

British Philatelic Bulletin

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BT/Royal Mail Display in North West

The first NW British Telecom & Royal Mail Spring Gathering will be held at the Flyde Country Life Museum, Woods Lane, Pilling near Preston on 19 May 1991. The event is being sponsored by BT Lancs & Cumbria and Royal Mail Preston. There will be numerous exhibits connected with postal and telecommunications history, including postal mechanisation, post buses, postal vehicles and uniforms and the history of Preston Telephone Exchange, 1880-1980. Admission to the event free, a small charge is levied for entry to the Flyde Country Life Museum.

Royal Opening



HRH The Princess of Wales opened a new Royal Mail sorting office at Truro, Cornwall at the end of January. Our photograph shows the Princess signing the visitors' book. (Photo: The Post Office South West Public Relations)

Obituaries

Captain H T Jackson who has recently died at a great age will be best remembered for his articles and books on Post Office Telegraph and railway letter stamps. His catalogue of Railway Letter Stamps, 1891-1971, published by Harry Hayes in 1979, remains the standard reference work. He built up a large collection of British postal history from 1680 to 1950 and a specialised study of Edward VII issues about which he wrote in the *Philatelic Adviser*. He died on 10 February – just 10 days after the centenary of the introduction of the Railway Letter Service, his subject of study for so many years.

Dr Reginald W Powell, who died on 1 March 1991, was a well-known collector of British stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V. He wrote extensively for *The GB Journal* (magazine of the GB Philatelic Society), and will be long remembered for his regular contributions entitled "A KEVII Miscellany". He assisted Stanley Gibbons with revisions to Volume 2 of their *GB Specialised Catalogue* dealing with the issues of Edward VII to George VI. Dr Powell was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Sport 91

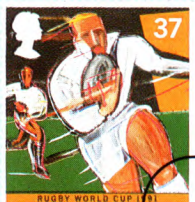
11 June 1991

Stamps featuring four popular sports will be issued on 11 June. 1991 has been designated the Year of Sport by the British Sports Council. Britain plays host to two major international sport events – the World Student Games at Sheffield in July and the Rugby World Cup (with France and Ireland) in the Autumn. These stamps pay tribute to the role which sport plays in society today, in particular the range of enjoyment it offers and the contribution it makes in forging links between people of all nationalities.

The **22p** stamp (basic inland first class and EEC rate) features Fencing, one of the sports represented at the World Student Games. Team and individual events for men will be held in the foil, épée and sabre disciplines and for women in the foil. All of these disciplines place a premium on balance, co-ordination, agility and speed of reaction.



The **26p** stamp (basic non-EEC rate) depicts Hurdling. The Student Games will include many track and field events, all demanding speed or stamina or both. Hurdling adds an extra dimension to these as competitors need to perfect stride patterns and rhythm.



The **31p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) features Diving. Spring-board and platform diving, which are among the 11 sports in the World Student Games, require an instinctive understanding of aerodynamics, elegant manoeuvrability and considerable nerve.

The fourth stamp – **37p** (Airmail Zones 1 and 2 basic rate) shows Rugby and reminds us that the second Rugby World Cup is being held this year. The first tournament was held in Australia and New Zealand in 1987. This year the matches are being held at Twickenham; Cardiff Arms Park; Murrayfield, Edinburgh; Lansdowne Road, Dublin and Parc des Princes, Paris. The final takes place on 2 November at Twickenham, headquarters of English rugby and widely regarded as the home of Rugby Union. The winning team will be awarded the Webb Ellis Cup.

The Rugby World Cup has also been commemorated by an attractive Scottish aerogramme, issued on 12 March 1991 (see March *Bulletin*, page 155). The aerogramme also commemorates Scotland's success in the Five Nations Championship, 1990.

The World Student Games were first held in

Turin in 1959 and ranks second only to the Olympics in size. Many Olympic and World champions have had their first taste of international fame at the Student Games. Amongst the best known Student Games athletes have been Said Aouita, David Moorcroft, Jürgen Hingsen, Calvin Smith, Valerie Brisco, Olga Korbut, Nadia Comaneci and Emil Zatopek. The Sheffield Games, under the patronage of HRH The Princess Royal, will be staged in various stadia including the impressive new 25,000 seater Don Valley Stadium. Accommodation is being provided for no fewer than 6,000 competitors.

Sport has featured on many British stamps beginning with the set commemorating the 1948 Olympics. A useful article reviewing British sport stamps, by G E Drabble, was published in the January 1991 *Bulletin* (pages 110-113). Of the four sports shown on these new stamps, Hurdling and Rugby have featured on earlier issues – Hurdling on the 25p stamp in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme set of 1981 (S.G. 1165) and Rugby on the 13½p value of the 1980 Sport issue (S.G. 1135).

Bulletin readers will be aware that the Student Games was the theme for stamp designs in the 1989/90 Design Competition organised by the Royal Society of Arts. The stamp design section of this competition is sponsored by Royal Mail Stamps. Although the student designs are not being used for the issued stamps, they are of interest and illustrations will be found in the following issues of this *Bulletin*: July 1990 (page 273), November 1990 (p. 57) and February 1991 (p. 127).

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Huntley Muir and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of "almost square" format, 35 x 37mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 14½.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 218) will cost £1.45; it was printed by Raithby, Lawrence. It gives details of the sports depicted on the stamps, of the Student Games and the Rugby World Cup.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two

weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 135A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 11 June, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Sheffield.

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 11 June.

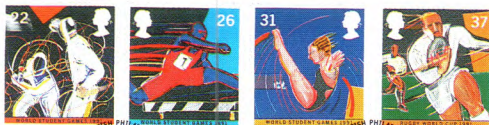
Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Sheffield postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), Durham (Cathedral) and Swindon (railway locomotive). Reposting addresses: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA; Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, Royal Mail, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE and Special Postmark Duty, Royal Mail Swindon, Holbrook House, Station Road, SWINDON SN1 1AA. These handstamps were introduced on 17 January 1989, 22 March 1988 and 5 March 1991 respectively.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" centres and philatelic counters from 12 June, price 19p. This will be on sale for one year.

Royal Mail
First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Another young man who made his mark at the Universiade was Greg Louganis, widely regarded as the greatest diver of all time. Springboard and platform diving, which are among the eleven sports featured in the Games at Sheffield, require an instinctive understanding of aerodynamics, elegant manoeuvrability and considerable nerve since the margin between success and serious injury is very narrow indeed.

diving

4. Louganis demonstrates the practice in aerial gymnastics which is essential to reach the highest diversities.

5. Greg Louganis, who enjoyed early success at the Universiade, went on to become regarded as the greatest diver the world has ever seen.

Sheffield is the setting for the World Student Games in July 1991, the first time any British city has been given the honour of staging this prestigious biennial event. Incorporating a cultural festival, the Games - or Universiade - bring together thousands of young people from countries throughout the world in the pursuit of sporting excellence.

First held in Turin in 1959, although its origins go back to 1923, the Universiade ranks second only to the Olympics in size. Many Olympians and world champions, in fact, have had their first taste of international fame at the Universiade. The roll-call of Universiade honours, for example, includes the names of Said Aouita, David Moorcroft, Jürgen Hingsen, Calvin Smith, Valerie Brisco-Hodge, Olga Korbut, Nadia Comăneci and the legendary Czech athlete, Emil Zatopek.

fencing

Fencing, despite its violent origins, is probably a much safer sport than diving. At Sheffield, team and individual events for men will be held in the foil, épée and sabre disciplines and for women in the foil. All of these disciplines place a premium on balance, co-ordination, agility and speed of reaction.

hurdling

The most popular spectacles at Sheffield will undoubtedly be provided by the track and field athletes. Each athletics event - from the 100 metres to the 10,000 metres - demands particular attributes, such as speed or stamina or a combination of both. Hurdling, of course, adds an extra dimension to these, since competitors must perfect individual stride patterns which will enable them to meet and clear the hurdles with a seemingly effortless rhythm.

rugby

Equally strenuous efforts have been made by the English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh and English Rugby Unions, both for the second Rugby World Cup to be staged in October and November of this year. Competing for this will be the top sixteen international Rugby Union teams in the world, judged by the experience of the world.

