

Philatelic Bulletin

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Editorial

On returning to the office from the opening of Stampex which, judging by the queues seems as popular as ever, I found the news that our other major exhibition, BPE, is to move from its home at Seymour Hall to the Wembley Conference Centre. What the effect of the move will be is, of course, unknown at this stage but I understand that there is far more space to spread exhibits and stands and being adjacent to motorways it may encourage more visitors from north of London.

Our recent flowers stamps have struck a chord with a large number of people who do not normally collect and they have been well received on all sides. It would seem that there is at least a latent interest in flowers and gardens in most of us and in that event we have no hesitation in recommending the English Tourist Board's new campaign 'Visit an English Garden' which pays particular attention to the gardens that are open to the public and are prepared to welcome more visitors. A 48 page full colour brochure and touring map guide are available from bookshops, price 50p, or from 'Visit an English Garden' Guide, Hendon Road, Sunderland SR9 9XZ, price 50p + 15p p & p.

New Scottish Pictorial Air Letter

A new Scottish pictorial air letter, costing 12p, will be issued on 25 April 1979 with golf as its theme. Designed by Rauri McLean Associates Ltd, the line illustrations which depict the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse at St Andrews, and cartoons of Bob Hope and Bing Crosby were drawn by Willie Rodger, Kirkintilloch.

The air letter will be available at post offices in Scotland, philatelic counters throughout the UK, and, by post (plus the normal handling charge), from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

King George V Photogravure Sixpence— So nearly a Stamp Part 2

Illustrations accompanying this article are reproduced by kind permission of the Curator, National Postal Museum

On 9 January 1936 POSD wrote to Harrison's 'The 6d stamps are generally satisfactory as regards appearance, colour and ink, but there are a number of defects (white spots, black spots, etc) which must be remedied before printing of the supply is proceeded with. Will you kindly arrange for the defects concerned to be given special attention, and if they can be remedied to send further pulls at your earliest convenience.'

A POSD memo dated 22 January 1936 declares that 'the issue of the photogravure series of postage stamps up to 1s, in replacement of the former surface printed stamps, has been delayed through the difficulties encountered by the contractors in applying the process on a scale not hitherto attempted in the production of postage stamps.' On 27 January POSD instructed Harrison's that the 5d, 6d, 10d and 1s stamps should be proceeded with in the photogravure process, precedence to be given to the production of the 6d, and on 29 January Harrison's telephoned that they hoped to deliver supplies of that stamp the following week. 'If however there is a risk of failure, they would want a quarter of the mill sheets and deliver a third of the supply in half mill sheets. The stock should last for two weeks certain.'

On 11 February 1936 Harrison's sent six sheets of 6d stamps to POSD for approval. 'Three sheets are from the odd blanket impression and three from the even blanket impression from the 10. cylinder. The other half of the cylinder is useless. We propose to run your first supplies from this cylinder, obtaining only half output. These particular sheets are taken from the direct run after 10,000 impressions, and are representative of bulk supplies. We regret that we are unable to improve the print of the solid surround, and when the new Edward stamps are issued, it is of the utmost importance that the design would be somewhat similar to the Memorial stamp, as we find it impossible to keep the thin watery ink in the deep cells.'

Note: There is a perforated block of six, dated as above, in the Post Office collection. It is annotated 'Running proof. This would have been approved in spite of minor defects but meanwhile Harrison's, after running, found that the print deteriorated.' (See fig 2). The 'Memorial' stamp

11- 2- 36



Running proof. This would have been approved in spite of minor defect but meanwhile Harrison's, after running, found that the print deteriorated.

Fig 2

was no doubt the photogravure 1½d essay inscribed 'IN MEMORY' at foot.

In a POSD memo dated 14 February 1936 it is stated that there was a positive of a new design with light background at High Wycombe; also a drawing of a design with horizontal lines similar to the existing surface printed stamps. Proofs were to be submitted as soon as possible. A later note states that neither design produced a satisfactory result. Further efforts were being made.

On 15 February Harrison's submitted three blocks of six photogravure 6d essays. 'Whilst making these tests we had in mind the possibility of printing on the rotary machine 480 set.' There is no proof of this date in the Post Office collection, but it is probable that these were imperforate 6 set essays. There is, however, a perforated block of six stamps dated 23 February 1936, possibly in error, because there is no covering letter from Harrison's.

