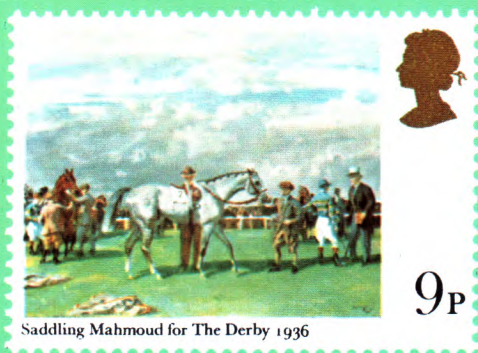


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 16 Number 9 May 1979



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Editorial

Horse racing is said to be the sport of kings and it is true to say that it is also the sport of millions of less exalted folk. Be it commoner or King, we are certain that both will be equally charmed with

our Horse racing stamps about which we write and illustrate this month. The set is issued to mark the 200th Derby, but both flat and jumping events are depicted on the stamps.

In response to a number of correspondents asking for information on the various types of phosphors used on our stamps at different times, and also those used on envelopes as address code-marks, an article will be published in the Bulletin giving, for the first time, comprehensive details of the historical events culminating in the world-wide adoption of luminescent materials for aiding mechanised letter-handling and sorting.

The article has been written by our good friend Aubrey Walker, who readers will remember for his recent feature on 'gutter pairs'. To be printed in four monthly instalments, the topics covered will be as follows:

Part 1

An illustrated account of the early attempts to devise a reliable and acceptable way of treating stamps to permit machine recognition, leading up to graphite lined stamps.

Part 2

Describes the 'back-room' experimental work on organic phosphors and gives information on colour assessment of afterglows.

Part 3

Gives details of the function of afterglow of various phosphors, and details various types used on different printings.

Part 4

Concentrates on abnormal phosphor response, and address-code phosphors, and is illustrated by photographs demonstrating various address-code printing systems.

The first instalment will appear shortly.

The well known artist Thelwell was asked to submit a series of designs for the Horse Racing issue. Although we did not use them for the stamps they are so good that we have reproduced them in colour and include them as a supplement to the presentation pack.

A Question of Identification in 1884



Up to 1880-81 designs for British postage stamps were produced very much on an ad hoc basis. The designs of the 1840 One Penny and the other line-engraved stamps from 1/2d to 2d were originally the work of Rowland Hill and his assistant Henry Cole (who incorporated some ideas produced during the Treasury Competition of 1839), in collaboration with the printers Perkins Bacon and Co. The designs of the De La Rue surface-printed issues of 1855, though subject to Government approval, were the work of the company's own staff designers.

Between 1879 and 1880 new contracts put the production of all values from 1/2d to £5 in the hands of Thomas De La Rue and Co. Additionally on 1 June 1881 many special Revenue stamps were withdrawn and it was decided that the same stamps should be available for both postage and revenue purposes. An entirely new series (except for the 1d value) for this dual usage, known as the Unified Series of 1881-84 was designed and printed by De La Rue. The issue, particularly

the values from 1/2d to 1/-, led to a storm of criticism from the public, and objections from Post Office employees owing to the same colours being used for groups of different values.

A special Stamp Committee, consisting of senior PO officials, with two De La Rue directors as advisors, was formed in 1884 to devise a new series of designs for the values up 1/- which should have 'such a variety of colour, form and design as to render the Stamps of different values easily distinguishable from one another . . . '.

Various proposals were put up for consideration, including several by Post Office officials. This month's gem illustrates one of these latter proposals, the hand-drawn and coloured scheme submitted to the Committee by Mr L H Clark on 10 December 1884, which relies heavily on the use of extra-large figures of value (as well as a range of colours) to distinguish each value. The Stamp Committee's work resulted, of course, in the so called 'Jubilee' stamp issue of 1887.

AG RIGODERIGHI

The Postcard Story

2. The First Picture Postcards

Following the first issue of official postcards (Austria in 1869, Britain in 1870), the commercial world — business firms, traders, insurance and shipping companies etc — speedily adapted them to their own particular needs, printing their names and services on the plain backs and often including appropriate emblems, small line-drawn pictures and trade-marks (the 'logos' of today).

