

BRITISH *PHILATELIC*

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

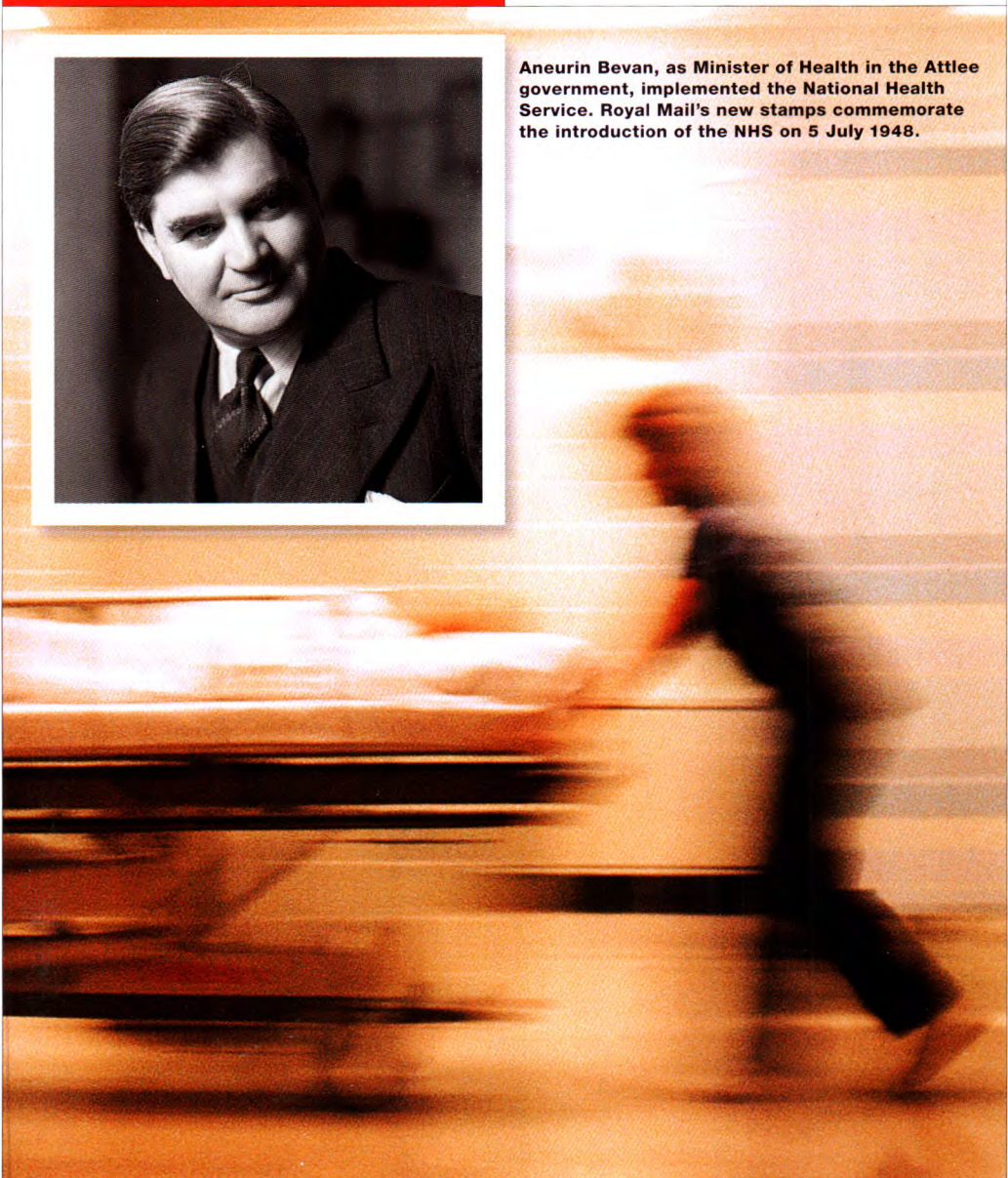
Volume 35 Number 9

MAY 1998 • 85p

Postal rarities • NHS stamps •
UK and Israel philatelic links



Aneurin Bevan, as Minister of Health in the Attlee government, implemented the National Health Service. Royal Mail's new stamps commemorate the introduction of the NHS on 5 July 1948.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover photographs Aneurin Bevan, by Howard Coster, by courtesy the National Portrait Gallery, London. Background, Tony Stone Images.

Late news The cylinder/plate numbers for some of the 5 May books are: 4 × 2nd W1; 10 × 2nd B11 *phos* B13 (De La Rue), Q31Q31 (Questa); 10 × 1st B14 *phos* B12; 4 × 30p W2; 4 × 37p W1; 4 × 63p W1; £1 Q8Q8Q8 Q8Q8Q8; £2 Q4Q4Q4Q4. The numbers in the 10 × 1st Peugeot competition book (on sale at Woolworth stores from this month) are B14 *phos* B12.

Issues Note some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Lombard Street, Trafalgar Square and Victoria Street), Manchester Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York.

5 May

Issue 10 × 1st and 10 × 2nd books with 'D' (De La Rue) imprint on back cover; 4 × 1st, 4 × 2nd, 4 × 37p, 4 × 63p, and 10 × 1st books with amended copy, printed by Walsall, and £1, £2 and 10 × 2nd books with copy change printed by Questa; 4 × 30p book printed by Walsall.

10 May

Withdrawal Tales of Terror stamps, pack and stamp cards

9 June

Withdrawal Architects of the Air stamps, pack and stamp cards; National Postal Museum Aircraft post-cards. Note: NPM cards will be withdrawn from Bureau but remain on sale at NPM shop

16 June

Issue National Health Service stamp cards

16 June

Issue Welsh aerogramme. Available singly or in discount packs of six

23 June

Issue National Health Service stamps and pack

23 June

Issue 10 × 1st book with Woolworth promotion. Note: date of philatelic availability, books available from Woolworth stores from early May

30 June

Withdrawal Scottish aerogramme: Nature of Scotland

June

Issue 1st and 2nd class definitives (vertical format), self-adhesive, printed in sheets of 100. Note: on sale at post offices in Scotland and Northern Ireland, Bureau and philatelic outlets. For further details see Royal Mail News.

