

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Stop Press

Books containing panes of four first and second class NVI stamps printed by Harrisons (photo-gravure) in covers produced by Walsall went on sale during November and are now available from the British Philatelic Bureau. The panes have straight edges at top, right and bottom. There was no specific "first day of availability". From 5 January 1990 until further notice all stamp-cancelling machines in use at Sorting Offices will change from black to *red* stamp cancelling ink.

Editorial

1990 is going to be a busy and interesting year for collectors and we hope a year in which philately will receive some welcome media coverage. The 150th anniversary of the Penny Black is bound to feature in our newspapers, magazines and hopefully on television. The Penny Black has a special place in philatelic folklore and is almost revered by many collectors. Although I cannot now claim to like the stamp, I recall the pride and joy I felt when, as I schoolboy, I was given a Penny Black as a present. Within a few days the Penny Black Anniversary stamps will go on sale (10 January) and books containing 15p and 20p stamps in this series will follow at the end of January.

The first of the 1990 special issues will be released on 23 January (RSPCA) and no doubt I will soon be receiving letters from you expressing your opinions. The depth of feeling for and against stamp design never fails to amaze me and whilst I can appreciate, on occasion, why some are disappointed by particular designs I cannot understand the use of terms such as appalled, horrified, reviled and disgusted in registering opinion on such a subjective matter. Reference to the dictionary definitions of these words surely shows them to be inappropriate in this context. This month you have an opportunity to tell us which of the 1989 special issues you liked (or disliked) by voting on the enclosed form. Last year over 2,000 of you voted on the 1988 stamps, hopefully even more will cast their votes this year. Forms should be returned to the *Bulletin* office by 28 February. See page 111 for details.

We introduce this month a "Six Month Digest" giving a summary of the issues of the past six months and a listing of the items to be released in the six months ahead. I hope this will be of use in helping readers keep their collectors up to date. Next month we will preview the Europa stamps and the £5 "London Life" book which contains (in my opinion) the most interesting mixed value pane to date.

Greetings Stamps

6 February 1989

On Tuesday 6 February the second issue of Royal Mail Greetings Stamps will be made. There will be ten first class stamps with ten different designs and a set of twelve labels, all contained in a pack to be sold at £2. The packs will be sold from post offices and from selected high street shops.

David Dale, Manager Definitive Stamps, Royal Mail Stamps explains the background to this issue:

The basic idea of the Greetings Stamps is that they complement the card or letter inside the envelope. In these busy times we manage to send as many "social" letters through the post as in Victorian times. However whilst our great-grandparents wrote long letters, the modern trend is to send postcards and greetings cards. This represents an important part of postal traffic and it is in the Royal Mail's interest to encourage this use of the postal system. There is also a cost saving in selling ten stamps at a time which helps to offset the more expensive packaging costs.

The design brief for the stamps was that they should appeal to a wide variety of customers and avoid the limitations that can arise from having a specific message. If a stamp carries a direct message such as "Get Well Soon", or, in the case of one US stamp "Love You Dad", then there may not be many opportunities to use it and customers may feel unhappy about using up the stamps for other purposes. This was even the case with the Cupid design in the first Royal



Mail issue. Customers in market research sessions felt unhappy about the inclusion of two cupids in a book of ten stamps because they felt the stamps could only be used on Valentine's Day.

The design solution to this difficult brief is a set of smiles. They are along the top row, from left to right: a Teddy Bear, Dennis the Menace, Punch, the Cheshire Cat, and the Man in the Moon. Along the bottom row, from left to right, are the Laughing Policeman, a Clown, the Mona Lisa, The Queen of Hearts and Stan Laurel. Especially when combined with the labels (illustrated) these designs can convey a wide variety of messages. It is especially important that they are appropriate to use with personal letters and not merely with greetings cards.

The production method for the 1989 issue involved folding a single pane of stamps plus labels into a book which was not too far removed from the old style folded books of



definitive stamps. There were a few problems with that approach, notably the quality of the perforations which were quite poor and there were also size limitations. The 1990 issue dispenses with the "stamp book" approach in favour of a "stamp pack". This allows the stamps and labels to be printed separately and it gives the customer a means of keeping the stamps safe over several months — another problem with the book format was that the long strip tended to fall to pieces after one or two stamps and labels had been used.

The pack has been designed to fit into the product range of standard stamp books and it is essentially red with a yellow side band. However it could not be mistaken for a standard book because the large smile cut out of the cover reveals the stamps inside. The pack will fit into the top of the red vending units supplied to sub post offices and Royal Mail Retailers.

Technical Details

The stamps and labels are designed by Michael Peters and Partners Limited and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited by photogravure on a continuous reel on the Jumelle press.

The stamps are horizontal in format, size 41 x 30mm, perforation 15 x 14. The stamp pane consists of ten stamps, each with a different design, printed in two rows of five horizontally with selvage on all sides. In a number of the stamps the design crosses into the selvage. The labels are printed in offset litho, three across and four deep.

The stamps are printed on non-phosphor paper overprinted with two phosphor bars, PVA dextrin gum. There will be no printers' marks in the margin. The overall size of the unfolded pane including margin is 223 x 80mm; without margin 203 x 60mm. The unfolded labels measure 132 x 80mm. The overall size of the finished packs is 137 x 85mm.

First Day Covers

Special first day covers designed by Michael Peters and Partners will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and most post offices, price 18p each or in bulk from the Bureau at £35 for 250 or £120 per 1,000.

The usual first day cover facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. There will also be pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps available, one for the British Philatelic Bureau and one for Giggleswick, North Yorkshire.

The Bureau will also provide its usual first



day cover service. Covers addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all ten stamps will be cancelled "British Philatelic Bureau" or "Giggleswick, North Yorkshire" as requested and despatched. Application forms, available from the Bureau, should be returned by 6 February.

Customers wishing to post their own covers under the reposting facility should send, on the day of issue, a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special Handstamp Greetings" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Giggleswick Special Handstamp Duty
Newcastle upon Tyne LDO
Royal Mail House
Forth Street
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA

Whilst the block of ten stamps will fit onto the Royal Mail first day cover, the pane of stamps with its margin will not. Since in some cases the design of the stamps extends into the margin, some collectors may wish to obtain the entire pane on cover. In such cases they should take care to obtain their own envelopes by 6 February.

The stamps will only be available in sealed packs which can be opened by tearing through a perforated strip.



Penny Black Anniversary Stamp Books

On 30 January Royal Mail stamps will issue seven new stamp books, all containing 15p and 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps. The books will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 30 January and from post offices as stocks of earlier issues become exhausted.

Machine-Vended Books

New 50p and £1 machine books will continue the Aeroplane and Mills designs introduced in October. The 50p book will contain two 15p stamps with phosphor band at left, one 20p stamp with two bands and a "Postcode" label. The 15p stamp is in bright blue, the 20p stamp black and cream, printed in photogravure by Harrisons. The £1 book will contain five 20p stamps on Advanced Coated Paper with straight edges to the left and right margins of the pane, again photogravure-printed by Harrisons.

These two books yield four new stamps for the specialist collector:

1. 15p side band
2. 20p two bands
3. 20p ACP straight edge left
4. 20p ACP straight edge right

£1 Trial Book

In addition there will be a trial issue £1 book; David Dale, Manager Definitive Stamps, explains:

A trial is to take place of a new type of cover material for vended stamp books. This is a result of a study which has been undertaken into faults in vending by the Royal Mail stamp book vending machines. The study determined that whilst the current cover material is well suited to the H, J and L type machines which have a pusher plate mechanism, it does not perform so well in the K type machines which rely on a friction wheel to vend the books, and it may be responsible for a proportion of the faults.

