

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 29

Number 6

February 1992



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NPM Pearson Hill Cachet

In October (page 26) we illustrated the souvenir cover bearing a cachet applied by the Museum's replica Pearson Hill stamp cancelling machine. The cachet originally had the date "AU 30 91", later "1991". It is now available with the date "1992". Covers bearing the new cachet are on sale at the Museum shop, price 75p. Collectors may order by post – £1 for one cover, 75p each for two or more (maximum 10) from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

1993 Special Stamp Programme

Royal Mail is pleased to announce preliminary details of the 1993 special stamp programme. This will include the second set of "Seasons" stamps; this time on Autumn. The dates of issue and values will be announced later; the subjects are:

Swans: A set of stamps on Swans will be issued to mark the 400th anniversary of Abbotsbury Swannery at Chesil Beach in Dorset.

Clocks: This set will be issued to commemorate the tercentenary of the birth of John Harrison – the first British clockmaker to make an accurate timekeeper for use at sea.

Orchids. A set of stamps will be issued in March to mark the World Orchid Conference in Glasgow from 26 April-3 May.

Shakespeare/Globe Theatre. To be issued to celebrate the re-opening of the International Globe Centre in April 1993. The centre of this new exhibition complex will be the rebuilt Globe Theatre, as it was in Shakespeare's time.

CEPT – Art in the 20th Century: This is the "Europa" theme chosen by the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations for 1993. The approach has still to be finalised but it is likely to be work already in existence rather than specially commissioned.

Channel Tunnel. A joint issue with the French is planned to mark the opening of the Tunnel.

Roman Britain: A set of stamps will be issued to celebrate the Roman influence in Britain. 1993 marks the 1,950th anniversary of the Roman occupation.

Autumn: This will be the second in a series of Seasons stamps to be issued over the four years 1992-95, representing various natural aspects of life in Britain.

Christmas: To be based on the 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* which was written in 1843.

Details of the 1992 programme will be found on page 126-7 of this Bulletin.

Post Office Archives Cards

Four new Post Office Archives postcards which go on sale on 25 February (opening day of Spring Stampex) reproduce plates from *Fore's Coaching Recollections* showing mail coaches scenes. Price 25p each. Cards sold at the Archives stand at Stampex will receive a special cachet. Orders/enquiries: Post Office Archives, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, LONDON EC1A 1BB.

Tennyson

10 March 1992



Four stamps will be issued on 10 March to mark the centenary of the death of Alfred, Lord Tennyson who has been described as “the most representative and the most popular poet of Victorian England”.

The stamps feature portraits of Tennyson, with representations of characters from his poems. The **24p** stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate) shows Tennyson in c.1888 with illustration of Vivien from the poem “Merlin and Vivien”. The **28p** value (Europe, non-EEC rate) features Tennyson in late middle age with “The Millers Daughter”; the **33p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) depicts the poet in 1864 with illustration of “The Lady of Shalott”. The final stamp, **39p** (basic airmail letter rate), includes a portrait of Tennyson as a young man, with illustration of his poem “Mariana”.



Alfred Tennyson was born in 1809 at Somersby, Lincolnshire, where his father, the Rev. George Clayton Tennyson, was Rector. Alfred was the fourth son, one of 12 children. He was educated at Louth Grammar School (1815-20) and subsequently by his father. His father's character was somewhat unstable and this no doubt had an influence on Alfred and his elder brothers Frederick (1807-98) and Charles (1808-79) who were also poets. In 1827 was published *Poems, by Two Brothers*, although in fact contained poems by all three. In the same year Alfred went to Trinity College, Cambridge; in 1829 he won the Chancellor's medal for English Verse for his poem “Timbuctoo”. At Cambridge he was a

member, with his close friend Arthur Henry Hallam (1811-33), of the Apostles debating society, but left the university without taking a degree. His father died in 1831 and his grandfather and uncle wanted Alfred to go into the clergy but his mind was set on being a poet. He had, in 1830, published *Poems, Chiefly Lyrical* including “Claribel” and “Mariana”; publication cost him £11. *Poems* followed two years later – this volume including “The Lotos Eaters” and the first version of “The Lady of Shalott”. It was not well reviewed.

Arthur Hallam died in 1833, leaving Tennyson grief-stricken. He began the lengthy elegiac poem “In Memoriam, A.H.H.”, which was finally published in 1850. It sold some 60,000 copies. Written in stanzas of four octosyllabic lines rhyming a b b a, it includes the well-



known lines “‘Tis better to have loved and lost, Than never to have loved at all.” Hallam's letters to Tennyson were destroyed by Tennyson's son; Tennyson's letters to Hallam were destroyed by Hallam's father.

By the early 1840s Tennyson's reputation was growing, particularly in the USA. *Poems*, in two volumes, appeared in 1842 and was praised by Carlyle and Dickens. During the 1840s Tennyson met most of the great names in the literary world, including Browning, Thackeray and Wordsworth. Financially he was made more secure by a government grant of £200 per annum in 1845. In 1850 he married Emily Sellwood; their first child was stillborn the



following year. Sons Hallam (later Governor-General of Australia) and Lionel were born in 1852 and 1853. In 1851-3 the Tennysons lived at Twickenham, then moved to Farringford on the Isle of Wight. Initially Tennyson leased the house but in 1855 bought it with the proceeds of *Maud*, a verse novelette. (This poetic monodrama includes the famous line in which the subject is invited to "come into the garden". Some believe the setting for this poem to be Harrington Hall, Lincs near where Tennyson spent his boyhood; the Hall was severely damaged by fire in November 1991.) Visitors to Tennyson at his Farringford home included Charles Kingsley, Edward Lear, Swinburne and Lewis Carroll. Tennyson composed poetry in the attic, which he called the "fumitory", and in the garden. He was a great walker and the Downs leading to the Needles are still referred to as Tennyson Downs on which a memorial cross has been erected, "by the People of Freshwater and other friends in England and America".

In 1850 Tennyson was appointed Poet Laureate and produced odes on the death of the Duke of Wellington ("The last great Englishman is low") and for the opening of the International Exhibition at Kensington in 1862. He was much



admired by the Prince Consort, following whose death Queen Victoria said she was often comforted by reading Tennyson's "In Memoriam".

Tennyson is perhaps best-remembered for his connected series of Arthurian poems – *The Idylls of the King*, the first part of which, "The Morte d'Arthur", appeared in 1842. When "Guinevere" and other poems were published in 1859, some 10,000 copies were sold within a week. "The Holy Grail" was published in 1869; the *Idylls* was finally completed in 1885.

As well as poems, Tennyson wrote plays but with less success. Perhaps his best was *Becket*, produced in 1884.

In 1868 he bought a new home – Aldworth near Haslemere in Surrey, where he continued to take long walks as he had done on the Isle of Wight. A road near Haslemere is known as Tennyson's Lane. In 1883 he became the first Baron Tennyson. (The current, 5th, baron, Mark Aubrey Tennyson, succeeded to the title in October 1991.) Alfred, Lord Tennyson died at Aldworth on 6 October 1892, his hand resting on an open volume of Shakespeare. A stained glass window featuring Sir Galahad was installed in Haslemere Church in 1899. Tennyson was buried in Westminster Abbey, near Robert Browning.

Tennyson's poetry is noted for its vein of ultra-sensitiveness and melancholy. Unlike some of his contemporaries, he was more concerned with domestic and national issues such as womens' rights and the education of women – writing in "The Princess" (1847), of "sweet girl-graduates in their golden hair". He was not one of the so-called Victorian "sage poets"; his work, reflecting English conscience and prejudices, is still greatly enjoyed by many.