On the Continent especially, there were apparently no official restrictions on the use of pictures, while in Britain privately printed cards had to be imprinted with the postage 'stamp' by the Inland Revenue. Throughout Europe the 'newfangled' postcards were used in millions, not only for private messages (which was the original intention), but also for advertising purposes and for the ordering, advice and acknowledgement of receipt of goods.

The 1880s saw the birth of tourism in Europe when it became fashionable for the more venturesome, middle-class Victorian Britons and their families to seek the scenic pleasures of France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Italy, to visit the Bohemian spas and climb the Alps. The visitors sought postcards to send greetings home to their families and friends, and it was to meet this rapidly growing demand that the foreign publishers and stationers produced the first picture postcards. These were cards bearing line-drawn, black-and-white sketches of scenic resorts, landscapes and mountains, the picture taking up a third or a half of the blank side, leaving space for a brief message.

Hotels were the most prolific publishers of these early 'view' cards, combining a service to their visitors with the enormous publicity value of an attractive picture of the hotel premises suitably embellished and named. Coloured view cards began to appear on the Continent about 1890, and the German printers of Prussia and Saxony led the field with their fine lithograph-printed multicoloured, multi-view 'Gruss aus' ('Greetings from') cards, the greeting being linked to the name of the town or resort in bold, fancy lettering. The mini pictures were grouped at the top and one side of the card with space for a

personal greeting. The French cards were similarly designed and inscribed 'Souvenir de', for example 'Souvenir de Paris'.

The deluge of colourful picture postcards arriving in Britain made little impression upon the postal authorities who, with Messrs De La Rue, the printers, held a jealously-guarded monopoly of postcard production and issue. It was not until 1894 that, bowing to the pressure of the stationery manufacturers and to the crescendo of public demand expressed in strongly-worded letters to *The Times*, the Post Office relented and permitted (a) the printing of private postcards, (b) the use of the current-rate $\frac{1}{2}$ d adhesive stamps upon them, and (c) the use of illustrations on the message side.

For the postcard publishers, however, there was still one niggling restriction — on the size of the card. This had to conform to the size of the existing official card, approximately $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, whereas the popular and more accommodating 'Gruss aus' cards from abroad were in the uniform size and format of $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The smaller postcards became known as 'court' size cards which some manufacturers adapted from the contemporary correspondence cards designed for use with envelopes. Others began publishing pictorial court cards with small views on the back or more elaborate multi-view types in monochrome and multicolour, 'Gruss-aus' style, and these continued until November 1899 when at last, largely through the efforts of one of the leading British publishers, Raphael Tuck, picture postcards in the 'Continental' size of $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches were permitted.

This was the era known to postcard collectors as that of the 'undivided back'. It was still forbidden to write any form of message on the address side of the postcard for fear of causing confusion and delay, and for that reason most publishers continued to allow space on the picture side for a brief message or greeting, using either small pictures, 'full-out' illustrations with inset panels left blank or awkward 'L'-shaped pictures which were never very attractive or desirable. In Britain all this changed in 1902 when cards were permitted with a centre dividing line separating

the address and stamp from the message side — hence the 'divided back' card.

By this time, millions of picture postcards were being designed, printed and produced by scores of publishers for eager members of the public who needed little excuse to send each other postcards — a new collecting hobby was born.

MALCOLM JAMES

Posting Boxes



No. 10: This old Victorian wall box, recently still in use at Nottingham Road sub Post Office, Belper, Derbyshire, is of the type known as a Ludlow box. The name came from the designer and manufacturer, James Ludlow of Birmingham, who towards the end of the 19th Century introduced these boxes with their distinctive enamel plate, for use at sub post offices where, at that time, sub postmasters were expected to provide their own letter box. These Ludlow boxes continued to be provided to sub offices right up till 1965, although from 1908 the cost was undertaken by the GPO.

Year of the Child Stamp Issue 18 July 1979

The United Nations has designated 1979 as 'The Year of the Child' and on 18 July the Post Office will issue four special stamps, value 9p; 10½p; 11p and 13p. The subjects of the stamps are characters from well known childrens books — The Tale of Peter Rabbit: The Wind in the Willows: Winnie-the-Pooh: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, which includes a pictorial handstamp, depicting the UN 'Year of the Child' symbol.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all four stamps. It will be cancelled with the special handstamp and despatched for a charge of 62½p. For deposit account customers the charge will be 58p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 51½p per cover.