The trial books have been printed by Walsall Security Printers using the Wicken Fen cover design which has already been printed by Harrison & Sons as the first in the current series of £1 books (issued 2 October). The stamps inside are five first class Penny Black Anniversary stamps and they are also printed by Walsall Security Printers on phosphor coated paper produced by Coated Papers Ltd.

The books can be distinguished from the Harrison books in four ways. The most significant is that the Harrison version has ordinary Machin stamps but other differences are a smoother, glossier board, a printer's credit for Walsall Security Printers, and a distinguishing paper band for the bundles of 25 books which contains the words TRIAL BOOKS - RESTRICTED USE. The trial books will go on sale from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters on 30 January.

This book will yield two new stamps for the specialist collector:

1. 20p litho straight edge left
2. 20p litho straight edge right

Stamp Books

Four new stamp (window) books will be released on 30 January containing panes of four and 10 of the 15p and 20p stamps. The 60p and 80p books containing panes of four 15p and 20p stamps respectively have been printed by Walsall in lithography. The 15p stamps have a single phosphor line, the 20p stamps are on Phosphor Coated Paper. Both panes have straight edges at top, right and bottom, yielding eight stamp variations:

1. 15p straight edge top
2. 15p straight edge top and right
3. 15p straight edge bottom
4. 15p straight edge bottom and right
5. 20p straight edge top
6. 20p straight edge top and right
7. 20p straight edge bottom
8. 20p straight edge bottom and right

The books containing 10 stamps have been produced by Harrisons; the 15p stamps have one phosphor band, the 20p stamps are on ACP. The 15p stamp is printed in bright blue, the 20p stamp is black and cream. The top and bottom margins of the pane have straight edges yielding four stamp variations:

1. 15p straight edge top
2. 15p straight edge bottom
3. 20p straight edge top
4. 20p straight edge bottom

These stamps are regarded by Royal Mail Stamps as variations *not* new stamps and thus First Day of Availability through the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters is being provided but not full First Day of Issue facilities—First Day postmarks will not be available although collectors wishing to prepare covers bearing these variations may post them to

receive Philatelic Counter handstamps or the permanent pictorial handstamps such as those used at the City of London LDO (National Postal Museum and Tower of London), London SW (Buckingham Palace) or Twickenham (Heathrow Airport).

It should be noted that the Harrison printed stamps (photogravure) will be in single colour (15p) and two colour (20p). The Walsall printed stamps (lithography) will be produced in two or three colours to meet the final designated colour. Full details were not available at the time this feature was written; further details will be given in a Stop Press to this *Bulletin* or in a subsequent issue.



The cover designs continue the Aeroplanes and Mills series begun in October; the 50p features the Vickers Viscount 806; the £1 Click Mill, Dounby, Orkney Islands. The designs are by Peter Hutton and Jeremy Sancha respectively. The books were printed by Harrisons, the stamps on the Chambon press, the covers on the Libra bookmaking machine.

New NPM Handstamp



Shown here is the new Maltese Cross handstamp to be used on mail posted at the National Postal Museum from 10 January 1990.

Book Cover Variations

Shown here are the inside covers of the £1.50 and £2 NVI stamp books produced by Harrison. The books with the Newcastle address for postal rate leaflets are the original issue (22 August); the



books with details of the rates from 2 October went on sale during October. Both types are available from the British Philatelic Bureau. At the time of going to press the Questa and Walsall books had not been reprinted to show the 2 October postal rates.

Exhibition Retrospect

Part 4 — 1970

JAMES NEGUS

The Postmaster General, John Stonehouse, was principal guest at the 1969 Banquet for “Stampex”, Britain’s National Stamp Exhibition. In his speech he announced that, for the first time, the Post Office intended to honour a stamp exhibition the following year with a set of special stamps.

David Gentleman’s handsome set of three duly appeared on 18 September 1970, opening day of Philypia, the London International Stamp Exhibition. They depict the first uses of three printing processes in British stamps: engraving for the 1840 1d. black, embossing for the 1847 1s. and surface-printing for the 1855 4d. The printer of the set, Harrison and Sons Ltd, achieved these excellent reproductions by means of their photogravure process. For their part they had a private booklet for sale at their stand at the exhibition with a mint set of the stamps in a plastic mount inside a narrow (140 x 60mm) red card cover.

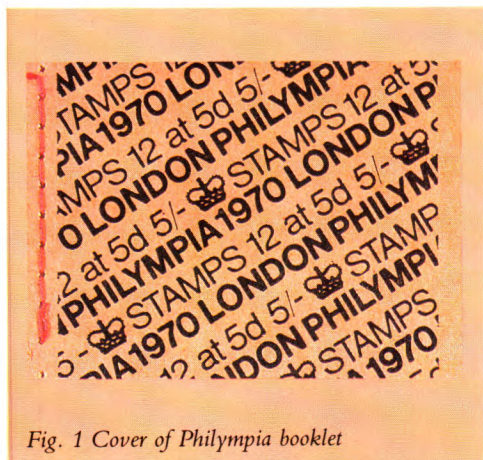


Fig. 1 Cover of Philypia booklet

The stamps were also available officially in a Post Office presentation pack and this is recorded with a German or a Japanese insert card. Post Office first day covers from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh had a new-style hand-stamp with Maltese Cross in the centre, a change not announced in advance.

Earlier in 1970 the Post Office had also used

the first day of Stampex (3 March) to publicise the forthcoming international exhibition. They interpolated in the continuing, regular series of 5s. booklets one whose covers were inscribed with a design by Peter Gauld for “Philypia 1970 London” (Fig. 1). This old-style (stitched) booklet included many pages of advertising from stamp dealers. The Stampex souvenir cover that day also proclaimed “Philypia Year starts with Stampex”.

David Gentleman lettered the Penny Black on his 5d. stamp with “P L” and the exhibition logo also incorporated “P L” for “Philypia London”. The acronym was formed from the name of the venue, the Olympia exhibition site in London’s Kensington. The logo is found, too, on the souvenir cover and special postmark designed by G C Horsman and used at the 1969 British Philatelic Exhibition in London. Its final day (25 October) had been designated “Philypia Day”.

Philypia was the first British international to be commemorated on stamps from overseas postal administrations (Gibraltar, Grenada and the Maldives). A U.S. Post Office Department souvenir card was available free: it has recess-printed reproductions in original colours of the U.S. 1920 Pilgrim Fathers set and commemorative inscription. Of these popular cards, 60,000 were issued; after the exhibition they cost \$1.

The Philypia exhibition took place from 18 to 26 September 1970, though it was closed on 20 September, which was a Sunday. The four floors at the Empire Hall at Olympia gave six times the area of the previous international so that the number of frames increased to 3,745 (against 1,170) with 1,032 exhibits instead of 763. As ever, things were still not judged by some to be perfect. One commentator missed the “museum-like elegance” of the Festival Hall (1960) and thought Olympia more suitable for displaying machinery than stamps. He also gloomily computed that even allowing only one minute per page, it would take about four months working eight hours a day to look at all the exhibits!

The trade gave good support with 129 stands

and, in addition to Harrisons, the other security printers De La Rue and Bradbury Wilkinson were in attendance.

The exhibition organisers publicly acknowledged the British Post Office to have been "a tower of strength". This reflected the great changes in British philately in the 1960s. It was a decade when the Philatelic Bureau and its *Bulletin* had been founded, the National Postal Museum opened, and the more liberal stamp-issuing policy inaugurated along with many new services for collectors, particularly for first days of issue. Philately soared in popularity and the established national exhibition, Stampex, had been joined in 1965 by a new annual British Philatelic Exhibition.

Hosts of donors came forward to help in financing the show, from amateur and professional ranks and from local clubs and federations. The Royal Philatelic Society and the British Philatelic Association, sponsors of the 1960 international, were for 1970 joined formally by the Philatelic Traders' Society.