The Designer

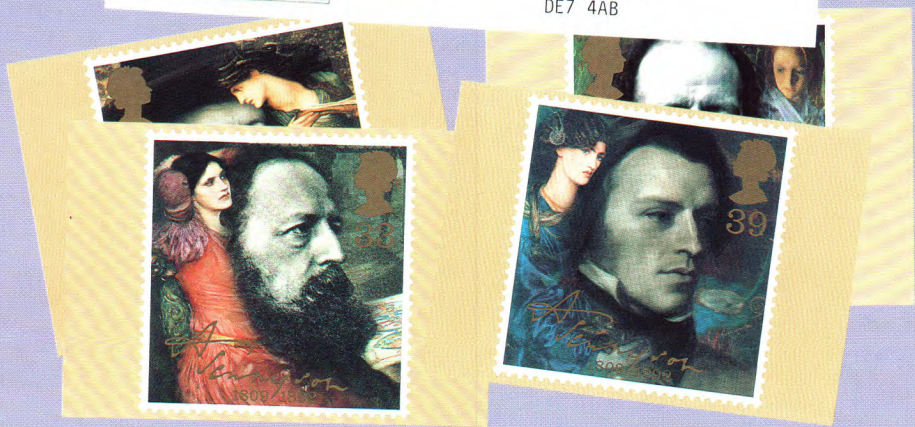
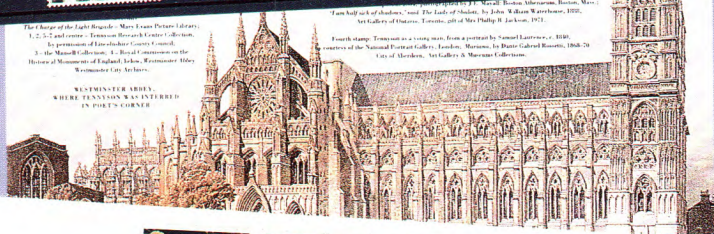
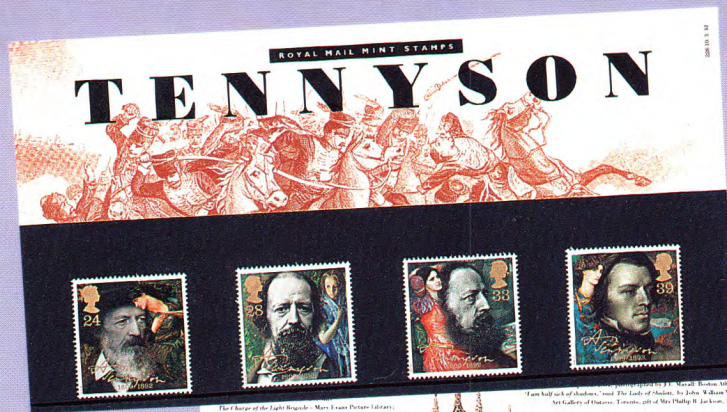
The stamps were designed by Irene Von Treskow, her first commission for Royal Mail.

Printing Details

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

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 226) will cost £1.55. It was designed by Penny Madden with text by Tim Shackleton. Printing was by Raithby, Lawrence & Company Limited of Leicester.



Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 142A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 10 March, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for the Isle of Wight. Tennyson lived for many years at Farringford on the Isle of Wight.

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 10 March.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped out envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peascod Street, WINDSOR SL4 1AA (Isle of Wight 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), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (City of London handstamp); and Northern England SHC, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Durham). These handstamps were introduced on 17 January 1989 and 22 March 1988 respectively.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 10 March — details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £9.35

UK, £11.25 Europe, £20.75 Rest of World (Air Mail).

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 11 March, price 21p. This will be on sale for one year.

1992 Special Stamps Programme

Further details can now be given of the 1992 programme. The first two issues — **Wintertime** and **Happy & Glorious** — were previewed here in December and January, and the third issue — **Tennyson** — is described this month.

The **Europa** issue on 7 April will comprise five stamps of "almost square" format (35 x 37mm), designed by Keith Bassford; all have a Spanish connection. Two stamps will feature ships — 24p Columbus's *Santa Maria* and 39p Operation Raleigh (competitors in Columbus Regatta). Two 24p stamps, printed se-tenant, will feature the Olympic and Paralympic flags and a further 39p stamp will feature the British Pavilion at EXPO 92 in Seville (April/October 1992). Columbus's discovery of America is the CEPT-selected theme for the 1992 Europa issue and the *Santa Maria* and Operation Raleigh stamps will show the familiar CEPT logo. The ship stamps will be printed in recess by Harrison & Sons Limited; the other three stamps will be printed in offset-litho by The House of Questa. The alternative pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark will be provided for Liverpool — the finishing point for the Tall Ships Race.

The four **Civil War** stamps, marking the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Edgehill, will go on sale on 16 June; these too will be of "almost square" format. The designs, by Jeremy Sancha, will feature: 24p Pikeman, 28p Drummer, 33p Musketeer and 39p Standard Bearer. The stamps will be printed in photogravure by Harrisons. The alternative special First Day of Issue postmark will be for Banbury — the nearest town to Edgehill battlefield.

The **Gilbert & Sullivan** issue on 21 July features designs by Lynda Gray who also produced Gilbert & Sullivan designs for 50p stamp books issued in September 1988, January and April 1989. (Ms Gray also designed the 1986 Christmas stamps and Christmas stamp book cover). The stamps, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Sullivan, show: 18p The Gondoliers, 24p The Yeomen of the Guard, 28p The Mikado, 33p The Pirates of

Penzance, and 39p Iolanthe. The stamps will be printed in photogravure by Harrisons. The alternative postmark will be for Birmingham – home of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company which produced many Gilbert & Sullivan productions.

The seventh set, entitled **The Green Issue** will make its appearance on 15 September. The values will be 24p, 28p, 33p and 39p; the format, designs and printer have yet to be finalised. The designs will be based on the winning entries in a competition arranged with the BBC television programme *Blue Peter*. The winners will have their design concepts translated into stamps by a professional designer. The alternative postmark will be for Torridon, Scotland – an area of outstanding beauty.

A single stamp, at first class rate, will mark the **Single European Market** on 13 October. The Single Market comes into force on 31 December 1992. The stamp will be printed in photogravure by Harrisons; the alternative postmark will be for Westminster.

The final issue, **Christmas**, will be released on 10 November and comprise five horizontal stamps featuring Victorian Stained glass: Angel Gabriel (2nd class stamp); Madonna & Child (1st class and EEC rate); The Magi: Gold (Europe, non-EEC); The Shepherds (worldwide postcard rate); and The Magi: Frankincense and Myrrh (basic airmail letter rate). The stamps will be printed in photogravure by Harrisons; alternative postmarks will be available for Pangbourne (the church has some of the stained glass illustrated on the stamps) and, as usual, Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed. There will be a book of 20 second class rate stamps.

Collectors of definitives are reminded that the 1992 programme comprises Greetings stamps (28 January); Wales Prestige Stamp Book (25 February); revised Castle High Values (24 March) and Tolkien Prestige Stamp Book (27 October).

New Stamp Books & Aerogramme

It is anticipated that new designs for the 50p and £1 machine books will go on philatelic sale during April – date to be announced. These will feature the third designs in the Archaeology and *Punch* series by Allan Drummond and John Gibbs respectively. The books will contain the same stamps as the September 1991 and January 1992 issues, viz 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p (50p), and 2 x 2p and 4 x 24p (£1).

The 35th in the series of Scottish aerogrammes (begun 1974) will go on sale on 14 April and will feature illustrations from *The Nature of Scotland* book, reviewed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. The aerogramme will be shown here next month.

25th Anniversary of Postbuses

A quarter of a century ago, on 20 February 1967, the first experimental postbus service was inaugurated between Llanidloes and Llangurig in mid-Wales. The vehicle used was a 15 cwt, seven-seater, Morris J2, KVB 103D – 105827, modified by the Post Office at the Coseley workshops. Our photograph shows driver J S Owen, two lady passengers and seven school



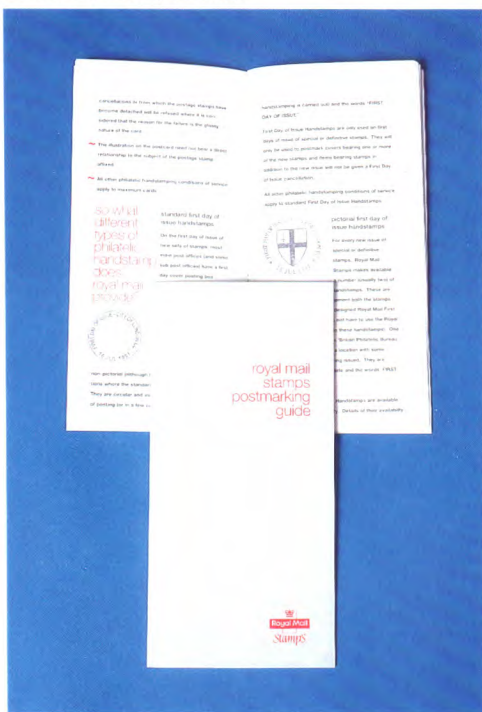
children who travelled on the first run. The first postbus service in England, between Honiton and Luppitt in Devon, started on 23 October 1967 and the first Scottish service, between Dunbar and Innerwick, on 4 June 1968.