On 25 February Harrison's submitted three blocks of 6 set essays. 'It will be noted that this stamp lacks the depth of colour shown on previous

essays. In some respects we consider the tone value and appearance of this stamp, especially for commercial purposes, to be an improvement on anything hitherto sent for criticism.' There is one imperforate block, dated as above, in the Post Office collection. It is annotated 'Proof on coated paper (toned background).'

On 26 February 1936, in response to a telephoned request, Harrison's supplied POSD with sheets of 6d stamps to show the faults which arose from the use of the double fugitive ink. There were four issue sheets (240 set) and three mill sheets (480 set). 'We found it quite impossible to adjust the pressure of the blanket cylinder, and also the scrape of the knife for printing 480. We therefore selected the best half of the cylinder, and it appeared as if we would make a fair run, but every 100 sheets or so the faults marked on the issue sheets, which were printed 240 set, kept giving us trouble. Any continued run would increase the number of white marks.' There is one perforated block of 6d stamps, dated as above, in the Post Office collection. It is annotated 'Shows defects which occur after running', and white spots are visible to the naked eye.

On 5 March 1936 POSD wrote to the Inland Revenue concerning the practicability of using singly fugitive ink for the 6d stamps, and they forwarded two sheets of stamps. In the Post Office collection there are two blocks of six perforated 6d stamps, dated as above and annotated 'Single fugitive ink: uncoated paper' and 'Single fugitive ink: coated paper'.

On 21 March 1936 the Inland Revenue wrote to POSD 'Reference specimen sheets, we find that cancellation marks in ink can be removed practically without trace, using a common solvent. I understand you to say that within the next twelve months a new issue is proposed with a different design which would enable doubly fugitive ink to be used without its present drawbacks. If this is so, would it not be possible to continue the use of the present 6d stamp?'

On 6 April 1936 POSD wrote to the Postal Services Department 'Difficulties in production of the 6d photogravure stamps of the approved design with solid background have now arisen which I regret to have to admit must be accepted as insur-

mountable. The printers have expressed the opinion that a stamp with a toned (instead of a solid) background printed with doubly fugitive ink could be produced. The objection is that it would be a variant from the remainder of the series. In these circumstances it is thought that the issue of the present surface printed stamps should be continued.'

On 12 May 1936 POSD wrote to Harrison's 'It has been decided to close Warrant No 188 with 21,484 sheets printed.' and on 27 May 'As it has been decided not to proceed with the printing of the 6d Unified (King George V) stamp in the photogravure design, I shall be glad if you will be good enough to return the specimen approved block, the receipt of which was acknowledged in your letter of 8 April 1935.'

Thus ends the story of this interesting stamp, mostly told in the words of those who were striving to bring it to life. Because no sheet was ever approved and registered it has to be regarded as an essay, rather than an unissued stamp. Although more than 5 million were printed (assuming a sheet size of 240), the only survivors appear to be the items in the Post Office collection and a few perforated examples overprinted 'Cancelled' which were probably printer's reference copies.

As a sequel it may be noted that had King Edward VIII not abdicated similar difficulties would probably have arisen when it came to the production of the 6d stamp of that reign, for on 12 May 1936 Harrison's wrote to POSD 'We beg to advise you that we are forwarding tomorrow per our van six issue sheets of King Edward VIII stamps, 1½d denomination, printed in 6d violet doubly fugitive ink.'

'The printing has been fairly successful, showing that this type of etch, with the freedom from the solid background, gives more control over the ink. We should, however, have an extensive trial before we can give a guarantee that the doubly fugitive ink can be successfully used for standard production value, and in this respect we anticipate being able to make a further statement when the Trial Paper No 6 has been coated.'

King Edward VIII essays for the 6d in two other designs were also printed in doubly

fugitive ink. Throughout 1938 difficulties were experienced with the fugitive qualities of the ink to be used for printing the King George VI 6d stamp. In December 1938 permission was given to proceed with the production of the stamps,

although it was stated that the sensitivity of the ink used for printing the sheets submitted for approval was not up to the required standard.

MARCUS SAMUEL FRPSL

'Blue Peter' First Day Cover Competition

Thousands of copies of the official Post Office First Day Cover for the International Year of the Child commemorative stamps will soon be flying off the presses — and there to see the first ones printed will be five year-old Adrian Cresswell who has won top prize in the 'Blue Peter' First Day Cover Competition.

