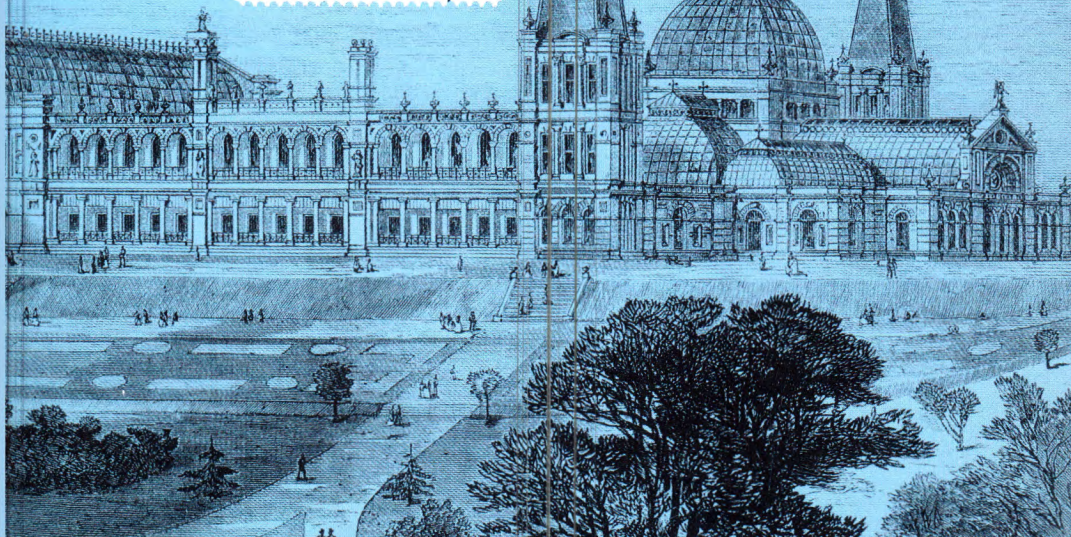


British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 27

Number 6

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Correction

Readers should please note that there will be five Gallantry stamps in September, not four as stated in the January *Bulletin*. The reference to the Victory Cross should have read Victoria Cross. The Editor would not win any medals for typesetting!

The bibliographers amongst you may have spotted last month's "deliberate mistake" on the front cover; the January issue should be Number 5 of Volume 27, not Number 4. Normal service is resumed this month. Apologies for any confusion. *Editor*.

Editorial

I am writing this Editorial in the week before Christmas and looking forward to the holiday break and spending a bit of time on my stamp collection. Like many collectors, material acquired during the year goes into stock books, large envelopes and shoe boxes awaiting the day when one can sit down (with or without a nice drink) to do sorting and mounting. I also spend the Christmas break deciding my "collecting policy" for the year ahead. Sometimes I decide to curtail a certain line of collecting, concentrate on one I particularly like or to start a new line of pursuit altogether. I mention this as I have received quite a lot of letters from readers recently commenting on the ever growing number of stamps — and the cost. It seems to me that stamp collecting is probably no more expensive than most hobbies; indeed I am surprised how much money some of my non-stamp collecting friends spend on their leisure activities. In many cases the cost is even exceeded by the amount of time they devote each week (some each day) to their hobby. Turning now to the number of stamps, yes it is true that the number increases each year — true of almost every postal administration in the world. The answer, it seems to me, is to be more and more selective. If the collecting "one of everything approach" means you are spending more time that you wish to spend on your hobby, or filling more albums than your bookcase can hold, choose those stamps that most appeal and concentrate on them. This has two main benefits. Firstly you will probably be able to go into a smaller field in more detail and will appreciate the greater challenge of philately rather than mere stamp collecting. Secondly a more specialised collection is more personal to the owner and, I feel, the more personal and unique the collection, the more pleasure one is likely to get from it. Stamp collecting is a hobby to be enjoyed not, as some of your letters would suggest, a burdensome task. A good "collecting policy", reviewed occasionally, can help to ensure maximum enjoyment at a price one is willing to pay.

JOHN HOLMAN

Europa 1990

6 March 1990



The theme of this year's Europa issue is Post Office Buildings and two of the four Europa stamps to be issued on 6 March will feature buildings of postal and philatelic significance. The other two stamps in the set feature important buildings in Glasgow in recognition of the city being "European City of Culture" in 1990.



There will be two **20p** stamps (inland first class and EEC basic rate), printed in separate sheets, one featuring Alexandra Palace, the other the Glasgow School of Art. The **29p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) shows the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and the **37p** value (Airmail Zone C) the Templeton Carpet Factory in Glasgow.

Alexandra Palace was opened in May 1873 and named in honour of the Princess of Wales. The glass and iron structure was originally erected for the International Exhibition in the grounds of the Royal Horticultural Society in Kensington in 1862. Only 16 days after it was opened it burned down and was rebuilt and reopened in 1875. The 7 acre site encompassed an exhibition hall, concert and reading room and theatre. Music festivals, flower, fruit, dog and horse shows were staged with racing, archery and cricket in the grounds. Other attractions included a circus and a Japanese village. Howev-

er it did not prove as popular as the Crystal Palace in Sydenham (originally built for the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851) and during the Great War was used as a barracks and to house German prisoners of war.

It became famous from 1936 as the home of BBC television, the Alexandra Palace transmitter was used to introduce many news and other programmes. The television centre moved to west London in 1956. In 1980 a second fire destroyed much of the building and over the past few years it has been rebuilt yet again. In May it will stage the "Stamp World London 90" international stamp exhibition with full postal and philatelic services provided. It will thus become a temporary Post Office building.

The **Glasgow School of Art**, in Renfrew Street, was founded in 1844 and is one of the oldest and largest art schools in Britain. It has been said of the School's premises, "modern architecture begins with this building". The building was designed by the Scottish architect, designer and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928). During 1990, Glasgow will be paying tribute to this man who widely influenced European architecture. A series of exhibitions, at the School of Art, the Hunterian Art Gallery and Queen's Cross Church, will trace his life's work. In August, a public international symposium will be hosted by the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. In Bellahouston Park, a private consortium has been building Mackintosh's design for the "Artlover's House"; this is being faithfully built to Mackintosh's drawings and will be open to the public.

The front block of the **British Philatelic Bureau** building in Brandon Street, Edinburgh, was built in 1883 by John Chesser for R & R Clark (Printers); the style of architecture is described as "neo-Jacobean". It is a listed building. The main block was constructed in 1977 by Citydale Ltd. The total area of the premises amounts to some 138,782 square feet. The Philatelic Bureau was established alongside GPO Headquarters in London in 1963 and

moved to the Head Post Office in Edinburgh in 1966. In 1974 the Bureau moved to Lothian Road and to the present Brandon Street location in 1981.

On Glasgow Green, the oldest public park in the city, are several interesting buildings including **Templeton's Carpet Factory**, modelled on the Doge's Palace in Venice, and built in 1892.