There is a wealth of collectable material associated with postbuses – regional postcards, stamped tickets, timetable leaflets, etc. The Llanidloes service featured on postcards issued by the Wales & the Marches Postal Board in 1974 and 1979 and from 1979 to 1989 used stamped card tickets. The late L F Newbery contributed six useful articles on the postbus services, their tickets and memorabilia to the *Bulletin* in September 1981 to February 1982. He gave part of his collection of postbus material to the National Postal Museum; mounted in two volumes, it can be seen by prior appointment.

A stamp featuring a postbus was included in the 1985 set marking the 350th anniversary of public postal services to honour the importance of the postbus in rural areas. There are now nearly 40 postbus services in England and Wales and over 130 in Scotland.

Royal Mail Stamps Postmarking Guide

The Royal Mail provides a well-established and much-used reposting facility for collectors to obtain special handstamps and postmark slogans. Seven Special Handstamp Centres were established in 1990 to provide a dedicated service to collectors, ensuring good quality impressions and a speedy return of covers. Details of all forthcoming handstamps and slogans are to be found in the companion publication to this *Bulletin*: the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin* - the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. This is available on annual subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. Subscriptions are: £9.35 UK, £11.25 Europe, and £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).



Royal Mail has recently produced an attractive and helpful 32-page illustrated booklet for postmark collectors, explaining the different kinds of postmarks in use - operational and philatelic - with advice as to how to obtain examples. Amongst the many questions answered are: what are maximum cards?, can registered or recorded delivery items be post-

marked with a philatelic handstamp?, how long does it take for handstamped items to be delivered?, is it possible to have two different handstamps on the same cover?

A copy of this *Postmarking Guide* is being sent to all *Postmark Bulletin* subscribers. Readers of this *Bulletin* who would like a copy should send an addressed envelope (9 x 5 ins) to their nearest Special Handstamp Centre (addresses below). There is no need to affix postage stamps to the self-addressed envelope, postage will be paid by Royal Mail. Postage, however, must be paid on the envelope addressed to the SHC; please mark this envelope "Postmarking Guide". The addresses of the SHCs are:

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

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

South East SHC
Royal Mail Windsor
Peasod Street
WINDSOR 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

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

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

Further information on the Special Handstamp Centres was published here in February 1990 (page 143).

Royal Mail National

The Post Office is organised in three businesses – Royal Mail, Post Office Counters Ltd, and Royal Mail Parcelforce. Each has its own Managing Director and management committee, reporting to the Post Office Chairman and Board. The Managing Director of Royal Mail is Mr Bill Cockburn, CBE, TD.

Royal Mail is now being reorganised into nine operating divisions (replacing the 64 letter districts), and three strategic business units – Royal Mail National, Royal Mail International, and Royal Mail Streamline. Readers of this *Bulletin* will be interested to know that Royal Mail Stamps (RMS) has itself been reorganised and will now become part of the largest business unit, Royal Mail National (RMN), headed by Mr David Lane.

RMN will have over 300 staff, based mostly in London but with important out-stations in Edinburgh (British Philatelic Bureau), and Portsmouth (National Postcode Centre), also the Electronic Mail Centre (King Edward Building, London EC1) and the National Postal Museum. As well as dealing with all matters relating to stamps and philately, RMN will handle the marketing of inland postal services (including premium services such as registered post and special delivery), postcoding, Royal Mail services to businesses, etc. Mr Lane will be assisted by eight direct reports covering Market Development, Stamps & Personal Mail, Business Services, Customer Information Services, Production & Distribution, Finance, Design, and Quality.

Director of Design will be Barry Robinson who held a similar post under RMS. Mr Robinson, who joined The Post Office in 1977, has contributed articles on stamp design to this *Bulletin*. Production & Distribution will be headed by John Wright, currently Acting Manager of the British Philatelic Bureau. The Director of Stamps & Personal Mail has yet to be appointed. Under that heading will come the Philatelic Marketing, Personal Mail, and Retail sections, and the National Postal Museum headed respectively by Colin Pawson, Yvette Turner, David Dale, and Stan Goron. Three of these are familiar names in the philatelic world – Mr Pawson as RMS's Controller of Production & Marketing, Mr Dale as Manager – Definitive Stamps, and Mr Goron as Manager of the Museum. Douglas Muir remains at the Museum as Curator Philately.

The *Bulletin* will come under Mr Pawson's Philatelic Marketing Section. John Holman stays as Editor although will probably move from the Museum to a new RMN headquarters.

Keith Fisher, General Manager of RMS since 1986, and previously Head of Stamps, moves to a new post as Director of International Affairs at Royal Mail International. We wish him well in his new duties.



David Lane, Director & General Manager, Royal Mail National.

David Lane, the new Director & General Manager of RMN, joined Royal Mail in 1987. He has worked in Marketing as Head of Customer Care, and for 15 months was General Manager of Quadrant, The Post Office's catering business. Mr Lane has already taken a keen interest in all matters relating to stamp design and production, and in the Museum. His aim is that the high standards set by stamps will not just continue, but improve. He says that "the structure of Royal Mail National has been so devised to provide a rapid response to customers' needs and enable Royal Mail to be the leader in an increasingly competitive world". He welcomes the challenge of his new job – it promises to be a tough and busy one!

Enschedé Involvement with British Stamps, 1979-91

D W STADDON

Efficient management of the purchase of postage stamps has to take into account the possibility, even if remote, of a major breakdown or accident at the printing works. It will also be concerned that existing production capacity may at times be under severe pressure to meet urgent, or unexpected requirements. In the event of either of these happening in the UK, back-up stocks of the frequently used stamps held at the Hemel Hempstead Supplies Department and regional offices could be expected to last for just a few weeks, after which post offices would begin to run out.

Since 1980, the Royal Mail has partially covered itself against such risks by using more than one printer for both sheets of stamps and stamp books.

Harrison and Sons Limited, the largest British stamp printer, employs photogravure, offset-lithography and recess to produce all of the national sheet-printed definitives and coil stamps, a share of Royal Mail's stamp book requirements, and most of the annual programme of special issues.

The House of Questa uses offset-litho for all of the country definitives, stamp books, and some special issues. Walsall Security Printers also uses offset-litho to print a substantial share of Royal Mail's retail books requirements.

Greater capacity required

In 1979 The Post Office decided to find additional suppliers to Harrison and Sons, who then had the monopoly of British stamp printing. As a consequence some business was placed with London-based House of Questa and John Waddington of Kirkstall near Leeds. However, the sheet-fed litho capacity offered by these printers was not capable of matching the economical bulk production of the first and second class definitives by reel-fed photogravure. It was, therefore, decided to look for a second photogravure printer with appropriate machinery and spare production capacity. The search led to Joh. Enschedé en Zonen Grafische Inrichting BV of Haarlem near Amsterdam, Holland – the outcome being the stamp well

known to collectors as the 8p Enschedé definitive which was issued in December 1979.

For the technically minded the stamp was printed sideways, from left to right, on fluorescent coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Cylinder 1 was used to produce a two pane printing of 200 stamps per pane, each stamp having a central 4mm phosphor band. The so-called B2 head of The Queen was used (see below), similar to that on the 8p stamp printed by Harrisons. However there is a difference in the value, with the letter "p" on the Enschedé printing tilted to the right. The typeface used for the marginal inscriptions was Univers, whereas that used for the Harrison printing was Monotype Gill Sans (lightweight version).