Adrian was invited along with the eight other prize winners to the 'Blue Peter' studio on Thursday, February 15 when he learned he was the overall winner.

His drawing of a train pulling three open carriages with children of all nationalities waving from them and puffs of smoke from the engine with the words 'Year of The Child 1979' coming out of the smoke, will be prized by philatelists all over the world who collect the International Year of the Child First Day Cover with the commemorative stamps.

Adrian who comes from Stourbridge, West Midlands, was top of his class — 7s and Under; second was Adrian Hughes aged 6½ from Llanelli, Dyfed, South Wales; third was Susan Smith aged 5 from West Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

In the 8s, 9s and 10s first prize went to Steven Wilkins aged 10 of Wakefield, West Yorkshire; second was Emma Clarke aged 9 of Welling, Kent; and third was Jill Williams aged 10 of Pant near Oswestry.

Helen Corri aged 12 of Leigh on Sea, Essex, was first prize in the 11s and Over class; second was Gwinear Lloyd aged 12 of Risca in Gwent; and third was Lucy Parker aged 12 of North London.

As overall winner Adrian Cresswell will spend a day with the Post Office at their printers seeing



The overall winner, Adrian Cresswell, with Lesley Judd, Simon Groom, Christopher Wenner and Biddy Baxter of 'Blue Peter'

his design come off the presses. All prize winners received a leather album and stamps compiled by the Post Office.

From the International Year of the Child organisers first prize winners received gold plated pendants, second prize winners had silver pendants and third prize winners received silver medallions.

The 5,000 runners up will get both International Year of the Child badges, 'Blue Peter' Competition Badges, and a set of British Dogs postcards from the Post Office.

The Post Office, impressed by the high standard of entries, has decided to mount a travelling exhibition of the top prize winning entries and a selection of the runners up entries.

'The best thing about this competition is that British children are expressing their friendship for children all over the world. The colossal number of entries indicates the tremendous enthusiasm there is for their own special year', said Biddy Baxter, editor of 'Blue Peter'.

Horse Racing Stamp Issue 6 June 1979

Four commemorative postage stamps, values 9p, 10½p, 11p and 13p, depicting horse racing in Britain since 1684, will be issued on 6 June 1979.

First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, including a choice of two handstamps: Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and Epsom, Surrey.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, or Epsom, Surrey, as requested, and despatched for a charge of 62½p.

For deposit account customers the charge will be 58p.

Service B

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

Service C

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

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 28 May 1979.

New Postcard for SWPR Series

The Post Office is issuing a new picture postcard on Tuesday, 17 April 1979, featuring aspects of postal services in Cornwall.

The card will be number seven in the popular SWPR series of postcards and there are four colour photographs on this one. The Royal Mail Ship *Scillonian III* and the helicopter, which both carry mail between the Scilly Isles and Penzance, the Wadebridge postbus and the picturesque post office at St Mawes are all featured on the card.

On 17 April there will be a First Day of Sale handstamp for the postcard and orders can be sent to the Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, St Austell Street, TRURO, Cornwall TR1 1AA.

Mint postcards cost 5p each and for orders sent by post there is a charge for postage and packing of 15p for up to 20 cards; 25p for 21-100 cards; 50p for 101-250 cards, or £1 for over 250 cards.

Serviced cards, with the First Day of Sale handstamp will cost 25p each, which includes the cost of the postcard, first class postage, handstamp and service charge.

Money for postcards should only be sent in postal orders, or by direct Giro transfer to Truro Head Post Office, Giro account number 209 9012. For cards travelling overseas, the appropriate amount should be added for the difference between the British first class rate and the relevant overseas postage rate (for example an additional 2p for Canada and the USA). For orders from overseas, payment must be made by means of international money or postal order or by a cheque drawn on an English Bank. Only payment in sterling will be accepted.

The postcard, the first to be produced locally in Cornwall by the Truro Head Post Office, will go on sale on 17 April at all main post offices in the Truro Head Post Office area.

The handstamp to be used on 17 April is rectangular, enclosing an outline of the coast of Cornwall, with the places featured on the postcard and the Head Post Office marked. The wording reads: 'First Day of Sale, Picture Postcard, Postal Services in Cornwall, Truro, Cornwall, 17 April 1979'.