Technical Details

The stamps have been designed by Paul Hogarth, designer of the 1984 Economic Summit and 1985 Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service issues, and printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited. They are of vertical format, 30 x 41mm, printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation is 14 x 15.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 19 February, price 18p each. They bear reference numbers PHQ124A-D.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No 206) will cost £1.30; it was designed by Roundel Design Group with text by Cliff Hanley, a noted Glaswegian humorist. It was printed by Moore and Matthes Limited. The illustrations feature details of the four buildings shown on the stamps.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic

counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before issue of the stamps, price 18p. Pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be available for the British Philatelic Bureau and Glasgow. A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 6 March.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue Postmark" to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Glasgow Special Handstamp Centre
Glasgow LDO
George Square
GLASGOW G2 1AA

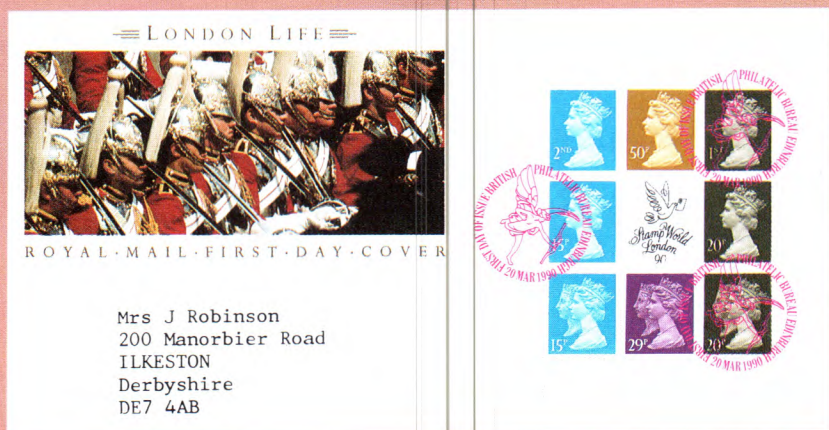
First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from philatelic counters from 7 March, price 18p.



The British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh



London Life

£5 Prestige Stamp Book

20 March 1990



The 1990 Prestige Stamp Book will be issued on 20 March. For the first time this will contain special stamps in addition to definitives and will be entitled "London Life". The book has been printed by Harrison and Sons Limited, the stamps in photogravure, the text in lithography. It will contain four new booklet panes and eight new stamp variations, detailed below.

Stamp Panes

There are four panes of stamps each with an illustrated stub: (1) 4 x 20p Europa stamps showing Alexandra Palace on Advanced Coated Paper; (2) 6 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary definitives on ACP; (3) Mixed Value pane, as illustrated here, comprising 1 x 2nd NVI, 1 x 15p definitive and 1 x 15p Penny Black defini-



tive, 50p definitive in new colour — sand (Jeffery Matthews colour standard), 29p Penny Black definitive, 1 x 1st NVI, 1 x 20p definitive and 1 x 20p Penny Black definitive and central label showing the "Stamp World London 90" logo; (4) 6 x 20p Penny Black definitives on ACP.

All panes have surrounding selvedge, giving a miniature sheet effect. This is particularly

pleasing on the pane containing the four Alexandra Palace stamps. The mixed value and Alexandra Palace stamp panes have a vertical column of rouletting near the binding margin for ease of removing these panes from the book.

Stamp Variations

The eight new variations can be summarised as follows:

15p definitive, phosphor band right

20p definitive, 2 bands, perforated on all sides

50p definitive in new colour — sand

(Jeffery Matthews colour standard), 2 bands

2nd NVI, band right

1st NVI, 2 bands

15p Penny Black definitive, band right

20p Penny Black definitive, 2 bands

29p Penny Black definitive, 2 bands

First Day Cover

A Royal Mail first day cover envelope will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and most main post offices approximately two weeks before issue, price 18p. The usual first day of issue facilities will be provided on 20 March at offices with philatelic posting boxes.

The British Philatelic Bureau will provide its usual first day cover service and there will be two pictorial postmarks, one for the Bureau and the other for Tower Hill, London EC3. The official Royal Mail cover, addressed to the destination required bearing the mixed value pane cancelled with the pictorial postmark required will be serviced by the Bureau. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 20 March.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on 20 March covers bearing the new stamps/panes under an outer cover endorsed "Special Handstamp — London Life Book" to:

British Philatelic Bureau

20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Tower Hill, London EC3

Special Handstamp Centre
City of London LDO
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA

London Life

The front cover of the book shows the Life Guards in their ceremonial dress - ever popular with tourists to London. The book contains many fine photographs of well-known London buildings and sites, often taken from an unusual angle as, for example, the view of Big Ben from Westminster Bridge. On the page containing the



four Alexandra Palace stamps are shown details from the uniform of the Yeoman of the Guard (Royal cipher) and the statue of Queen Victoria outside Buckingham Palace. On another page the Yeomen of the Guard, the Queen's bodyguard, are shown entering the Palace gates. The Yeomen of the Guard are not to be confused with the Yeomen Warders, the popular "Beefeaters" at the Tower of London.

Interesting London signs feature on another page — the Cat and Fiddle emblem of Martin's Bank, the Caravel weathervane over the headquarters of Smith and Nephew, the Pegasus sign of Scottish Widow's, the grasshopper emblem of Sir Thomas Gresham and one of the modern location signs on the South Bank.

On the selvedge of the mixed value pane is shown Nelson's Column (completed 1843) in Trafalgar Square and one of the bronze lions at the foot of the column. The lions, by Sir Edwin Landseer, were added in 1868. An aerial view of part of Trafalgar Square, showing two of the fountains and the front of the National Gallery appears on another page.

The buildings of the City of London range from historic masterpieces to modern constructions of controversial design. Featured in this book are Wren's St Paul's Cathedral and Richard Rogers's Lloyd's Building opened in 1986. The photograph of City workers (but no bowler hats!) crossing London Bridge, with Tower Bridge in the background reminds us few people actually live in the City; its thousands of office workers commuting in every day, often from considerable distances.

But London is not just buildings, it is its people and its customs that give it so much character. This is recognised in "London Life" by the illustrations of Coldstream and Grenadier guardsmen, the City crier between two Pearly Queens, a Yeoman Warder, and a bewigged and robed judge.

London Life is aptly summed up in the quotation from Arthur Symonds: "There is in the aspect of London, a certain magnificence; the magnificence of weight, solidity, energy, imperturbability and an unconquered continuance. It is alive from border to border, not an inch of it is not alive."



Stamp World London 90

Purchase of this prestige book will enable free entry to the Stamp World exhibition on 8-13 May (normally £3). The book should be presented at the Royal Mail Stamps sales counter situated at the main entrance to claim free entry.

There is space in the book for a commemorative cachet which can be applied if the book is presented at the Royal Mail Stamps sales counter on any day of the exhibition (3-13 May). The book includes a colour illustration of the West Entrance to Alexandra Palace, similar to that featured on the 20p Europa stamp.

Stamp World London 90

Details are now to hand of the opening times and admission charges for the "Stamp World London 90" international exhibition at Alexandra Palace from 3-13 May.

Opening Hours

The exhibition will open its doors to the public at midday on Thursday 3 May and will remain open on that day until 8pm. For the following days, Friday 4 May to Saturday 12 May the opening hours will be from 10am to 6pm. On the final day, Sunday 13 May, the exhibition will open from 10am to 5pm.

Admission Charges

On the first two days of the exhibition, 3 and 4 May, admission will be £5 each day for adults and £3 for senior citizens and children 16 years of age and under. On all other days admission will be £3 for adults and £2 for senior citizens and children. A season ticket, available for unlimited number of visits, but not transferable from person to person, will be available, price £25. All tickets are now available (until 31 March) and an order card is included in the exhibition *Bulletin 2*, available from the Stamp World office (address below).

London 90 Club

Members of the exclusive "London 90 Club" will receive a season ticket. Club membership costs £60 and will include a number of benefits including access to a room set aside for Club members, where refreshments and light meals will be available. An application form for membership is included in *Bulletin 2*.

Free Catalogue

Stamp World London 90 is breaking with tradition for international exhibitions and will provide a free exhibition catalogue. It is thought to be the first time a free catalogue will be available for a major international philatelic exhibition. It will be available within the United Kingdom in advance of the opening to those sending a stamped (50p) addressed A4 size envelope to the Stamp World office.