On the Enschedé printing (left), the p of the value slopes more to the right than on the Harrison stamp (right)

Each Enschedé pane has the same cylinder number 1, without dots, in the margin opposite stamp 18/1. The cylinder numbers are boxed, and on the left hand pane the vertical rule in the box has a piece bitten out, whereas on the right

hand pane the vertical rule is distorted and swollen at the bottom. The sheets were perforated with a two row vertical comb, designated type FC(L) in the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue* (Vol. 4). The characteristics of this type of perforation are: *Left-hand pane*: Top and bottom margins single extension hole; left hand margin imperforate; right hand margin perforated through; *Right-hand pane*: Top and bottom margins single extension hole; left and right margins perforated through. The stamps were produced with paper, ink, phosphor and multipositives provided by Harrison's.

Little-known Essays

What is less well-known is that in 1979, Enschedé also submitted essays for the ½p, 1p, 2p, 5p and 10p definitives. Of these the 1p and 2p have the B2 head of The Queen (two curved lines of shading in the hair; uniform dark background); the ½p and 5p the C head (one curved line of shading in the hair; graded background), and the 10p the D head (one curved line of shading; uniform light background). It is interesting to note that, in the event, printing of both the 2p and 5p definitives was transferred from Harrison's to The House of Questa during the first half of 1980. There they were printed until production returned to Harrison's in 1988. Requirement for the 8p centre band as the basic second class rate stamp did not last long, being superseded by the 10p centre band stamp issued on 4 February 1980. Enschedé printing of British stamps then lapsed.

In 1989 Royal Mail again decided to look for a suitable photogravure printer as a back up to Harrison and Sons, and advertised the fact in the international printers' magazine *GAT*. Enschedé was one of the small number who responded to the advertisement.

As Enschedé is one of the very few large privately owned security printers in the world with photogravure presses, and because of the previous satisfactory working relationship, Royal Mail decided to commission laboratory proofs of the 19p national and Penny Black Anniversary definitives and 1st class NVI stamps in black, flame red and light blue. This was followed by the production of 15p and 20p print cylinders together with cylinders for printing the phosphor bands. For reasons outside the printer's control trial printings from these cylinders were found to be unsatisfactory; further development work led to another large scale



Enschedé trial printings of Definitive, NVI and Penny Black Anniversary stamps. None were issued. (National Postal Museum)

trial printing of the 15p stamps which were delivered in May 1990.

Again these stamps were not considered up to the standard required for them to be issued, and in September of that year the 17p replaced the 15p as the basic second class value. However Enschedé was not to be denied for long, as in 1991 Royal Mail decided to award it a five year contract for the production of definitives, of which the first is the 18p second class stamp which went on philatelic sale on 19 November 1991. Details of this stamp were given by Douglas Muir in his article in the January *Bulletin*.

The essays and trial printings mentioned above are now in the National Postal Museum and can be seen by prior appointment with the Philatelic Officer.

Mr Staddon, a leading collector of modern British stamps and postmarks, has written a number of articles for the Bulletin, including a four-part series "The Machin Head on Stamps" (April, July and September 1988 and February 1989), and a useful account of "British Stamp Printers Today" (May 1990). As a Friend of the National Postal Museum, he is currently assisting NPM staff with the sorting, listing and mounting of Machin trial material. This article is based on recent work. Ed.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

194. Archer's Experimental Perforation 16



This month's Gem comprises a beautiful reconstructed block of 44 of the experimentally perforated Penny Red from plate 98. The block, severed into pieces of 16 and 28, bears lower corner letters AA to DK.

Experiments with a means of separating stamps began as early as 1841, possibly using sewing machines. The Phillips Collection includes a stamp severed by blades (used at Winchester, 1847) and a privately rouletted stamp on a letter from Torquay, 1851.

The first official step towards perforated stamps came in October 1847 when Henry Archer (1799-1863), an Irish London businessman, brought his machine to the attention of officers of the Post Office. They were favourably impressed, and a few sheets of Penny Reds were rouletted. In December 1848 some stamps were perforated 16 on Archer's third machine. Experiments continued during 1849, and in January 1850 the machine was delivered to Somerset House

for further experimentation. In all, some 5,000 sheets were perforated. Four different combs are known to have been used, and have been identified in the Phillips Collection. That used to perforate the block featured here is called "Comb 3".

In 1853 Government Trial perforations were undertaken using Napier machines; officially perforated stamps were issued on 28 January 1854. The vertical measurement of all Archer's combs was 23mm, whereas the later 1854 combs measured 23½mm.

This fine item can be seen on page 5 of Volume XXII in the R M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. The Museum is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission free.

Two special exhibitions are currently on show: "Maps and the Post Office" (until March 1992) and "Stamping the Mail" (until April 1992).

Posting Boxes

127. Victorian Boxes Overseas

D W Glazier, of Flagstaff Hill, South Australia, who describes himself as “an expatriate Pom”, has submitted our first photograph this month, showing a Victorian box at Burra Burra some 80 miles north of Adelaide. Mr Glazier tells us that Burra, as the locals call it, was settled during the last century with a mixture of migrants which included a lot of Cornish people who started up the copper mine there (now disused). The box is of the fluted type, with horizontal posting aperture, cast by Smith and Hawkes of Birmingham in c. 1857. A similar box, in South Africa, was recorded here in June 1990.



The second photograph, sent in by Duncan Furner of Somerset, shows a Victorian box, now disused, situated alongside the Courthouse in Temple Street, St John's – the capital of Antigua in the West Indies. This box is of the type cast by Andrew Handyside and Company of Derby during the period 1887-1904.

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

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

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: February Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 March.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the 1992 Europa stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the May *Bulletin*.

1. With which European country are the 1992 Europa stamps associated?
2. Who was martyred in 69 AD?
3. Who was the Irish London businessman whose machine was brought to Post Office attention in 1847?
4. Who designed the Tennyson stamps?
5. On what date is the Wales £6 prestige stamp book being issued?

The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail Stamps and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the November competition were:

J Heaton of Nottingham (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); Mrs B Messer of London; N Aykroyd of Saudi Arabia, F Sturman of Bedfordshire; D Knight of Dorset; and P Khan of Victoria, Australia (Wintertime stamp packs).

The answers were: 1. £3.27, 2. 1965, 3. Sir Ron Dearing (Chairman of The Post Office), 4. 1976, 5. Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Stamping the Mail

Part 3 – The 1800s

TONY GAMMONS

Exhibitions Officer, National Postal Museum

The increase in the volume of mail following the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840 posed serious “handling” problems for the Post Office. Each cover bearing a stamp had to be stamped twice, once to obliterate the stamp and once to impress the dispatching town stamp. In the 1850s the Department started to look at ways to overcome this double handling of letters. This led to the introduction of a handstamp which performed the obliterating and dating functions with a single strike. An example of a strike from one of these “double” handstamps can be seen in figure 1. The



Fig. 1 London EC Double Handstamp

Museum has a number of these stamps in its collection, those with a centre handle are easy to apply but some have the handle offset over the “date” part of the stamp and these require a considerable amount of skill to obtain a clear all-over impression. A “duplex” stamp was also used during the 1850s (Fig. 2) The design of



Fig. 2 Burton upon Trent Duplex

these “spoon” handstamps varied greatly, Birmingham for example using four different types during their short period of usage.

In the late 1870s the Post Office introduced, at the EC office in London, what was the

forerunner of the modern “combined date and obliterator” stamp, the Squared Circle. The basic shape of these stamps was a circular date stamp with short arcs forming the corners of the square. Examples of EC squared circles can be seen in figure 3. Although they had a fairly long life these stamps were never really satisfactory. If the strike was not perfectly flat the corners had a tendency to dig in and tear the cover. They also were subject to heavy wear and many had to be re-cut during their life. Trials were conducted, at London EC office, to try to improve the design. These experimental stamps are rare even though they were in use for several years. The full range can be seen in figure 3 on a sheet produced for a “Stamping” committee in 1895. This sheet also shows how difficult it can be in differentiating between marks struck by hand and those from Pearson Hill’s pivot machine. The two shown under “machine dies” being virtually the same as those in the handstamp section.