Service C

For bulk orders of 50 or more covers, all to the same address, under the conditions of Service A, the charge is 60p per cover.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 9 July 1979.

Commemorative Covers

Dickens Festival Cover

From 31 May to 2 June 1979, the Medway Borough Council are organising a Rochester Dickens Festival. On Saturday 2 June there will be a special 'Mr Pickwick' train from Victoria Station to Rochester to publicise this unique event. The passengers on this train will be dressed in Dickensian costumes. Messrs J and M Arlington of 45 Lakenheath, Southgate, London N14 4RL, are producing official Commemorative Covers, some of which will be carried on this train. A Special Handstamp with the Rochester, Kent postmark will be used to cancel these covers which will bear the 8p definitive stamp.

Covers carried on the train will be available priced 55p, those not so carried will be 45p.

Derby Day Cover

South Wootton, King's Lynn Community Hall Fund Raising Committee announce a Commemorative Cover especially designed by John Smith NDD, ATD, to mark the 200th running of the Derby and featuring the dates and names of all the winners since 1780. Each cover will bear the four stamps of the forthcoming Horse Racing issue and will be cancelled with the King's Lynn First Day of Issue stamp.

Orders for the covers, priced £1.00 each, should be sent together with a stamped addressed envelope measuring not less than 8" × 5½" to: Mrs J K H Bolton, Appeal Organiser, 11 Oak Avenue, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3JQ.

Institution of Gas Engineers Commemorative Cover

The Institution of Gas Engineers celebrates fifty years of Royal Chartered Status this month. As part of the celebrations, the Institution will issue a limited number of two commemorative philatelic covers with two special handstamps dated 9 and 15 May. The first cover will coincide with the issue of the Direct Elections to European Assembly stamps, and the second with the

Institution of Gas Engineers 116th Annual General Meeting in Central Hall, Westminster.

The services offered are as follows:

The first cover bearing all four DEEA stamps, cancelled and addressed will cost £1.50. The second cover with the 10½p Coronation stamp affixed, cancelled and addressed, is available at 75p. Both can be supplied for £2.00. Unserved covers are available at 25p for two. Proceeds will go to the Institution's Benevolent Fund.

Orders with remittances should be sent to Mr M G Maxa, Institution of Gas Engineers, 17 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7ES. Further enquiries from Mr J A Clayson, British Gas, Watson House, Fulham, London SW6 3HN (01-736 1212 Ext 6344).

Forces Covers

Royal Navy Cover

A cover to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, 6 June 1944, is now available from the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset BA22 8HL. It shows a plan of the beaches, and assault craft, together with the badge of HMS *Dryad* — HQ of the Naval Commander Eastern Task Force.

The cover — signed by Admiral Sir Geoffrey Oliver GBE, KCB, DSO, who was Commander Assault Force J during the landings, and Rear Admiral G V M Dolphin CB, DSO, who was Naval Officer in Charge, Gold Beach Area — will bear a 13p Direct Election to European Assembly stamp, cancelled by BFPS handstamp number 3544 also depicting the badge of HMS *Dryad*. Price £1.75.

Alternatively, the cover as above, but signed by Rear Admiral G V M Dolphin only, and bearing a 11p Direct Election to European Assembly stamp costs 95p. Unsigned covers, with a 9p Direct Election to European Assembly stamp, can be supplied at 45p each.

Orders, accompanied by cheque or postal order made payable to the Fleet Air Arm Museum, should include a stamped addressed envelope about 7" × 5"

Sir Rowland Hill 1795-1879: Reformer Extraordinary

To mark the centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill in 1879 the National Postal Museum has produced an illustrated booklet describing his life and work as postal reformer.