Chairman of the Executive Committee this time was Ronald A.G. Lee, with Cyril Harmer Vice-Chairman. Amongst numerous well-known committee names readers will particularly remember Mrs Kay Goodman as Exhibition Secretary and the former Gibbons Chairman A.L. (Mick) Michael, as General Manager. An impressive Jury and the many distinguished Overseas Commissioners saw to it that Philympia attracted the superb material which collectors have come to expect at London International Exhibitions. The Queen once again graciously consented to a display from the Royal Collection and there was a strong Court of Honour that included material from Prince Rainier of Monaco.

Notable among the incomparable treasures on display from collectors worldwide were Kanai's Post Office Mauritius and Bojanowicz's Poland No. 1. The present writer also recalls from personal involvement the serious attempt at exhibiting and judging philatelic literature, something of a novelty at the time.

Philympia had been advertised by a slogan postmark (Fig. 2) in two campaigns, the first from 1 to 14 June 1970. The slogan, mostly transposed but also occurring in normal position was in use at London S.W.1, W.C., E.C., and F.S. (Foreign Section). A late use at London S.W.1 on 16 June is recorded. With the exception of London F.S., the same offices ran a second slogan campaign between 18 August and

24 September 1970 (late use 25 September, London S.W.1). Once again standard and transposed positions are found.

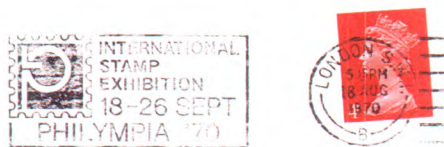


Fig. 2 Slogan postmark

No souvenir sheet was issued by the exhibition, but the organisers made available three types of souvenir envelope. The first design (Fig. 3) had an aerial view of the Houses of Parliament in full-colour lithography. This cost 1s.3d., as did the second type (Fig. 4), the Empire Hall with flag-encircled Globe and Philympia logo, produced in colour by die-stamping. The trio was completed by a de luxe cartridge-paper envelope at 2s.6d. with the logo in two-colour thermography (Fig. 5). Privately produced souvenir envelopes will also be found.

They were all for use with the main souvenir of the event — the unusual special cancellations — and frequently bore the Philympia postage stamps or ones relevant thematically to the particular day. As can be seen, Philympia had given each day a separate theme with its own three-coloured handstamp. The complete range is as follows:

September 1970	Symbol/Day/Date
18th Philympia Day	red/black/magenta
19th Airmail Day	blue/black/red
21st Post Office Day	red/blue/black
22nd United Nations Day	blue/magenta/black
23rd Commonwealth Day	magenta/black/blue
24th Great Britain Day	black/red/blue
25th Day of the Americas	blue/red/black
26th Europa Day	magenta/blue/black

Souvenirs (literally) as colourful as these are a pleasant reminder of yet another successful international exhibition born of dedicated hard work by an earlier generation.

Stamp World Bulletin

Bulletin 2 for the 'Stamp World London 90' exhibition has recently been published and can be obtained by sending a large stamped, addressed envelope to: Stamp World London 90, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.



Fig. 3 Litho souvenir envelope



Fig. 4 Die-stamped envelope



Fig. 5 De luxe souvenir envelope

Animal Welfare

BARBARA LAST

For 150 years the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has been concerned with the alleviation of suffering, either accidental or deliberately inflicted by Man, of all animals, domesticated or wild. The new set of stamps designed by Tony Evans, issued on 23 January 1990, illustrates four youngsters of the animal kingdom. Like all

St Martin's Lane, London recorded "Near this spot stood Old Slaughter's Coffee House where in 1824 was formed the first animal protection society to be founded in any country, now known as the RSPCA". The plaque was removed during the making of a road junction, and now lies in the basement of the RSPCA's headquarters.

William Wilberforce of anti-slavery fame was a supporter, as was the young Princess Victoria, who, three years after ascending the throne, granted the "Royal" prefix. Royal interest is still extended, for both H.M. The Queen and The Queen Mother are patrons of this charity which depends entirely on public generosity by way of donations and endowments.

Inspectorate

The late 1830s saw the appointment of uniformed inspectors, widely recognised by a public with whom they come into daily contact to help, advise, warn and control. Inspectors undergo a 7-month training. Their foremost task is to relieve distress, and secondly to educate humans in the proper care of all animals. Only as a very last resort does the Society prosecute. The Scottish SPCA cares for animal welfare north of the border.

In England three centrally funded RSPCA hospitals are run, together with a network of 45 branch clinics with qualified vets in attendance, 31 advisory centres and 54 animal homes. The centres provide information as well as first aid, and if necessary, humane destruction. The homes make certain that prospective adopters understand the responsibilities as well as the joys of ownership. The Society treats some 200,000 animals per year, and re-houses about 120,000. But they are forced to destroy thousands, many being unwanted pups and kittens born through unrestricted breeding. But many, alas, are given impulsively as Christmas presents, and are turned out when the responsibilities and expense of a pet become apparent. Some dogs are dumped from a car in unfamiliar territory, and even criminally abandoned on motorways to the peril of dog and motorist alike.



young things they are appealing, and will link up with other popular series like Patrick Oxenham's Wildlife set of 1977 and Don Cordery's 1989 Birds stamps.

The RSPCA is the World's first and largest animal welfare society, and has led directly to the formation of other such affiliated groups abroad. In 1822 Richard Martin, M.P. put forward the first British bill for limiting cruelty to animals, and two years later the clergyman Arthur Broome convened the first meeting of the SPCA. For many years a cast iron plaque in

Undercover Work

Local inspectors are involved in all types of accidents, freeing any sort of trapped animal, from cats stuck in trees to winching up cattle caught in a crevasse. They check boarding and breeding kennels, cattle markets, zoos, circuses, petshops and farms, enforcing the law and yearly investigating about 80,000 complaints. A special undercover unit works on the transport and slaughter of livestock and illegal bloodsports. Secretly cockfighting is still practised, and unfortunately archaic and squalid bull- and bear-baiting have been replaced by organised dog-fights with American pit bull terriers, and by clandestine badger-baiting. Badger Patrols in



Otter and badger on 1977 Wildlife stamps by Patrick Oxenham

nature reserves watch for men armed with spades, nets and terriers near badger (GB SG 1043) sets and resultant penalties have been increased.

There is cruelty on farms in the production of food by intensive rearing methods. It is accepted that our growing population has to be fed more efficiently, but public agitation is leading to the phasing out of box-like cages and farrowing crates for hens and sows with no room to move, in favour of more humane

restraints. Public concern has had influence in many other areas. Real furs for the fashion industry have been generally reduced in quantity in favour of fur fabric. It is to be hoped that soon certain products will be conspicuously labelled as made from fur-bearing animals which are frequently caught by illegal gin traps. Snares, supposedly set for rats and other vermin, cannot differentiate between pests and protected species. They do not kill cleanly, but cause untold agony to a victim, often a pet cat or dog, as the frantic strugglers tighten the noose. The animal will even attempt to gnaw off a captured limb.

Animal Exploitation

As always there are unexpected side-effects. Mink, escaping from mink farms, have invaded the countryside nearby. Aleutian disease, a viral infection with no known cure which effects 85 per cent of mink farms, is now believed to be spreading to the native otter (GB SG 1042), already a dwindling and protected animal which has no natural immunity. The exploitation of wild animals extends to performing beasts, and to the massive export and import of exotic pets, whose well-being is not always considered, and which leads to a wanton and needless waste of life and suffering.