Scotland had not followed England in the use of Squared Circles; c.1883 saw the introduction of dated double ring stamps with the office name at the top with twin arcs at the bottom either side of the office number. Examples from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Paisley are shown in figure 4. Later the office number was replaced by either a cross, as in the Paisley example, or a number to differentiate between stamps in an office. A number of northern towns in England followed the Scottish lead. Prominent among these was Liverpool which had always resisted “suggestions” from London. In fact the saying at Liverpool was “what Liverpool does today London does tomorrow”! Liverpool had sent down to London rough designs for double circle stamps based on the Edinburgh pattern but the Stores Department wanted the “hooded” type (see fig. 3), recently introduced in the EC office to be used instead. In this case Liverpool had to follow London’s lead but they were also able to introduce their own design. Since the early 1900s the double and single circle have become the basic design for dated “cancellors” throughout the country.



Fig. 3 Examples of "Squared Circle" cancels (bottom of first column, and second column)

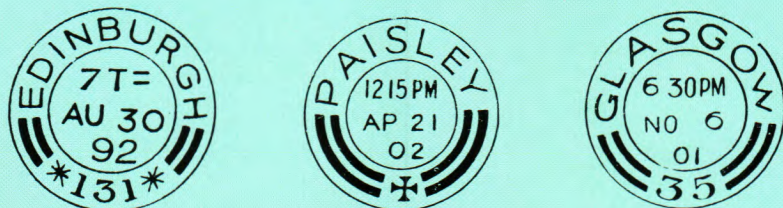


Fig. 4 Scottish Double Ring Datestamps

Canongate Press PLC and the Scottish Post Office Board have jointly published **The Nature of Scotland: Landscape, Wildlife and People**, edited by Magnus Magnusson and Graham White. The book, dedicated to the Scots-born American naturalist John Muir (1838-1914), includes a Foreword by Mr Kenneth Graham, Chairman of the Scottish Post Office Board, on the importance of preserving the environment in general and in Scotland in particular. He writes: "We initiated the idea for this book, seeking a publication which would both establish an authoritative work of reference for environmental matters in Scotland and, of course, reflect the important role which The Post Office has in the provision of its services from the busiest city centre to highland glen or to the most remote island."

Magnus Magnusson, Chairman designate of Scottish Natural Heritage (which comes into being in 1992), introduces the 17 chapters, noting that the contributors express the common philosophical theme of "sustainability" both for pleasure and economic life. Most chapters examine Scotland's natural history in terms of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

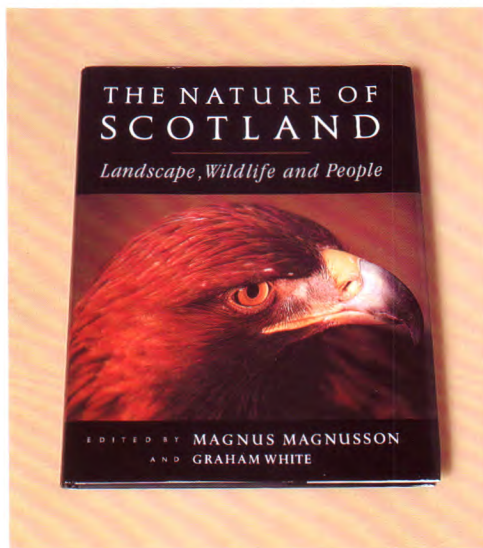
In "The Laying of the Foundations", Drs Farrow and Rolfe look at the geology of Scotland, illustrated with beautiful photographs of Loch Lomond (largest body of fresh water in Great Britain), Glencoe, and the massive basalt columns of Fingal's Cave on the isle of Staffa.

Scotland's economy owes much to the seas, explained by Dr Hambrey's chapter "The Seas of Plenty"; the many illustrations range from a modern salmon fishery to nostalgic views of herring boats at Fraserburgh and Forth fishermen in the 1950s.

The next four chapters deal with Scotland's plants, mammals, birds and butterflies. In "The Flowering of Scotland", Michael Scott writes of the coast as a last wild refuge – "Seen in the context of the changes wrought by man in the landscape, the coast acquires a considerable importance as a natural habitat. This is especially so in Scotland" which has some 6,000 miles of coastline – 65 per cent of the total UK coast. Each chapter contains dramatic illustrations of

flora and fauna, including a puffin in Shetland and the similar Small Mountain Ringlet and Scotch Argus butterflies.

In "The Coming of Man", Drs Anna and Graham Ritchie tell us of the early farming communities, the impact of the Vikings and of the current risk to many archaeological sites in lowland Scotland. Prof Fenton, Dr Rennie and Dr Mowle examine Scottish agriculture, crofting and land management, pointing out that today crofters may be engineers, journalists, fisherman or civil servants as well as farmers. One of the pictures shows Iain MacIver who is both community education worker for the Western Isles Council and a crofter. John Hume, a leading industrial archaeologist, writes on the



development of transport on land and sea. A photograph shows the *Glen Sannox*, possibly the most beautiful Clyde steamer ever built. There is an account, by Martin Cummins, of the role of the Post Office in Scotland since 1635. Today some 100 million letters are posted annually in Scotland and the 2000 post offices have a vital and central role to play – particularly perhaps where they underpin the viability of remote rural and island communities.

Dr Maitland writes on freshwater ecology and fish conservation; Prof Butt and Dr Twidell deal with Scottish power – peat, timber, water and wind power all playing an important economic role.

The last four chapters look at nature conservation, greening of the cities, protection of the land and the playground of the future. We

learn that the Scottish Wildlife Trust has some 10,000 members and 84 reserves, that Glasgow's parks are amongst the greenest in Europe, that in a national nature reserve over 5000 red deer have been culled to allow regeneration of woodlands, and that hill running and "mountain marathoning" are now popular sports in Scotland.

The numerous spectacular colour and black & white illustrations in this lavishly produced, large format, 216-page book will be a source of joy to all who love Scotland – either those fortunate to live there or, like the reviewer, who enjoy holidaying "north of the border". The book is available from good bookshops or from Canongate Press PLC, 14 Frederick Street, EDINBURGH EH2 2HB. Price £19.95, ISBN: 0862413338.

A new, 10th, edition of the popular **Stoneham Catalogue of British Stamps** is now available. This is clearly set out, the listings arranged under various headings for each reign. For Queen Victoria there are separate listings of The Mulready, Line Engraved, Embossed, Surface Printed, Surface Printed Abnormals, Official Overprints, Fiscals, Telegraph, Circular Delivery, and College stamps. Definitive and commemorative issues from George V onwards are listed separately, and the Elizabeth II section is further divided between Wildings, Machins, Castles, NVIs, Penny Black Anniversary stamps and Greetings issues. This sub-division makes life much easier to quickly find the stamps one is interested in. There are further sections dealing with Channel Islands Wartime Issues, Regionals, Framas, Postage Dues, Booklet Panes and Booklets. For pre-Elizabeth II stamps, prices are given for unmounted (U/M) and mounted mint (M/M), fine used (F/U) and on cover. Early QEII stamps are priced U/M, M/M and F/U; recent issues just U/M and F/U. The importance of checking stamps on cover carefully before removal is clearly illustrated in the prices of some George V issues. For example the 1913 ½d and 1d with Multiple Royal Cypher watermark are priced used at £160 but at £600 on cover (Nos. G33-34). The George VI £1 stamp of 1948 is priced £17 used, £70 on cover, and the 3d Postage Stamp Centenary stamp of 1940 commands £15 on cover compared to just £2.50 as a used single. This reviewer found the Booklet Panes and Booklets sections particularly clear and useful for quick reference. Noteworthy in the listing of window books are 56p books (August 1988) containing 4 x 19p instead

of 4 x 14p stamps in error. Normal books, codes O and P, are priced at £2.50 each (£3 with cylinder numbers), the error books at £250 each, or £550 each with cylinders! 288 pages, card covers. Available from stamp dealers or from Sarum Publications Ltd, 92-94 Fisherton Street, SALISBURY, Wilts, SP2 7QY. Price £9.95: ISBN: 0 947868 03 8.