Royal Mail Mint Stamps



National Philatelic Organisations in Britain

3. The BPF Congress

JAMES NEGUS, FRPSL

The two major philatelic societies described in previous instalments (March and April) were followed in point of time by a new organisation, still active today.

The first Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was arranged by the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society in February 1909 in connection with a Philatelic Exhibition in that city. Except for the war years, 1915-19 and 1941-45, an annual Congress has taken place ever since. The 1991 event is thus the 73rd in the series.

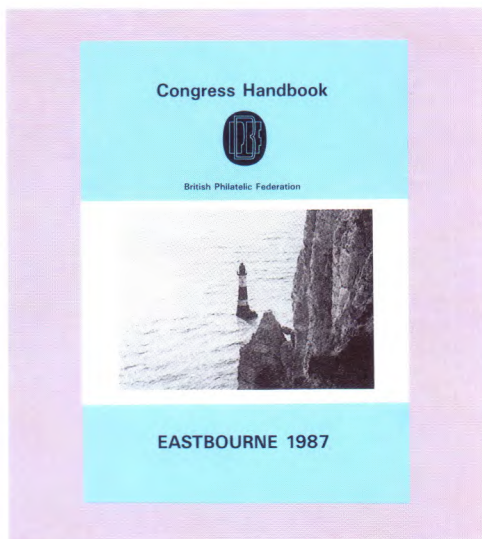
In 1976 the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain combined with the British Philatelic Association to form a new organisation, the British Philatelic Federation. The Federation's work will be described in the next article, confining the present notes to that part of its activity now properly termed the "BPF Congress".

Congress is an annual assembly, nowadays spreading over three business days. With BPF support, it is normally at the invitation of a local philatelic society and in its long history has been held in numerous cities and resorts in England, Scotland and Wales. It has also met in Guernsey, in the Isle of Man and once in France (Enghien-les-Bains, 1974).

Societies and Businesses affiliated to the BPF can send delegates to Congress but it is also open to individual members and visitors.

The proceedings blend business sessions with greatly enjoyed social functions; opportunity is also taken for visits to places of local historic or philatelic interest. The host society will often have arranged displays, for example of local postal history, and Congress normally sees late-night meetings of specialist societies from among the delegates.

A Kay Goodman Lecture, in memory of the selfless work of this lady, is now an annual feature. Two papers are also given by invitation and published in advance; after a brief verbal introduction by the writers the subject is thrown open to discussion and many lively debates ensue. These papers are often chosen to be thought-provoking and are the occasion for airing diverse viewpoints in a good-humoured



Handbook for the 1987 Congress at Eastbourne, containing paper on "The Post Office and the Support of Philately" by Colin Pawson, Royal Mail Stamps Controller of Stamp Production & Marketing

way. Formal resolutions from delegates on matters of current philatelic or organisational importance can also be introduced and a vote taken.

Proceedings on the final day end very pleasurably with a dinner, perhaps followed by entertainment. At dinner, toasts will be raised to HM The Queen, the local civic authority and host philatelic society, together with "the new RDPs".

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

An RDP is a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, one of the foremost accolades in international philately. The signing of the Roll takes place in the afternoon of the final day and is the undoubted high-spot of Congress.

An international Board of Election, appointed by BPF Council from among existing RDPs, each year confers this honour on a small

number of philatelists who are "distinguished by having done service to philately, either by research work made available to others or in some public or other capacity". The criterion is benefit to philately as a whole and can encompass not only writings, but display of important collections or organisational and propaganda work. The honour is not dependent upon owning rare stamps and is open to any nationality.

The Roll has 57 surviving signatories of the 272 names inscribed on it since it began in 1921 and about 40 per cent of RDPs have been from Britain. The Board invites nominations for consideration annually and these may come from the Societies, Federations and Associations affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation, committees of the BPF, or existing RDPs.

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was inaugurated at the Harrogate Congress in May 1921 with an initial list of 40 names. Standing at the very head is the most famous, King George V, and his signature "George R.I." was given at a private ceremony in the Stamp Room at Buckingham Palace. The actual ceremony at Congress today sees each new RDP introduced by a sponsor, who speaks of his achievements. The signatory is then conducted to the table where the Roll has been laid out ready for him to add his name to those of his distinguished predecessors. After receiving a memento he will take his seat among the fellow-RDPs that are present at that Congress.

The Roll itself is a parchment scroll, which at the 1990 Congress in Cambridge completed its third section. It has been taken abroad for display at various International Exhibitions, on occasion coinciding with a signing ceremony there. A valuable book on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and its individual signatories was written by Mr A. Ronald Butler, RDP, FRPSL, in 1990; it was published by the British Philatelic Federation and is currently available from them.

Address for information: The Secretary, British Philatelic Federation, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT. Tel. 071-251 5040.

Editor's Note: The 1991 Congress will be held at the Dyffryn Conference Centre, Cardiff from 19-22 September, organised by the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies. The 1992 Congress will be held at Newcastle upon Tyne.

Spring Stampex

As always visitors to Spring Stampex were provided with much of interest – both in the displays and society meetings and in the wide range of stamps, covers and philatelic accessories on offer at the stands of postal administration and dealers. The display by the Philatelic Music Society was praiseworthy indeed and visitors at the weekend had the extra attraction of musicians playing on the stage. The Forces Postal History Society arranged a fine display of material from the Napoleonic Wars to the recent Gulf War; visitors were provided with a useful guide to the display. In the Old Hall could be seen an interesting exhibition marking the 150th anniversary of the Penny Red; this included many covers and examples of postmarks from many towns.

Several of the society meetings were of interest to GB collectors. Members of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle were entertained to a talk by Dr A R Lane, Chief Chemist at the Post Office Research Centre. Dr Lane spoke on the current situation in regard to changes affecting stamp cancelling and post-coding machinery and answered questions. He made it plain that many changes are in the pipe-line in speeding up the inward and outward handling of mail and in cancelling stamps; it is hoped to report on some of these changes in this *Bulletin*.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society displays included some interesting postal history material from First World War naval establishments and ships, George VI airmail routes, and a specialist study of the early George V 1d stamps. The meeting was well attended.

The Royal Mail stand "manned" by staff from the British Philatelic Bureau was kept busy; all stamp books (particularly with cylinder numbers) were much in demand. Both the National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives stands reported many visitors and a lot of interest. Downstairs in the Old Hall, there were many attractions for members of the Stamp Bug Club – with plenty of young (and some not so young) visitors to keep Sharon Scothern, Sara Tipton, Phil Moore and John Ryan of Royal Mail Stamps on their toes.

Autumn Stampex (BPE) 1991 will be held at the Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1 from 15-20 October; the dates for Spring Stampex 1992 will be 25 February-1 March.

Collections & Philatelic Counters

We have received a number of requests for a listing of Collections centres and philatelic counters and we are pleased to publish such a list. Times of opening are given but these are subject to change to meet local circumstances (staff sickness for example) and collectors travelling long distances are advised to phone the relevant centre/counter first to ensure it will be open on the day (and time) they intend visiting.

Special pictorial Philatelic Counter handstamps are available for use on mail posted at or handed in at Collections and Philatelic Counters. These can be obtained under the reposting facility by sending addressed and stamped covers to the relevant Special Handstamp Centre (SHC), addresses given below. For example, covers to receive the Portsmouth Philatelic Counter handstamp should be sent to the South East Special Handstamp Centre at Windsor. All mail for these handstamps should bear 4p in addition to the correct rate of postage to cover the special handstamping fee. Collectors sending in covers should state clearly which Philatelic Counter handstamp they require – ideally lightly pencilling the name of the Philatelic Counter in the top left-hand corner of the cover(s) they want handstamped.