Getting to Alexandra Palace

Visitors are assured of good transport facilities to Alexandra Palace. Well signposted roads from north, south, east and west of the capital will help motorists unfamiliar with the area.

Driving through or from the centre of London is not recommended. Car parking is free at Alexandra Palace with space for over 1,500 cars. The most convenient way to travel to Alexandra Palace is by Underground (Piccadilly Line) to Wood Green Station. From Wood Green a frequent courtesy bus service will take visitors to the exhibition entrance with a similar service back to the station. The Piccadilly Line runs through central London and connects with all other Underground lines. Journey time from Russell Square is around 18/20 minutes to Wood Green and a few more minutes from other central stations up to around 30 minutes from Knightsbridge station.

The Piccadilly Line offers a direct link from Heathrow Airport to Wood Green (about 70/80 minutes). From Gatwick Airport the British Rail Thameslink service provides a direct route to King's Cross to connect there with the Piccadilly Line. Alternatively, the frequent Gatwick Express to Victoria allows the traveller to join the Victoria Line there and change, cross-platform, to the Piccadilly line at Finsbury Park.

Special Days

The organisers of Stamp World have designated each day of the exhibition as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Designated Day</i>
3 May	Stamp World London 90
4 May	International
5 May	Aerophilatelic
6 May	Penny Black
7 May	Youth
8 May	UPU
9 May	British Islands
10 May	Philatelic Literature
11 May	Postal History
12 May	Thematic
13 May	FIP

Note: UPU = Universal Postal Union: FIP = Federation Internationale de Philatelie.

The overall impact and popularity of Stamp World London 90 is demonstrated by the immense over-subscription for the 3,000 display frames by intending exhibitors and by the demand for the trade and postal administration stands.

Requests for copies of *Bulletin 2* and enquiries about the exhibition should be addressed to: Stamp World London 90, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No. 32 Dickinson "Silk-thread" Paper

John Dickinson, papermaker, was born in 1792 and became the owner of a paper mill in Hertfordshire in 1809 when he was 27 years old. In 1829 he patented a process for introducing threads of cotton, linen, silk or of other material into the fabric of sheets of paper. Dr Christopher Earland described the process in an article in *Stamp Collecting* on 23 September 1966: *The threads were wound on bobbins and when paper carrying the thread was carried off from the cylinder by the felt, the pull was sufficient to turn the bobbins, thus making the introduction of the thread automatic.*

The thread was considered to be a security measure and from 1829 was used when making paper for Government bonds. By 1839 — just when Rowland Hill's reforms were under way — the method was improved to the point of positioning the thread near the face of the paper surface or the back as required by the customer.

The application of these threads to issued postal matter was confined to the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets, the first postal stationery envelopes of 1841 and the 10d. and 1s. embossed adhesives of 1847-8.

Experiments were carried out to test the use of threaded paper on normal line-engraved adhesives. In 1841 Plate 11 of the 1d. stamp, by then printing in red, produced eight experimental sheets in which threads passed down through vertical rows 2 to 11 on each sheet leaving the left and right vertical marginal rows untouched. Also in 1841 a small plate of 12 impressions of the 2d "White Lines" blue, without check letters and with voided right-hand top corner on each stamp had been made to produce (in advance of the general issue) examples to be attached to Postmasters' Notices as specimen stamps for the information of individual postmasters. Dickinsons provided five small sample pieces of their security paper for further trials but only two of the three rows on the 12-stamps plate mentioned above could be printed on these samples. In the event, three blocks of eight (2 x 4) were printed in red from the top and centre row of the 2d. plate and two only in the normal blue, but from the centre and

bottom rows. The Royal Collection includes a block of eight in each colour. These experiments led the Post Office to decide against adopting this type of security paper for these issues.

The irony of all this was that Dickinson's thread never was silk. Chemical analysis by Dr Earland has shown that it consisted of twisted yarn. The paper used for various early German States and Switzerland *did* actually contain silk threads but the use of this paper was abandoned with the advent of perforating because the threads could have interfered with the smooth working of the perforating pins.

Dr Earland considers that the term "silk thread" should be applied only to those items where silk was actually used. All such security papers (including that with silk thread) should generically be referred to as "thread paper", or possibly Dickinson paper as a tribute to its inventor. The case is argued in a series of articles by Dr Earland in *The Philatelist* and *PJGB* in 1985-8.

The rarity of Dickinson thread stamps (as opposed to postal stationery) means that they seldom reach the market. This makes all the more interesting the realisation of £8,500 at Harpers, in Bond Street, on 7 November 1989 for a mint marginal block of six 1d. red from plate 11, offered in the "Wills" Great Britain sale.



Block of eight 1d on Dickinson paper in Phillips Collection, National Postal Museum

A corner marginal block of eight of the 1d showing plate number 11 and singles of the 2d in red-brown and blue on Dickinson paper are to be seen on page 42 of Volume VIII in the Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum.

Window Books — Mark IV Interim Issues

L F NEWBERY

Four books containing Non Value Indicator definitive stamps (NVIs) went on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, some post offices and those commercial outlets in need of fresh stock on 22 August 1989. These were then sold at 56p, £1.40, 76p and £1.90 and contained, respectively, panes of four and ten second class (14p) and first class (19p) stamps. The NVI stamps are only issued in books and may be used in place of first and second class stamps at any time.

With the introduction of the Mark IV issues, the word "Window" has been dropped from the official title but without doubt until there is a drastic change in the cover design collectors and dealers will continue to call them window stamp books.

Walsall Security Printers Ltd

This Midlands printing firm was responsible for the entire production of the 4 x first class and 4 x second class books. The cover design is similar



to the Mark III issue except: (1) the "window stamp" has 1ST or 2ND in place of value (2) the St Edward's Crown emblem has been redrawn giving a narrower view and a different appearance to the five jewels in the basal rim, (3) change of bar code.

The inside cover now has: (1) a single line imprint and (2) an abridged rate notice.

In the initial printings, as in those of Mark III, the gum cover seal was a wide irregular

horizontal line whereas in later printings the seal consisted of two vertical spots or occasionally one single spot.

4 x First Class Stamps Book

The black cover "stamp" can be found in two collectable shades, the second having a very pale, almost white, Queen's head. The stamps are now printed by offset-litho from two plates in black. There are two phosphor bars, printed by typography. The perforation is 14 with the top, bottom and right hand edge of the pane imperforate (Post Office termed "straight edge") except for one perforation hole at top corners of stamp 1 and similar holes at bottom of stamp 3. Thus each pane provides four different stamps and for those collecting set-tenant pairs a further four varieties.

The plate numbers, where present, are in the binding margin and read upwards opposite the lower half of stamp 3. At the time of writing the following combinations of numbers have been seen: W1W1, W1W2, W1W3 and W2W4. There is a variety in the form of a short horizontal marker bar adjoining the outer edge of the margin opposite the upper plate number, the bar being in the paler shade of the lower plate number. The gum is PVA.

4 x Second Class Stamps Book

Again the blue cover "stamp" exists in two collectable shades, this time it is the background that is variable — from a rich deep blue to a paler milky blue. To date there has been just one pair of plates: W1W1, also with the marker bar variety described above.

Harrison and Sons Ltd

Harrisons were the printers for First and Second Class books containing panes of 10. The cover designs were similar to the Walsall books except for contents and bar code. The closing clasp on the Harrison books has a crease either side of the curved cut whereas that for the Walsall books has a short cut either side of the curved cut and no crease.

The cover card used for Harrison books is coated on one side only to give a better printing

surface for the design side which after printing was varnished. That for Walsall was coated on both sides and the design side after printing was laminated.