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Detail from a reply-paid government questionnaire concerning agricultural matters, dated 1866.

Postal stationery rarities

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum • **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, rest of world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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This month

THIS MONTH a major international stamp exhibition will be held in Tel-Aviv. The National Postal Museum will be displaying some rare Palestine material, described by Douglas Muir, Curator Philately, in this *Bulletin*. We are also pleased to publish an article, by James Mackay, on postal links between the UK and Israel.

Two features have a connection with Glasgow – Jean Matheson recalls the Empire exhibition of 1938 and Margaret Morris reminds us that the UK's oldest thematic society celebrates its 50th birthday this month. In Royal Mail News we preview the forthcoming Health stamps which commemorate another 50th anniversary – of the NHS, formed in July 1948.

Life at Royal Mail National's headquarters in London and at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh has been very busy this year with the issue of the Diana, Princess of Wales stamps and planning the forthcoming Millennium issues. Last month Tony Ramgobin, our Director Consumer & Stamps since 1994, moved to a new post developing Royal Mail's electronic services. Until a new Director is appointed, Barry Robinson, Design Director, will also be in charge of the Stamps Marketing and Production teams headed by Diana Kenning and Jon Blackwell. Mr Robinson reports directly to Mr Adam Novak, Director & General Manager of Royal Mail National. Audrey Farrington, Mr Robinson's secretary for many years, has recently retired from Royal Mail. We wish her a happy and healthy retirement, enjoying her passion for visiting art galleries. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR ●

Royal Mail news National Health Service stamps • Self adhesives • New stamp books

Technical details

Printers The House of Questa Ltd

Process Offset lithography

Size 30 × 41 mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 20p ●
two bands others

Gum PVA

National Health Service Four stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of Britain's National Health Service (NHS) go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 23 June. The designs symbolise the work done by the NHS and tell us the number of particular activities carried out each day.

The 20p and 26p stamps (basic inland 2nd and 1st class letter rates) remind us that 10,000 donors give blood and 1.7 million prescriptions are dispensed daily. The 43p and 63p stamps (basic airmail letter rates) record that 2000 babies are delivered and 130,000 hospital patients are seen each day.

The emergency medical services of the Second World War which provided free treatment for large numbers of people proved that a state-run health service was possible. After the War, Health Minister Aneurin Bevan implemented the NHS for everyone living in Britain. The Service was enacted in 1946 and came into being on 5 July 1948. Over the past half-century, the NHS has transformed the health of the nation. Unique in the world, the NHS still provides comprehensive healthcare for all according to need rather than ability to pay. The pride of the people in the NHS makes it a major political and electoral issue, and attempts to downgrade the service



The designer The stamps were designed by Vince Frost using photographs by Albert Watson. Mr Frost, born in Brighton in 1964, has worked on *The Independent Magazine*, BT commercials, *Photonica Europe*, and *Big Magazine*. These are his first stamps for Royal Mail.

Royal Mail First Day Cover



Celebrating 50 years of the NHS

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Celebrating 50 years of the NHS



Many happy birthdays

Before the NHS, most families could not afford the services of a doctor or a midwife. From 1948, women had access to free hospital services for the first time, but these were basic by today's standards. "Women had no privacy," comments leading midwife Lorna Mathfield, and most women "were ignorant about labour. There was no antenatal education, no pregnancy books." Today, the Health Education Authority (a special health authority within the NHS) produces *The Pregnancy Book* and *Birth to Five*, which are given free to all first-time mothers by their midwives or health visitors. Women also have more choice about how and where to have their babies.



Fewer childhood diseases

Immunisation is a cornerstone of public health, simple and cost effective. The last 50 years have seen the development of vaccines against many infectious diseases including diphtheria, tuberculosis and measles. These infections were often fatal, especially for children. Effective mass immunisation campaigns achieved by the NHS have helped to reduce infection and death rates dramatically. For example, in the 30 years since the measles vaccine was introduced, cases have been reduced by 99 per cent. The death rate of children who die before their tenth birthday is now just one-tenth of that in 1948.

2000, increasing provision of family planning services and reducing the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Education work extends to promoting healthier lifestyles by improving eating habits, reducing smoking, and excessive drinking and increasing physical activity.



Healing the wounds

Accidents are the most common cause of death in people up to the age of 30, but only very few admissions to A & E departments (under 1 per cent) represent life-threatening conditions: most are for cuts, grazes or broken bones. The NHS now provides accident and emergency treatment every year on almost 12 million different occasions (each represents one visit each for 20 per cent of the UK population). More than 20 per cent of us will also suffer from depression at some time. Suicide is one of the highest causes of death in young men. Mental wellbeing is high on the health agenda: current targets aim to improve the health and social integration of mentally ill people and continue the dramatic decline in the overall suicide rate.



Prevention is better

The NHS has expanded screening programmes to provide comprehensive health coverage for people most at risk from specific diseases such



Heart disease has increased five-fold since 1980



The last word in care

As patients spend less time in hospital, more receive care in their own homes. Physiotherapists may treat people at home, chiropodists make a million home visits every year. District nurses make 3.3 million visits per year either to people recovering from injury or surgery or to those requiring long-term care, including many older people. Life expectancy has increased by an average of some eight years since 1948 and the elderly proportion of the population is increasing. For those who have degenerative conditions, emphasis on quality of life is important. Community nursing can help to maintain the independence and self-esteem of the most vulnerable among us, so that, despite the limitations caused by disability and disease, living remains a positive experience.

Presentation pack and stamp cards A well-illustrated pack (price £1.85) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, written by Nina Behman, details the many aspects of NHS work.



Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

either nationally or locally are met with fierce resistance. A service of thanksgiving for the NHS's 50th anniversary will be held at Westminster Abbey on 3 July.

Aneurin ('Nye') Bevan was born at Tredegar, south Wales in 1897, one of 13 children of a miner. He followed his father down the pits age 13 and later became an active trade unionist. He was elected Independent Labour Party MP for Ebbw Vale in 1929 and was Minister of Health in Attlee's government 1945-51 and then briefly Minister of Labour. He is remembered for his radical fervour and was the most publicised Labour politician of his time. Bevan died in 1960.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 23 June, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Tredegar (birthplace of Aneurin Bevan) must reach the Bureau by 23 June. Price £2.20 UK (including VAT) or £1.88 overseas (no VAT).

Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (Tredegar postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9809' (Bureau), or 'FD9810' (Tredegar). Collectors can post or hand in covers at main post offices for local (mostly non-pictorial) first day handstamps.

Covers may be posted bearing just the 20p NHS stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 23 June; the normal 1st class rule is waived for the day.

PHILATELIC NUMISMATIC COVER A joint Royal Mail/Royal Mint cover will be available. This bears the four stamps cancelled by a special Ebbw Vale postmark for 5 July – the 50th anniversary of the NHS. Encapsulated in the cover will be the new Health service anniversary coin. Price £12.95, available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Early ordering advised •



Centenary of the Red Cross 1963. The 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross was commemorated by a stamp in the Peace and Freedom set of 1995.

Health on stamps There have been numerous British stamps relating to health and medical matters although this is the first set commemorating the NHS. The first health stamps commemorated important centenaries – of the Red Cross, 1963 and antiseptic surgery, 1965. The discovery of penicillin by Sir Alexander Fleming was the subject of one of four British Discoveries stamps in 1967. The most famous nurse of all, Florence Nightingale, and

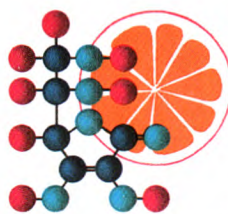
British Legion and district nurses featured in the Anniversaries sets of 1970 and 1971 and the Telephone Centenary set of 1976. The centenary of the Royal Institute of Chemistry set of 1977 features prominently in a medicine/health thematic collection. Artificial respiration ('kiss of life') was shown on the 22p stamp in the 1981 Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme set, and a doctor with baby in a Nigerian clinic on the 17p British Council stamp of 1984. The 22p stamp in the 1986 Industry Year set depicted a thermometer and Pharmaceutical Laboratory representing the multi-mil-

lion pound health industry. The excellent work of the St John Ambulance Brigade was commemorated by four stamps marking its centenary, in 1987. Another centenary, of the Royal Microscopical Society, was commemorated in 1989. Britain has often led the world in medical discoveries – ultrasonic imaging, scanning electron microscopy, magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography all featured on the Medical Discoveries set in 1994. Stamps featuring the disabled were issued in 1975 (with charity surcharge) and 1981 (International Year of the Disabled).

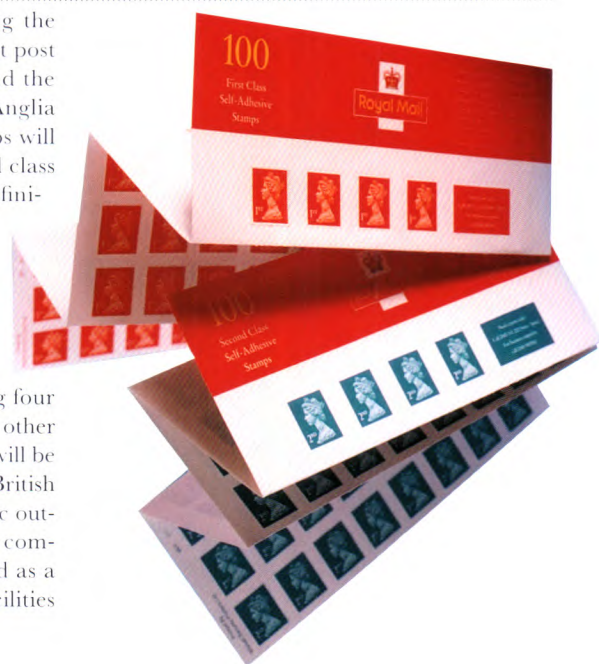
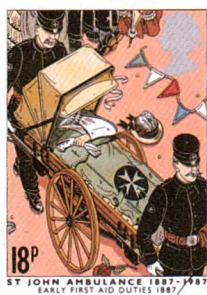
A health thematic collection can be supplemented by many postmarks, such as the hand-stamps used for the Royal Society of Health meetings, and the £1 stamp book of 1995 showing surgeon Archibald McIndoe on the cover. Aneurin Bevan, founder of the NHS, has not yet been honoured, but Clement Attlee, Prime Minister when the Service was set up was shown on another £1 book issued in 1994.

Articles on health/medical stamps, by Tom Wilson, were published here in January 1989 (British Stamps of Medical Interest), October 1994 (British Discoveries in Medicine on Stamps), and January 1997 (Materia Medica) •

Self Adhesive stamps in sheets Following the trial sale of rolls of self-adhesive stamps at post offices in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the South East, North Thames and East Anglia regions, sheets of 100 self-adhesive stamps will be available during June. The 1st and 2nd class stamps are in upright format (as other definitive stamps), printed by Walsall Security Printers in gravure. They have elliptical perfs on vertical sides; the 1st class stamp has two phosphor bands, the 2nd class one band. The sheets – on sale at post offices in Scotland and Northern Ireland – will comprise five sections, the top one having four stamps plus Royal Mail branding. The four other sections are each of 24 stamps. Collectors will be able to purchase singles or sheets from the British Philatelic Bureau. Post offices and philatelic outlets, other than the Bureau, will sell only complete sheets. The stamps are not regarded as a new issue by Royal Mail so no first day facilities will be available •



Centenaries celebrated The Royal Institute of Chemistry 1977, top left; St John Ambulance 1987, left; Royal Microscopical Society 1989, above, stamp showing enlargement of blood cells.