The addresses of the Special Handstamp Centres are:

London North SHC
Royal Mail City & International
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA

London South SHC
Royal Mail London South West
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

South East SHC
Windsor Post Office
Peascode Street
WINDSOR
Berks SL4 1AA

Northern England SHC
Royal Mail Newcastle
Forth Street
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA

Midlands SHC
Royal Mail Birmingham
Royal Mail Street
BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA

Wales & The West SHC
Royal Mail Cardiff
220-228 Penarth Road
CARDIFF CF1 1AA

Scotland & N Ireland SHC
Royal Mail Glasgow
George Square
GLASGOW G2 1AA

Collections

25 Castle Place Post Office
BELFAST BT1 1BB
Tel: 0232-237334
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Wed closes 13.30);
9.00-13.00 Sat
Reposting address: Scotland & N Ireland SHC

Victoria Square Post Office
BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA
Tel: 021-644 8654
Open: 10.00-17.30 Mon-Fri
Reposting address: Midlands SHC

51 Ship Street Post Office
BRIGHTON BN1 1AA
Tel: 0273-698911 ex 2289
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-13.30 Sat
Reposting address: South East SHC

The Galleries Post Office
Castle Galleries
BRISTOL BS1 3XX
Tel: 0272-252322
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Thu; 9.30-17.30 Fri;
9.00-13.00 Sat
Reposting address: Wales & The West SHC

1-11 St Andrew Street Post Office
CAMBRIDGE CB1 1AA
Tel: 0223-323325 ex 229
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat
Reposting address: South East SHC

2-4 Hill Street Post Office

CARDIFF CF1 2ST

Tel: 0222-345286

Open: 10.00-16.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Wales & The West SHC

2 St John Street Post Office

CHESTER CH1 1AA

Tel: 0244-348315

Open: 10.00-12.30 & 13.30-16.00 Mon-Fri;
9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Wales & The West SHC

19-39 Head Street Post Office

COLCHESTER CO1 1AA

Tel: 0206-763022

Open: 10.00-12.15 & 13.15-16.00 Tue-Fri;
10.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: South East SHC

Kings Square Post Office

GLOUCESTER GL1 1AD

Tel: 0452-419498 ex 299

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Midlands SHC

North Street Post Office

GUILDFORD GU1 1AA

Tel: 0483-39181

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-13.00 Sat

Reposting address: South East SHC

The Lyceum Post Office

1 Bold Street

LIVERPOOL L1 4DD

Tel: 051-708 4056

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Northern England SHC

Trafalgar Square Post Office

24-28 William IV Street

LONDON WC2N 4QL

Tel: 071-930 9813

Open: 10.00-19.00 Mon-Fri; 10.00-16.30 Sat

Reposting address: London North SHC

Spring Gardens Post Office

MANCHESTER M2 1AA

Tel: 061-837 8253

Open: 8.30-18.00 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.00);
8.30-13.00 Sat

Reposting address: Northern England SHC

Windsor Post Office

37-39 Peascod Street

WINDSOR

Berks SL4 1AA

Tel: 0753-861451

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: South East SHC



Liver Building



Nelson's Column



Town Hall



St Paul's Cathedral



The Cathedral



Council House



*Tom Tower,
Christchurch*



The Mary Rose

Philatelic Counters

New Bond Street Post Office

BATH BA1 1AA

Tel: 0225-44358

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Thu; 9.30-17.30 Fri;
9.00-13.00 Sat

Reposting address: Wales & The West SHC

28 High Street Post Office

CANTERBURY CT1 1BA

Tel: 0227-475280

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: South East SHC

Corporation Street Post Office

COVENTRY CV1 1AB

Tel: 0203-557281

Open: 10.00-13.20 & 14.00-16.30 Tue-Fri; 9.30-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Midlands SHC

10 High Street Post Office

CROYDON CR9 1LT

Tel: 081-681 8883 ex 2319

Open: 9.00-16.30 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: London South SHC

Silver Street Post Office

DURHAM DH1 3RE

Tel: 091-384 1307

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Fri opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Northern England SHC

2-4 Waterloo Place Post Office

EDINBURGH EH1 1AA

Tel: 031-550 8370

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Fri opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Scotland & N Ireland SHC

Bedford Street Post Office

EXETER EX1 1AA

Tel: 0392-55672

Open: 9.30-10.30, 11.15-12.30, 13.30-15.30 &
16.15-17.00 Mon-Fri; 9.30-13.30 Sat

Reposting address: Wales & The West SHC

George Square Post Office

GLASGOW G2 1AA

Tel: 041-242 4306

Open: 9.00-17.00 Mon-Fri; 9.00-10.00 & 10.30-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Scotland & N Ireland SHC



George Square Post Office, Glasgow



London Chief Post Office Philatelic Counter

City Square Post Office

LEEDS LS1 1AA

Tel: 0532-447763

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Northern England SHC

4 Bishop Street Post Office

LEICESTER LE1 1AA

Tel: 0533-533699

Open: 10.00-13.30 & 14.30-17.00 Mon-Fri;
9.30-12.30 Sat

Reposting address: Midlands SHC

London Chief Post Office

King Edward Street

LONDON EC1A 1AA

Tel: 071-239 5048

Open: 10.00-16.00 Mon-Fri

Reposting address: London North SHC

St Nicholas Street Post Office
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA
Tel: 091-235 3219
Open: 10.00-17.00 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.00 Sat
Reposting address: Northern England SHC

Queen Street Post Office
NOTTINGHAM NG1 2BN
Tel: 0602-474311
Open: 9.00-13.30 & 14.30-17.30 Mon, Thu &
Fri; 9.00-17.00 Tue; 9.30-13.00 Wed;
9.00-13.30 Sat
Reposting address: Midlands SHC

102-104 St Aldates Post Office
OXFORD OX1 1AA
Tel: 0865-814785
Open: 10.00-17.00 Mon-Fri
Reposting address: South East SHC

Slindon Street Post Office
PORTSMOUTH PO1 1AA
Tel: 0705-835200
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat
Reposting address: South East SHC

59 High Street Post Office
SOUTHAMPTON SO9 1WA
Tel: 0703-831242
Open: 9.00-17.00 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat
Reposting address: South East SHC

Weston Road Post Office
SOUTHEND ON SEA SS1 1BZ
Tel: 0702-348226
Open: 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-16.30 Mon-Fri;
10.00-12.00 Sat
Reposting address: South East SHC

High Cross Post Office
TRURO TR1 2AP
Tel: 0872-43436
Open: 9.00-16.15 Mon-Fri (Fri opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat
Reposting address: Wales & The West SHC

22 Lendal Post Office
YORK YO1 1AA
Tel: 0904-628901
Open: 9.00-16.15 Mon-Fri (Wed 9.30-12.00 &
13.00-16.15); 9.00-12.30 Sat
Reposting address: Northern England SHC

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

185. 1d Black Plate 5

Plate 5 of the Penny Black was registered twice, on 1 and 11 June 1840, probably before and after the plates were hardened. Later in the year this plate was repaired and in January 1841 further repairs were made when the first printings of the 1d red were being run off. The subsequent provisional printing of the 1d black, showing these "third state" repairs yields the rarest examples of the 1d black. The Phillips collection includes several examples from this scarce printing including a pair used on cover addressed to Cheltenham in March 1841 and cancelled with a Maltese Cross handstamp in black. Below the pair, Phillips mounted a matching pair of the 1d red, corner letters QA and QB. This interesting cover can be seen on page 51 of Volume 5 of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum.

The Museum, in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1, is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm; Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission free.



The Museum's main exhibition for 1991/2 opens on 14 May. Entitled "Stamping the Mail", it deals with postmarks from 1661 until the Second World War.

Promoting Youth Philately

Midlands Youth Officers

In response to invitations from Roy Thompson of the Solihull Philatelic Society, ten Society Youth Officers recently met to discuss ways to encourage youngsters to take up stamp collecting.