Forthcoming Events

BPE to Move

Seymour Hall is no longer available for exhibitions such as BPE and the organisers have been able to reserve the Wembley Conference Centre instead. This year's BPE will be held there between 14-17 November.

Bluebell Railway Cover

To mark the 20th anniversary of Founders Day a number of covers each bearing the full set of British Flowers stamps were carried on 21 March on the famous Bluebell Railway in Sussex. The steam train was pulled by the locomotive 'Bluebell', an illustration of which is shown on the cover.

The covers which carry a printed cachet 'Carried on Bluebell Special' are available, price £1.25 plus 15p postage, from Benham A Buckingham Ltd, 24/28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent CT21 5AT.

Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society 1919-1979

Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society, in their Diamond Jubilee year, have arranged a further Philatelic Week-end at Wansfel College of Residential Adult Education to be held from Friday evening 8 June to Sunday afternoon 10 June, 1979.

The Week-end will start on Friday evening with dinner at 6.30 for 7 pm followed by the first lecture on 'The Colour Problem' by Peter Bennett. The Saturday programme opens with 'Preparing entries for Competitions' by A J Branston and C Rauch, followed by 'The Stamps of Germany 1872-1918' by L V Rapkin and '1936 German Olympics' by Mrs Rapkin, and 'The story of the GB Machin Stamps' by A G Rigo de Righi. On Sunday Mrs M Morris will talk on 'Thoughts on Presentation — Thematics'; Dennis Vandervelde on 'Posted at Sea', and to bring us right up to date, Patrick Awcock will close the week-end by talking on 'Automatic letter sorting in the UK'. Other activities include students displays of 'Ten interesting sheets from my collection', and discussions on philately.

The all in charge for the week-end is £16.50.

Application with the full fee made payable to the County Council of Essex should be sent to the Registrar, Wansfel College, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex. Early application is recommended as accommodation is limited.

Riding for the Disabled Cover

On 6 June the 200th Derby is being run at Epsom, Surrey, England. The Post Office is issuing four stamps to mark the occasion, and the Rotary Club of Epsom as official agents of the Riding for the Disabled Association is producing special envelopes to have the stamps cancelled with a pictorial postmark. All the net proceeds will go to the Association, and a printed message of support from HRH The Princess Anne and facsimile signatures of nine of the world famous jockeys who have won this race will be enclosed.

Orders accompanied by remittance of £1 per envelope should be sent to Rotary Club of Epsom, 82 High Street, Epsom, Surrey KT17 1RE, England.

Scottish Philatelic Congress 1979

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies will hold its 50th Congress on 21 April 1979 in the Pathfoot Building of Stirling University. This year's host is the Lanarkshire Philatelic Society, and the Congress will open to the public from 9.00 am till 5.00 pm; admission is free. The event includes displays, dealers' stands and a sales counter provided by the Philatelic Bureau.

To mark the occasion a souvenir cover will be produced, depicting a Bleriot monoplane which appeared in the 1910 Lanark Air Display, cancelled with a special handstamp. A limited edition of 1,000 covers to be flown by helicopter over the site of the 1910 air display — weather permitting — will be available. They will bear a cachet announcing the fact.

The prices of fully serviced covers are as follows:—

Flown edition: 55p (UK) 70p (Overseas)

Normal edition: 30p (UK) 40p (Overseas)

Further information may be obtained from: Mr G McDowall, 17 Merrylees Road, BLANTYRE, Glasgow G72 9YA, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Direct Elections to the European Assembly Issue

9 May 1979

At the European Council meeting in Copenhagen in April 1978, the Heads of State or Government agreed in principle that direct elections to the European Assembly should be held from 7-10 June 1979, with each Member State deciding on which day it would vote. The first elections for the 81 representatives from the United Kingdom are scheduled to be held on Thursday, 7 June.

To mark the event the Post Office will issue on 9 May, four postage stamps, values 9p, 10½p, 11p and 13p, depicting the flags of Member States, on different colour backgrounds.