Special promotion stamp book From the first week of May special promotion books of 10 1st class stamps will be available from Woolworth stores. The front cover shows a Peugeot 106 which can be won in a competition. Details of the competition and entry form are included on the inside covers. The books, printed by De La Rue, contain no new stamps. They will not be available from the British Philatelic Bureau or Post Office Counters philatelic outlets until June ●

New overseas stamp book Following a new international agreement for calculating the way European postal authorities pay each other to deliver cross border mail, Royal Mail International revised the basic postal rate to European countries from 6 April. There is now a standard price of 30p to all European destinations. A new £1.20 book containing four 30p stamps and airmail labels (etiquettes) will shortly be available from main post offices and selected retail outlets. Philatelic release from the Bureau and philatelic outlets will be 5 May. The book has been printed by Walsall Security Printers in gravure (cylinder w2) – the first time this firm has printed this value. Like the sheet stamps, printed by De La Rue (formerly Harrison), it has two phosphor bands and elliptical perfs on the vertical sides. No first day facilities will be available ●

Details of the Magical Worlds stamps will be given here next month.

Aerogrammes update Three 'country' aerogrammes will be issued on 21 July in conjunction with the Magical World stamps. Readers are reminded that country aerogrammes, issued with the Lighthouses stamps on 24 March, are currently available from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets.

Future printings of the standard aerogramme (single and pack versions) will be on heavy paper (100gsm rather than 65gsm). These will go into distribution as required. A Welsh version of the standard aerogramme is to go on sale in mid-June. It will be available both singly and in discount packs ●

The NPM in King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, is open Monday-Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free.

National Postal Museum There are three special philatelic exhibitions currently on show at the NPM. The 'Victorian Posts' exhibition, (ground and mezzanine floors), explains the 19th century postal services. In the main gallery (top floor), visitors can see the 'Golden and Glorious' exhibition, commemorating the golden wedding of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The temporary exhibition gallery (ground floor) features 'A Taste of Stamps' showing artwork for selected special stamps, 1979-97. Permanent displays in the main gallery include the famous R M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps, 'all-world' and thematic issues. The 'Post Haste!' exhibition of postal vehicles, letter boxes and artefacts is on the ground floor. The well-stocked shop offers a wide range of books, postcards, and souvenirs; mail handed in at the shop receives a unique Maltese Cross handstamp ●

Stamp scene Crown Agents • Heinz Reck

• School post box • Welsh Philatelic Society

Diana, Princess of Wales stamps Readers may be interested to see some of the designs for the Diana, Princess of Wales stamps recently issued by Crown Agents countries. The stamps are sold singly in the respective countries. Donations to the Princess's memorial fund or local charities are made from sales of the sheets. The countries participating in this series are: Ascension, Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gibraltar, Kiribati, Namibia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, St Helena, St Kitts, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands, Tristan da Cunha, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Royal Mail's stamps honouring the Princess were issued on 3 February and are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic outlets at main post offices. The set costs £1.30, presentation packs (English and Welsh versions) are £1.65 each. The Welsh version is available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets •



Each set comprises four stamps in a miniature sheet format. Above, the St Kitts sheet.

School stamp exhibition *Bulletin* reader Mrs E Grieve of Milford Haven submitted the photographs taken at the Hook Primary School in Pembrokeshire where she organised a stamp exhibition for the children. A Victorian post box was donated to the school when the wall it was in was demolished. The teachers have made a small post office for the children to play in, and displays on the wall are about the postal service. Mrs Grieve comments; 'It's not surprising that there was plenty of interest in starting a stamp club there.' •



Obituary: Heinz Reck We regret to record the death, on 24 January of Heinz Reck FRPSL, at the age of 69. Herr Reck was a leading German collector of British stamps, especially the issues of Queen Victoria. He wrote an interesting piece, accompanied by helpful enlarged photographs, on differentiating the 1988 and 1992 printings of the Castle high value stamps in the *Bulletin* of January 1995 •

Welsh Philatelic Society The Society's January *Newsletter* contains several features on Welsh postal history, ancient and modern, an update to Roger Broomfield's book *The Undated Postmarks of Wales 1840 to 1860* (reviewed here December 1996), and a record of the special handstamps used in Wales in 1997 – taken from the *British Postmark Bulletin*. The Society, founded in 1976, holds meetings and publishes books on Welsh postmarks and postal history •

Enquiries Paul Gaywood,
44 Gillow Road, Kirkham,
Preston PR4 2JS

Exhibition news Spring Stampex • Essen • Brighton & Hove • Stamp Show 2000

Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, 30 September-4 October.

Enquiries Stampex office, 0171 490 1005

Stampex The 6000 visitors to Spring Stampex were treated to a fine display of stamps and postal history mounted by the British Society of Australian Philately, the New Zealand Society of Great Britain and the Pacific Islands Study Circle. These displays contained many rare items and covered all aspects and periods, including such recent innovations as ink-jet postmarks and markings. There were many items sent to and from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific from other parts of the world which were of interest to collectors of other countries. The Editor learned several useful facts about items he collects from material shown in these displays – it always pays to look at such exhibits. The Australian section included stamp books, coils, postage dues, perfins, specialised studies of George VI definitives, airletters and airmails, including a Ross Smith flight cover with vignette flown from England to Australia in 1919. The attractive vignette (label) was affixed on arrival at Melbourne; only 576 were printed and 364 used; it was illustrated in the *Bulletin* of October 1985, p21.