Delegates related their experiences in running youth stamp clubs. Current practice ranges from ½ hour lunch-time sessions in schools to fully-fledged organisations such as Tamworth Young Philatelists – a club organised and run entirely by the young people themselves with minimum adult guidance when required. John Davies of Banbury who has had considerable experience in promoting youth philately in schools outlined the facilities offered by “Stamp Active” (see below) and distributed material for youth officers to use in their activities. It was agreed that there was a need for society members to adopt completely different approaches to the running of youth stamp clubs in order to gain and retain the attention of the club members. Ideal ways included limiting talks and displays to five or ten minutes and holding quizzes and other “hands-on” activities. There was a need for facilities for youth stamp clubs particularly in towns where there are no stamp dealers. Further meetings of the youth officers will be held at Midlands Philatelic Federation conventions – details from DR E R Clark, 122 Coniston Eoad, WOLVERHAMPTON WV6 9DU.

Stamp Active

Stamp Active, launched at Stamp World London 90, is a new scheme designed for teachers, parents and youth leaders who are already, or would like to be, involved in setting up a stamp club for youngsters. Promoted by the Melville & Youth Committee of the British Philatelic Federation and designed by John Davies, himself a stamp club organiser, Stamp Active provides a series of interesting ideas, activities and useful material.

Stamp Active will supply new members with a professionally designed “Welcome Pack” containing free stamps, philatelic literature and innovative ideas for lively and fun stamp games. “Up-date” packs will be issued.

Annual membership at £10 is open to anyone active in youth philately wishing to run a junior stamp club. Membership brings automatic affiliation to the BPF with benefits such as the

BPF Handbook and *Stamp Mail* magazine.

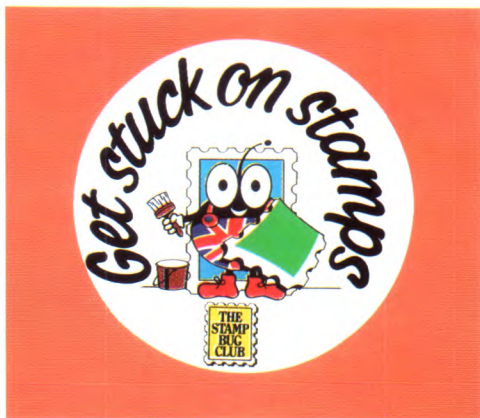
Further details from: British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT or John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, BANBURY, Oxon, OX16 9LB.

Royal Mail Stamps School Packs

Teachers running school stamp clubs or featuring stamps in classes should be aware of the educational material produced by Royal Mail Stamps and already sent to some 18,000 primary schools. Schools not yet on the mailing list should contact: The Manager – Youth Philately, Royal Mail Stamps, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

Books for School & Youth Stamp Clubs

The British Philatelic Trust operates a scheme for providing stamp clubs run by schools and youth organisations with basic reference material in the form of catalogues and handbooks. Over 400 clubs have been assisted to date and applications from clubs not previously supplied with such material are welcome. Interested stamp club organisers should write to the BPT Secretary: John Littlebury, British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.



Stamp Bug Club

The Stamp Bug Club was set up in 1980 and now has some 70,000 members – about one-third of whom are in the “target age group” of 7-11 years. Subscription to the Club, including six issues of the colourful *Stamp Bug News* each year, is just £3 for two year membership or £5 for five years. Subscriptions should be sent to: Stamp Bug Club, Freepost, NORTHAMPTON NN3 1BR.

Stamp Bug Club Album 90 Competition

Every year members of the Stamp Bug Club have the chance to enter the Album Competition and win some super prizes. There are two age categories: 5-11 and 12-16 years. *Stamp Bug News* gave members tips on how to best impress the judges with their entries. At the beginning of this year, hundreds of members submitted a thematic page from their albums and hoped that their entry was going to win the coveted silver trophy. The themes submitted by members varied from the Bicentenary of the French Revolution to Famous Spectacle Wearers of the World!!

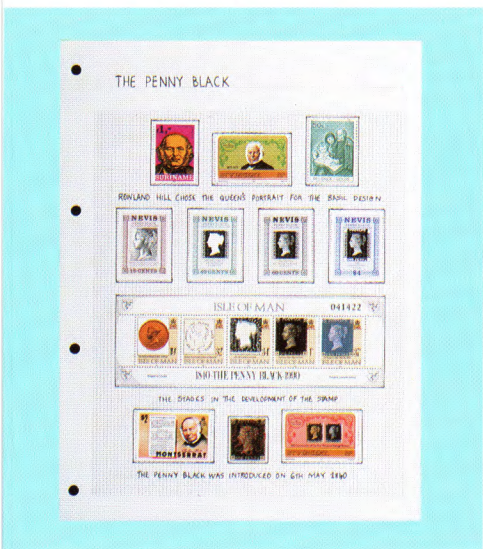
After much debate, the judges awarded Catherine Fortey, age 9, from Leicester, first prize in the younger age category with "Endangered Species" and Leanne Davies, age 12,



from Banbury, first prize in the older age category with "The Penny Black".

As well as winning engraved silver trophies, Penny Black stamps, framed certificates and 1990 Royal Mail Stamps Yearbooks; Catherine and Leanne (and Dads) were treated to a slap-up lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe in Piccadilly, followed by a trip to the Apollo Theatre to see "Starlight Express".

Our illustrations show Catherine and Leanne with their trophies and their prize-winning album pages headed "Endangered Species" and "The Penny Black".



Correction

A gremlin got into the typesetting of the note "Postage Due Discovery" in the April *Bulletin* (page 174): the date of the *Post Office Circular* should read 21 December 1920, not 1921. The Circular informed postmasters of the availability of a 4d Postage Due label; the postmaster at Thornton Heath obviously requisitioned stock immediately and the earliest known use of this stamp is at that office on 23 December 1920.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until October 1991. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

1 Nov	ASDA National exh. card (EQ027)
13 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS435)
13 Nov	Christmas pack (AP092)
13 Nov	Christmas stamp book (UB030)
13 Nov	Christmas aerogramme (QX012)
13 Nov	1990 Collectors' Pack (AR020)
13 Nov	1990 Year Book (AY020)
13 Nov	NPM Xmas Posters cards (NQ906)
27 Nov	Mixed Value Roll (DC849)
4 Dec	N Ireland 17p (IS170)
4 Dec	N Ireland 22p (IS222)
4 Dec	N Ireland 26p (IS262)
4 Dec	N Ireland 37p (IS370)



4 Dec	Scotland 17p (SS170)
4 Dec	Scotland 22p (SS223)
4 Dec	Scotland 26p (SS262)
4 Dec	Scotland 37p (SS370)
4 Dec	Wales 17p (WS170)
4 Dec	Wales 22p (WS222)
4 Dec	Wales 26p (WS262)
4 Dec	Wales 37p (WS370)
4 Dec	Country stamps pack (CP009)
29 Dec	Dogs stamp cards (AQ146)
8 Jan	Dogs stamps (AS441)
8 Jan	Dogs pack (AP093)
14 Jan	NPM Edwardian PO cards (NQ907)
5 Feb	Greetings (Good Luck) stamps (JB002)
19 Feb	Science stamp cards (AQ152)
26 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card (EQ028)
5 Mar	Science stamps (AS447)
5 Mar	Science pack (AP034)

12 Mar	Scot Aerogramme (Rugby) (QS027)
19 Mar	Prestige stamp book (YB002)
26 Mar	Greetings (Smiles) stamps (JB003)
9 Apr	CEPT/Space stamp cards (AQ157)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space stamps (AS452)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space pack (AP095)

Forthcoming

14 May	Definitives Pack (1p-75p)
14 May	NPM Stamping the Mail cards (4)
14 May	Scotland 22p on CPL paper
14 May	Scotland 26p on CPL paper
14 May	Scotland 37p on CPL paper
14 May	Wales 22p on CPL paper
28 May	Sport stamp cards
11 Jun	Sport stamps & pack
2 Jul	Roses stamp cards
16 Jul	Roses stamps & pack
23 Jul	Scot Aerogramme (Gaidhealach)
6 Aug	Dinosaur stamp cards
20 Aug	Dinosaur stamps & pack
3 Sep	Map stamp cards
17 Sep	Map stamps & pack
17 Sep	NPM Map cards (4)
Oct	Christmas stamp cards

Stamp Books – Quantities Issued

Numbers are given here of machine and window books issued August/November 1989:

50p	Aircraft 1 (2/10/89)	2,332,200
£1	31 Mills 1 (2/10/89)	2,938,810
56p	4 x 2nd NVI – W (22/8/89)	355,350
76p	4 x 1st NVI – W (22/8/89)	544,210
£1.40	10 x 2nd NVI (22/8/89†)	650,000
£1.90	10 x 1st NVI (22/8/89†)	757,500
£1.16	£1.16 4 x 29p (2/10/89)	77,560
60p	4 x 2nd NVI – H (Nov 89)	411,840
80p	4 x 1st NVI – H (Nov 89)	667,750

Notes:

W = printed by Walsall Security Printers; H = printed by Harrison and Sons.