Printing Details

Designer: Stafford Cliff

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Format: Horizontal

Size: 41mm × 30mm

Perforation: 15 × 14

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Phosphor: All over

Sheet No: 100

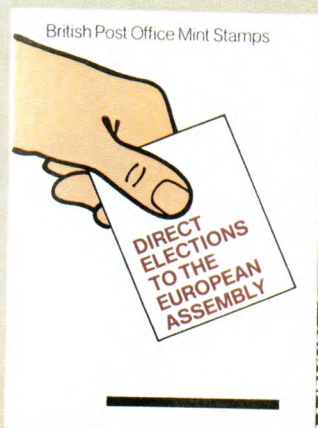
Values and Colours

- | | |
|------|--|
| 9p | Chrome yellow, black, blue, light green, yellow-orange, orange-vermillion |
| 10½p | Chrome yellow, black, lake brown, blue, light green, yellow-orange, orange-vermillion |
| 11p | Chrome yellow, black, murtle green, blue, light green, yellow-orange, orange-vermillion |
| 13p | Chrome yellow, black, reddish-brown, blue, light green, yellow-orange, orange-vermillion |

Postcards

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





Gems from the RM Phillips Collection LXV

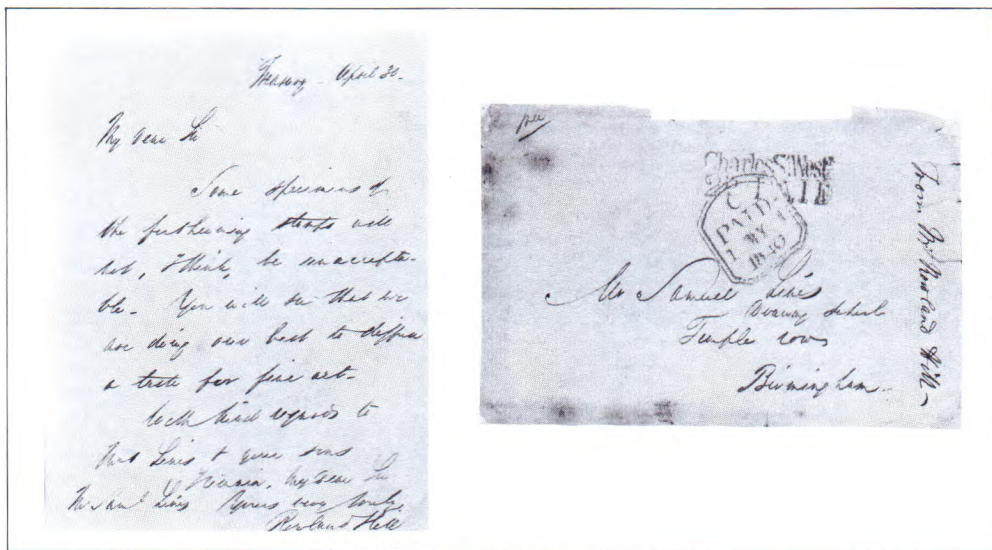


Fig 1

This month's gem (fig 1) is a letter, with accompanying envelope, written by Rowland Hill in 1840. More than just a letter written by the great postal reformer of the 19th century, postmarked with the historic date 1 May 1840, this item illustrates, too, a very human story of friendship — a story backgrounded by the more familiar one traced in the Phillips Collection that highlights Hill's Postal Reform of 1840 and the design and production of the world's first adhesive postage stamps.

The letter, from the ever-busy pen of Rowland Hill and written from his office at the Treasury on 30 April 1840, is addressed to his old friend and drawing master, Samuel Lines of Birmingham. Its accompanying envelope records that Hill sent his letter prepaid, the prepayment of postage being one of the principles upon which he had based his arguments for Postal Reform in 1837 and one that he held to throughout his life. The postmark shows, too, that he posted his letter on 1 May — the very day on which the new stamped stationery and adhesive postage stamps were first placed on sale to the public, for use from 6 May.

Rowland Hill had demonstrated his artistic ability even as a child, winning at the age of thirteen first prize in a national competition for a landscape view of Birmingham taken from the playground of his father's school, Hill Top. His work was exhibited publicly in local art exhibitions and, today, one of his early watercolours (fig 2), and his set of drawing instruments, are to be seen in the National Postal Museum.