The New Zealand displays included Chalons, the Penny Universal, stamp books and interesting proofs for proposed Royal Visit stamps in 1949 and 1952. The Pacific Islands displays featured stamps, covers and postcards from such exotic locations as the Cook Islands, Hawaii, Christmas Islands (Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean), Easter Island, Pitcairn, Samoa, and Tonga. Congratulations to all three societies for such a feast of fine material.

The entries for the 1998 Exhibition Appraisals Scheme (see December *Bulletin* p107) were on display, covering subjects as diverse as Welsh postal history, Togo, Newfoundland postal rates, British postal orders, and Russian Zemstvos locals. David Harrop once again provided an interesting display from his vast collection of postal memorabilia; this time concentrating on posting boxes •

Essen '98 The 12th International Stamp Fair is expected to attract some 60,000 visitors between 7th and 9th May. Held every other year, this Fair is attended by over 100 dealers in stamps, phonocards and philatelic accessories, and postal administrations. In addition there are many attractions for those who are not so keen on touring the dealers' stands. A special display of Zeppelin mail is being staged by the Zeppelin Airmail Society to mark its 25th anniversary. Another display will recall through philatelic material monetary reform and economic recovery of Germany after the Second World War. To mark the launch of a new Volkswagen model, classic 'Beetle' cars from museums and private collections will be on show. The German Post Office will have a large stand; three new stamp issues will be released on the opening day, also a postal stationery card. Special postmarks will be applied to mail posted at the Fair. The German stamp printers, Bundesdruckerei, will also have a stand. The Fair is open 10.00-18.00 on 7 and 8 May, 10.00-17.00 9 May. Admission includes catalogue •

Brighton & Hove '98 The first national exhibition organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) was held in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1996. This took Aerophilately as its theme. This was a great success and many collectors are now looking forward to the successor exhibitions in Hove and Glasgow which will concentrate on the alternative collecting disciplines and postal history respectively.

Brighton & Hove '98 will be held at Hove Town Hall, 21-22 November. Displays will cover a wide range of philatelic subjects. The THEMEX National Thematic Competition, promoted by the British Thematic Association, will be the largest national thematic competition to date, with national and international, open and literature classes.

The REVENUE COMPETITION will be the first national revenue competition, with a single national class. It is being promoted by the Revenue Society of GB.

The CINDERELLA COMPETITION, promoted by the Cinderella Stamp Club, will be the first national cinderella competition; exhibitions will be in a single national class.

The INTERFED Interfederation Competition will be held for the second time, after initial success at Newcastle '96. The displays will be in three sections: Traditional Philately, Postal History, and Aerophilately. The Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies won the Interfed Trophy at Newcastle.

Apart from the Melville Competition, the YOUTH INTER-FEDERATION COMPETITION is the only other national competition for young collectors and the only one to invite competition between federations as well as individuals. The North East of England Philatelic Association won the trophy at Newcastle '96.

The ABPS is introducing what will become a biennial INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC LITERATURE COMPETITION at Brighton & Hove '98 with entries invited through national federations throughout the world.

A programme of meetings is being arranged to examine the specialist disciplines (thematic, revenue, and cinderella) displayed at the exhibition with sessions devoted to collecting, exhibiting and judging. Speakers from European countries will present different points of view to those normally expressed in the UK •

General enquiries Michael Pullan, Tai Ping, Western Road, Crowborough TN6 3EH.

Competition enquiries

Themex B Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG

Revenue competition

D Springbett, The Abbey House, Huntercombe Lanes, Taplow SL6 0PQ

Cinderella competition

F Kiddle, Punch Tree House, Reading Road North, Fleet GU13 8HS

Interfed M Elliott, 24 Furze Hill Court, Furze Hill, Hove BN3 1PG

Youth Inter-Federation

competition Miss D Day, 92 Grand Avenue, Hassocks BN6 8DD

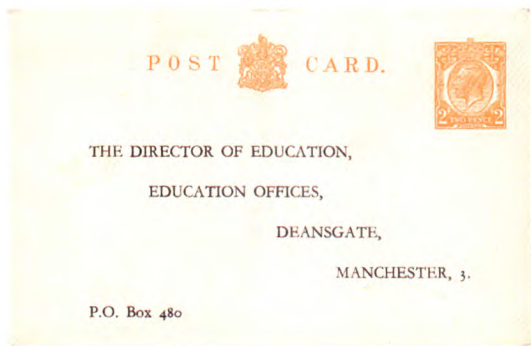
International philatelic literature competition M Pullan, address above

Stamp Show 2000 This exhibition, funded by Royal Mail and P&O Events, will be held at Earl's Court, London SW5, 22-28 May 2000. HM The Queen has agreed to become Patron of the exhibition, continuing a long tradition. King George VI visited the Grosvenor House exhibition in 1950, and The Queen the London 1980 show at Earl's Court. Her Majesty has given permission for material from the Royal Collection to be shown in the Court of Honour. This will feature stamps of George V and VI and rare classic items. Philatelic societies are encouraged to hold meetings at the exhibition and should contact the organisers at the address below. The first exhibition bulletin should be available by the time this *Bulletin* is published. Meanwhile information about the exhibition is available on the Internet – www.eco.co.uk/poevent/stamp •

Enquiries Stamp Show 2000, PO Box 372, Haywards Heath RH17 7FL

Postal stationery rarities by Colin Baker,

part 3: stationery which has been destroyed



Above The 2d George V postcard prepared in 1940 for the Director of Education in Manchester, probably the only postcard carrying this stamp.

Opposite page, top Two reply paid government questionnaires concerning agricultural matters. Since the information was required by law, these items of stationery are now rare and exist only in an unused state or used one way only.

THE authorities in Britain have always been avid record keepers. In order to encourage the return of information to the appropriate government department, pre-paid envelopes and lettersheets were often employed using stationery stamps prior to the adoption of the crown pre-paid symbol. Although these were issued in large numbers by a wide variety of government departments all the forms were eventually destroyed once the information had been extracted from them. The only surviving copies are those which were never returned.