Apart from the imprint the inside text was as above. The stamps were printed on the Jumelle press, the cylinders having four columns of 10 book panes of 10 with cylinder numbers in each column every fifth book pane — eight in all. The cylinder number is opposite the top row of the book pane. The pane is imperforate on the upper and lower edges except for a perforation hole between each stamp. This provides two new stamps and one se-tenant pair.



10 x First Class Stamps Book

The stamps are printed on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) and the cylinder number is B3. The gum is PVA Dextrin.

10 x Second Class Stamps Book

The stamps are on Fluorescent Coated Paper (FCP) with PVA Dextrin gum. There is a 4mm phosphor centre band with 150 screen. The cylinder numbers are B1 phosphor B84. First day covers using panes from the above four books were cancelled in red on 22 August 1989.



Bi-lingual "First Day of Issue" handstamp applied at Llandrindod Wells, 22 August 1989

The House of Questa

Books containing panes of 10 First Class and Second Class stamps went on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters on 19 September 1989. They went on sale elsewhere as required. The covers were similar to those above apart from the imprint and the clasp which was just a curve and no crease. The cover card was coated on both sides and after printing was varnished on the outside.

The stamp pane is perforated on all sides with the binding margin perforated right across (both Harrison and Walsall books have just one extension hole). Whilst the stamps and covers are printed offset-litho in multiples sheet fed the books are made up from book size cut outs. There are no plate numbers.

10 x First Class Stamps Book

The stamps are on ACP with PVA gum and perforated 15 x 14.

10 x Second Class Stamps Book

The stamps are on FCP with PVA gum. The centre phosphor band is typo-printed and is short at the top and bottom of each stamp. The abrasive nature of the phosphor compound used tends to wear the perforator and thus the bands are shortened to bars to prevent this wear. The perforation is 15 x 14.

2 October 1989

The inland letter rates went up from 19p to 20p first class and from 14p to 15p second class. As a consequence of the increase the price of the books went up to 60p and 80p for books of four second and first class stamps and to £1.50 and £2 for books of 10. The stamp content was unchanged and as there were no values on the stamps they could continue to be used without the addition of a 1p stamp.

Harrison and Sons Ltd

A fresh printing was made of both the first and second class books. The abridged rates panel inside was replaced by a more comprehensive panel. These books were not on sale until after 2 October, becoming available from the Bureau and some philatelic counters during November.

10 x First Class Stamps Book

The stamps were unchanged from cylinder B3. The bulk of the printing for the covers used the same cover card; the balance of the printing used a card coated on both sides and calendered which has a glossier inside surface and is more flexible.

10 x Second Class Stamps Book

The stamps are unchanged from cylinders B1 phosphor B84. The whole of the printing was from the new card coated on both sides and calendered.

UK letters and cards					Airmail - Europe letters and cards	
	60g	100g	150g	200g	up to 20g	
1st class	20p	30p	37p	45p	EEC countries	20p
2nd class	15p	24p	28p	34p	Non-EEC countries	24p
Worldwide Postcards					29p	
Aerogramme					30p	
Airmail - Rest of the World					up to 10g Each extra 10g	
Zone A (N Africa, Middle East)					32p	14p
Zone B (Americas, Africa, India, SE Asia)					34p	16p
Zone C (Australasia, Japan, China)					37p	18p

Inside back cover of October printing showing "comprehensive" postal rate information

Walsall Security Printers Ltd

4 x 29p Worldwide Postcard Stamps Book

Whilst this book does not contain NV1 stamps, it is included in this article for sake of completeness. It went on sale on 2 October at the Bureau, philatelic counters and at post offices and retail outlets having a strong demand for 29p stamps. The cover card and design is similar to the previous Walsall books except: (1) the purple cover "stamp" is priced 29p and (2) there is the comprehensive rates panel as in the latest Harrison books. Again there are collectible cover "stamp" variations from a rich dark purple to a paler reddish purple. The stamps are from one pair of plates — W1W1 with the pale marker bar variety. The 29p stamps are on FCP with PVA gum and perforated 14. They have two phosphor bars, 9.5mm, printed in typography.

4 x second class book, stamps by Harrison, covers by Walsall

Again the pane is imperforate on three sides as before.

November/December 1989

Two new 60p and 80p window books went into distribution late November/early December, namely 4 x 2nd class and 4 x 1st class containing stamps printed by Harrisons and with covers printed and made up by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. The covers were identical with those issued on 22 August 1989 except for the printer's imprint which now reads: "Printed by Walsall Security Printers Limited/Stamps printed by Harrison & Sons Limited".

The stamps are from special cylinders with the layout of the Mark III Walsall issues. The cylinder numbers, wide of the stamps, are trimmed off before making up into books. The stamps are printed by photogravure on the Chambon press with the perforation giving straight edges on the outer edges of the book panes. The latest issue gives a further four varieties for the specialist collector, viz:

- 2nd class straight edge top & right
- 2nd class straight edge bottom & right
- 1st class straight edge top & right
- 1st class straight edge bottom & right

4 x Second Class Stamps Book

This book was released late in November to shops against normal ordering. The stamps are on fluorescent coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum, printed from cylinder B2, phosphor cylinder B83.

4 x First Class Stamps Book

The stamps are on Advanced Coated Paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Printed from cylinder B2.

Printed by Walsall Security Printers Limited
Stamps printed by Harrison & Sons Limited



Posting Boxes

108. Malaysian Box

Occasionally in this series we feature an overseas box. This one — in tropical Malaysia — will, I hope, bring a feeling of warmth to home readers in the midst of our British winter. The photographs were submitted by Thomas Bentley of Selangor who writes:



The box, still in service, is a product of Allen, London. The initials are not too clear, so I do not hazard a guess. It is situated on a road that leads to a well-known bungalow, among others, that was probably the recourse of many an expatriate. Such on their way to or from Whittington would have used the box and so it might just stir a memory or two. The address is Fraser's Hill, Pahang, Malaysia. As can be seen

the jungle is the backdrop which serves to add a lonely touch to the setting and yet the red box does not disrupt the rich verdure.

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

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

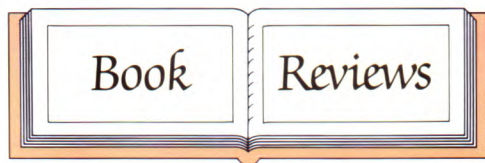
Postbox Postcards

Shown here is one of four posting box postcards, produced by David Shaw of Malton, N Yorkshire, now on sale at the National Postal



Postbox at Butterwick, Yorks

Museum, price 20p each. They can be ordered by post from the Museum, minimum order 60p plus handling charge of 20p on orders up to £22, £1.75 over £22 (sent by registered post). The cards feature: VR Postbox at Malton Station; Postbox at Butterwick, Yorks; VR Postbox at East Lutton, Yorks and GVIR Postbox, Kirkhill, Wick, Caithness.



The 8th edition of Volume 2 of the **Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue** covering the issues of Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI is now available. In their Preface the Editors, David Aggersberg and Robert Oliver, write of the fascination of the stamps of these four reigns. "After the switch to surface printing in 1855", they write, "there were no further major changes in Great Britain stamp production for the remainder of Queen Victoria's reign. Design concepts, process, printer, even the Queen's portrait, remained unchanged." The stamps of Edward VII "altered nothing, except the monarch's portrait" but from the reign of George V there was rapid change including the magnificent Seahorses and the change from the "venerable typography process .. to the flexibility of modern photogravure". It was not just printing processes that changed, "the next two reigns pushed forward the science of stamp design. Contrast the simplicity of the King Edward VIII definitives or Dulac's striking 1937 Coronation stamp with the staid efforts of the Victorians. By 1952 modern concepts of stamp design and production were in place."