Groups campaign against bloodsports such as fox-hunting, illustrated by R Healy's painting *Casleton Hunt* (Ireland 1975, SG 371), and angling clubs on the premise that fish do suffer pain even if live fish bait is not used. One of the most emotive subjects is that of experiments on animals. More than 3 million take place in



Britain each year, a great number without anaesthetics. The public increasingly object to the suffering inflicted on animals for the testing of non-essential cosmetics. Many shops now state that their cosmetics are manufactured without the aid of animal experiments. There are some reservations, however, about essential medical research, for most drugs commonly stocked by the pharmacist (Trinidad & Tobago 1982, SG 600) nowadays for the relief of pain and disease have been tested previously on animals. A very recent development, frightening to most of us, is the implication of genetic engineering which is currently being investigated. Species have been altered in the past through selective breeding, a long slow process which has produced for example the Jack Russell terrier and Dachshund (Jersey 1988, SG 439), both small types of hunting dogs bred to chase wildlife underground. Man has a track record that does not inspire confidence in his consideration for animals, and adequate controls are needed, but difficult to formulate. The RSPCA destroys about 1,000 dogs per day which are the victims of human whims, neglect, cruelty, and indeed downright nauseating and unbelievable barbarity.

Public Response

However when some calamity strikes, such as massive oil leaks from a sinking tanker killing off thousands of marine life and birds, the public response is immediate. When the North Sea seal



Grey Seal and Dachshund on Swedish and Jersey stamps

virus wiped out half or more of the common seal population in 1988, Sweden produced a stamp (SG 1387) of the grey seal pup. Backed by widespread concern, the RSPCA and Greenpeace formed a Seal Assessment unit at Docking, Norfolk. "Godzilla" was the first infected seal released after seven week's treatment in intensive care, in the hope that she would produce immunity to the disease in her future offspring. At the Wildlife Field Unit, Somerset,

hospital treatment is given to wounded animals before they are returned to the wild when able to fend for themselves.

In 1988 new legislation was put forward to add 48 native species of wildlife to the "protected" list, and to fine owners heavily on a first conviction for extreme cruelty, and disqualify them from keeping pets. There was also a record number of convictions, for it is now an offence to organise, advertise or attend an animal fight. More members of dog-fighting rings are being brought to justice through the evidence of videos taken at dog-fights by undercover agents. The RSPCA is also a founder member of the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare representing organisations throughout the EEC, and has established the first RSPCA Scholarship at Aberdeen Centre for Rural Buildings.

Happy Ending

Fortunately wanton cruelty can be balanced by heart-warming gestures. Our daughter's cat staying with us disappeared one night. Advertisements and checks with the RSPCA and local vets brought no news. Two whole months later after hope was long gone, a loudly wailing, but a very wary cat was eventually captured, and her address disc read. "Cheena", partly Siamese, has a non-stop and deafening cry. She owes her life to the compassion of a young couple living about 2 miles away. For a month they tried to catch her, and fed her from the same bowl in company with two hedgehogs.

The author acknowledges the help given by the RSPCA Public Relations Dept.

British Decimal Stamps Study Circle

With Stamp World London 90 focussing philatelic attention onto Great Britain next year, and to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black, the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle — the major specialist society for promoting and encouraging interest in the study and collection of British decimal stamps — has decided to maintain its subscription rates for 1990 at 1989 levels. Details of the Circle may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary: Pete Daniels, 70 Moor Park Close. RAINHAM, Kent, ME8 8QT.

Cylinder News

Harrisons have recently printed 2nd class NVI stamps, for £1.50 books, from cylinder B2 phosphor B83.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

170. Treasury Competition

Most of the essays and designs produced for the Treasury Competition were embossed or printed but some, as those shown here, were hand-drawn. Amongst the most interesting were submitted by George Dickinson.

Although not ultimately successful, the Dickinson essays did incorporate two ideas which were subsequently adopted — the use of a security watermark and the principle of different value stamps for different postal services rather than two basic values for



inland postage as proposed. The strip illustrated here comprises 1d and 2d stamps followed by designs for 6d "Money Letter", 1s "American Letter", "Treasury Free", 6d "Past seven", 1d "Foreign" and 6d "Surcharge" stamps. They are affixed to a piece of paper, one with seal superimposed sealing a fold to the paper in imitation of a sealed letter. On the flap is the wording "This folddown represents that part of a Letter to which the Seal or Wafer is applied". The piece is also inscribed "George Dickinson's method for combining, with public convenience", the rest is torn away.

Dickinson submitted these proposals to the Treasury on 12 September 1839; receiving Treasury reference 20413/39. This item can be seen in the Phillips Collection (Vol. 1 page 18) at the National Postal Museum during normal hours, 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 4pm Friday.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning one of each Stamp Book issued during 1989 (as listed on the British Philatelic Bureau Stock List). Answer the questions below, the answers to which will be found in this *Bulletin*, and send, with your name and address, on a postcard to: January Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 28 February.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be sent the Stamp Books. The senders of the next four correct entries drawn will be sent first day covers of the Penny Black Anniversary stamps (10 January) with National Postal Museum postmark. Answers and winners' names will be published in the April *Bulletin*.

1. Who designed the 1970 Philypia stamps?
2. 25 September 1970 was designated what day at Philypia?
3. Which famous comedian features on one of the 1990 Greetings stamps?
4. Name two of the animals shown on the 1977 Wildlife stamps?
5. On what day does SPRING STAMPEX 1990 open in London?
6. Which national institution opened to the public in 1840 and will be commemorated on stamps next June?

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

The winners of the October Competition were: M G Hogarty of New Zealand, A Hall of Cumbria, J Kenney of Leicestershire, W Goodwin of Cheshire and Mr Jackson of Berkshire.

The answers were: 1. Ely Cathedral, 2. £17.50, 3. Thomas Telford, 4. Grosvenor House, 5. Dundee and 6. Francis Freeling.

Our thanks to all who entered; this competition attracted the highest number of entries of all our competitions to date.

Stamp Land at Stamp World London 90

There will be a great deal happening at Alexandra Palace next May and it won't all be within the Main Halls.

The Grove Car Park, situated one minute from the Palm Court, is to be the site of Stamp Land. Hosted by the Stamp Bug Club and financially supported by Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, Stamp Land is designed to be a playground for all the family; an area which will broaden the scope of the Main Exhibition and attract visitors previously unaware of the fascinating hobby of philately.

Stamp Land will be housed in a candy striped marquee (1,000 square metres), decorated to create a carnival atmosphere. Upon entry, which is free of charge, visitors will be provided with a souvenir brochure to guide them around the various exhibits which will be linked to a number of themes featured on special stamps.

The Stamp Bug stand (240 square metres) will be the focal point of the show. The stand is divided into four sections. The most stunning area, technically, faces the entrance and is devoted to design and technology. Groups of children will be shown how to use a video paintbox. Each child's design will be placed into the context of a stamp, with a transparency being translated into a hardcopy courtesy of Canon photocopiers. All this artistic talent will be transmitted around the exhibition via a spectacular 30 screen video wall. An exciting programme of videos on stamp collecting, cartoons, and live action will be transmitted through the day on the videowall to create constant stimulus.

The educational area will explain many fascinating aspects of the postal system from the Penny Black to the present. This will be achieved with graphic panels, interactive games and relevant memorabilia.

Onto the third area, where the Stamp Bug will meet Club members and recruit the uninitiated on the spot. All Stamp Bug Club members (under age 16) will be allowed entry into the main exhibition free of charge. Kiloware will be available for use and examples of merit-worthy albums will be exhibited demonstrating how to display and catalogue stamps to their best advantage. Children will be able to find pen friends interested in stamp collecting from all over the world by consulting the Stamp Land Pen Pal register. Waddingtons Games will be

providing many activities including a competition involving fitting the missing piece into a stamp collage jigsaw projected onto a screen on the stand.

Stamp Land will be publicised through the Royal Mail's regular schools mailing which is sent to some 18,500 primary schools in the UK. Schools not receiving this mailing are invited to write to: Youth Philately, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, 76 Turnmill St, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

National Postal Museum News

Postcards

A reminder to readers that the Museum will be issuing four new postcards on 10 January — three in the Stamp World London 90 series and a maxi-card for use with the Penny Black Anniversary Definitives.

