taken from The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland by Alcock and Holland (Cheltenham, 1940)

NPM News

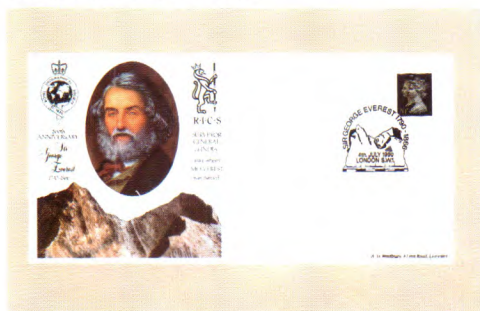
The National Postal Museum/Post Office Archives stand at Stamp World London 90 attracted many visitors and the items specially prepared for sale at the exhibition proved extremely popular. Still available from the NPM sales counter and by post are ties and headsquares. Dark blue ties showing a single Penny Black are available at £4.95 (polyester) or £9.95 (silk); ladies' headsquares of Penny Black design are available at £5.50 (polyester) or £10.95 (silk). In addition polyester headsquares with black and red striped design and NPM Mail Coach symbol are available, with white or grey background, price £6. Orders to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Normal handling charges apply — 20p on orders up to £22, £1.75 on orders over £22 (sent by registered post).

The Museum has a limited number of Royal Mail publicity posters advertising recent stamp issues available for sale; these range from A4 size to large card-mounted posters suitable for mounting on a wall. These posters will be available to callers only at the Museum sales counter from 16 July for as long as stocks last. Prices from 50p. We regret these posters cannot be supplied by post.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin Editor.

George Everest. Sir George Everest, after whom Mount Everest is named, was born 200 years ago on 4 July 1790. Everest went to India in 1806 and worked on military surveys, becoming Surveyor General in 1823. In 1849 reports reached his successor, Andrew Waugh, that a peak in the Himalayas appeared to be the highest in the world. As an acknowledgement to Everest's great efforts, Waugh suggested that the peak should be named after him. A commemorative cover is being produced, featuring a colour portrait of Sir George and the mountain. The cover with Penny Black Anniversary stamp cancelled by special handstamp on 4 July costs £2.95, or £9.75 signed by Chris Bonington. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



Spalding Flower Festival. A full colour commemorative cover "Post Haste" was produced to mark the Spalding Flower Festival of 1990. Special handstamps were used at Spalding on 5, 6 and 7 May. Cover with special handstamp are available at £1.50 each, or £4 for the set of three days. The covers bear 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps. Orders/enquiries to: Spalding Flower Festival, Dept PB, c/o 13 Crown Drive, SPALDING, Lincs, PE11 2HT.

Cricket Test Matches. Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd has been appointed by the Test & County Cricket Board to produce covers for the major matches to be played this summer against the New Zealand and Indian teams. The covers will feature the badges of the tourists and colour photographs of the test grounds. Each of the 11 covers will have a special handstamp. Price, per cover, £1.50 plus 25p postage. The full set of 11 covers will be available late August,

price £16 plus £1 postage. Orders/enquiries to: Cricket Section, Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd, 28 Windlesham Road, SHOREHAM BY SEA, W Sussex, BN43 5AE.

Telethon 90. Cotswold Covers, helped by the Royal Mail, produced charity covers for the ITV Telethon on 28 May. Special handstamps were used for each ITV region: Anglia, Border, Central, Channel, Grampian, Granada, HTV



Wales, HTV West, Scottish, LWT, TSW, TVS, Tyne Tees, Ulster, and Yorkshire. Each cover costs £3. The complete set of 15 covers is available price £45 including a free Telethon album. It is hoped to raise some £100,000 for the Telethon appeal by the sale of these covers. Orders/enquiries to: Telethon 90 Stamps, PO Box 4000, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts, SN14 8SU.

Borough of Worthing. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Borough of Worthing on 25 August 1990, a special envelope will be available and a special handstamp will be used, designed by John Hobbs, FRPSL. The cover will show the Worthing coat of arms in full colour and the handstamp will depict the Worthing Town Hall. Price £1.50, add 30p if required sent under separate cover. Remittances to "Worthing Borough Council". Orders/enquiries to: J E O Hobbs, 12 Orphir Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 2SR.

Folkestone, Hythe & District Mencap. On 24 March RAF Museum cover No 32 in the 2nd series (bearing the 1975 charity stamp) was used to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Operation "Varsity" (the Rhine Crossing). It is also stamped with the 20p Penny Black Anniversary definitive and cancelled with the Aldershot circular date cancel. Each cover carries a special cachet "45th anniversary 'Varsity' 24th March 1990 Carried by Red Devils". Profits from sale of covers goes to Folkestone Mencap and the Airborne Forces Security Fund; remittances to "Folkestone Mencap". Price £2 or

£5 signed by Red Devils (overseas add 50p). Orders/enquiries to: R W Mortimer, 155 Dolphins Road, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT19 5QA.