The 43rd edition of the popular Stanley Gibbons **Collect British Stamps** is now available – providing a clear, colour-illustrated listing of all GB stamps from 1840 to the 1991 Christmas issue. Listed and priced are stamps with different watermarks and perforations, visible plate numbers on Victorian issues, first day covers of special issues and of QEII definitives, presentation packs, yearbooks, stamp (PHQ) cards, gutter pairs, and Royal Mail Postage Labels ("Framas"). There are some notable price increases for some modern stamps since the *Part 1* catalogue was published in August. The 14p and 15p Machins with side bands (S.G. X904, X906) are both increased from 60p to £1.25, mint and used. The 1st class NVI stamp in black is increased from 75p to £1 for the Harrison printing (1447) and from 75p to £1.10 each for the Walsall and Questa stamps (1450, 1452). The Northern Ireland 16p stamp, perf. 15 x 14, (NI42a) is up £1.50 to £5 in mint condition. The George VI 1951 High Values (509/12) are now priced at £120 mint and the 1955-8 St Edward Crown set (540/56) at £140, increases of £30 and £20 respectively. CBS is available from Gibbons Strand shop, stamp and book shops, from the British Philatelic Bureau and the National Postal Museum. Price £3.25. 124 pages, card covers. ISBN 0-85259-308-2.

United Kingdom Flags and Arms

Part 1

JAMES NEGUS, FRPSL

Flags and arms on stamps can give a visually attractive collection and their direct connection with a nation's history adds particular point to choosing this theme. British stamps offer many interesting examples.

The United Kingdom's flag, known to everyone as the "Union Jack", is more correctly the "Union Flag". This is because a "jack" is a flag flown in the bows of a ship to denote nationality and, strictly speaking, cannot refer to a flag flown on land. But Union Jack seems to be the term most people prefer and it will be used here. Britain's foremost authority on the study of flags, the Flag Institute based in Chester, takes a similarly relaxed attitude, which is encouraging.

Before modern multicolour printing for stamps, the Union Jack as an emblem had already appeared twice. It is shown first on Britannia's shield in the Seahorse high values of 1913-34 designed by Bertram Mackennal. On grounds of cost collectors might substitute the £1 miniature sheet issued for Stamp World London 90, which was based on the Seahorses.



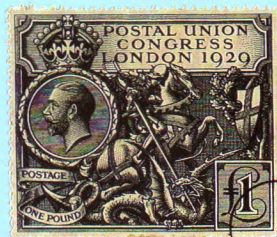
The Union Jack appeared secondly as background to Ernest Linzell's 1d (or 1½d) value in the 1929 Postal Union Congress set. Both Seahorse and PUC stamps show a detail of technical accuracy worth noting. There are conventions for representing the colours of flags and arms when printed in black and white reproduction. Both stamp designs follow the correct shading needed for red, white and blue.

Patron Saints

The UK flag has these colours from combining the crosses of three patron saints: St George

(England), St Andrew (Scotland) and St Patrick (Ireland). The two last are actually saltires, which is the type of cross with diagonal arms, like letter "X".

England's patron saint is most vivid to the memory from the famous line in Shakespeare's *Henry V*, "Cry God for Harry! England and St George!" His true identity is lost in antiquity but he may have been a Christian soldier in the Roman Army martyred in 303 AD. His shrine became venerated in the Crusades, with an Order of Knighthood founded on 23 April 1245 (now St George's Day) adopting as its emblem a plain cross of red on a field of white. The Cross



can be seen (shaded monochrome) on the shield when St George slays the dragon on the £1 PUC stamp of 1929. The particular cult of chivalry associated with him is reflected in Yvonne Gilbert's beautiful 1985 Arthurian Legends set, where Sir Galahad (34p) also displays the Cross on his shield.

The emblem is familiar from the White Ensign, worn by Her Majesty's ships of war in commission. This is the Cross of St George with a Union Jack placed in the upper hoist quarter. Clive Abbott shows the flag on his South Atlantic Fund commemorative cover of

1982, used in conjunction with the Maritime Heritage issue. However, the 19½p of that set, the *Triumph*, wears a Red Ensign whose black-and-white rendering is faulty: before 1707 it was not the Union Jack in the hoist but St George's Cross. On the *Victory* (24p) the Ensign at Trafalgar was the White one, but here it lacks the St George's Cross throughout.



The flag of Scotland is a white saltire on a blue field, named for St Andrew. The remains of the Apostle, martyred in 69 AD, became venerated in Scotland and he was adopted as patron saint. The cross-saltire itself as Scottish emblem may date from the 8th century, though in different colours.

Nowadays a Red Lion rampant on a yellow field is often taken to be the flag of Scotland, and its display has official sanction as a mark of loyalty to the throne. The 1s 3d and 1s 6d of the newly introduced Scottish country stamps (1958-68) show heraldic unicorns supporting both this flag and the St Andrew saltire. In colour depiction the Red Lion can be seen on Robert the Bruce's shield in the 1974 Medieval Warriors set (4½p) or in Prince Charles's heraldic banner on the 22p Order of the Thistle stamps of 1987. The Red Lion is actually the Standard of the Kings of Scotland and appears as such in the Royal Arms. The national flag of Scotland remains the St Andrew saltire and it can be illustrated philatelically.

The device printed in the halfpenny booklet panes of King Edward VII (1906-11) to prevent illegal use of blank paper is referred to as a St Andrew's Cross. As a flag it was first depicted in rather spindly fashion behind the head of Robert Burns in the 1966 commemorative set (4d). Eric Stemp gives a more spirited rendering in the 1983 British Army Uniforms 16p, the flag billowing behind two soldiers of The Royal Scots. The Scottish aerogramme of 14 August 1984 for the Edinburgh Festival is centred on a display of flags and the St Andrew saltire is prominent. It is part of the arms of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Scotland's heraldic authority, and is seen in Jeffery Matthews's 1987 set for



Scottish Heraldry (18p). The rifle-shooting illustration for the 1986 Commonwealth Games set (31p) also has the saltire as a badge in the man's hat. A saltire flag is on the cover of The Scots Connection prestige booklet (1989); the centre label of the multivalued pane uses the Lion rampant, however, printed in blue with red tongue and claws.

The saltire emblem with encircling crown featured on the original Scottish country stamps in the 3d, 4d and 5d values (1958-69), flanked by another Scottish emblem, a thistle. The adapted

Machin design since decimalisation in 1971 has, however, chosen the Lion rampant as national symbol.

A red saltire on a white field, named as the Cross of St Patrick of Ireland, is more likely the heraldic device of an Irish family representing the English King Henry II in the 12th century. St Patrick himself (c.385–461 AD) was probably born in Britain, carried into slavery in Ireland as a boy, escaped to France and returned to Ireland as a bishop with a missionary expedition. A flag with his saltire has not been directly depicted on British stamps, but its historical connection with the Union Jack will be seen below (at 1801). The Irish have always preferred as national emblem such traditional symbols as the golden harp or the shamrock.

Union Jack of 1606

When King James VI of Scotland acceded as James I of England in 1603 the dynastic union of the two kingdoms was secured and Great Britain came into existence. Three years later (12 April 1606) the Crosses of St George and St Andrew were combined to produce the first Union Jack.

St George took heraldic precedence and his Cross was placed over the saltire of St Andrew. However, a wide white border was added around the Cross to avoid its red colour being directly next to the blue ground of the saltire: the rules of heraldry forbid placing one colour directly upon another.

The Union Jack underwent transient alterations during the Cromwellian Commonwealth; these were rescinded at the Restoration (1660) and the first Union Jack lasted until the union with Ireland in 1801. It was confirmed in use following the parliamentary union of England and Scotland as Great Britain in 1707.



Historically accurate renderings have appeared on stamps. In the 1970 Anniversaries issue the 1s 6d depicts the *Mayflower* flying two flags. One is the English Cross of St George and the other is this first Union Jack: the Pilgrim

Fathers landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620, as the stamp caption indicates. A larger version of the first Union Jack is also a background to the 20½p value in the 1983 British Army Uniforms set, a scene from the mid-18th century when the flag was still in use.