† = total figures for both Harrison printings (22/8/89 and October 1989) and Questa printing of 19 September. Separate figures not available.

The 56p, 76p, £1.40 and £1.90 books were sold at 60p, 80p, £1.50 and £2 from 2 October 1989 when postal rates were increased.

The 50p machine book was the only source of the 15p stamp with side band left; the £1.16 window book the only source of the 29p stamp printed in litho with two phosphor bands.

Postbag

JOHN HOLMAN

A good number of readers wrote in following publication of my article "Twenty Years Ago – Decimalisation" in February. I was very pleased to receive reports of further post offices open during the 1971 postal strike, from which locally addressed mail could be delivered. Most of these offices were thus able to provide first day covers bearing the new Decimal Definitives, actually postmarked on 15 February 1971. The following can be added to the list on page 135 in February:

Alcester, Warwickshire
Balmedie, Aberdeenshire
Brewood, Staffordshire
Forest Row, Sussex
Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk
Hailsham, Sussex
High Hurstwood, Uckfield, Sussex
Pangbourne, Reading, Berks
Peacehaven, Sussex

I am obliged to Rev C M Beaver, J H Bell, Mrs J Bush, A D Godfrey, G W Hay, J Langford, R Lynes, F H Rodwell and O J Simpson for this information. Further reports would be welcome.

J K Leary of Birmingham wrote a long letter recalling that he posted "a goodly collection of mixed £sd and decimal stamp covers, many of which succeeded in getting through well after the last day of eligibility. A few were delivered stamped with the cachet 'Invalid stamps used' and fewer still had 'To Pay' labels appended." Mr Leary spent much time in "plating" the coils of the 1p stamp and raises an interesting question about the 2½p stamp in coil form. He writes: "There were a few machines which dispensed the 2½p vertical coil for an old 6d coin. I believe that there were two of these coil machines outside King Edward Building, but the one I knew best was outside the GPO in Leamington Spa. It was rarely used and I often had difficulty in persuading it to deliver a stamp, although on one occasion I did manage to get a strip of 21 stamps out of it, which was the minimum requirement for plating purposes."

I don't recall 2½p stamp machines outside the London Chief Office (King Edward Building) but would be pleased to hear from readers who can confirm or refute Mr Leary's belief. I do remember a machine at the Post Office Tower (now Telecom Tower) which vended 6d stamps. Can any reader remember if, after decimalisation, this machine provided 2½p rather than 6d stamps? Finally I should like to hear of other offices that had 6d/2½p machines – presumably Leamington Spa was not alone.

Mr F Gee of Stowmarket wrote concerning the souvenir sheet produced for the 72nd British Philatelic Federation Congress at Cambridge in 1990; the sheet was illustrated here in February (page 137). The four designs featured on this sheet were not in fact issued College stamps. Mr Gee writes: "The designs comprise the Coat of Arms of Girton College set in different frames 'borrowed' from the stamps which were issued by several Colleges in the 1870s and 1880s for use in connection with their Messenger Services. Ironically, although the BPF Congress was held in Cambridge, the 'borrowed' frames which are visible in your illustration are derived from stamps issued by Oxford Colleges – namely Lincoln, Keble and Merton." Three of the four designs on this sheet are inscribed "Girton College" although the sheet is captioned, at foot, "During the 1880's three Cambridge Colleges issued stamps: Selwyn, Queens' and St John's." Mr Gee ended his letter thus: "The souvenir sheet was presumably intended to illustrate the kind of designs which Girton College might have adopted had it issued stamps in the 1880s – which it didn't."

The article previewing the Scientific Achievements stamps (February *Bulletin*) generated a detailed letter concerning the work of Charles Babbage from John Fauvel, Vice-President of the British Society for the History of Mathematics. The short account of Babbage's life published in the *Bulletin* was compiled from basic reference works; for a thorough review Mr Fauvel recommends *Charles Babbage* by Anthony Hyman, published by Oxford University Press in 1982. Mr Fauvel makes several points worth recording here to supplement or amend the *Bulletin* paragraph. He writes: "Babbage made no contribution whatsoever to the theory of logarithms but devised a machine to calculate them.

The 'calculating machine' of your account is surely a reference to the Difference Engine, a portion of which, assembled in 1833, you show



on your front cover – but that is not the machine ‘which is regarded as the forerunner of the modern computer’. The latter was called the Analytical Engine: only a very small portion of it was ever assembled; what largely remains are the plans and engineering drawings.” Finally Mr Fauvel tells us that it was in 1827, not 1823, that Babbage became Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge – “a role in which he was singularly ineffectual.” I am obliged to Mr Fauvel for this information which will be of interest to readers who like to add background information when writing up their collections of special stamps.

May/June Events

The **Midland Philatelic Federation** will be holding its Spring Convention at the Aldridge Community Centre, Middlemore Lane, Aldridge on 11 May, from 10.30am to 4.30pm, hosted by the Aldridge Philatelic Society. Admission 20p adults, 10p children. The 1991 competitions will cover Stamps (Traditional); Postal History; Thematics; Youth Section. Dealers will be present; there will be a raffle and tombola. Car parking and refreshments available. Enquiries: Dr E R Clark, 122 Coniston Road, WOLVERHAMPTON WV6 9DU; Tel. Wolverhampton 755262.

The meeting of the **Great Britain Philatelic Society** on 18 May will include a display entitled “Fine, Rare or Interesting: a Miscellany” at 11am, followed by the AGM, raffle and Society awards at 2.45pm. The meeting will be held at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. Details of the GBPS can be obtained from the Member-

ship Secretary: A J Walker, 42 Jesmond Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE2 4PQ.

David Harrop, an enthusiastic collector of postal artefacts, will be displaying part of his collection at the Llandudno Victorian Weekend (4-6 May); at the Isle of Anglesey Vintage Rally (Plas Goch, Llanfair PG, 18-19 May); the Morecambe Bay Steam Engine Rally (Waterside Farm, Ashton with Stodday, near Lancaster, 15-16 June) and the Clwyd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Annual Show (The Plassey Eyton, Wrexham, 29-30 June). Enquiries: David Harrop, 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT, Cheshire, SK4 3DQ.

Thematica 91, Britain's Thematic Stamp Exhibition, will be held at the Carisbrook Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2 on 29-30 June. Open Saturday 29th 10.30am to 5.30pm, Sunday 30th 10.30am to 5pm. The exhibition is supported by the British stamp trade, and the British Philatelic Federation through the British Thematic Association. In the exhibition hall will be found the main British thematic societies and the Grand Thematic Stamp Competition for the John Fosbery Trophy. Visitors to the exhibition will be invited to vote for the winner of this award; prizes will be awarded to 25 lucky voters. There will be several invited thematic displays. In the Dealers Hall will be dealers with postal history and other material as well as important thematic stamp and cover dealers including some of the most attractive exhibits. Enquiries: Maurice Gale Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 255, LONDON WC2N 6JR, Tel. 071-836 0997.