Tracing his early life and his major contribution to educational reform, and describing his pioneering efforts in areas as diverse as public transport and methods of printing, the booklet demonstrates that the scope of Hill's contribution to British history went far beyond his famous Postal Reform of 1840, important as this clearly was. The booklet highlights, too, the changes Hill (with the assistance of his younger brother Frederic, and his only son Pearson) brought to the Post Office during his later years as a postal official (1846-1864). Among several useful appendices is a chronology of his life and major achievements, and a descriptive list of the

several houses in which he lived, three of which (in London and Brighton) can still be seen today.

The price of this new souvenir booklet — a must for everyone's bookshelf in this anniversary year of Hill's death — is 50p (60p by post). It will be available at the National Postal Museum, Philatelic Counters, and at several other post offices throughout the country. Orders by post should be addressed to: The British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BB.

In July the National Postal Museum will also be publishing a new 5-card set of postcards featuring Sir Rowland Hill. It will also be mounting in the summer a new special exhibition devoted to Hill's life and work. Details of these will be given in the July edition of the Bulletin.

Forthcoming Events

Midland Philatelic Federation

The Evesham and District Philatelic Society will be the hosts at the forthcoming Midland Philatelic Federation Annual Convention and Fair, which will take place on Saturday 12 May 1979 from 11 am to 5 pm, in Evesham High School, Four Pools Road, Evesham.

In addition to the Federation's competitions and displays, there will be a Post Office philatelic sales counter and dealers' stands.

Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society Diamond Jubilee

On Saturday 19 May 1979 the Chelmsford and District PS will present an exhibition — and promote Essex Stamp Day — in the Chelmsford Grammar School, Broomfield Road, Chelmsford.

Apart from the exhibition, twelve philatelic dealers will be represented and the Post Office

will provide a philatelic display. Admission is free and there is a large car park opposite the school.

Churchill Collectors Club

The Churchill Collectors Club caters for the interests of those philatelists who are interested in the life and times of the late Sir Winston Churchill and related subject matter of all types.

Contact with members is made via the club publication 'Newsheet'. Besides this, members are kept informed of items available in their special fields of interest with personal letters between members as well as visits to each others homes from time to time.

For information and membership application details please contact the Club Secretary at the following address: Brian Bugge Esq, Secretary — Churchill Collectors Club, 8 Clyde Road, Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex TW19 7RH.

Horse Racing Stamp Issue

6 June 1979

The 200th running of the Derby Stakes — probably the most famous race in the World — will take place on Wednesday 6 June. It is not the oldest of Britain's classic races but without question it is the most prestigious. To mark the occasion the Post Office will issue on 'Derby Day' four special stamps, values 9p, 10½p, 11p and 13p depicting events from the racing calendar. They are: Saddling 'Mahmoud' for the Derby 1936 (9p); The Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase 1839 (10½p); The first Spring Meeting at Newmarket 1793 (11p); Racing at Dorset Ferry, Windsor 1684 (13p).

Printing Details

Designer: Stuart Rose CBE FSIAD

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Format: Horizontal

Process: Photogravure

Size: 41 mm × 30 mm

Perforation: 15 × 14

Sheet Size: 100

Phosphor: All over

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Values and Colours

9p	bistre-yellow; new blue; chestnut; bright rosine-red; grey-black; gold.
10½p	chrome-yellow; new blue; orange-brown; grey-blue; grey-black; gold.
11p	greenish-yellow; blue; orange-vermillion; rosine; grey-black; gold.
13p	bistre-yellow; greenish-blue; rosine; grey-black; gold.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available during the last week in May from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters and selected main post offices, price 8p each.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



British Post Office

Horseracing

MINT STAMPS

retired to stud until, at
old age of 22, he was
d to the U.S.A., where he
a new lease of life and
a new line from which are
led some of America's
horses which, in turn,
ade their own impact on
throughout the world.
21st Lord Derby had to
til 1787 for his one and
cess in the race he had
but his horse, Sir Peter
proved not only to be a

great racehorse, but also the
highly successful sire of four
Derby winners, four Oaks
the St. Leger, and two Oaks
winners. He also holds the
remarkable record of siring the
first three horses to finish in the
1803 Derby.
The history of the Derby is
inseparable from the history of
racing itself. Written in its pages
are the names of the greatest
owners, trainers and jockeys of
the past 200 years.