To be continued

Railway Letter Stamps

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway are issuing their 45th stamp – a 25p value showing locomotive “Dame Vera Lynn” – on 6 February 1992. The stamp, the third in the current definitive series, is printed in sheets of six. The first day cover will feature loco 80135 inside the gold band of the NYMR shield; the Royal Mail stamp will be cancelled at York. Mint stamps are available at face value, first day cover with single Happy & Glorious stamp £1.80 (cover 82)



or £3.50 with full set (82B). Postage 25p on orders up to £1, 40p over £1. Payment may be made by credit card. Stamp 46 will be issued on 3 June 1992 to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding meeting of the preservation society that saved the NYMR. The meeting was held at the home of Mr Tom Salmon in Whitby. The 25p stamp will feature Lambton Tank loco No. 29 and will be printed in sheets of six. The first day cover (No. 83) will cost £1.95. All orders/enquiries re NYMR stamps and covers to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA. A correction to the report in the November *Bulletin* – the 25p on 20p surcharged stamp issued on 7 December 1991 was printed in sheets of six not ten; apologies for any inconvenience caused by the wrong information.

On 2 November 1991, the Talylln Railway celebrated 70 years of service by locomotive No. 4 which began life on the now-defunct Corris Railway at Machynlleth, Mid-Wales, in 1921.

The locomotive was built by Kerr Stuart and Co of Stoke-on-Trent. The Corris Railway closed in 1948 and the locomotive came to the Tallyllyn three years later. A commemorative cover has been produced showing the locomotive hauling a goods train across the River Dovey Bridge.



To be posted on arrival at Aberystwyth

The cover bears one of the current 25p definitives, featuring locomotive No 4, named "Edward Thomas" on the Tallyllyn in the early 1950s, cancelled by a special railway datestamp. The 24p postage stamp is cancelled with the TYWYN GWYNEDD rubber packet datestamp. Price £2 plus 40p postage. Orders/enquiries: Sara Eade, Tallyllyn Railway, Wharf Station, TYWYN, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY.

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.

Sinking the Bismarck. A colourful cover, featuring three scenes of the sinking, was produced to mark the 50th anniversary of the event. Two versions are available with signatures of Hood survivors and Bismarck attackers: (1) with 20p Gallantry stamp featuring the DSC/DSM, signed by Lieutenant A E P Briggs and Leading Seaman R E Tilburn and flown in Hercules from RAF Lyneham to RAF Gutersloh, then over the Graveyard in the Denmark Straits



At 19.30 hours on 26th May 1941 in heavy rain and a gale Force 8 wind, 18 Squadron took off from H.M.S. Ark Royal. Under complete cloud cover and poor visibility, each attacked Bismarck with torpedoes, scoring two hits, one amidships and the other wrecking the German battleship's steering gear and causing her to run aground.

CAPTAIN A. E. P. BRIGGS, DSC, 818 Squadron was the observer of the Swiftfish flown by Lieutenant Commander T. P. Cooke, the Commanding Officer of No. 8 Squadron and Senior Leader in the attack on the Bismarck. Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

COMMANDER F. A. SWANTON DSO DSC

Both Lieutenants (Lt F. A. Swanton, No. 8 Squadron was the observer of the Swiftfish flown by Lieutenant Commander T. P. Cooke, the Commanding Officer of No. 8 Squadron and Senior Leader in the attack on the Bismarck. Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



where on 24 May 1941 HMS Hood was sunk by the Bismarck; (2) with 31p Scientific Achievements stamp showing map of eastern England, signatures of Captain E S Carver and Commander F A Swanton and likewise flown from RAF Lyneham. Both covers bear a special Forces handstamp (BFPS 2265) of 27 May 1991; cover 1 bears on the reverse RAF Lyneham and RAF Gutersloh datestamps of 22 July; cover 2 bears RAF Lyneham and Gibraltar datestamps of 10 July 1991. Covers bearing the signatures mentioned above cost £5.30 each, covers signed by pilot £3.75, unsigned covers £2.75. Remittances payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund", proceeds go to the RAFA Eagle Lodge Sheltered Housing Appeal. Orders/enquiries: Gp. Capt. W Randle, 60 Shelveys Way, TADWORTH, Surrey, KT20 8QE.

Classic Fighters. Each year the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, near Cambridge, stages the "Classic Fighter Show". The Cambridge Stamp Centre has produced commemorative covers for these shows. For the 1991 show they produced two covers – one shows Hurricanes of 310 (Czech) Squadron, the other features Spitfires of 19 Squadron, both at RAF Duxford during the summer of 1940. The covers bear a special handstamp dated 14 July 1991. The covers bear signatures of Battle of Britain pilots. For details of prices, write to: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA; Tel. 0223-63980 or 0223-321853.

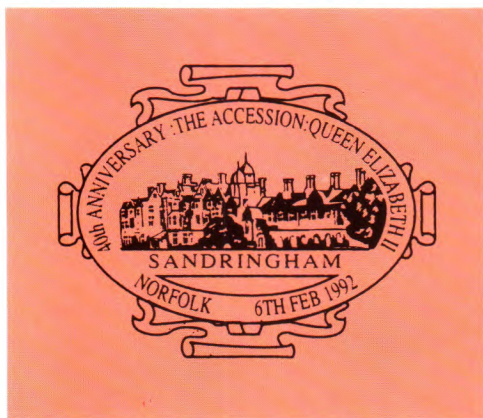
Centenary of Isles of Scilly Council. The Islands Council produced a commemorative cover, in a limited edition of 1,000, to mark its centenary. The cover, showing the Town Hall, bears the five Christmas stamps postmarked with operational datestamps on 18 November. 400 covers were cancelled at St Mary's (main island), 100 each on St Agnes, Bryher, St Martin's, and Treco. Price £5.50 each. In addition 200 covers, cancelled St Mary's, were signed by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr. H R Duncan, price £10. All proceeds will be used for charitable work within the Isles. Order forms can be obtained from: N A Cluer, Town Hall, ST MARY'S, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW, or by telephoning the Tourist Information Centre on 0720-22536.

Happy & Glorious. The Commonwealth Institute has commissioned A G Bradbury permission to produce its limited edition (500) official first day cover for the Happy & Glorious stamps marking the 40th anniversary of The Queen's accession. The cover, showing the Common-

wealth Galleries, will be cancelled with a special Commonwealth Institute London W8 handstamp. Price £8.75 or £10.50 signed by the Institute's Director General. Mr Bradbury is also producing a limited edition (250) cover showing 500 years of Royal Arms surrounding an engraved picture of Windsor Castle. A special handstamp showing Windsor Castle will be used. Price £10.75. Also available will be No. 65 in the Victorian Prints series featuring the State Coach. Again a limited edition of 250; covers will receive a special London SW1 handstamp showing the coach. Price £6.75. Orders (overseas add £1 postage) and enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Happy and Glorious/Queen's Flight.

Benham are producing two special covers and sponsoring two pictorial postmarks for the Happy and Glorious issue marking the 40th anniversary of The Queen's accession (6 February). The special postmarks will be for Sandringham and Windsor. Each luxury cover dis-



plays an early portrait of The Queen in full colour and bears the five 24p stamps cancelled with the special postmarks. Price £4.99 each. A limited number will be carried in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, price £7.99 each. An even smaller number of flown covers will be available signed by the Officer commanding The Queen's Flight, price £9.99. Postage 45p. All major credit cards accepted. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Smiles Greetings Stamps

A reprint of the Smiles book (first issued 26 March 1991) will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic

counters from 3 March 1992. The reprint includes new instructions regarding the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail. The stamps remain the same and hence no first day of issue facilities will be offered.

Withdrawal of 1988 High Values

The £1, £1.50, £2, and £5 Castle High Values (issued 18 October 1988) will be withdrawn from sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters at close of business on 23 March 1992. The revised High Values, with silhouette portrait of The Queen and incorporating security features, go on sale the following day. The withdrawn stamps will, however, remain valid for postage until further notice.