The Stamp World cards feature important personalities in the history of the Post Office — Robert Wallace, Sir Henry Cole and Sir Rowland Hill. Price 20p each. The maxi-card features one of the Penny Black Anniversary stamps with space alongside for one or more of the stamps to be affixed. Price 20p. The cards are available from the Museum and the British Philatelic Bureau. Orders to the Museum (minimum order 60p) are subject to handling charges of 20p on orders up to £22 and £1.75 over £22 (sent by registered post). Orders to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

A special handstamp showing Sir Rowland Hill's signature will be used at the Museum on 10 January when a new Maltese Cross handstamp will also be introduced (replacing the handstamp used since 1980). Cards/covers for handstamping should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

Exhibitions

A new exhibition "Sir Rowland Hill and his Family" will open at the Museum during January and will run until at least May. This replaces the Uniforms exhibition.

The main special exhibition for 1990 will be entitled "Penny Black and Postal Reform" and will run from May for one year. This replaces the Atlantic exhibition.

Postcards and posters produced by the Bruce Castle Museum are now available from the National Postal Museum. There are six cards and six posters featuring old views of the GPO in London and mail coaches, price 20p each cards, £1.50 each posters.

1989 Special Stamps Poll

Yet again we are asking readers to vote for their favourite stamps. Shown here are all the special stamps issued by Royal Mail Stamps during 1989. Let us know your top three sets on the enclosed voting form, stating briefly why you liked your favourite set best. We will send 1989 Yearbooks to the five readers whose comments are the most original and interesting.

The closing date for votes is 28 February 1990 and the results will be published in the *Bulletin*. We look forward to receiving your vote.



1. Birds



3. Anniversaries



4. Games and Toys (CEPT)



6. Microscopes



7. Lord Mayor's Show



8. Christmas



2. Food and Farming



5. Industrial Archaeology

Autumn Stampex/BPE

For collectors of British stamps and postal history there was much good material to see at the Royal Horticultural Halls in October. The nine entries under "Traditional Class GB" ranged from the Line Engraved 1d and 2d of 1841-57 (Fred Pierpoint) to Machin Multipositives (James Dutton). Mr Pierpoint's entry included a 1d red cancelled by a green Maltese Cross (1842), Treasury roulettes and Archer perforations. The Post Office Trophy was awarded (ironically) to Dr Ian Ray for "The Stock Exchange Forgery"; this included examples of impossible lettering and forgeries with the "significant date" of 23 July 1872 — the date that led to the discovery of the forgery by Charles Nissen.

George Mousinho presented a specialised account of the Machin ½p, 1p, 1½p and 2p stamps — with over 90 variants of just the ½p! Mr Dutton also showed the depth of study Machin collectors go to, including an examination of the R3/5 variety on no dot sheets (up to cylinder 19) of the 2½p — with examples of the nine retouches. Postage Dues and Illustrated Envelopes were well presented by Anthony Bowers and "The Pitlochry Collection".

Turning to "Postal History Class GB", entries ranged from the carriage of letters in the 17th century to British Forces POs in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica in the 1950s. The local studies included Bristol, Carrick, Edinburgh, Kent, Kingston on Thames and Worthing.

In the Junior section (Melville Competition) special mention should be made of G Lawes's George V which was well planned and appreciated shade differences, the significance of controls and the need to include stamps used on cover. There were many good thematic entries of interest to GB collectors.

In the International Section, R J Williams's "Articles of the U.P.U." was most instructive, indicating how UPU resolutions effect our stamps and postmarks. In 1897 the UPU became anxious about the proliferation of stamps and tried to draw up guidelines; these were dropped in 1920. The 1897 Congress laid down that "postage stamps must be inscribed on the face with an effective value"; in 1906 amended to "...their value shall be expressed in arabic figures". It is to be hoped that this entry will be shown at future exhibitions.

All in all it was a good exhibition with some 11,600 visitors. All three Post Office stands —



Postcard with NPM Autumn Stampex cachet and exhibition handstamp

Philatelic Counter, National Postal Museum and Stamp Bug Club — were busy, manned respectively by Iris Oddy, Brenda Lewer, Malcolm Lloyd and Dave Thomas; Terry Brown and Frank O'Neil and Phil Moore, John Ryan and Barry Burke.

Spring Stampex will be held at the Horticultural Halls from 27 February to 4 March 1990.

Royal Mail Exhibition Card

The Royal Mail Exhibition Card No. 3 bearing stamps cancelled with a handstamp marking the SPRING STAMPEX exhibition in London (27 February-4 March 1990) will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau from 27 February, price £1.50 plus usual handling charge.

A cachet will be applied to cards sold at The Post Office stand at the exhibition. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition can obtain the cards with cachet by writing to: Officer in Charge, Philatelic Counter, London Chief Office, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Price £1.50 plus handling charge. Orders must be received by the date the exhibition closes, i.e. 4 March.

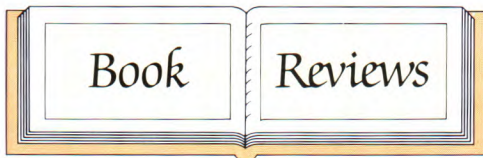
Cards for previous exhibitions, with exhibition handstamp but *not* cachet, are still available from the Bureau: Nordia (7 June 1989), Phillexfrance (7 July 1989), Autumn Stampex-BPE (17 October 1989), Philatelia (3 November 1989) and World Stamp Expo 89 (17 November 1989), price £1.50 each. Orders to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Special Handstamp Centres

In a move to improve the quality of service offered to collectors Royal Mail Stamps is setting up seven Special Handstamp Centres. These will provide a quicker, more reliable and efficient service for customers. Employing staff working full-time on philatelic items, dedicated Centres will handle all items received requiring "alternative" pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks as well as sponsored special handstamps.

The centres are being set up on a 15 month trial basis from 23 January 1990. Each will cover a specific area: **City of London Letter District Office** — London north of the Thames; **South West London LDO** — London south of the Thames; **Windsor** — remainder of south east England and most of East Anglia; **Cardiff LDO** — Wales and SW England; **Birmingham LDO** — Midlands, east to The Wash; **Newcastle-upon-Tyne LDO** — northern England and **Glasgow LDO** — Scotland and Northern Ireland.

These centres are being sited in offices which have, over the years, developed a reputation for expertise, reliability and enthusiasm. Local sorting offices will continue to apply non-pictorial First Day of Issue cancellations and postmark slogans. The Managers of the Special Handstamp Centres will take bookings for sponsored special handstamps. The addresses of the Special Handstamp Centres will be published, with details of the handstamps, in the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau, annual subscription £8 UK, £10 Europe, £18 Rest of World (Airmail).



The 9th edition of the **Stoneham Catalogue of British Stamps** now edited by Wayne Robbins, formerly of Stanley Gibbons, has recently been published. This covers all British issues from 1840 to the end of 1988. The arrangement is clear with definitive and commemorative stamps listed separately and with well-illustrated sections for Booklet Panes and Booklets. Collectors of Machin stamps are well catered for with detailed listings giving the source of each stamp — sheets (with cylinder numbers), books

or coils. Head and perforator types are quoted. As is now quite usual only the more basic types are given a used price. Also listed are Fiscal Stamps Authorised for Postal Usage, Post Office Telegraph Stamps (1876-81), Circular Delivery Companies stamps (1865-7), College stamps and a priced checklist of Controls. The quality of the illustrations in the review copy vary, some are rather dark but this does not seriously detract from a useful and well-presented catalogue. 264 pages, card covers. Available from: Sarum Publications Ltd, 92-94 Fisherton Street, SALISBURY, Wilts, SP2 7QY.