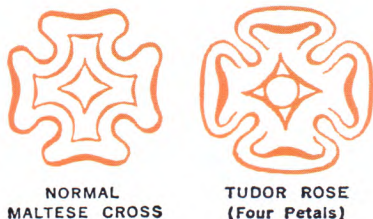
Part of David Harrop's display of postal memorabilia at the Roxton Park Steam Rally, September 1990

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.37 The Maltese Cross Cancellation

When planning for the safe cancellation of the 1d black and 2d blue on entires and the defacing of the 1d and 2d Mulready envelopes and letter sheets, the Post Office decided on a bold design mis-named officially the Maltese Cross. In fact, the adopted design was more akin to the Croix Paté with undertones of the four-petalled Tudor Rose. However, "Maltese Cross" (or just "MC") it will always remain to philatelists.



A notice issued to all postmasters on 25 April 1840 instructed them on the cancellation process and detailed the "recipe" for producing the "red stamping composition" comprising a mixture of printer's red ink, linseed oil and "droppings of Sweet Oil". Red had been chosen as being visible on both the 1d black and 2d blue stamps but it was quickly discovered that the red cancellation could easily be removed without leaving any obvious traces, thus allowing stamps to be used again. The "recipe" notice was adorned with three Maltese Cross cancellations struck in red.

After many experiments (examples of which can be seen in the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum), a black letter-press printer's ink was introduced in September 1840 for use in London. The new cancellation proved resistant to any attempt at removal by the public in general but it brought the problem which the old red cancellation had been designed to avoid – a black cancellation on a black stamp. If struck lightly it was not immediately obvious. The final solution was to change the colour of the

stamp to red-brown (in 1841) when the black cancellation became obligatory throughout the country.

Simultaneously with the "recipe", 2,000 Maltese Cross handstamps were dispatched to offices in post towns. These were virtually identical and the place of use can only be detected when the cancelled adhesive is on an entire which normally carried the post town's circular date stamp on the face, or the datestamp of the sub-office or receiving house when the letter was posted other than in a post town.

Also in April 1840, a notice circulated to all post offices instructed that the figure of Britannia on the Mulready postal stationery should be carefully handstamped and that all adhesive stamps should be individually cancelled and this applied to any letter with multiples – each stamp was to be cancelled separately.

It is evident that the handstamps became somewhat worn and postmasters began to have replacements made locally with inevitable variations from the official version. Some offices need more than one handstamp from the start and they engaged local craftsmen to cut them.

The outcome is a popular – albeit expensive – form of specialised collecting devoted to Maltese Cross cancellations. The locally-made handstamps are a fruitful field of study. The range of variants was dealt with at length by R C Alcock and F C Holland in their major work, *The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland* (1940). The section on Maltese Crosses was updated and published as a separate volume in 1959. Some of the more distinctive and identifiable local crosses are illustrated from a guide card prepared by the Great Britain Philatelic Society for distribution at the London International Stamp Exhibition of 1960.

London crosses are of special interest. In the post-Penny Black era of 1843 there were 12 handstamps issued in March and April of that year with numbers 1 to 12 in the centre diamond of the cross. They are most usually found on the 1841 1d red and 2d (white lines) blue. The Penny Black and no-lines Twopence Blue of 1840 can only be found if they were used as late as 1843. Not many of these 1840 veterans were still around unused by then which accounts for the £1,000 (for the 1d) and £2,250 (2d) at which they are catalogued by Gibbons with any one of the London numbered crosses.

Collectors are also interested in the unauthorised Maltese Cross cancellations coloured other than in the official red or black. Some shades of

red are understandable since make-up of the red ink could vary from place to place and sheer age creates differences according to the way the stamps (or entires) have been handled over the years. However, blue, brown, yellow and magenta cancellations on the Penny Black can only be the result of deliberate intention on the part of the individual postmasters involved. Stamps with these coloured cancellations are rare and should not be purchased without expert advice and preferably accompanied by an expert committee certificate.



SCOTLAND



CHANNEL ISLES



LEEDS



NORWICH & PLYMOUTH



YORK

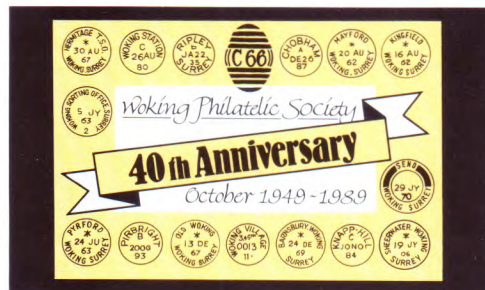


KILMARNOCK

Variations of Maltese Cross

Postmark Postcard

The Woking & District Philatelic Society celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1989 with a card featuring local postmarks. A limited number of this card is still available, price 25p unused or as a set of four with 15p, 20p, 1st and 2nd class stamps cancelled on the first day of sale (28 October 1989) for £2. Orders/enquiries to the Society's Secretary: Mrs E E Thorp, 53 Selwood Road, WOKING, Surrey, GU22 9HS.



Posting Boxes

120. Gibraltar and Australia Boxes

This month we feature a Victorian box in Gibraltar and a George V box in Western Australia. The VR box stands in Convent Square and was photographed by John Parker of Stockport.



The George V box, bearing the Western Australia Black Swan emblem, used to stand outside Government House in Perth. It is now in the Kalamunda History Village outside the old post office. It was made in 1912 by J & E Ledger of Perth. The History Village is run by volunteers from the Kalamunda Historical Society and contains some good postal exhibits. We are obliged to Patricia Rigby of Lesmurelie, Western Australia for the photograph.

140 Years of Service

In 1988 Crawford Morison took over as Postmaster on the Isle of Iona off the west coast of Scotland. New premises were required for the office and until Mr Morison could obtain these the post office operated from a caravan, shown



top left. The photographs in the bottom row show the new office before and after restoration work by Mr Morison and his postman; the building is rented from the Iona Community. The photo at top right shows the approach to the island; the post office is situated almost on the beach! A post office has operated on Iona since 1851. (Photos: Crawford Morison)



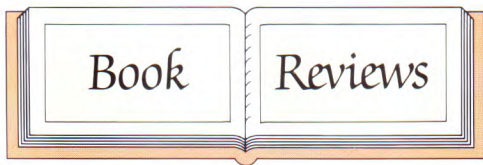
NPM Exhibition Plans

The National Postal Museum is currently working on plans for its 1992 exhibitions. The main exhibition, to follow the "Stamping the Mail" exhibition (May 1991/April 1992) will be entitled "People in the Post Office" and will look at how jobs have been done over the years. An exhibition on Music stamps will be staged in conjunction with the Philatelic Music Circle and an exhibition "The Queen's Stamps" will mark the 40th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne. Details of these exhibitions, postcards and special handstamps will be published in due course.

As part of the "Stamping the Mail" exhibition, the Museum will have on display a working replica of the Pearson Hill stamp cancelling

machine of 1857 and, for a short time, a prototype stamp cancelling machine now under development at the Post Office Research Centre at Swindon.

The exhibition covers postal markings from the 17th century to the Second World War, dealing with manuscript markings, Bishop marks, later General Post markings up to 1840, Dockwra and London local posts, handstamps and machine dies from the Museum's collections, Local Penny Posts, handstamp developments after 1840 (duplex, spoons, squared circles, TPOs, single and double ring), the development of machine markings, instructional markings and slogan and "special" postmarks for exhibitions, 1911 first internal air mail (Hendon-Windsor), 1934 first Australia air mail, etc.



Philatelic Literature: Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources by James Negus. ISBN 9963-7624-3-3. Published by James Bendon, P.O. Box 6484, Limassol, Cyprus, 1991. 293pp (+ xpp), 26 figures, hard-bound. £27.50.