New Stamp Rolls

Rolls (coils) of 500 33p and 39p stamps will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters on 11 February 1992. The rolls have been specially produced for use in vending machines which will be installed in post offices. These roll stamps, as those from sheets, are printed by Harrison & Sons Limited on Advanced Coated Paper. No first day facilities will be provided.

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

Following the death of Leon Rapkin, Professor John C West, CBE, FRPSL, has been appointed as new Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and Honorary Secretary to the Board of Election. Prof. West, who has recently retired as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford, is a trustee of the British Philatelic Trust and a postal historian of international status, concerned mainly with Chile and the Pan-American Union. He was founder Director of the Philatelic Unit of Sussex University from 1970-78. All correspondence concerning the Roll should be sent to Prof. West at: 6 Park Crescent, Guiseley, LEEDS LS20 8EL.

Withdrawal of NPM Cards

The NPM will withdraw the following cards from sale on 31 March 1992: Queen Victoria (issued 14 Oct 86); 87/1-3 1887 "Jubilee stamp" (6 Jan 87), 87/4-6 Monarchs (6 May), 87/7-9 Pillar boxes (8 Sep). Cards cost 20p each, handling charge 24p on orders under £24, £2.14 over £24. Orders to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), KEB, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until July 1992. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

6 Aug	Dinosaur stamp cards (AQ173)
6 Aug	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB035)
6 Aug	4 x 1st class book/W (UB036)
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB037)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/W (UB038)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/H (UB039)
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UN040)
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/Q (UB041)
20 Aug	Dinosaurs stamps (AS468)
20 Aug	Dinosaurs pack (AP098)
3 Sep	Maps stamp cards (AQ179)
10 Sep	6p Def. — lime green (DS060)
10 Sep	18p Def. — light green (DS182)
10 Sep	24p Def. — rust (DS242)
10 Sep	28p Def. — slate blue (DS283)
10 Sep	34p Def. — purple (DS344)
10 Sep	35p Def. — old gold (DS351)
10 Sep	39p Def. — rhododendron (DS390)
10 Sep	50p book — Archaeology (TB009)
10 Sep	£1 book — Punch 1 (TB010)
10 Sep	New Defs. Pack (DP014)
16 Sep	£1.32 book (33p stamps) (UB043)
16 Sep	£1.56 book (39p stamps) (UB044)
16 Sep	18p Coil (XL-500) (DC851/DC051)
16 Sep	24p Coil (YL-500) (DC852/DC052)
17 Sep	Maps stamps (AS474)
17 Sep	Maps pack (AP099)
17 Sep	NPM Maps cards (NQ909)
1 Oct	Mixed Value Coil (DC855/DC055)
8 Oct	Christmas aerogramme (QX013)
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ184)
Oct	"Our World" Vol. 3 (PA124)
Nov	50p book — Archaeology (TB011)
Nov	£1 book — Punch 1 (TB012)
12 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS479)
12 Nov	Christmas pack (AT100)
12 Nov	Christmas stamp book (UB045)
12 Nov	1991 Collectors' Pack (DS183)
12 Nov	1991 Yearbook (AR023)
12 Nov	NPM "Old Christmas" cards (NQ909)
19 Nov	Enschede 18p (DS183)
3 Dec	N Ireland 18p (IS181)
3 Dec	N Ireland 24p (IS241)
3 Dec	N Ireland 28p (IS282)
3 Dec	N Ireland 39p (IS390)
3 Dec	Scotland 18p (SS182)

3 Dec	Scotland 24p (SS241)
3 Dec	Scotland 28p (SS282)
3 Dec	Scotland 39p (SS390)
3 Dec	Wales 18p (WS182)
3 Dec	Wales 24p (WS241)
3 Dec	Wales 28p (WS282)
3 Dec	Wales 39p (WS390)
3 Dec	Country Stamp Pack (CP010)
31 Dec	Wintertime stamp cards (AQ190)

1992

14 Jan	Wintertime stamps (AS485)
14 Jan	Wintertime pack (AP101)
14 Jan	Snowdon Shepherd book (PA127)
21 Jan	3p Def. Redrawn numerals (DS032)
21 Jan	50p Def. ACP (DS503)
21 Jan	50p book — Archaeology 2 (TB013)
21 Jan	£1 book — Punch 2 (TB014)
21 Jan	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB047)
21 Jan	4 x 1st class book/W (UB048)
21 Jan	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB049)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/W (UB050)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/H (UB051)
22 Jan	Happy & Glorious stamp cards (AQ196)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp book (JB004)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp pack (JP001)

Forthcoming

6 Feb	Happy & Glorious stamps and pack
6 Feb	NPM Queen's Accession cards (4)
6 Feb	NPM King Edward Building card (1)
11 Feb	33p & 39p rolls (500 stamps)
25 Feb	Prestige Stamp Book (Wales)
Feb	Tennyson stamp cards
10 Mar	Tennyson stamps and pack
24 Mar	Revised High Values
Mar	Europa stamp cards
7 Apr	Europa stamps and pack
14 Apr	Scottish aerogramme
6 May	NPM People in the Post cards
Jun	Civil War stamp cards
16 Jun	Civil War stamps and pack
Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamp cards
21 Jul	Gil & Sull stamps and pack

Notes:

The NVI stamp books of 21 January have the British Olympic and Paralympic logos on the outer cover and revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail inside. The stamps are as those in the August 1991 books. The 50p and £1 books issued in November have corrected postal rate information on the covers; there was no specific first day of availability.

Issued in February/early March

6 February: Happy & Glorious stamps (commemorating the 40th anniversary of The Queen's accession) – 5 x 24p in horizontal se-tenant strip.

Designer: Why Not Associates using photographs by Cecil Beaton, Camera Press; Tim Graham, London; and Anwar Hussein.

Printer: The House of Questa, offset-lithography, 41 x 30mm, perforated 15 x 14, phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau, and Buckingham Palace, London SW1.

Presentation Pack: No. 225, price £1.50.

6 February: National Postal Museum 40th Anniversary of The Queen's Accession post-cards (4), price 20p each, and one card showing King Edward Building in which the Museum is housed, price 15p.

7 February: Happy & Glorious souvenir cover, price 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters; on sale for one year.

11 February: 33p and 39p definitives in rolls of 500 stamps. *Printing:* Harrisons, photogravure, Advanced Coated Paper.

Note: First day of availability from Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters; no first day of issue facilities.

25 February: £6 Prestige Stamp Book – Wales.

Contents: 4 panes as follows:

4x 39p Wintertime stamps (sheep) on ACP

6 x 18p Welsh Country stamps, phosphor band right

Mixed Value pane – 2 x 24p (2 bands), 2 x 18p (band right) Welsh Country stamps; 2 x 33p definitive (2 bands), 1 x 1st class NVI (2 bands), 1 x 2nd class NVI (band right) and 1 label

6 x 24p Welsh Country stamps on PCP

Printing: The House of Questa, offset-lithography, Perf. 15 x 14, PVA gum (definitive and country stamps); Harrison & Sons Ltd (Wintertime stamps).

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Cardiff.

Withdrawn in February/early March

February: No items are being withdrawn.

4 March: Scientific Achievements stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

Validity of NVI Stamps

Readers are reminded that Non Value Indicator (NVI) issues – definitives and Greetings stamps – are now valid for use on mail within the European Community (EC). European destinations for which these stamps can be used are: Andorra, Belgium, Denmark, France (including Corsica), Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Ireland (Republic of), Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal (also Azores and Madeira), San Marino, Spain (including Balearic and Canary Islands), and Vatican City State. They should not be used for any other international destinations. First class NVI stamps are valid on letters up to 20g and first and second class NVIs can also be used as part payment for postage on heavier items. Validity includes the now obsolete first class NVI stamp in black (first issued August 1989), and the obsolescent second class stamp in dark blue (August 1990).



British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN — 0953-8119

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail (The Letters business of The Post Office).

Compiled and typeset by J. R. Holman at:
National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £6.75
Rest of World (Airmail) £10.25

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

Single copies from Collections and philatelic counters: 60p

Binders, to hold 24 issues, are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £6.75. Also available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum sales counter.

Printed in Great Britain by Raithby, Lawrence & Co Ltd, Leicester LE3 5AY for Royal Mail.