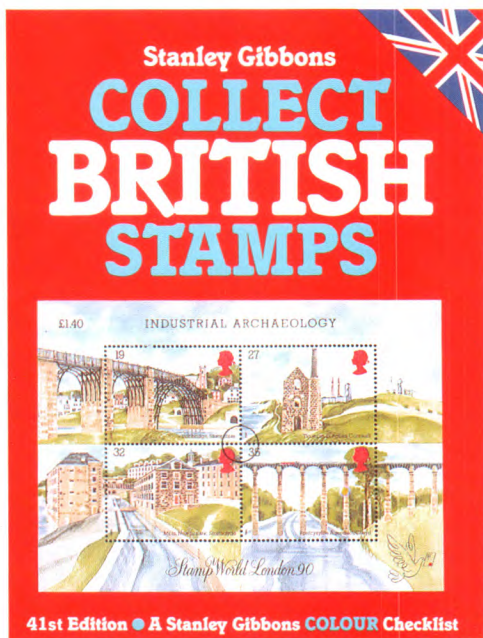
This new edition incorporates much new research and some new discoveries, for example the Edward VII De La Rue £1 with inverted watermark. W A Wiseman provides new introductory notes to the Edward VII Departmental Officials and much new information is given for the essay and proof material of the George V Downey Heads. Additional SPECIMEN overprints are now listed for Edward VIII issues and the introduction to the George VI low value definitives has been rewritten.

The Stamp Booklet appendix has been revised following the publication of the first instalments of *British Stamp Booklets* by Jean Alexander and L F Newbery. An additional appendix now lists the Channel Islands wartime issues.

The prices of basic stamps remain "fairly static" but there are considerable increases in the prices of some proof material and varieties. Existing users of this catalogue will not need reminding of the value of having the latest

edition. 448 pages, £17.50 case-bound, £14.95 limp-bound. Available from stamp dealers, good book shops or from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Postage £2 UK, £3.50 overseas.

The 41st edition of the ever popular annual **Stanley Gibbons Collect British Stamps** was published in November. This provides a simple — but clear — listing of all British stamps from the Penny Black and Twopence Blue to the Christmas stamps of 1989; illustrated in colour.



The listing of decimal low value Machins now runs to 161 items plus six Non Value Indicator stamps which Gibbons refer to as "Booklet Stamps". There appears to have been little in the way of price changes since the Part 1 catalogue was published last summer. 112 pages, card covers. Price £2.75. Available from stamp dealers, book shops, Stanley Gibbons (address above) and the British Philatelic Bureau.

Charles Heath and his son Frederick are well-known to students of early British stamps as the engravers of the dies for the Penny Black and Twopence Blue. The name of James, Charles' father, is known to comparatively few people, but during his life he was the leader of his profession as an engraver. Thanks to George W Smith's recently published book **James Heath:**

Engraver to Kings and Tutor to Many he should become better known.

James was born in 1757, son of George Heath, stationer and bookbinder of Newgate Street, London. He was apprenticed to Joseph Collyer, engraver of Fetter Lane, and such was the quality of his work that in 1791 he was elected an Associate Engraver of the Royal Academy. His marriage was unsuccessful and his second "wife", his housekeeper, Mary Philipson was the aunt of Henry Corbould who made the drawings of the Wyon head from which the Heaths engraved the Penny Black.

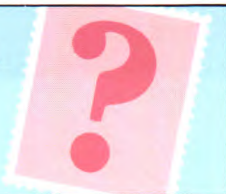
James was professionally associated with many of the prominent artists and book illustrators of the time such as Thomas Stothard, Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Lawrence and Benjamin West. It is evident that the Heaths were in touch with Jacob Perkins before he came to England in 1819 and a specimen £1 note for the Bank of England with designs by Corbould and engraving by Heath was printed by Perkins & Fairman (or Perkins, Fairman & Heath) at about that time. James died in 1834 but five years later, when postage stamps were envisaged, his work was suggested as suitable. An unnamed writer recorded in records of Perkins Bacon & Petch: "Some thoughts connected with the Post Office stamp about to be adopted by Government ... for the engraved medallions in the centre I prefer the style of the late James Heath, ARA and I trust you perceive the appropriateness of the style of art to the plan before you".

Much of this book is taken up with an appraisal of the work of James Heath's successors in partnership with American engravers. The names George Murray, J B Longacre, Charles Toppan and Alfred Jones are well-known across the Atlantic by those interested in the history of the production of stamps and bank-notes. This well-researched book is generously illustrated with examples of the engraved work of James Heath, his son and grandson. 44 pages, card covers. Available from the author: G W Smith, 153 Chignall Road, CHELMSFORD, Essex, CM1 2JD, price £5.50 postpaid.

RSPCA Plate Numbers

The plate numbers and colours for this issue were as follows: 1A (new blue) 1A (greenish yellow) 1A (bright magenta) 1A (black) 1A (silver) and 1B1B1B1B1B all values, also 2A2A2A2A2A, 2B2B2B2B2B, 3A3A3A3A3A and 3B3B3B3B3B of the 20p value.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning a season ticket (normal price £25) to "Stamp World London 90" international stamp exhibition at Alexandra Palace (3-13 May). 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: February Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 30 March.

The senders of the first four all-correct entries drawn will be sent the Stamp World season tickets. The senders of the next four correct entries drawn will be sent first day covers and presentation packs of the 1990 Europa stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the May *Bulletin*.

The season tickets for Stamp World London 90 have been kindly donated by the exhibition organisers

1. Who designed the 1990 Europa stamps?
2. On what date will be the £5 "London Life" prestige book be issued?
3. At what time will Stamp World London 90 close on the opening day (3 May)?
4. What will be the adult admission charge to Stamp World London 90 on 3 and 4 May?
5. How is Stamp World London 90 breaking with tradition for international exhibitions?
6. In what year was John Dickinson born?

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 November competition were:

R Highton of Kent, Mrs M Wright of Warwickshire, E Dominguez of Spain, B Flanagan of Hertfordshire, J. Brown of Lanarkshire and C Stuart of Wiltshire.

The answers were: 1. Henry Fitz Ailwyn, 2. 28 November 1989, 3. Royal Festival Hall, 4. London Penny Post, 5. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 6. 17 November 1989.

Six Month Digest

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

H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall, printers
NVI = Non Value Indicator stamps

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 NVI book, W (DW051)
22 Aug	4 x 1st class NVI book, W (DW052)
22 Aug	10 x 2nd class NVI book, H (DW053)
22 Aug	10 x 1st class NVI book, H (DW054)
25 Aug	Aerogramme Pack (QO024)
5 Sep	Microscopes stamps (AS385)
5 Sep	Microscopes Pack (AP081)
19 Sep	10 x 2nd class NVI book, Q (DW056)
19 Sep	10 x 1st class NVI book, Q (DW057)
26 Sep	Definitive 15p bt 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)
2 Oct	10 x 2nd cl NVI book, H (UB006)
2 Oct	10 x 1st cl NVI book, H (UB001)
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)
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)
— Nov	4 x 2nd cl NVI book, H (UB007)
— Nov	4 x 1st cl NVI book, H (UB008)
8 Jan	RSCPA stamp cards (AQ103)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv stamps (DS906)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv pack (DP012)
10 Jan	NPM Personalities cards
10 Jan	NPM Penny Black Maxi Card
23 Jan	RSPCA stamps (AS398)
23 Jan	RSPCA pack (AP084)
30 Jan	50p machine book, H (TB001)
30 Jan	£1 machine book, H (TB002)
30 Jan	60p stamp book, W (UB002)
30 Jan	80p stamp book, W (UB003)
30 Jan	£1.50 stamp book, H (UB004)
30 Jan	£2 stamp book, H (UB005)
30 Jan	£1 trial book, W (TB0033)

Forthcoming

6 Feb	Greetings Stamp Pack
19 Feb	Europa stamp cards
27 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card
6 Mar	Europa stamps and pack
13 Mar	50p Definitive, dark background
20 Mar	London Life Prestige Book
26 Mar	Queen's awards stamp cards
10 Apr	Queen's Awards stamps and 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	NPM Personalities cards
21 May	Kew Gardens stamp cards
5 Jun	Kew Gardens stamps and pack
25 Jun	Thomas Hardy stamp cards
10 Jul	Thomas Hardy stamps and pack

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 10 x 1st and 2nd class NVI books issued on 2

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 4 x 1st and 4 x 2nd class NVI books issued in November have stamps printed by Harrison in covers produced by Walsall.