Vaccination certificates The most commonly found official lettersheets are the vaccination certificates which were issued in books, to be used as necessary by Public Vaccinators and Doctors. Most books were not entirely used up and mint copies of certificates can be readily found. Very few copies of other official lettersheets exist today, which include those addressed to The Board of Agriculture, the Inland Revenue, the Admiralty and so on.

Most of the officially printed envelopes were also intended for use to government departments and were subsequently destroyed upon receipt, so that only mint examples remain for collectors today. Most were sent to the Inland Revenue, although the Board of Agriculture and other departments also made use of this system. Parliamentary envelopes are the one exception to the use of official envelopes as these were prepared for use by members of the House of Commons and House of Lords in January 1840, four months before postal stationery was made generally available. Rather than being sent to government departments and being destroyed on receipt, they were posted to a variety of destinations and consequently used envelopes are probably more plentiful than mint examples. But all are very rare since they were only used by a small number of people for a limited period. Consequently, prices reflect this rarity.

Also included in this category is the 2d George V postcard. This rate for postcards was not introduced until 1 May 1940, four years after the King's death. The 2d postcard was produced for the Director of Education, Manchester, at the time when the George VI 2d stamp was not ready. Rather than use two 1d dies side by side the authorities decided to use the 2d George V die which was still available. Once again all the used postcards were destroyed by the Education Department once the information they contained had been extracted. Very few of the unused cards have survived.

Another item of stationery which has only survived in an unused condition is the 1872 telegraph card. These cards were embossed with a one



shilling stationery stamp, sufficient to pay for a 12 word message. They were dropped into the nearest pillar box and on receipt at the sorting office were transferred to the telegraph section for transmission of the message to its destination. The cards were destroyed shortly after the message had been received. Because the cost of buying these cards was quite high, the majority were used for messages and few mint examples have survived.

For similar reasons few examples of the stamped telegraph forms, which were produced from the Victorian period until the reign of George VI, have survived to today and prices reflect this scarcity.

Rare printings When the inland postcard was first introduced in 1870 it was sold for 1/2d, the value of its stamp, but following complaints from the stationery trade that this amounted to unfair competition, the price was raised in 1872 to 6 1/2d a dozen, allowing private cards to be produced and sold on an equal footing. However, by agreement with the UPU no such allowance could be applied to postcards produced for sending to foreign destinations and all overseas postcards were sold at their face value. Consequently it was not worth either the stationery trade or private firms having foreign postcards stamped at Somerset House, and where promotion material was required it became normal practice to use Post Office cards for overprinting with advertising material or other special requirements.

There is at least one known exception to this rule, shown above, the picture postcard impressed with the 1d Edward VII embossed stamp.

Above At the beginning of the 20th century a number of picture postcards advertising motor vehicle and livestock insurance were impressed with the 1d Edward VII embossed stamp. As the company had offices in Chicago it would appear that all the postcards were sent to addresses in the United States, although few examples seem to have survived to today. The embossed stamp on the reverse of this card is shown below.





Above Some advertising rings are very scarce and in some cases very few examples are known to exist, surviving only as cut-outs or specimens.

Opposite page Top, the Edward VII 'Admiralty Official' postcard.

Left, reply cards used from foreign countries are worth looking out for. The Dutch postal authorities have failed to recognise the card shown at the foot, which has been correctly used from Molde in Holland. A tax mark has been added by the Dutch but disregarded in London.

Right, the low value W H Smith advertising rings are reasonably plentiful although still expensive.

Newspaper wrappers seem to have escaped the rarity tag and although they were popular from their introduction in 1870 until the period between the wars, they seem to have remained error free. The one exception to this was the practice of adding advertising rings or collars around embossed stationery stamps. Strictly speaking, the use of these rings was not just restricted to newspaper wrappers and some were impressed in limited numbers on private envelopes.

Advertising rings were either printed in one operation with the embossed stationery stamp at Somerset House or were added later by a private arrangement with outside printers. The latter can usually be identified by the use of different shades of printing inks and a lack of registration between the ring and the stamp.

The most common advertising ring to be found by far is that for W H Smith and Sons who not only distributed magazines and papers by post to addresses in the British Isles, but also to many countries around the world.

Fancy cards In 1872 privately printed postcards were sanctioned providing they carried the pink ½d embossed stationery stamp. The regulations required certain wording to be carried on the fronts of these cards, but failed to specify how this should be done. Some enterprising Victorian printers used all kinds of fancy type and in some cases even added unauthorised coats of arms, much to the dismay of the Post Office. This practice was brought to an end in 1884 when the regulations were changed and the whole front had to be printed at Somerset House. The fancy cards produced by private firms are now difficult to find and will be priced accordingly when they do come onto the market.

Included in this category of rare printings are certain registered envelopes which in one or two cases were manufactured without linen reinforcement, a blue lining paper being used instead. These particular issues were first prepared in December 1934 and appeared again in September 1947. Numbers produced were relatively small. Not many examples have survived and consequently they attract high prices whenever they appear on the market.

Reply postcards for both inland and overseas use were issued from 1882 and 1883 onwards, complementing virtually all the single postcards which the Post Office produced. Finding outward cards with the reply half still attached can be very difficult, especially those sent overseas. Pairs of cards which have been used both outward and return are rare and even the reply halves correctly reposted back to this country are seldom seen. Look out for these, especially those used from the more unusual or distant parts of the world.

Finally, one other category of stationery stamp which must come under this heading is the official overprint of Edward VII postcards for the Admiralty, the only stationery stamp overprinted in this way. All other official stationery kept the additional printing clear of the stamp. Although there are two print settings for the ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL overprint, collectors will be lucky to find one example and can expect to pay a high price ●

For details of the Postal Stationery Society (founded 1992) contact D Taylor Smith, 23 Britannia Road, Norwich NR1 4HP

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
 POST CARD—GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND
 (GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE)

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

REPLY.