Stables in operation for the first time at Newmarket in 1965.

Horseracing by
thelwell



British Special Stamps

53. British Discovery and Invention, 1967

This attractive set was a thinly disguised successor to the 'British Technology' series of September 1966, but rather more specific as each of the four discoveries and inventions — 4d Radar, 1s Penicillin, 1s 6d Jet Propulsion, and 1s 9d Television, could be attributed to the British pioneers in their respective fields. Unfortunately their names were omitted in the final stages of production in the light of 'possible controversy'.

The first two stamps were designed by Clive Abbott for Harrison and Sons. The radar screen (4d) represents the system of radar or radio-location developed by the British scientist, Sir Robert Watson-Watt. 'Radar' is an American code-word, a palindrome — RAdio Detection And Ranging — and the process is based on the transmission of radio waves which are returned to a cathode-ray receiver by a reflecting object (such as a ship or an aircraft), thence recorded on the screen. The illuminated radial line rotates 'in sync' with the aerial assembly, and an object is 'seen' as an illuminated spot behind the rotating line. Bearing or direction, distance and elevation are indicated.

Another 'magic circle', this time a penicillin mould, from which Sir Alexander Fleming, the Scottish bacteriologist, first isolated the famous therapeutic drug in 1928, is depicted on the 1s stamp. His discovery was developed in conjunction with Sir Howard Florey, Australian professor of pathology, and Dr E B Chain, at Oxford where, in 1940, they succeeded in purifying penicillin so that it could be used in treating disease. The Nobel Prize for medicine was jointly awarded to them in 1945. An extract of the common mould, *Penicillium notatum*, penicillin is a wonderfully effective antibiotic and is also deadly to the germs of pneumonia, diphtheria and other diseases.

The next two stamps were designed by the Richard Negus and Philip Sharland team. The twin jet engines of a Vickers VC-10 (1s 6d) represent the ultimate product of Sir Frank Whittle's pioneering experiments and work on turbine-jet propulsion, which he commenced in 1937. Sir Frank, Air Commodore RAF, achieved success



in 1941 when his jet engine was first used for flight, and was developed in the Gloster and Meteor aircraft, the latter attaining a speed of over 616 mph in 1946. From 1948 to 1952 he was an honorary adviser on jet development to BOAC.

The 1s 9d stamp shows the primitive television scanner devised by John Logie Baird and a modern TV camera. Baird, who suffered ill-health for most of his life, first began his experiments in 1924, and in 1926 he gave the world's first demonstration of true television by reflecting light from an image on to a photo-electric cell. From then until 1936 the Baird Company carried out research work at the Crystal Palace, and in 1929 began a public television service in conjunction with the BBC. In 1937 it was decided that the Marconi-EMI system (comprising 'high definition' of 405 scanning lines) alone should be used for BBC transmissions. Baird, who died in 1946, also carried out numerous experiments in colour television.

Clive Abbott had previously designed the Post Office Tower (1965) and EFTA (1967) stamps, and subsequently three of the 'British Anniversaries' (1968) and the 9p 'Vaughan Williams' stamp of 1972. Born in 1933 and formerly a student of the Wimbledon Art School, he has designed many British Commonwealth issues. Philip Sharland formed his own design group, Philip Sharland Associates, in 1967, and his subsequent stamp designs for the Post Office have included three of the 1969 'Anniversaries', the 'Charities' stamp of 1975, four designs for the 'Telephone Centenary' (1976) and the 11p Franklin stamp for the 'Bicentenary of the American Revolution' (also 1976). Born in 1923, Philip was trained at the Camberwell School of Art in London.

The 'British Discoveries' stamps were photo-gravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (1s 9d 20 × 6, or 6 × 20, others) on phosphor-banded paper (three bands, 4d, or two bands, others), watermark multiple crowns — the last GB commemorative issue to bear a watermark. Listed varieties include a major scale break on the 4d radar stamp (with numerous minor

flaws on the screen), and a cowl flange on the 1s 6d jet stamp. All values are known with phosphor omitted, and the watermark has been found inverted on the 1s and 1s 6d.

Quantities sold were: 4d 104,165,625; 1s 10,718,389; 1s 6d 10,380,413; and 1s 9d 7,469,585. Presentation packs, 59,117.