4. All books issued on 30 January contain Penny Black Anniversary stamps; the £1 trial book has Mills No 1 cover design as issued on 2 October.

eligible and there are no entry formalities. The award has been very favourably commented upon by postal authorities and received with great pride and enthusiasm by the winning designers. We believe that the existence of this award goes a long way towards encouraging better design, at least of Music stamps.

Readers interested in the Philatelic Music Circle may write to me for further information. IRENE LAWFORDE, 22 Bouverie Gardens, Kenton, Middx, HA3 0RQ.

Letters to the Editor



Lord Mayor's Show

Dear John,

The Stamp Cards for the Lord Mayor's Show sharpen the details of the buildings in the background which lie on the processional route. I was rather surprised to see that the corner behind the Lord Mayor's coach itself was described on the back of the card as 'Mappin & Webb', for that building (whose demolition is currently being debated) has a charming sort of double-decker domed hat. When Paul Cox, the designer, discussed the buildings with me, he did not mention Mappin & Webb, but said rather vaguely that that particular building was one of the corners on the huge concourse of roads on the Mansion House plain. So I went to have a look — and there it is quite unmistakably between the Royal Exchange and Mansion House, on the corner of Cornhill, with the squarish corner of Lombard Street slightly to the rear on the right.

BARBARA LAST, London W13

Music Stamp Award

Dear Editor,

I welcome Barry Robinson's invitation to contribute to the discussion on stamp design. For the past 10 years, the Philatelic Music Circle has been making an annual award — the Robert Stolz Trophy for Music Philately — to the designer of the 'best' Music stamp of the year. Two panels of up to 20 members meet in different parts of the country to judge the 150 or so Music stamps issued. All Music stamps are

Cornish Letter Box

Dear Mr Holman,

On page 95 of the December *Bulletin* you show a VR box at Tolverne. The letters B and O on either side of a broad-arrow on the plate bearing George IV's cipher can surely only denote the site of a one-time benchmark. In his reign the Board of Ordnance (now the Ordnance Survey) was responsible for official large-scale survey work. Surveyors cut horizontal marks on rocks, etc to indicate points of reference, each mark forming a bench for the levelling instrument. The photograph seems to show such a mark below B ↑ O but only direct examination will confirm this. The broad-arrow is usually cut so that the benchmark passes through its apex. If the plate is in its original position, a benchmark may be visible somewhere else on the pillar to which it is attached.

D A H BYATT, Haywards Heath, W Sussex

Letters

I receive a considerable number of letters and I am always interested in reading what fellow collectors have to say. However it has become increasingly difficult to send individual replies as some weeks I could spend all week answering letters and not writing, editing and typesetting this *Bulletin* (as well as compiling the *British Postmark Bulletin*). I regret that in future I cannot undertake to reply to each letter but assure you that they will be read and, where necessary, the points raised brought to the attention of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately. Many of the letters are about matters of general interest and I will try to answer some of these from time to time in the *Bulletin*, rather like the BBC "Points of View" programme.

Editor.

National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives News

Spring Stampex

The Museum will have an information/sales stand at the exhibition where Museum publications and postcards will be on sale. As at Autumn Stampex 1989 a cachet will be available for stamping on Museum cards purchased at the exhibition. Please note that the cachet cannot be applied to postage stamps.

Spring Stampex will be held at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, London SW1 from 27 February-4 March.

Museum Displays

An exhibition entitled "Sir Rowland Hill and his Family" is now on show at the Museum and will run until at least May. A major exhibition "Penny Black and Postal Reform" will open in May; further details to be announced.

Postcards & Postmarks

A new Maltese Cross handstamp, the fourth since 1969, was introduced on 10 January and will be in use until further notice. Collectors unable to visit the Museum may obtain the handstamp by sending cards/covers bearing at least 19p in stamps to: Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Please state clearly that the NPM Maltese Cross handstamp is required.

The final three in the Postal Personalities-Stamp World London 90 cards will be issued on 3 May; these feature the Penny Black and William Wyon (reference SWL90/10); Twopenny Blue and Charles Heath (SWL90/11) and Mulready Stationery and William Mulready (SWL90/12). These will cost 20p each.

Stamp World London 90

The Museum, in conjunction with the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Library, will be providing the Court of Honour at the exhibition. The displays will include Postal Reform and the Penny Black and the 1940 commemoration of the centenary of the postage stamp. A great deal of research has been going on in order to make this a memorable display.

In addition the Museum with Post Office Archives will have an information/display area in the East Hall (Ice Rink) at Alexandra Palace.

On show will be a display entitled "Issues That Never Were" based on stamp material from the Museum and documentation from the Archives. The *British Philatelic Bulletin* will feature as part of this display area.

There will be a limited sales facility, supplementing the sales area on the main Post Office stand. A special NPM cachet will be available for application to Museum cards purchased at the exhibition; the cachet will not be applied to postage stamps.

Archive Postcards

Post Office Archives are to issue six postcards on 3 May; details to be announced. The cards will be available from Post Office Archives, Freeling House, 23 Glasshill Street, LONDON SE1 0BQ and from the Museum/Archives stand at Stamp World. A special Archives cachet will be available on the stand for application to these cards; the cachet will not be applied to postage stamps.



Harrison Archive Material

The Museum has recently received, on deposit, Free French and Egyptian material from the archives of Harrison & Sons Limited; this can be seen at the Museum by prior arrangement. The Free French material, of the early 1940s, includes essays, proofs and some unissued stamps, also imperforate sheets of the Colonial Free French issues. The Egyptian section is mostly proofs and sheets of unissued designs for the King Fuad I definitive stamps, dating from the early 1920s. One of the Egyptian designs is shown here.

British Motor Industry

British Special Issues: No.157

FRANCIS KENNEDY

Today, there is something nostalgic about the stamps issued on 13 October 1982 to mark the holding of the British Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Issued to promote British industry the four stamps featured famous British-built cars of 1982 and their "vintage" forebears. The models chosen for philatelic treatment were: **15½p**, Austin — the Austin Seven and the Metro; **19½p**, Ford — Model T and the Escort; **26p**, Jaguar — SSI and the XJ6; **29p**, Rolls-Royce — Silver Ghost and Silver Spirit. Sadly the Jaguar concern, British to the core, being developed from the old "Swallow" motor-cycle sidecar by William Lyons, has passed into American control.