Messrs. DRUCKER BROTHERS

25, Great Tower Street, E.C.,

LONDON.



W. H. SMITH & SON,
 186, Strand, London.
 W.C.

Stop after Oct. 28

Lieut. T. V. Wundt,
 Kothenerstrasse, 141,
 BERLIN



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
 POST CARD—GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND
 (GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE)

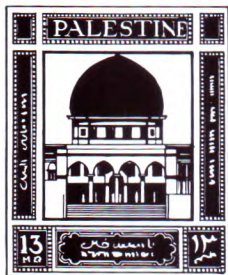
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

REPLY.

Min Sans
 Clarence Villa
 Clarence Road
 England Harpenden
 Herts



Unique Palestine discoveries from 1927



Above The stamps opposite were not the only unique items found at the printers. Above is the 13 mils stamp printed in the issued colour (dark blue) but this time on paper watermarked 'Harrison & Sons, London'. A block of 30 exists which again has a unique specimen overprint, also hitherto unknown.

Opposite page The issued designs printed in the wrong colours: the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem (4 mils, dark green instead of pale pink), the Citadel, Jerusalem (5 mils, bistre instead of orange), Rachel's Tomb (10 mils, dark blue instead of slate grey) and Lake Tiberias (90 mils, cobalt blue instead of bistre). These were printed on unwatermarked paper instead of Crown Agents watermark and furthermore had a unique 'Harrison's/Specimen' overprint never seen before.

IT IS NOT OFTEN that unknown, unique, philatelic material comes to light after 71 years. Yet that is exactly what happened in the National Postal Museum recently when we were asked to display rare Palestine material in the Court of Honour at the international stamp exhibition Israel '98, taking place in Tel Aviv this month.

The museum holds material transferred from Somerset House and the Royal Mint which means in this case registration sheets of the 1918 and 1921 EEF issues of Palestine and artwork and proofs from the first pictorial issue of 1927. It was decided that we would concentrate on the later issue for the display and in order to describe and present the items properly research was undertaken in files of the Royal Mint, the British Library Philatelic Collection and, in particular, in the Colonial Office files at the Public Record Office. A detailed research article resulted.

However, during the research it became clear that some of the original items were missing from our collection. In the first instance four designs had been created in Jerusalem by the colonial Mandate authorities and these had been submitted to London for production. Only one piece of artwork seemed to have survived. Subsequently, as the artwork was not suitable new designs were commissioned by the Royal Mint and these were all present but no registration sheets appeared to be extant.

Enquiries of Graham Dyer at the Royal Mint uncovered one of the missing pieces of artwork produced in Jerusalem together with quite a number of previously unsuspected sketches and semi-finished drawings prepared in London. He also found a number of photographs of the Dome of the Rock submitted by the authorities in Palestine to assist the designer, Fred Taylor, with the new designs. All of these items were generously transferred to the National Postal Museum so that the material would all reside in the same place. Thus all the known design material has come together and has been carefully conserved. What happened to the other two original pieces of artwork is not clear. Those designs now exist only in the form of stamp-sized bromides.

Which left the registration sheets. The dies had been prepared by the Royal Mint but the plates were made by the printers, Harrison & Sons Ltd. Colour proofs exist (in the British Library Philatelic Collection) submitted by them via the Crown Agents to the Colonial Office for approval, but no sheets are known.

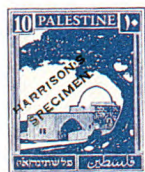
Without much hope of success I contacted John Harley, the Archivist at De La Rue Security Print, the successors of Harrisons, and asked if they had retained any examples. He remembered immediately that there were some sheets and again generously offered to transfer them to the Museum. When they arrived what should have been attractive extensions to the collection suddenly turned into quite remarkable finds.

There was one sheet of each of the four issued designs (see opposite). It would appear that these were colour plate proofs taken especially for the printer's use with whatever suitable colour ink there was to hand.

by Douglas Muir, Curator Philately, National Postal Museum



Fred Taylor (1875-1963) designed the Palestine stamps of 1927, the first pictorial issue. One of the foremost commercial artists of his time, he created many memorable posters for the Empire Marketing Board, the LNER, and London Transport. Photograph by Howard Coster, courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London



All these remarkable finds will be on show for the first time at Israel '98 which takes place from 13 to 21 May in Tel Aviv.

The UK and Israel Philatelic links between



Herbert Samuel Postmaster General twice between 1910 and 1916, his political career spanned 60 years. He was a distinguished philosopher, physicist and a prolific writer, active right up until his death in 1964.

Photograph by Bassano, courtesy the National Portrait Gallery, London.

ONE of the most remarkable figures in 20th century British politics was Herbert Samuel. Born in Liverpool in 1870, he was educated at University College School, London and Balliol College, Oxford. In 1895 and 1900 he unsuccessfully contested South Oxfordshire as a Liberal, but in 1902 he entered Parliament as MP for the Cleveland division of Yorkshire, a seat which he held until 1918.

In 1905 Samuel joined Campbell-Bannerman's government as parliamentary under-secretary at the Home Office. His able combination of humanity and administrative brilliance, notably in engineering the Children's Act (1908) brought him into the Privy Council and in 1909-10 he was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with a seat in the Cabinet.

In January 1910 he was appointed Postmaster General and held this post until February 1914

when he became President of the Local Government Board. Unusually, he had a second stint as PMG, between May 1915 and January 1916. It used to be said that Postmasters General fell into one or other of two categories: there were those for whom it was a lowly rung on a ladder to the very highest office, and those for whom it was a last billet before retirement.

Herbert Samuel came into the first category, and brought to his office considerable panache and style. Interestingly, he was the first Jew to hold this position, and by a strange coincidence his appointment more or less coincided with the appointment of his co-religionist, Sir Matthew Nathan, as Secretary of the Post Office, the top permanent official.