JAMES WATSON

1979-Melville Junior Stamp Competition Winners

It is with pleasure that we include in this issue the names of the principal winners of this year's Melville competition.

Class A

Cup and Bronze/Silver Medal National Westminster Bank Prize

Sonia Sondhelm, Polar Postal History Society

Class B

Cup and Silver Medal

Martyn Jackson, Midland Philatelic Federation

Silver Medal and Helene Leverton Award

Peter Sondhelm, Scandinavia PS

Bronze/Silver Medals

Indrajit Advani, Enfield PS

Ian Smith, Exmouth Stamp Club

Class C

Cup and Silver Medal

Martin Sondhelm, Marple and District PS

Bronze/Silver Medals with Felicitations

Christopher Macauley, Burnham and Highbridge PS

Antony Shine, Ilford and District PS

Bronze/Silver Medals

Phillip Blakey, Sunderland PS

Simon Rapkin, Germany and Colonies PS

John Wilkinson, Enfield PS

Class D

Cup and Bronze/Silver Medal

Cartwright Medal

Neil Wood, Harwell PS

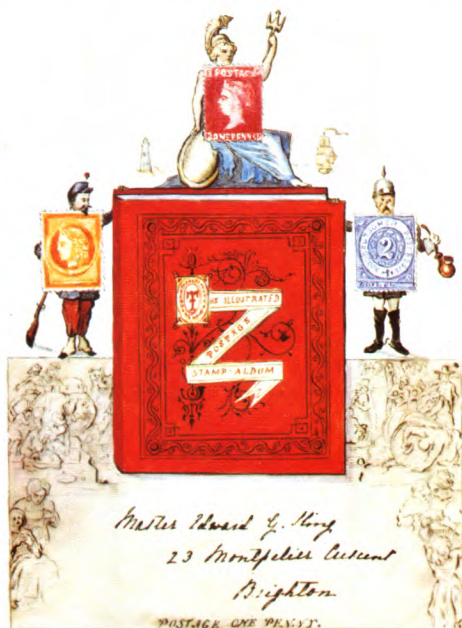
Flower Girls



Four pretty Edwardian flower sellers bring a touch of Eliza Dolittle to the London Chief Office on the eve of the recent British Flowers stamp issue.

The Proud Collection 9. Philatelic Valentine

Reproduced by kind permission of Mr Edward Proud



Valentines were always popular in the Victorian era; illustrated is one of the few Philatelic Valentines we have come across. It is hand-painted and the page of the stamp album lifts up to reveal the message.