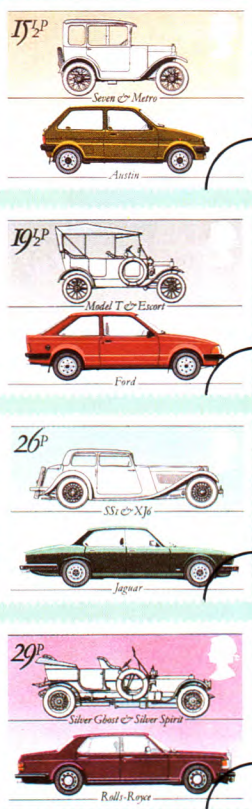
However, each of the vintage cars illustrated represents a milestone in the history of British car manufacturing. The world-famous Austin Seven, built from 1920 by Herbert Austin, was the first mass-produced "baby" car and was designed to compete with the Ford Model T, then already in its eighth year of production, as a simple and inexpensive vehicle to own and drive. The more stylish Metro on the 15½p is never likely to become such a favourite as the old "7", nor indeed so popular as the current Ford Escort which it seeks to rival. Happily, there is still no car to touch the Rolls-Royce whose Silver Spirit model is the hallmark of motoring luxury.

An issue such as this called for a specialist designer and he was found in the person of Stanley Paine, Head of the School of Technical Illustration in the Bournemouth College of Art and Design. His sharply defined artwork, chosen from the work of several designers, was finely printed in offset-lithography by The House of Questa, only the second time this young firm (founded by former employees of Format International and now part of the John Waddington group) had been commissioned to print stamps for the British Post Office. It speaks volumes for the printers that Gibbons' *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue* lists no printing flaws or varieties at all for this issue.

The subject of the issue was deemed to be of

sufficient importance to warrant a wall chart (also printed in litho by Questa) illustrating the cars involved and giving a brief history of each one.

Among the many first day cancellations were one illustrating the radiator grill (and logo) of a Rolls-Royce (used at Crewe); one with the spokes of a steering wheel (Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh) and gear-changing diagram (Birmingham). The Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club sponsored a special cancellation which included



the overlapping "RR" logo, the dates 1957 and 1982 and the name of the club. This was used at the village of Paulerspury, near Towcester, Northants.

The customary PHQ cards, numbered 63a to 63d were issued, ahead of the stamps, on 23 September 1982; 226,250 sets were produced. Sales of the stamps were: 15½p — 40,225,000; 19½p — 9,162,000; 26p — 8,762,500 and 29p — 8,449,000.

Gems from NPM Collections

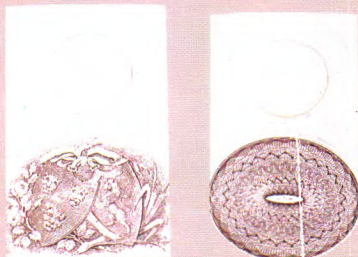
Treasury Competition

One of the first Competition entries to be received came from Francis Coffin of Bucklersbury, in the city of London. It was sent on 29 (or 30) August with a further letter on 4 September. Both are noted in the Treasury register as including labels, the second "with Specimen of a Steel engraved label for the Penny Postage". Coffin also wrote to the Post Office at the same time and in his letter to Rowland Hill said that "the Engraving might be the Queen's head as on the coins, or the arms of the United Kingdom or any other that might be chosen".

Three of the labels have survived (all being on the same principle though with two different designs); intended "to be attached by the upper part to the cover, and to be sealed through the circular hole on to the flap". The idea was apparently that of James Bogardus, also of the City, who had taken out a patent on 26 August.

One of the designs consists of an engine-turned device in the form of a transverse oval. The other shows two armorial shields surrounded by flowers and ribbons. Both were printed in black on a lead white glazed card with a circular hole at the top.

Many of the Treasury Competition entries suggested the use of labels or covers to indicate prepayment, sometimes (as with Coffin) utilising the seals which were commonly used at this time to close letters. Bogardus and Coffin who "acted together",



Benjamin Cheverton, Henry Cole and Charles Whiting were all awarded equal sums of £100 in the Competition.

The items illustrated here can at present be seen in the National Postal Museum by appointment; they will be on display in the "Penny Black and Postal Reform" exhibition which opens in May.

In 1929 one of the dies prepared by Bogardus, showing the head of Queen Victoria, was discovered amongst Hill family papers and presented to King George V. A number of "pulls" were made from this die and three examples are in the Phillips Collection in the NPM (Vol. 1, page 14).

The National Postal Museum is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 4pm Friday. Admission free.

Some of the information in this feature is taken from the forthcoming book Postal Reform and The Penny Black: A New Appreciation by Douglas N Muir, to be published by the National Postal Museum in May.

Cylinder News

Harrisons have recently printed the £1 machine book from cylinder B9, previously B8. The £1 machine book containing 20p Penny Black Anniversary definitives was printed from cylinders B3A B3B.

Plate numbers for the Country stamps (28 November) are: 15p Q1Q1, Q2Q2 all countries and Q3Q3 and Q4Q4 Wales; 20p Q1Q1, Q2Q2, Q3Q3 and Q4Q4 all countries; 24p and 34p Q1Q1 and Q2Q2 all countries.

Bulletin Binders

Binders for this *Bulletin* are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT and to callers at the National Postal Museum Sales Counter. Price £5.50.

RSPCA Presentation Pack

The number for this pack is 205, not 204 as stated in the December *Bulletin* and the January Digest.

Painswick Post Office Fire Mark

A replica of the long-lost original Fire Mark on the 15th century timber-framed building which houses the Painswick Post Office in Gloucestershire was handed to the Chairman of the Parish Council by the Norwich Union Insurance Company on 22 November. Norwich Union



were the original insurers of the building. The replica was delivered from Norwich in their 150 year old Mercury Mail Coach No. 205 — the only mail coach licensed to carry Royal Mail.

The proprietors of Painswick Post Office, Mr and Mrs Yardley, have had the replica Fire Mark affixed to their historic premises making even more of a local attraction.

Great Britain Philatelic Society

The Society will be holding a meeting in the Orchid Room of the New Horticultural Hall at Spring Stampex on 3 March. At 2.30pm leading Machin collector Andrew Watton will give a display entitled "A Guide to the Machins". Non members will be welcome.

Details of the Society can be obtained from the Hon Membership Secretary: Anthony J Walker, 42 Jesmond Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE2 4PQ.

50p Definitive Variation

On 13 March the 50p definitive will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters printed in "sand" — the Jeffery Matthews colour version of the current colour, i.e. with a solid background and light head. The stamp will be printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited on non-phosphor paper in sheets of 200. The stamps will be of standard definitive size (21 x 24mm), perf. 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum.



It should be noted that whilst there is a first day of availability, there will be no first day of issue facilities, i.e. Bureau first day cover service or "First Day of Issue" posting boxes. Collectors wishing to prepare their own first day covers are advised to post them to receive Philatelic Counter handstamps or the National Postal Museum Maltese Cross handstamp. Items for this handstamp should be sent, on 13 March, to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

This new variation will go on sale at post offices as stocks of the existing 50p stamp become exhausted.

A 50p stamp in "sand" with two phosphor bands will be issued as part of the mixed value pane in the £5 "London Life" prestige book on 20 March; details are published elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Letter Cassette Pack

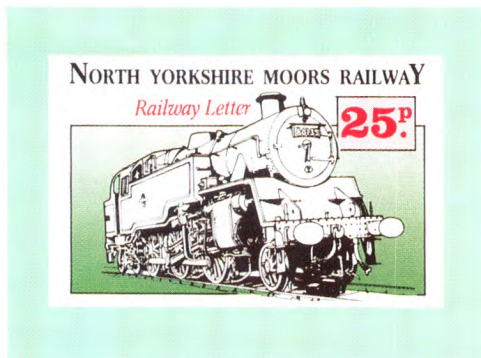
Details of a Letter Cassette Pack available from the National Postal Museum were given in last July's *Bulletin*. The limited number available have now all been sold and the Museum can accept no further orders for this Pack.