A **Specialised Machins Catalogue** published by Alan Wilson Ltd is now available. Produced in loose-leaf format in a ring binder, this is arranged in 14 sections; all but two devoted to the decimal issues. The General Introductory Notes are clearly written and thorough and should be studied carefully by all users of this catalogue. The decimal sections cover: General Check Listings arranged by Printer, Papers and Gums; Errors; Coils & Coil Leaders; Cylinder Blocks; Machin Portrait High Value issues; Stitched Decimal Booklets; Stitched Booklet Panes; Folded Booklets; Window Booklets; Regional Issues, Postage Due (To Pay) Issues and Castle High Values. This is not a work for the faint-hearted, it is very detailed indeed — ideal for those who take their Machin collection to great depths — shades, phosphor screens, different perforator and head types, value positions, variations in phosphor coated paper, etc. Fortunately all are clearly described and illustrated so that with a bit of patience the user can sort his collection and discover what he is missing. Reference numbers are given so that users can order stamps from the publisher; Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue numbers are also quoted. The type size is adequate and the printing clear — important factors, to avoid eye-strain, in a work of this kind. Available from: Alan Wilson Ltd, 18 Bedford Gardens, LUTON, Beds, LU3 1BX. price £8.95. The price includes supplements published up to and including Autumn 1991.

Collect British Stamps Catalogue

The 41st edition of the Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* catalogue was published in mid-November. It is available from stamp dealers and book shops and from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, price £2.75.

1990 Special Stamps

Preliminary details of 1990 special issues were released by Royal Mail Stamps & Philately on 25 October. Details of the first set, RSPCA, were published in last month's *Bulletin*.

6 March sees the issue of four stamps to mark "Europa 1990". Post Office buildings is the theme recommended by CEPT (the Conference of European Postal & Telecommunications Administrations) and so two stamps in the set will show Alexandra Palace (venue for Stamp World London 90 where a temporary post office will be established) and the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. The other two stamps will feature buildings in Glasgow which in 1990 will hold the title "European City of Culture" — the first British city so designated. The stamps will show the Glasgow School of Art and the Templeton Carpet Factory, designed respectively by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and William Leiper. The stamps were designed by Paul Hogarth and printed by Harrison in vertical format.

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology are featured on four stamps for issue on 10 April. The awards, which are granted annually on The Queen's birthday for outstanding export and technological achievement, celebrate their silver jubilee in 1990. The stamps will be issued in two sets of two, one stamp in each pair showing the Export Award symbol, the other the Technology Award symbol. Designed by Simon Broom, printing by Questa, vertical format.

Kew Gardens became a national institution open to the public in 1840 and this anniversary will be celebrated on 5 June by four stamps showing trees and buildings at Kew: weeping willow and the Palm House, a stone pine and the Princess of Wales Conservatory, a cycad and the Joseph Banks Building and a cedar and the famous Pagoda. Design by Paul Leith, printing Harrison, vertical format.

Some of Thomas Hardy's best-known characters will appear on stamps issued on 10 July to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth. The stamps were designed by Ian Pollock, printing by Harrison, "off-square" format.

A set of four on the theme of Gallantry will be released on 11 September. The stamps will feature the George Cross, the Victory Cross and gallantry awards for each of the armed forces: the Distinguished Service Cross and Medal; the Distinguished Flying Cross and Medal and the

Military Cross and Medal. The stamps will be issued in the lead up to Battle of Britain weekend. The stamps will be printed by Harrisons.

The Astronomy stamps on 16 October mark the centenary of the British Astronomical Association and the bicentenary of Armagh Observatory. The BAA is the world's leading organisation devoted to observational astronomy and the Armagh Observatory plays an important national and international role in modern astrophysical research. The stamps will be of square format.

Finally there will be the customary Christmas issue on 13 November, designed by John Gorham with illustrations by Andrew Davidson. Printing will be by Harrisons, horizontal format.

Further details of the stamps, first day cover services, etc will be published nearer the dates of issue.

Gloucester "Collections" Counter

Shown here is the Mayor of Gloucester with Mr Brian Strange, Post Office Counters District Manager and Mr Keith Fisher, General Manager



Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, at the opening of the "Collections" Counter on 2 October. The Mayor travelled to the King's Square Post Office in a 19th century mailcoach.

A report on the new "Collections" counter was published in the December *Bulletin*. In addition to philatelic products, the counter sells coins, postcards, Telephone cards and a variety of philatelic accessories — albums, books for beginners, UV lamps, etc.

Student Stamp Designs

The Royal Society of Arts Design Exhibition will be on display at the Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston from 15-20 January, moving on to the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Cardiff from 20 February-7 March.

Posting Boxes

107. First National Standard

This month we show one of the First National Standard boxes, constructed by Cochrane, Grove and Company of Dudley in 1859-66. Nine small and three large boxes still exist today, this particular one is at World's End, Hambledon, Hampshire and was installed in 1860. The photograph was supplied by Chris Stone of Portsmouth Post Office who tells us that this is the oldest box in the Portsmouth area. Mr Stone also submitted the picture of the restored Penfold box at Gosport, featured as Posting Boxes No. 93 in the September 1988 *Bulletin*.



Martin Robinson in his book *Old Letter Boxes* (1987) writes of the first national standard boxes: "The design was similar to the cheaper version of the London ornate box, except that the new box was taller, the posting aperture was below the cap and had an inward-opening flap which could not be left open. A wire guard inside stopped letters falling out when the door was opened..."

Mr Robinson's book is published by Shire Publications Ltd of Princes Risborough, Bucks. It was reviewed here in June 1987. Copies are available from the National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP, price £1.25 plus 20p handling charge.

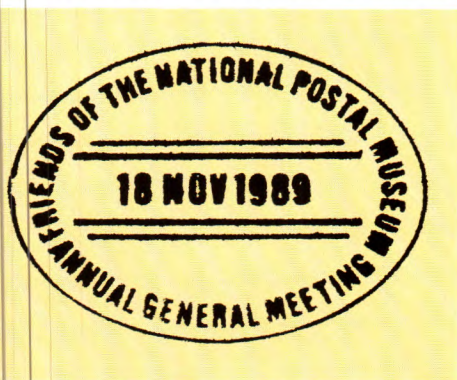
Great Britain Philatelic Society

The Society will be holding an all-day meeting at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1 on Saturday 20 January. The meeting will begin at 11am with a display "Highways and Byways of Postal Stationery" by Dr Alan Huggins. An auction will be held at 2pm together with judging of the Society's Competition. The prizegiving will take place at 4.30pm. The BPC is situated within walking distance of Barbican and Farringdon underground stations; refreshments will be available at the meeting.

The GBPS is the leading GB society and dedicates itself to all aspects of GB philately. Benefits of membership include the *GB Journal* and Newsletter six times a year, excellent GBPS publications, eight meetings a year including five all-day meetings, regular auctions, exchange packet and extensive library, and a free information service with specialist consultants. For full details of the Society, send a stamped addressed envelope to the Hon. Membership Secretary: Tony Walker, 42 Jesmond Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE2 4PQ.

Friends of the NPM

About 40 members of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum attended the AGM on 18 November. After the business meeting, the Friends were entertained to interesting talks on designing special handstamps and



philatelic postcards by Eric Ivens and Richard Blake. A cachet was available for use on cards handed in at the meeting. Details of the Friends can be obtained from the Secretary Ray Pottle c/o National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Commemorative Covers

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

First British Sound Film. Cambridge Stamp Centre has produced a collection of autographed envelopes to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the first British sound film, Alfred Hitchcock's "Blackmail". The series of souvenir covers, of similar design, will be personally autographed by such eminent actors and actresses as Maggie Smith, Christopher Lee, Anthony Hopkins, Edward Fox, Peter Cushing and many others. As a tribute from Broadway, some covers will also be flown to New York and taken to Time Square to be autographed by various British and American stars, amongst others Bob Hope and Deborah Kerr. These envelopes will be additionally endorsed on the back with full flight details. This is a limited collection of 50 sets only; full details available from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA.