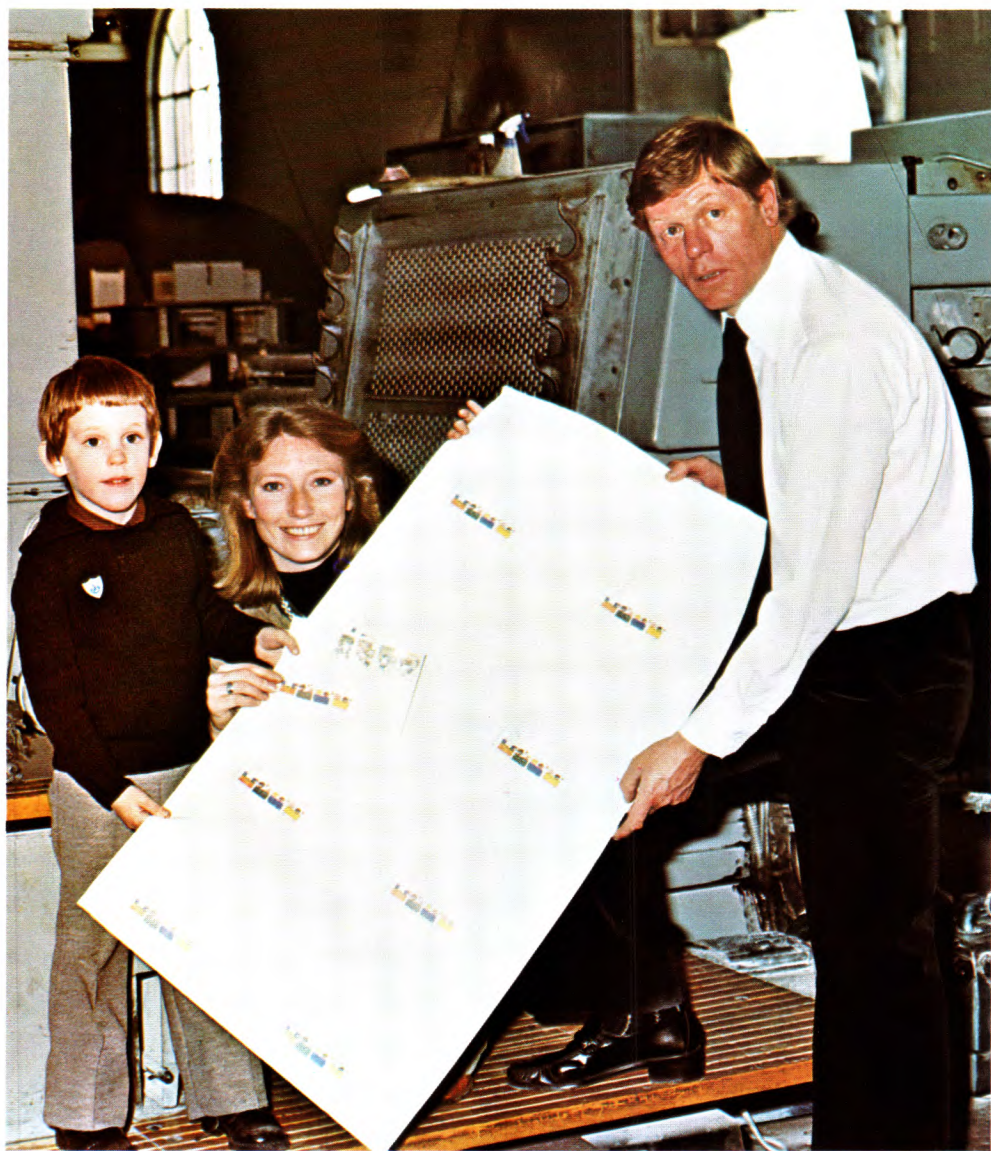
British Paintings Stamps 1967

In his article on page 5 of the February Philatelic Bulletin, James Watson made the comment 'no stamp designer was named or needed'.

We have been reminded by Stuart Rose, well known to our readers as the former Design

Director of the Post Office, that there was, and always will be, the need for a designer even in cases of minimal stamp design and that he was responsible for the design element of the British Paintings Stamps.

'Design a Cover' Winner



Five-year-old Adrian Cresswell from Stourbridge, West Midlands, winner of the 'Post Office and BBC's Blue Peter' design a cover competition, inspects a 'sheet' of covers just off the press. Accompanying him on a tour of the printing works is Lesley Judd from 'Blue Peter' and Anthony Thompson, Director of Howards of Slough, the printers.

Book Reviews

Islands Postal History Series

by James A Mackay

No 6 **Bute**

Price £1.65 (inc post UK)

£2.00 (inc post o'seas)

Published by the Author at 11 Newall Terrace,
Dumfries DG1 1LN.

This is the sixth of a ten-volume series by the same author and tells the postal history of the Isle of Bute, the most landlocked of Scottish islands.

Situated in the Clyde estuary and the site of a famous holiday resort, the island has a long and distinguished postal history largely flowing from the work of the Bute family, the third Earl being Prime Minister under George III.

Political influence of that weight if combined with a social conscience and operating in an area of growing maritime importance speedily attracts commerce. That in turn brings postal services.

Mr Mackay describes the origins and development of those services in his usual readable fashion. The effect is to present postal history in a manner which can be appreciated by beginners and experts alike. What is more they will enjoy the experience.

Collect British Postmarks

by Dr J T Whitney

Published by the Author price £4.00

This handy pocket size catalogue is exactly what collectors of British postmarks have been looking for. It lists and prices some 30,000 postmarks and illustrates nearly 300 of them from Bishop marks of 1660 to machine cancels of today.