Maiden Voyage of Britannia. A commemorative cover is being produced to mark the 150th anniversary of the maiden voyage of *Britannia*, the first Cunarder which inaugurated the first regular Atlantic mail service by steamer. The cover will bear a "special 4th July pictorial postmark (the exact 150th anniversary) at Liverpool from where the historic maiden voyage took place" (*cover producer's description*. Ed.). Price £1.80 including UK postage, overseas add 60p. Some covers postmarked on the actual anniversary of the arrival in Boston and Halifax will also be available, price £2.75. Orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

Dunkirk Evacuation. Nineteen RNLI lifeboats from as far north as Great Yarmouth and east as far as Poole, took part in the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 as part of the Little Ships Fleet. A special cover and handstamp were produced in May to mark the 50th anniversary of the evacuation; the handstamp used at Dover on 24 May shows the RNLI emblem. The cover shows the Dungeness lifeboat *Charles Cooper Henderson*, one of the 19 involved in the evacuation. Standard covers cost £1.75, carried aboard the lifeboat £2.25, £3 signed by the coxswain. Orders/enquiries to: RNLI Philatelic Agents, PO Box 20, CANTERBURY, CT1 2XX.

New Dundee Lifeboat. The Duke of Atholl named the new Arun Class lifeboat at Dundee on 12 May. A special cover and handstamp were produced; the cover incorporates a real colour photograph of the lifeboat set within a silver rope border. Standard covers price £1.75, £2.25 carried on lifeboat, £2.95 signed by coxswain and £5 signed by the Duke of Atholl. Orders/enquiries to RNLI Philatelic Agents, address above.

Queen Mother. A special first day cover featuring in full colour a photographic portrait of The Queen Mother, taken by Lord Snowdon, is being produced by A G Bradbury for the 90th birthday stamps. Covers with the four 90th birthday stamps cancelled by a special Clarence House London SW1 handstamp will cost £4.75. Covers with the 1937 Coronation, 1948 Silver Wedding 2½d and 1980 80th birthday stamps in addition to the new 90th birthday stamps will be available, price £9.75. Overseas orders add 50p. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



Thomas Hardy. The Thomas Hardy Society have appointed A G Bradbury to produce their official first day covers for the 20p Hardy stamp on 10 July. The first cover shows Hardy's cottage and has a Higher Bockhampton special handstamp. Price £4.75 or £7.50 signed by the Chairman of the Society. A pair of limited edition covers feature Hardy's most famous characters: "Tess coming home from the club dance", a scene from *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (Marnhill, Dorset special handstamp) and "Henchard saying goodbye to Elizabeth-Jane before walking off to die alone" from *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (Dorchester special handstamp). Price £9.75 the pair. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Prior's Court School. To mark the golden jubilee of the School, a special cover was produced for use with the special handstamp on 25 May. The cover features a watercolour collage of the 18th century portico, the avenue of lime trees and the cupula wind vane at the school. The cover contains a colour printed brochure of the school together with a commemorative letter outlining the school's history. The cover, franked with 9p and 13p 1979 Year of the Child stamps, costs £7.50 or £10 with a full colour photograph of the school. Orders/enquiries to: The Headmaster, Prior's Court School, Chieveley, NEWBURY, Berks, RG16 8XW.

July Digest

Issued in July

10 July: Thomas Hardy stamp — 20p.

Designer: John Gibbs.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 30 x 41mm, perforated 14 x 15, phosphor-coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum. *Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp:* Dorchester

Presentation Pack: No. 209, price 45p.

11 July: Thomas Hardy souvenir cover, price 18p. *Available from philatelic counters.*

17 July: Scottish Aerogramme — Glasgow European City of Culture, price 40p (includes postage of 30p).

Designer: Sarah McMenemy.

Printing: McCorquodale Envelopes Limited.

23 July: 90th Birthday of The Queen Mother stamp cards (Nos. 128A-D), price 18p each.

Withdrawn in July

3 July: Industrial Archaeology stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

24 July: Industrial Archaeology miniature sheet and miniature sheet souvenir cover.

Royal Mail Exhibition Card

Exhibition Card No. 4 with special handstamp for the Belgica exhibition (2-10 June) is now available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £1.50 plus handling charge. Order Code EQ021. We regret it was not possible to announce this card in advance.

"Collections"

"Collections" — the new-style philatelic counters — are now in operation at the Trafalgar Square, London WC2, Cambridge, Gloucester and Windsor post offices. Another "Collections" will be opened shortly at Colchester and others will follow. Details will be published here as they become available. They offer the collector a wide range of products within a self-contained shopping area. As well as British stamps, first day covers and souvenir and presentation packs, the collector will find stamp albums, accessories, pictorial phone cards, postcards, stationery and gift items.

The Trafalgar Square Collections is open

Monday-Friday 10am to 7pm, Saturday 10am to 4.30pm.

Details were given in the June *Bulletin* of the closure of certain philatelic counters on 6 June. Please note that the Carlisle counter was included in the list in error; that counter closed last year.

New Study Circle

A new Postal Stationery Study Circle is being formed; aimed at the study of postal stationery of the world. It is hoped to publish a journal or newsletter at least quarterly and hold meetings, arrange packets and auctions. Collectors interested in joining this study circle should write to: D Taylor-Smith, 23 Britannia Road, NORWICH NR1 4HP.

Railway Letter Stamps

The Talyllyn Railway in Wales celebrates its 125th anniversary on 5 July with the issue of four 25p railway letter stamps in miniature sheet format. Mint stamps are available at face value, a first day cover bearing the miniature sheet costs £3.50 postpaid. Orders/enquiries to: Sara Eade, Postmaster, Talyllyn Railway, Wharf Station, TYWYN, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY.

British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN — 0953-8119

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by The Post Office Compiled and typeset by John Holman at:

National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £5.50
Rest of World (Airmail) £8.50

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Single copies from "Collections" and philatelic counters: 50p

Binders, to hold 24 issues, are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £5.50. Also available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum sales counter.

Printed in Great Britain by Moore and Matthes (Printers) Ltd for The Post Office.