Sir Rowland Hill. To coincide with the issue of Penny Black Anniversary Definitives on 10 January, A G Bradbury is producing a special first day cover depicting an engraving of Sir Rowland Hill with decorative full-colour cover surround. The covers will bear a Kidderminster handstamp featuring a Maltese Cross; Hill was born in Kidderminster in 1795. Covers with single stamp cost £2.50, with set of five £4.75 or with all five Penny Black Anniversary stamps and the 1979 Sir Rowland Hill set £8.75. Overseas orders add 50p postage. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

RSPCA Royal Charter. G Eldridge is producing a special full colour first day cover to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Queen

Victoria granting a Royal Charter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The cover will bear a first day postmark of Horsham where the RSPCA headquarters is based. Covers with single stamp cost £1.80, with set of four £3.85. Orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.



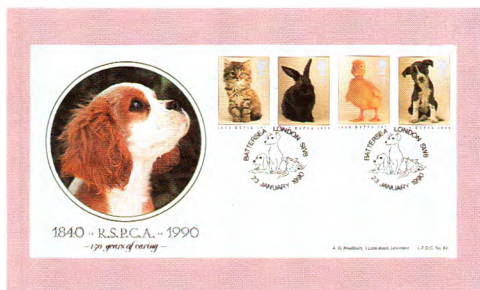
Rowland Hill/Penny Post. A four-colour commemorative cover is being produced by CoverCraft for the British Philatelic Federation; this will feature a portrait of Rowland Hill from The Post Office Collection, a Penny Black and 4d and 1d Paid marks. Covers will be available with Penny Black Anniversary stamps (10 January) cancelled with a special London EC1 handstamp, in red ink, showing the Penny Paid marking of Newcastle on Tyne from 1840. Covers with all five stamps cost £3.50, with 15p and 20p stamps £1.75. Remittances should be made payable to "British Philatelic Federation; orders/enquiries to: BPF Ltd, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT. This cover will also be available later with the Penny Black miniature sheet (3 May).



RSPCA/Cat World. On 23 January to coincide with the RSPCA stamps, *Cat World* (Britain's premier cat magazine) are sponsoring first day covers, produced by Benhams. Ten covers are available, each featuring a different kitten. They are available at £4.50 each, £45 per set of

10. Covers signed by actress and cat lover Beryl Reid cost £6.50. Postage 35p. Orders/enquiries to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Benham House, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, CT20 1SD.

Mark Hall School. Mark Hall School in Harlow was founded in 1954 and to mark the 35th anniversary reunion on 16 December 1989 a special handstamp was used on a souvenir cover produced by the Old Boys' Society. The Society was formed in 1969 to promote social, cultural and charitable events among former pupils of the School. The souvenir cover has been designed by Jennie Cliff, a present fifth former, in school colours — yellow and blue. Covers with 150th anniversary of Public Education stamp are available, price £2.20. Orders/enquiries to: Derek Connell, 13 Romney Drive, BROMLEY, Kent, BR1 2TE.



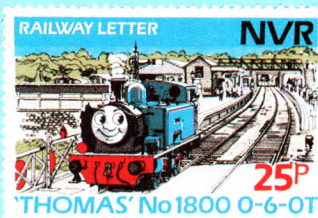
RSPCA. The RSPCA stamps focus on young animals, viz: a puppy, kitten, rabbit and duckling. To coincide with this issue a special first day cover featuring a full colour photograph of a puppy (she is called Amy, lives at 3 Link Road, Leicester and is totally spoilt!) will be available. These covers will bear a special handstamp of Battersea — famous for its dogs home. Covers with single stamp cost £2.50, with full set £4.75 or signed by Johnny Morris, OBE £8.75. Overseas customers please add 50p for postage. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Stamp Jigsaw

From February a jigsaw entitled "The Royal Mail Special Stamp Collection" will be available from some toy shops. It will also be made available to members of the Stamp Bug Club. Produced by Waddingtons Games Ltd, the jigsaw comprises a 300 large piece puzzle (35 x 22") and will include a poster of the same design and size.

Railway Letter Service

The basic fee for the carriage of railway letters on Britain's minor railways will be increased from 20p to 25p with effect from 1 January. This will apply to letters weighing up to 2oz; above that weight higher fees of 50p and 75p will apply. First class postage is required to be paid in addition, both on "To be Called For" and "To be Posted on Arrival" letters.



The Nene Valley Railway issued a new 25p stamp featuring the locomotive "Thomas" on 14 November and a new 25p definitive will be released on 1 January (same design as earlier 20p stamp). The "Thomas" stamp was printed in sheets of nine; the definitive in sheets of 12. Orders/enquiries to: Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibbington, PETERBOROUGH PE8 6LR.

The Festiniog Railway will issue a 25p surcharged stamp later and a new 25p stamp from the Llanberis Lake Railway will probably be issued at the beginning of the 1990 tourist season. New stamps (including higher values) are being planned by the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. Details of new railway letter stamps will be published here as they become available.



Letters to the Editor

Stamp Book Varieties

Sir,

The paragraph "50p Stamp Book Variety" in the September *Bulletin* (page 24) prompts the question: "What does this variety consist of?" The only difference between the two perforators that is visible on the booklet panes is that the "Rise and fall" perforator leaves clean cut holes while the "APS-type" one leaves traces of paper and gum in them. Since these panes are printed sideways right in the reel, the swarfage, which can best be seen from the back of the pane, is at the left side of the perforation holes.

The "Rise and fall" perforators were in use on stamps for all folded books from 1975 to 1988, when they were gradually replaced by the rotary perforator which was developed in-house by Harrisons (an account of this by Aubrey Walker was published in the November 1987 *Bulletin*). What may be of interest to your readers, however, is that the reversion to the "Rise and fall" perforator took place seven months before the issue of the 50p book mentioned. Part of the £1 David Copperfield edition was also perforated by it although no official announcement was made and the British Philatelic Bureau does not supply such books to order.

DOUGLAS MYALL, Bookmark Catalogue Editor,
GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, Bridport, Dorset.

The Bureau is mindful that some collectors require all variations, including such estoric matters as different perforators. Such variations ought to be notified by the printers so that copies can be made available to collectors. Regretfully, this has not always happened in the past, but it was for example done for the 50p book reprint made available from 8 August.

Readers interested in the Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle may obtain details, by sending a stamped addressed envelope, to the Secretary: R C Knights, 7 Old Farm Close, Needingworth, HUNTINGDON, Cambs, PE17 3SG.

Dear John,

Before millions of readers rush to point out what an ignorant old fool James Mackay is, may I be the first to point out the unfortunate error in the date of the Fourpenny Post in my article in the November *Bulletin* (page 64). The date should be 5 December, not 3 December 1839 as stated.

JAMES A MACKAY, Dumfries

The incorrect date was due entirely to the Bulletin's typesetter, also known as the Editor. His ponderous, one-finger method of typing is not always compatible with modern computer typesetting!

Philatelic Paraphernalia

The 21st issue of this journal of the Philatelic History Society has recently been published. As always it contains a number of interesting features that will appeal to those who recall the more leisurely days of stamp collecting — with fewer issues, less marketing and no computers! Further information is given of the DeJaeger stamp album, mentioned in an earlier issue; there is a useful biographical study of an early collector, Dr Charles William Viner (1814–1906); an account of the Stamp Room at Morpeth House, Ipswich (home of stamp dealer Whitfield King) and Gerald Davis identifies two young ladies on a photograph found in the "Stanley Gibbons Scrap Book" (the book, now in two parts, is preserved by the magazine's Editor, Victor Short and Stanley Gibbons Publications in Ringwood). The Editor continues the pleasing practice of enclosing free postcards with each issue; this time two cards featuring Alexandra Palace.