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.

Rochdale Hospice. A special cover was produced to mark the opening of the Springhill Hospice in Rochdale on 2 November 1989; a special handstamp was used on the day. The cover is still available price £2.50 with one Lord Mayor stamp or £4 with full set of Lord Mayor stamps from: Springhill Hospice, Broad Lane, ROCHDALE, Lancs, OL16 4PP.

Queen Victoria's Marriage. A full colour commemorative cover is being produced to mark the 150th anniversary of the wedding of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, London on 10 February 1840. The cover will include informative notes, illustration of the Royal Couple and will bear a "philatelic London S.W.1. handstamp" of 10 February 1990. Price £1.70 (overseas 60p extra). Orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

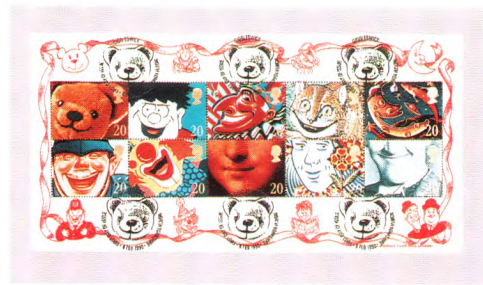


by William Sessions of York in sheets of six, rouletted. The new 25p rate for railway letters of up to 60g, introduced on 1 January, will come into effect on 1 April when the railway reopens after the winter break. A second 25p definitive will be issued on 3 May. Orders/enquiries to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

Salvation Army Philatelic Study Group

It may surprise readers to learn that the Salvation Army has figured on over 70 different stamps from 25 postal administrations, including two British stamps to mark the Army's centenary in 1965. An astonishing variety of the Army's activities have been pictured; open air worship, social work, hospitals, bands, a street march, Christian witness — as well as some of its leaders and buildings.

Even less well known is the vast number of special postmarks and postal meter franks, which have publicised its work in even more countries. The favourite subjects amongst the postmarks concern Army fund-raising, social work, scout and guide camps, musical events and corps anniversaries. There are many collectors but the majority are not members of two or three organised groups, working alone in building up their collections without the help that pooled resources can offer. With a view to assisting such "lone rangers", attempts are being made to form a new International Salvation Army philatelic study group. A system of exchanging duplicates is envisaged as is a handbook on the stamps, covers, postmarks and meters. Picture postcards will come within the scope of the group. Interested collectors should contact Harry Hayes, 11 Chatsworth Drive, Haxby, YORK YO3 8QS.



Greetings Stamps. The cover illustrated here is being produced by A G Bradbury; it features eight of the subjects of the Greetings stamps around the border. The pane of 10 stamps will be cancelled by the Giggleswick "First Day of Issue" postmark which depicts a teddy bear. Only 500 covers are being produced; available, price £5.75, from: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

New Railway Letter Stamps

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway will issue two 25p definitive stamps during 1990; the first on 1 April will show standard tank locomotive 80135. The stamp has been designed by Geoff & Margaret Atkins and Stuart Hudson and printed

Special Handstamp Centres

Last month we announced the setting up of seven Special Handstamp Centres to handle all philatelic mail requiring pictorial "First Day of Issue" and special handstamps. The addresses for these centres are as follows:

London North Special Handstamp Centre
City of London LDO

King Edward Street

LONDON EC1A 1AA

Tel. 01-239 5115 (from May 071-239 5115)

London South Special Handstamp Centre
South West London LDO

53 Nine Elms Lane

LONDON SW8 5BB

Tel. 01-239 6043 (from May 071-239 6043)

South East Special Handstamp Centre
Windsor Post Office

38 Peascod Street

WINDSOR

Berks SL4 1AA

Tel. 0753-861451

Northern England Special Handstamp Centre
Newcastle upon Tyne LDO

Royal Mail House

Forth Street

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA

Tel. 091-235 3484

Midlands Special Handstamp Centre
Birmingham LDO

Royal Mail Street

BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA

Tel. 021-644 8644

Wales & The West Special Handstamp Centre
Cardiff LDO

220-228 Penarth Road

CARDIFF CF1 1AA

Tel. 0222-392454

Scotland & N Ireland Special Handstamp Centre
Glasgow LDO

George Square

GLASGOW G2 1AA

Tel. 041-242 4470

Note: LDO = Letters District Office

Given below are the existing 64 LDOs showing which Special Handstamp Centre (SHC) will be responsible for pictorial First Day of Issue and special handstamps bearing the names of post towns in their area:

All London postal districts (except London SW and SE) — London North SHC

London SE and SW — London South SHC

All Scottish LDOs and Northern Ireland LDO — Scotland & N Ireland SHC

LDO

Birmingham

Bolton

Bournemouth

Bradford

Brighton

Bristol

Cambridge

Canterbury

Cardiff

Carlisle

Chelmsford

Chester

Coventry

Crewe

Croydon

Darlington

Derby

Doncaster

Exeter

Gloucester

Guildford

Ipswich

Kingston on Thames

Leeds

Leicester

Liverpool

Manchester

Milton Keynes

Newcastle on Tyne

Northampton

Nottingham

Oxford

Peterborough

Plymouth

Portsmouth

Preston

Reading

Redhill

Romford

Sheffield

Shrewsbury

Southampton

Stoke on Trent

Swansea

Swindon

Tonbridge

Twickenham

Watford

Wolverhampton

York

Special Handstamp Centre

Midlands

N England

South East

N England

South East

Wales & West

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Wales & West

South East

N England

South East

South East

London North

N England

Wales & West

South East

Midlands

Wales & West

South East

South East

London North

London North

Midlands

N England

Questa Stamp Book Variety

Our stamp book expert, Len Newbery, informs us that towards the end of November books became available containing 10 x 1st class stamps printed by Questa with the binding margin to the pane imperf. All previous books of 10 printed by Questa (14p, 19p, 1st and 2nd class NVI) had the binding margin perforated right across. The stamps themselves are still perforated on all sides.



Imperf and perforated through binding margin in Questa 10 x 1st class NVI books. Books with the imperf margin became available late November

Editor's Note: I am informed that Questa have also printed the books of 10 x 2nd class NVI stamps with imperf binding margin. These were on sale by early December.

February Digest

Issued in February

6 February: Greetings Stamps Pack containing 10 x 20p stamps featuring "Smiles" and 12 labels, price £2.

Designer: Michael Peters and Partners Limited.

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure. 41 x 30mm, printed on non-phosphor paper over-printed with two phosphor bars, PVA Dextrin gum.

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Giggleswick, N Yorkshire.

19 February: Europa 1990 (Buildings/City of Glasgow) Stamp Cards (Nos. 124A-D), price 18p each.

Withdrawn in February

5 February: Birds Stamp Card Multipack

28 February: 20p definitive issued 23 August 88 (Bureau code DS204) and the following Mark III Window Books: 56p, 76p, £1.08, £1.40 and £1.90 issued 11 October 88 (Codes DW037/DW043); 56p & 76p issued 24 January 89 (DW044/5); £1.40 issued May 89 (DW047) and £1.90 issued 26 June 89 (DW049). National Postal Museum cards — sets H1 and H2 (NQ863, NQ876). *Note: These cards are being withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau but will remain on sale at the NPM.*

Penny Black Definitives FDC

The illustration of the FDC in the December *Bulletin* was a "mock-up" produced some time in advance of issue. The British Philatelic Bureau have asked us to point out that the covers they serviced on 10 January had three postmarks (as shown) but applied to the five stamps in a different order, to the 15p and 20p, to the 29p and 34p and singly to the 37p. All First Day postmarks for this issue were applied in red ink.



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