In 1818, when Rowland was in his early twenties, the family decided to remove their school to a new purpose-built schoolhouse at Edgbaston, a building designed entirely by Rowland, a self-taught architect. *Hazelwood*, with its science laboratory, gymnasium, swimming pool, observatory, gas lighting and air duct central heating — all features far in advance of their day — was a fitting home for the Hill family's progressive system of education, which was based on self-government by the boys and on the importance of voluntary application and the exploitation of the pupils' particular interests. Justifiable pride in Rowland's achievement must surely have prompted Samuel Lines to sketch *Hazelwood* in about 1822, following its partial



Fig 2

rebuilding after a fire in which many of Rowland's prized watercolours were lost.

Legend has it that Samuel Lines was the first person ever to send a letter under his ex-pupil's new system of Uniform Penny Postage, which was introduced on 10 January 1840. Determined that no one should get the start of him, Lines wrote his letter of congratulation to Rowland on 9 January: waiting outside the Birmingham post office until the last stroke of midnight, he then knocked up the astonished Clerk on duty and handed over his penny!

The design and production of the first stamps owed much to Hill's direction and to his own technical expertise and artistic ability — and their design, perhaps, has never been surpassed. But clearly, in those busy days of April 1840, he still felt a need for his former drawing master's approval of his work, as revealed in the following passage of his letter: 'Some specimens of the forthcoming stamps will not, I think, be unacceptable. You will see that we are doing our best to diffuse a taste for fine art . . .'.

The pair of specimen 1d Black stamps, together with a Mulready envelope endorsed Proof, that Hill had enclosed in his letter to Samuel Lines — probably the first specimens to pass into private hands — were preserved with it and, today, are also among the treasures of the Phillips Collection. But in 1840 the enclosures themselves meant far less, perhaps, to Samuel Lines than the precious letter from Rowland in which they had been folded. This letter, so carefully preserved in its original envelope and now

forever enshrined in the Phillips Collection, bears silent witness to the friendship of two men, both artists, which neither time nor distance — nor the newly-won importance of the younger — could diminish.

JEAN FARRUGIA

A booklet on Rowland Hill's life and work, to mark this year's centenary of his death, is shortly to be published by the National Postal Museum. Details will be given in the next issue.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you on the fine quality of your publication especially in regards to the articles and pictures on postal items and memorabilia. Because of demanding non-philatelic activities, I find it necessary to cease any further expansion of my non-Canadian collection. Thus I am severing an eight-year relationship with British stamps. I have been receiving the Bulletin for those eight years and am discontinuing my subscription now. Such a good magazine should not be thrown out so I thought there might be other collectors who would desire the back issues. I would appreciate if you could find room in your letter column for the following paragraph of my letter.

'I have a complete collection of the Bulletin beginning with the December 1970 issue to date. I am ceasing the collecting of British stamps (for non-philatelic reasons) and as the Bulletin is a quality publication, I thought there might be some collector who would like to have the back issues. I will send them to the first person requesting them at the cost of the three binders and postage. I will send only as a complete lot.'

Yours truly

RODERICK W CORKUM

Middle Lahave
RR3 Bridgewater
Nova Scotia
B4V 2W2

Tel: 902-766 4349

Editor's Note

North American collectors of GB postage stamps may have to take advantage of Mr Corkum's offer.

Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of the National Postal Museum

The new Special Exhibition now on view at the National Postal Museum, marks the 10th Anniversary of the opening ceremony performed by HM The Queen on 19 February 1969.

Appropriately, since the foundation of the Museum resulted directly from the dedication and generosity of the late Mr Reginald M Phillips of Brighton, the present exhibition was opened on 19 February this year by Mrs Elsa Phillips, his widow, who for so many years encouraged and supported her husband's interests in philately.

The Anniversary Exhibition has two principal themes. The first is an extensive display of the 'Seahorses' high value stamps of 1913-34, drawn from the Museum's very extensive and probably unrivalled collection. The display ranges from designs and complete plate proofs of 1912-13 to unique trials for the 1934 re-engraved stamps. Included are many of the superb items acquired by the Museum at the sale (for the benefit of the blind) of Mr R M Phillips' own 'Seahorses' collection in October 1978.