Philatelic Paraphernalia is sent to members of the PHS, the annual subscription to which is: £6 UK, \$12 US (\$15 Airmail). All enquiries to Victor Short, Hunters Lodge, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell, OAKWELL, Leics, LE15 7LJ.

Letter Box Postcards

Four colour postcards by David Shaw are now available from the National Postal Museum. They show VR box at East Lutton, Yorks; VR box at Malton Station; GVIR box at Kirkhill, Caithness and postbox at Butterwick, Yorks.

Six Month Digest

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

4 Jul	Industrial Archaeology stamps (AS380)
4 Jul	Ind Arch Pack (AP080)
7 Jul	Philexfrance exh. card (EQ011)
10 Jul	£1.40 Mark III window book (DW050)
18 Jul	50p Marine Life machine book (DB223)
18 Jul	£1 Marine Life machine book (DB224)
25 Jul	Ind Arch miniature sheet (MZ002)
25 Jul	NPM Personalities cards (NQ899)
1 Aug	Pictorial Aerogrammes (6) (QO023)
8 Aug	50p Marine Life book Reprint (DB225)
8 Aug	Scottish aerogramme (Playfair) (QS024)
21 Aug	Microscope stamp cards (AQ086)
22 Aug	4 x 2nd class stamp book (DW051)
22 Aug	4 x 1st class stamp book (DW052)
22 Aug	10 x 2nd class book Harrison (DW053)
22 Aug	10 x 1st class book Harrison (DW054)
25 Aug	Aerogramme Pack (QO024)
5 Sep	Microscopes stamps (AS385)
5 Sep	Microscopes Pack (AP081)
19 Sep	10 x 2nd class book Questa (DW056)
19 Sep	10 x 1st class book Questa (DW057)
26 Sep	Definitive 15p lt blue (DS150)
26 Sep	Definitive 20p black (DS205)
26 Sep	Definitive 24p terracotta (DS241)
26 Sep	Definitive 29p purple (DS290)
26 Sep	Definitive 30p sage (DS300)
26 Sep	Definitive 34p slate (DS342)
26 Sep	Definitive 37p red (DS370)
26 Sep	Definitives Pack (DP011)
2 Oct	50p Aeroplanes machine book (DB226)
2 Oct	£1 Mills machine book (DB227)
2 Oct	£1.16 stamp book (DW055)
2 Oct	Lord Mayor stamp cards (AQ091)
9 Oct	"Our World" book (PA111)
10 Oct	Mixed Value Roll (DC841)
16 Oct	15p Sideways Roll (DC039)
16 Oct	15p Vertical Roll (DC037)
16 Oct	20p Sideways Roll (DC040)
16 Oct	20p Vertical Roll (DC038)
17 Oct	Lord Mayor stamps (AS390)
17 Oct	Lord Mayor Pack (AP082)
17 Oct	Autumn Stampex exh. card (EQ013)
17 Oct	NPM Personalities cards (NQ900)
30 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ097)
30 Oct	Christmas Greetings cards (PA510)
— Oct	£1.50 book, revised text (UB006)
— Oct	£2 book, revised text (UB001)
3 Nov	Philatelia exh. card (EQ015)
14 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS392)

14 Nov	Christmas Pack (AP083)
14 Nov	Christmas aerogramme (QX011)
14 Nov	1989 Yearbook (AY017)
14 Nov	1989 Collectors Pack (AR017)
17 Nov	Stamp Expo exh. card (EQ016)
28 Nov	N Ireland 15p (IS150)
28 Nov	N Ireland 20p (IS200)
28 Nov	N Ireland 24p (IS240)
28 Nov	N Ireland 34p (IS340)
28 Nov	Scotland 15p (SS150)
28 Nov	Scotland 20p (SS200)
28 Nov	Scotland 24p (SS240)
28 Nov	Scotland 34p (SS340)
28 Nov	Wales 15p (WS150)
28 Nov	Wales 20p (WS200)
28 Nov	Wales 24p (WS240)
28 Nov	Wales 34p (WS340)
28 Nov	Country Stamp Pack (CP008)

Forthcoming

8 Jan	RSCPA stamp cards
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniversary Definitives
10 Jan	NPM Personalities cards
10 Jan	NPM Penny Black Maxi Card
23 Jan	RSPCA stamps & pack
30 Jan	50p & £1 machine books
30 Jan	60p, 80p, £1.50 & £2 stamp books
6 Feb	Greetings Stamp Pack
19 Feb	Europa stamp cards
27 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card
6 Mar	Europa stamps & pack
20 Mar	London Life Prestige Book
26 Mar	Queen's awards stamp cards
10 Apr	Queen's Awards stamps & pack
24 Apr	Scot aerogramme (Forth Rail Bridge)
3 May	Penny Black Miniature Sheet
3 May	Penny Black Souvenir Book
3 May	Stamp World exh. card
3 May	Mulready replica
3 May	NPM Personalities cards
21 May	Kew Gardens stamp cards
5 Jun	Kew Gardens stamps & pack
25 Jun	Thomas Hardy stamp cards

Notes:

1. The NPM Personalities cards are issued in promotion of Stamp World London 90 and bear the exhibition logo on the reverse. They are listed on the Bureau stock list as SWL90 cards.
2. The £1.50 and £2 books issued in October have revised text — details of postal rates from 2 October. The previous issue (22 August) gave details of how to send for postal rate leaflets. Both Harrison printings.
3. The new books issued on 30 January will contain Penny Black Anniversary Definitive stamps.

January Digest

Issued in January

8 January: RSPCA stamp cards (Nos 123A-D), price 18p each.

10 January: Penny Black Anniversary Definitive stamps — 15p, 20p, 29p, 34p and 37p
Designer: Jeffery Matthews using Wyon Medal head of Queen Victoria and Machin head of HM The Queen

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, 21 x 24mm, sheets of 200, PVA Dextrin gum. 15p stamp on fluorescent coated paper with single phosphor band; 20p-37p stamps on Advanced Coated Paper.

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Windsor, Berks

Presentation pack: £1.60

10 January: National Postal Museum Personalities/Stamp World London 90 cards showing Wallace, Cole and Rowland Hill; Penny Black Anniversary Stamps maxi-card — all 20p each

23 January: RSPCA stamps - 20p, 29p, 34p and 37p

Designer: Tony Evans

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

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Horsham.

Presentation pack: (No. 204) £1.45

30 January: 50p and £1 machine-vended books containing 2 x 15p, 1 x 20p and 5 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps respectively.

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure. Stamps in 50p book have single phosphor band (15p) and two bands (20p); 20p stamps in £1 book on ACP. Straight edges left & right sides of £1 pane.

£1 Trial book containing 5 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps.

Printing: Walsall Security Printers, litho. Stamps on Phosphor Coated Paper with straight edges on left and right sides of pane.

60p, 80p, £1.50 and £2 books containing 4 x 15p, 4 x 20p, 10 x 15p and 10 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps respectively.

Printing: 60p and 80p books by Walsall, litho. 15p stamps with single phosphor band, 20p on

PCP. Panes of 4 have straight edges top, right and bottom. £1.50 and £2 books by Harrison, photogravure. 15p stamps with single phosphor band, 20p on ACP. Panes of 10 have straight edges top and bottom.

Withdrawn in January

16 January: Birds stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

19 January: NPM Trans-Atlantic Mail cards +

23 January: 50p, £1, £1.40 and £1.90 stamp books issued 24 January 1989

30 January: £1.90 Greetings stamp book

+ cards being withdrawn from sale at British Philatelic Bureau, will remain on sale at National Postal Museum

Correction

Two of the values of the Christmas stamps were wrongly typeset in the November Digest; they should be 34p + 1p and 37p + 1p *not* 32p + 1p and 35p + 1p. Apologies for any confusion caused.



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