It is said that everyone has a book within him. Many an editor must hope that most remain unwritten. James Negus, however, has now provided the means for those who will not be put off, at least insofar as philatelic books are concerned. And in that sphere, at least, collectors must be encouraged to put their knowledge on paper. So much is known, yet so little published, even today.

As this book is intended both for authors and those who use books, I naturally turned to the section on book reviews (chapter 13, page 117) before writing this piece. A short quote will give a flavour of both the contents and the style:

It is worth making a point to new authors: no magazine will review a book that they have never seen. The editor has to be sent a (free) review copy first. I have met authors who believed that the mere act of placing a work on sale was quite sufficient for it to receive widespread review. Sadly, this is a complete delusion.

This is typical of the book as a whole (though quite untypical in the typesetting error). Simple, clear, basic advice which may be obvious to those in the know but can be overlooked by a tyro. And given in a wry, amusing style. There follow detailed examples of exactly what should be written and how and which sources are available for the writer and researcher – all extremely useful. Naturally, the author followed his own advice and sent a (free) copy of his book to the Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* for review.

There are four parts to the book, plus 33 pages of notes and references, five appendices and two indexes, the last covering some 19 pages. The four parts are headed 'Practical bibliography', 'Methods of work', 'Tracing published information' and 'Writing and pub-

lishing' written in precisely that form. Within these parts are chapters on such things as citation of references, compiling bibliographies and indexes, using computers and finding information in catalogues, indexes and the like. There is also practical information on writing and publishing both in terms of requirements and ways and means.

In the midst of such practical details are notes and stories on the world of philately and philatelic literature through the ages. Much of it is of considerable amusement, both to the lay reader but also to the professional of some years' experience. The author has clearly suffered much over the period of his involvement, which has been many years and at the height of his profession.

This is a valuable book and compelling reading. Based partly on a work with a rather better title, *Good Bibliographic Practice*, it is directed at all those who might wish to write or publish articles or books on philatelic matters and also those who research the same.

It is usual for a reviewer to point out errors or omissions in the book he has at his side. All I have to say are quibbles or personal preferences. Given the contents I think the sub-title on both the dustjacket and the title page should be larger. And I dislike the spelling *Encyclopedic*, but these minor points simply show how hard it was to say anything on the negative side.

If one were to sum up the message contained in this book it might be: 'Be consistent' and 'Check carefully, and then check again'. This book contains a wealth of information of considerable reference value and, as you might imagine, the volume is itself an excellent example of the virtues the author sets out to teach.

Douglas N. Muir

The Great Britain Philatelic Society published Part 1 of **Queen Victoria: A Specialised Study of the 1881 One Penny Lilac** by R A G Lee in 1963. This first part dealt with "Frame Damage". Collectors have waited nearly 30 years for Part 2 which is now available and will be a permanent memorial to its writer who died in March 1990. This second volume deals with "Damage and Minor Varieties of the Four Segments, Letters and Ovals". Each variety is illustrated and numbered (from 549 to 1299). In his introduction, Ron Lee states: "Unfortunately it has not been possible to check and record the sheet position of the majority of these varieties. In many instances it is obvious that some repairs were effected to the plates during the course of

their 'running'. The author has been convinced for many years that many of these minor repairs were carried out by the machine minder. This has since been confirmed by the Senior Engraver at Messrs De La Rue... It would appear that major repairs were made to the plates from 1893 and cracks appear from 1897, probably due to the splitting or cracking of the steel covering to the electros. Crust flaws appear to become more prevalent from about 1900 to the end of the issue no doubt due to the inefficient cleaning of the plates when taken from the presses." Mr Lee spent 33 years studying examining over 3½ million examples of the Penny Lilac – probably the commonest of all the Victorian issues. Some 120 plates were prepared during its lifetime (1881-1900), of which 104 were actually used. The stamp is still easily obtainable and offers collectors a good, and reasonably priced, subject for specialised collection and study. Part 2 of Mr Lee's book is available from HH Sales Limited, 25 Horsell Road, LONDON N5 1XJ, price £15 plus £1 UK postage (HH Sales now handles the publications of the Great Britain Philatelic Society.) 104 pages, card covers, spiral bound.

Cylinder Update

The cylinders and colours used for the Europe in Space stamps (23 April) were:

22p 1A (silver) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (scarlet) 1D (violet-blue) 1E (bright blue) 1F (bright green) 4G (black)

37p 1A (silver) 1B (bistre-yellow) 1C (dull vermilion) 1D (blue) 1E (black)

The 50p definitive in new colour (sand, issued March 1990) has been printed from cylinder 36, previously 35. The phosphor cylinder in the 50p machine book with ink cylinder B48 is B87. The £1 machine book has now been printed by cylinders B47 B2 Phosphor B89.

The phosphor cylinder for the Greetings (Good Luck Charms) book is B90; the ink numbers were recorded in the March *Bulletin* (page 167).

A correction to the numbers given for the £3.40 Christmas book in the December *Bulletin* (p. 95) – the new blue cylinder is B4D not B2D; the phosphor cylinder can now be recorded – P94.

Souvenir Cover

Please note that no souvenir cover was produced for the Agatha Christie prestige book; this was included in the March Digest in error. We regret any disappointment or inconvenience caused.

Competition



Win £50 worth of British stamps

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 questions below, the answers to some will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: May Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 28 June.

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 Roses stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the August-*Bulletin*.

1. In which city is Murrayfield?
2. Who designed the Sport 91 stamps?
3. What were the ingredients of the red ink used for the Maltese Cross?
4. Who designed the 1962 National Productivity Year stamps?
5. What is the current "worldwide post card rate"?
6. Which famous architect was commemorated by a Scottish aerogramme in 1989?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps, 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 February competition were: J Prinner of Cumbria (£50 worth of Royal Mail products); D Budiman of Indonesia; Dr B Sagar of Cheshire; T Riley of Staffordshire, K Holmes of Indianapolis, USA and D Bhaskaran of Bombay, India (Europe in Space presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. London, 2. Graphics, 3. Flowers (20 January 1987), 4. 1 February 1891, 5. Dorothy Wilding, 6. Royal Philatelic Collection.

Our thanks to all who entered.

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 office.

Sport stamps. Benhams are sponsoring a number of special handstamps in connection with the Sports stamps (11 June). Separate England, Scotland and Wales covers will be available with the four Sports stamps cancelled with Twickenham, Cardiff Arms Park and Murrayfield, Edinburgh handstamps, price £4.99 each. A limited number of England covers will be signed by Bill Beaumont, ex England rugby captain and one of the captains of the BBC "Question of Sport" programme, price £6.99. Signed Scotland and Wales versions will also be available, price £6.99 each. Sets of Benham "silk" covers will be available, each illustrating one of the sports depicted on the stamps – Fencing, Hurdling, Diving and Rugby. The set of four will cost £7.99. A set of four luxury "silk" postcards will also cost £7.99; these will have a different series of illustrations depicting the various sports. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Dishforth Canadian Airforce Memorial. In 1942 the first of the Canadian squadrons to be stationed at Dishforth arrived and shortly afterwards commenced operations. This was the 425 Alouette squadron which was formed in June 1942 followed by the 426 Thunderbirds. They flew many missions from here; many did not return to base and 57 remain in Dishforth cemetery. A memorial to these young men is to be erected near the church; the memorial is expected to be dedicated on 29 June 1991. Funding of this village project is in progress and donations may be made to the Dishforth Canadian Fund. A special cover (limited to 100 copies) is being prepared as a memento of the occasion. This will bear the full set of Gallantry stamps, price £7.50 (C\$15). Orders/enquiries (UK): Hugh Naylor, Crown Farm, Dishforth, THIRSK, N Yorkshire, YO7 3JU; (Canada): H F West, 426 Hawkins Crescent, Tillsonburg, Ontario N4G 5K6.