The second theme is a selected display of the many and very varied items acquired by the Museum over the past decade. Thanks to the generosity of its many friends, many fine stamps and significant philatelic documents and other items have come to the Museum as gifts. Many other gaps have been filled as a result of purchases. Even more extensive and important have been the transfers to the NPM of philatelic archives formerly at the Royal Mint, at Messrs Thomas De La Rue and in the Post Offices' own records. Important acquisitions such as these have gone a long way towards enabling the Museum to build up comprehensive collections which record and illustrate the history of the postage stamps issued since 1840 by the British Post Office, and the development of British postal services at home and overseas since the Royal Posts of the sixteenth century. These were



Mr D Henry, Senior Director Postal Services, welcoming Mrs Elsa Phillips to the National Postal Museum for the Tenth Anniversary Exhibition

the purposes for which the Museum was founded and for which Mr Phillips donated his magnificent nineteenth century GB collection to the Post Office in trust for the nation.

Included amongst the acquisitions on show are items ranging from seventeenth century letters (one addressed to Samuel Pepys) to historic air-mail flights and 1977 Machin colour trials. There are the rare 1872-73 'Stock Exchange forgeries' on exceptionally large telegram forms which escaped the official destruction that followed the Post Office investigations of the affair between 1898 and 1914; hitherto unknown designs produced by the 1884 Stamp Committee and a remarkable collection of Lt Cmdr Pirie-Gordon's 'Long Island' typewritten stamps of 1916.

Included, too, is the copy of Fuchs' drawing of the head of King Edward VII signed by the artist, used for engraving the portrait used on all stamps of the reign, together with the design for the one penny and sixpenny values uniquely approved by King Edward VII in his own hand.

Posting Boxes



No. 9: This old Victorian pillar box with the spiked cap, which can still be seen at Cheddars Lane, Cambridge, presents something of a mystery. What is the 'point' of the lethal looking spikes? The true reason for them may never be known. Those who would have known and certainly those upon whom the box may have made an impression, have probably long since passed on.

There are two traditional explanations from which the reader can take his choice. It is said that at one time the box stood next to the wall of what was then the gas works and the spikes were to prevent the use of the box as an aid to climbing the wall. The other possible explanation is that the box could have been sited originally at Mill Road level crossing before the bridge was built at the turn of the century, where it would have been a good, but dangerous, vantage point for train spotters.

Forces Covers

British Forces Post Office

The British Forces Post Office situated within the NATO Headquarters, Brussels, issued a commemorative cover on 4 April to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington. The cover, bearing a 10½p 'British Flowers' stamp, cancelled with a special BFPO 49 (HQ NATO) handstamp, is available, price 45p, from the Philatelic Officer, British Forces Post Office, HQ NATO, EVERE, Brussels. Alternatively, the cover with all four 'British Flowers' stamps is priced at 80p. Unserved covers can be obtained at 20p each. Remittances should be made payable to 'Philatelic Officer, 4 Postal and Courier Regiments'.

Royal Navy Cover

To mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of NATO, a special cover depicting the ships of NATO countries exercising at sea will be available during the second week in May. Flags of the member countries will also be illustrated, as will the NATO badge and flag. The cost of the cover, bearing a 13p 'Dogs' stamp cancelled with BFPS handstamp number 3079, and signed by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill Norton GCB — late Chairman Military Committee, and Admiral Sir Henry Leach GCB — C in C Channel and Eastern Atlantic NATO areas, is £1.75.

Alternatively, the cover with an 11p 'Dogs' stamp affixed, and signed by Admiral Sir Henry Leach only will cost 95p. Unsigned covers, bearing a 9p 'Dogs' stamp will be available at 45p each. Orders accompanied by a 7" × 5" stamped and addressed envelope should be sent to the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer, Royal Naval Air Station, YEOVILTON, Somerset BA22 8HL. Remittances should be made payable to the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

Book Reviews

A Checklist of Telecommunications on Postage Stamps

By W T Glover

From:— £2.00 (collect)
N P S Publications £2.15 Inland Post
1 Whitehall Place £2.30 Overseas Post
LONDON SW1A 2HE £2.70 by Airmail

A handy new publication which really lives up to its title 'Check List'. Those of us who remember hours of frenzied searching for new material for our thematic collections have cause to be profoundly thankful for aids like this.

The National Philatelic Society has previously published a similar list on a Music theme and says it hopes the books will 'stimulate interest and facilitate thematic collecting'. This one will go quite a long way to doing so.

As a bonus for American readers, Mr Glover lists the items under Scott as well as SG numbers and a successful sales run across the Atlantic can safely be predicted. The check list deserves to be well received, particularly by newcomers with an interest in Telecoms themes.