A very strong point in its favour is that it has been compiled with non-specialists in mind. This makes it very readable and informative to those whose primary interests lie elsewhere in philately.

Like most priced catalogues it reveals the extent to which the cost of 'antiques' has escalated in the last few years. Happily, the collector of postmarks can still assemble a nice little showing at reasonable expense, though some comparative-

ly recent special cancels are already leaping upwards like pole vaulters at take-off.

Anyone contemplating filling up the holes in an existing collection will certainly find this book extremely useful. If he's thinking of starting up a new one it will speedily repay its purchase price.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

This short letter is sent in order to note with unsolicited appreciation the fine table arrangement of spring flowers and the floral buttonholes worn by the philatelic staff at Newcastle Head Post Office on the first day of issue of the 'Spring Flowers' stamps on 21 March 1979.

So bad was the March weather in the northern area that spring seemed no more than a myth. However, the fact that there were real flowers, as well as 'philatelic flowers', at this post office on 21 March was a very welcome and thoughtful uplift to the human spirit.

Yours faithfully

Gosforth

NE3 1HY

E TURNBULL

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear 1p in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

15-16-17 May 1979 (R)

Police Federation Winter Gardens Blackpool 15-17 May 1979 Diamond Jubilee. Special posting box at Temporary Post Office, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

28 May 1979 (P/R)

Game and Country Fayre Southport. Special posting box at Meols Hall, Churchtown, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7LZ.

5 July 1979 (P/C)

Manx Millennium Coins Minted at Sutton 5 July 1979. Special posting box at Sutton Head Post Office.

Postmark Slogans

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

Until 1 June 1979 (P)

Blackburn Festival 1979. To be used at Preston. 2nd class.

(P)

Isle of Man Millennium Coins Minted at Sutton. To be used at Sutton on the following dates:

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Machine</i>
14 May 79	26 May 79	2nd class
28 May 79	9 June 79	1st class
11 June 79	23 June 79	2nd class
25 June 79	7 July 79	1st class
9 July 79	21 July 79	2nd class
23 July 79	4 Aug 79	1st class
6 Aug 79	18 Aug 79	2nd class
20 Aug 79	1 Sept 79	1st class
3 Sept 79	15 Sept 79	2nd class
17 Sept 79	29 Sept 79	1st class

(P)

2000 Years of Coinage in Surrey 21BC — 1979 AD. To be used at Sutton on the following dates:

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Machine</i>
14 May 79	26 May 79	1st class
28 May 79	9 June 79	2nd class
11 June 79	23 June 79	1st class
25 June 79	7 July 79	2nd class
9 July 79	21 July 79	1st class
23 July 79	4 Aug 79	2nd class
6 Aug 79	18 Aug 79	1st class
20 Aug 79	1 Sept 79	2nd class
3 Sept 79	15 Sept 79	1st class
17 Sept 79	29 Sept 79	2nd class

Until 28 July 1979

Derbyshire Festival May 24th-October 6th So Much To Celebrate. To be used at Derby 1st and 2nd class.

Until 13 May 1979 (P)

Wellington Shopping Centre Aldershot. To be used at Aldershot. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 19 March 1980 (P)

Visit Sandwich Historic Town and Cinque Port. To be reused at Sandwich. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 15 September 1979 (P)

Knebworth House and Country Park Easter to September A Family Day Out. To be re-used at Stevenage. 1st and 2nd class.

Repeat Campaigns

Until 15 February 1980

Leeds — Motorway City of the 70's. To be re-used at Leeds. 1st class.

Until 15 February 1980

Leeds — Capital of the Centre of Britain. To be re-used at Leeds. 2nd class.

Until 15 February 1980

Give a Child a Home — 448624 Leeds Social Services. To be re-used at Leeds. 2nd class.

Until 18 March 1980

Catch The Sun in Thanet at Broadstairs, Margate, Ramsgate. To be re-used at Margate and Ramsgate. 1st class Margate. 1st and 2nd class Ramsgate.

Until 14 October 1979 (P)

Tatton Park Knutsford Mansion Gardens Country Park. To be re-used at Altrincham. 2nd class.

P denotes Pictorial

C denotes Circular

R denotes Rectangular

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