Dunkirk Evacuation. A mini series of special covers to commemorate the RAF participation during the period of the Dunkirk Evacuation will shortly be available. Each cover is of the

same design and illustrates in full colour a reproduction of a magnificent original painting by the artist Peter Castle, and all are cancelled with a special pictorial postmark. Each of the covers is personally autographed by a pilot who flew the "Skies to Dunkirk". Full details are available from: Cambridge Stamp Centre, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA; Tel. David Nash on Cambridge (0223) 63980 or 321853.

Industrial Society. Founded in 1918, the Industrial Society has been working with employers and employees in every sector of the community to increase the involvement of people at work or seeking work. One of its major advances has been dealing with the increasing pace of technological change. The Society's London headquarters, Peter Runge House, was reopened, after fire damage in 1989, by The Queen Mother on 5 March. A limited edition (250) full-colour cover showing the Society's coat of arms was produced and is available bearing the Scientific Achievements stamps cancelled by a special handstamp. Price £4.95 plus 35p postage (£1 overseas). Orders/enquiries: P Withers, Meadowcroft, Meadow Drive, Blurton, STOKE ON TRENT ST3 3DT. Remittances payable to "P Withers".

Sir Frank Whittle. 1991 marks the 50th anniversary of the first flight of the jet engine designed by Sir Frank Whittle. To commemorate this RAF Cranwell is producing a cover showing Air Commodore Sir Frank in uniform. It will bear the 37p Scientific Achievements stamp cancelled by a Forces Postal Service special handstamp showing a sketch of the Gloster E28/39. The covers will be flown in a Jet Provost of RAF Cranwell and signed by the Commandant, Air Vice-Marshal R M Austin and the Station Commander, Group Captain J D Lunt. Price £4, available from 16 May. Orders/enquiries: Station Philatelic Officer, RAF Cranwell, SLEAFORD, Lincs, NG34 8HB.

Sinking of the Bismarck. 1991 marks the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the battleship *Bismarck* – one of the most compelling sea sagas of the Second World War. To mark this notable anniversary, a commemorative cover is being produced, the design reproducing a new painting of the sinking of the vessel. The covers will bear the DSO/DSM stamp from the Gallantry set cancelled by a special handstamp at Scapa Flow, Flotta on 27 May, price £2.95. Covers with the 1974 Churchill stamps or 1982 Maritime Heritage stamps will also be available, price

£9.75 each. Overseas customers add 50p postage. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Taff Vale Railway. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Taff Valley Railway, a special cover has been produced by the South Wales Branch of the Brunel Society. Sponsored by British Rail, the cover bears a special 12 April 1991 handstamp marking 150 years of railway history and a rail cachet denoting carriage by special train on the original route of the railway (now part of the Valley Lines in South Wales). An insert card gives a brief history of the TVR, the first locomotive railway in Wales. Price £2.50. Orders/enquiries: S K Jones, 49 Arles Road, Ely Bridge, CARDIFF CF5 5AN.

Europe in Space. Beautiful and enigmatic crop circles were first observed in Wiltshire 10 years ago and have been widely reported ever since. A pictogram of crop circles at Crawley, north of Salisbury, in July 1990 features on a cover produced on behalf of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies. The cover bears the Europe in Space stamps cancelled by a special handstamp. Price £5.75 or £7.75 signed by the Centre's Patron, Lord Haddington. Orders/enquiries: Stan Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 8JJ.

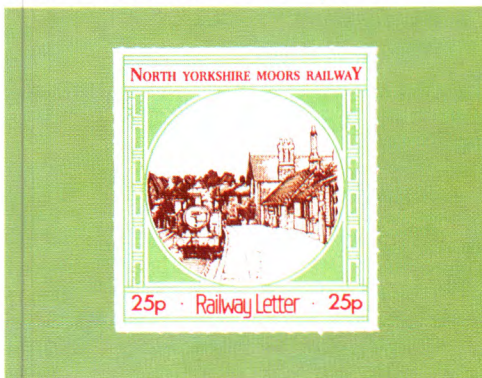
Bridge the Border. Oswestry Rotary Club celebrated its charity walk over the new Ceiriog Viaduct on 21 April 1991 with a special cover and handstamp. The cover depicts a large coloured version of the bridge walk logo which includes the English Lion, Welsh Dragon and Rotary Badge. Covers are available, price £1 each, from: Mr Shaw, Manesty, 5 Fron Castell, Fron Bache, LLANGOLLEN, Clywd, LL20 7BX. All proceeds go to charity.

Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here are two covers produced to commemorate the centenary of the Railway Letter Service which started on 1 February 1891. The Talyllyn cover bears five of the 5p railway letter stamps, issued in January 1990, cancelled by a centenary handstamp. The Railway is somewhat embarrassed by the fact that no one noticed the wrong year in the handstamp - 1881 instead of 1891. The cover is available, price £2 plus 40p postage, from: Sara Eade, Talyllyn Railway, Wharf Station, TYWYN, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY.



The Mid-Hants Railway issued a centenary railway letter stamp on 3 February – the date was changed from that originally announced, 27 January. The 25p stamp, printed in sheets of six, shows a L&SWR class T3 locomotive No. 563 and railway letter stamps and covers on a booking office desk. Stamps are available at face value plus 30p postage from: Postal Co-ordinator, Mid-Hants Railway, ALRESFORD, Hants, SO24 9JG. Details of the availability and prices of first day covers from the same address. A 25p stamp featuring Urie locomotive S15 No. 506 was issued on 29 March and a further 25p stamp showing American built S160 locomotive No. WD701 will be issued on 15 September.



Shown here is a new North Yorkshire Moors Railway stamp, issued on 22 April – details were published last month (page 189).

May Digest

Issued in May

14 May: Definitives Stamp Pack – No. 24 – containing one each of 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 17p, 20p (sea green), 22p, 26p, 27p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p, 37p, 50p and 75p stamps. Price £4.55.

14 May: Scotland 22p, 26p and 37p and Wales 22p stamps on paper provided by Coated Papers Ltd with PVA gum. NB New variations of 17p Scotland and Wales stamps were announced in error last month; these stamps are already on CPL paper (issued 4 December 1990).

14 May: National Postal Museum “Stamping the Mail” postcards – four cards featuring Pearson Hill parallel motion machine of c. 1858; hand-operated Krag machine of c. 1906; Kirkwood Roller handstamp of late 1850s; and TRH The Duke & Duchess of York working stamp-cancelling machine at Mount Pleasant, 1934. Price 20p each.

28 May: Sport 91 stamp cards (Nos. 135A-D), price 19p each.

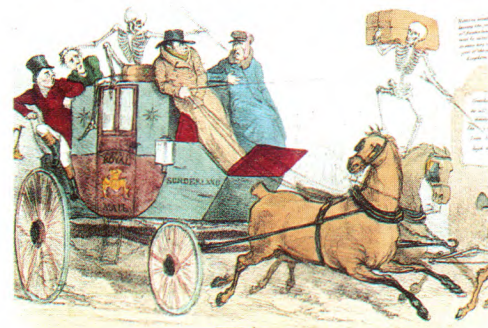
Withdrawn in May/early June

2 May: Penny Black Miniature Sheet and Penny Black Souvenir Book

4 June: Kew Gardens stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover

Postal Transport Postcards

The Bath Postal Museum issued a new card on 8 January, featuring an unusual mailcoach print



probably published in 1831 – a time of cholera outbreaks at ports, including Newcastle and Sunderland. Once the alarm was raised, incoming mail from overseas was directed to quarantine depots for disinfection. During the outbreak the ports of Newcastle and Sunderland were closed but road traffic continued, prompting this macabre print of the Sunderland Mail Coach. Orders to: Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, BATH BA1 5LJ, price 15p unused, £1 with first day postmark, postage & packing 50p.

The North of Ireland Philatelic Society has recently issued its sixth postcard. The card shows a Royal Mail bus operated under lease by J B Ferguson, which carried mail between Belfast and Portaferry. The photograph is from the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum Photographic Archive. Unused cards cost 15p, cards with first day postmark 40p. Postage extra – 25p UK, 50p overseas. Orders/enquiries: N Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, BELFAST BT5 7BZ.

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