Very well-worth having and good value for money.

Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue: Vol 3. Queen Elizabeth II. Pre-decimal Issues

Fourth Edition £5.95

This 4th edition has been extensively restyled and redesigned. Page headings for regional and definitive issues now include the 'Specialised' numbers for easy reference. Cross references to 'Elizabethan' and 'Commonwealth' catalogue numbers are also shown in the text.

First Day Covers and Presentation Packs have been given greater prominence than hitherto and the 'Wilding' issues now show additional illustrations of cylinder flaws and booklet panes. Needless to say, all pricings have been carefully reassessed.

The volume is hardbound and printed on art paper. Its 374 pages list an amazing variety of coils, booklet panes, gum and paper variants and a host of other features. It is not hard to under-

stand why the 3rd edition speedily ran through two reprintings.

Clear presentation and comprehensive listing is characteristic of SG catalogues and this one is no exception. It must be something of a mandatory purchase for serious collectors of the 'old-money' QEII stamp issues.

The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Printings

The third edition of this comprehensive reference work became available towards the end of February. It contains 64 pages of the accepted reference listings of all Machin and decimal Regional stamps, and for the first time, complete listings of cylinder blocks. Obtainable from leading stamp dealers at £1.95.

Special Handstamps

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

23 April 1979 (P/C)

The Pageant of the Horse 23.4.79 Doncaster. Special posting box at Post Office, Exhibition Unit, Doncaster Racecourse.

NB As there are no Sunday collections items posted in the special posting box at this event (to be held on Sunday 22.4.79) will be dated 23.4.79. Postal applications no later than 23.4.79.

15-16-17 May 1979 (R)

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

28 May 1979 (P/R)

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

5 July 1979 (P/C)

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

Postmark Slogans

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

9 April-5 May 1979 (P)

Sir Thomas Beecham Birth Centenary Celebrations St Helens 25 April-2 May 1979. To be used at Warrington and St Helens. 1st and 2nd class.

Until further notice

Bournemouth has a Mechanised Letter Office Please Use Postcode. To be used at Bournemouth. 1st and 2nd class.

Ackworth School Bicentenary 1779-1979. To be used at Wakefield on the following dates:

1-30 April 1979

1-30 June 1979

1-31 October 1979

1st and 2nd class pictorial.

Until 12 April 1979 (P)

Swell Radio Controlled Model Expo and Air Show Easter Sun/Mon 15th and 16th April. To be used at Northampton. 1st and 2nd class.

SSAFA Aldershot Tattoo Rushmoor Arena Sat 30 June Sun 1 July. To be used at the following offices:

Birmingham — 7-12 May 1979. 2nd class.

Southampton — 21 May-2 June 1979. 2nd class.

Reading — 21 May-2 June 1979. 2nd class.

London WCO — 11-23 June 1979. 2nd class.

Until further notice

Get the Most From Your Post Code It. To be used at Derby. 1st and 2nd class.

120th Anniversary Corps of Commissioners 1859-1979 Jobs for Ex-Service-

men. To be used at the following offices:

WDO, WCDO, MPIS, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow and Cleveland on the following dates:

12-17 February 1979

16-21 April 1979

11-16 June 1979

15-20 October 1979

Until 17 August 1979

Sir Joseph Wilson Swan 1879-1979 Electric Lamp Centenary Born Sunderland 1828. To be used at Sunderland. 1st and 2nd class.

Until further notice

Get the Most From Your Post Code It. To be used at Coventry. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 11 August 1979

Follow the Romans Come to Chester AD 79-1979. To be used at Chester. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 2 June 1979

Enniskillen Festival 1979 9 June 16 June. To be used at Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. 1st and 2nd class.

Repeat Campaigns

Until 2 June 1979 (P)

Skegness Hoteliers Association Skegness Passport to Pleasure. To be re-used at Skegness. 2nd class.

Until 18 August 1979

Visit Southport Flower Show in August. To be re-used at Preston. 1st and 2nd class.

21 May-2 June 1979 (P)

Can Disabled People Go Where You Go. To be re-used at Gloucester and Cheltenham. 1st and 2nd class.

P denotes Pictorial

C denotes Circular

R denotes Rectangular

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