Both men would go on to even greater heights: Nathan to the Board of Trade before becoming Chief Secretary of Ireland, and thus in the hot seat when the Easter Rising erupted in 1916. Ironically, the main battle was fought over the GPO in Dublin, a building with which Sir Matthew had been intimately acquainted during his postal career.

As PMG, Herbert Samuel left his indelible mark, greatly improving efficiency by recognising the postal trade unions and nationalising the telephone service (1912). A man of considerable refinement, he moved in artistic circles and this was almost his undoing, for he insisted that the art establishment of the day should become involved in the business of designing the stamps for the new reign of George V. That the King also had trenchant opinions on good stamp design hardly helped the situation. The result was the debacle over the Downey Heads and the delay in procuring a satisfactory substitute, the Mackennel side-face issue. The Seahorse high values, however, had a much happier outcome.

In 1916 Samuel became Home Secretary, but resigned when Lloyd George formed his coalition government. Defeated at the 1918 general

two countries, examined by James Mackay

election, he seemed destined for the political wilderness, but in 1920 he was appointed the first High Commissioner for Palestine. This was a happy choice, for Samuel was a wise conciliator, a liberal administrator and inspired inaugurator of policy and practical development. A measure of his success (which must have taxed all his exceptional powers to the limit) was that he continued in this difficult post until 1925. Compared with that, his role in conciliating the British miners and bringing the 1926 General Strike to a satisfactory conclusion seems almost commonplace.

He later went on to many other distinguished posts in government before re-entering Parliament in 1929. In 1937 he was created first Viscount Samuel of Mount Carmel and Toxteth, taking his title from his birthplace and his spiritual home in Jerusalem. In the House of Lords he became Leader of the Liberal Party (1944-55). His speeches were always distinguished by authority, lucidity and wit, especially on the subjects of national unity (1939), Indian independence (1947) and Palestine. He was a strenuous opponent of the 1939 White Paper and the postwar partition of Palestine, and it has to be admitted that time has proved him right.

British Mandate His period as High Commissioner of Palestine overlapped with the establishment of the British mandate from the League of Nations in September 1923. Throughout this period the stamps of Palestine were something of a hybrid, originally intended for the use of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (with inscriptions in English and Arabic), but from 1 September 1920 overprinted in three lines of Arabic, English and Hebrew to signify Palestine. Interestingly, at Samuel's insistence, the Hebrew word for Palestine in the bottom line was followed by the letters *aleph iud*, which, to those in the know, signified *Aretz Israel* ('the land of Israel'). Although the Arabs raised objections to this, the seemingly innocuous letters remained, and were incorporated into the design of the pictorial series of 1927-45.

It should be noted that the basic EEF stamps used from 1920 to 1927 were typographed at Somerset House, London, while the pictorials were produced by Harrison and Sons. The overprint, however, was applied at the Greek Orthodox Convent in Jerusalem.

A meeting between Arthur Balfour, Liberal prime minister in 1902-5, and Dr Chaim Weizmann the Zionist leader, convinced Balfour of the need to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine. Weizmann, born in Belarus in 1874, emigrated to England in 1904 where he became Reader in Biochemistry at Manchester University. In 1916 he was appointed Director of the Admiralty Laboratories. Although he settled in Palestine in 1934, he was a technical adviser to the Ministry of Supply (1939-45). The Balfour Declaration of 1917 laid the foundations for the State of Israel, finally realised 31 years later.



Dr Chaim Weizmann above left, President of Israel from 1948 till his death in 1952, was portrayed on two Israeli mourning stamps that year.

Abram Games designed the Third Maccabiah stamp of 1950, top, conveying the impression of speed.

James Smith of Sheffield designed the Songbird definitive series of 1992-95, above.



Orde Charles Wingate on an Israeli stamp of 1984 marking the 40th anniversary of his death.

Jewish resistance Orde Charles Wingate was born in India of sound Lowland Scottish stock. Among his ancestors was Ninian Winzet, a redoubtable opponent of John Knox, and his grandfather William Wingate was a Church of Scotland missionary in Budapest, with the specific aim of converting Hungarian Jews to Presbyterianism! As a British Army officer in pre-war Palestine Wingate's fundamentalist religious outlook brought him into sympathy with the Zionist cause and he helped to organise the Jewish resistance to Arab harassment. Later he would have a meteoric career as a military maverick, first in Ethiopia, and later as the leader of the Chindits in Burma. Had Major-General Wingate lived, he would have been Commander-in-Chief of the Israeli Defence Force. In 1948 his widow Lorna flew over the Arab-Israeli battlefield and dropped his Bible over the combatants as a symbolic gesture of solidarity.

A set of three stamps with matching miniature sheet appeared in 1987 and showed maps of the Holy Land by 19th century British explorers: Christopher Costigan (1835), Thomas Howard Molyneux (1847) and William Francis Lynch (1848). My favourite however, is John MacGregor who made an epic canoe journey across Palestine in 1868-69. In 1988 stamps honouring Jewish underground fighters in Nazi-occupied Europe included Havivah Reik, portrayed in her uniform as an aircraftswoman of the WAAF. Incidentally, Michael Weizmann, son of Chaim and cousin of the present President of Israel, Ezer Weizmann, fought as an RAF fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain and was killed in action off the French coast in 1942.

A 2.50 sheqel miniature sheet of 1995 paid tribute to the *Yishuv* (Palestinian settlers) volunteers who served in the British Army throughout the Second World War. The sheet margins were decorated with the badges of the RAF, Royal Navy and 16 regiments in which Yishuv volunteers served, together with the insignia of the Jewish Brigade Group.

On 17 February Israel issued a 5.35s stamp in memory of Chaim Herzog, the country's sixth President. Born in Belfast in 1918, he graduated in law at Cambridge and was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn. During the Second World War he served with distinction in the British Army and witnessed the liberation of concentration camps.

His father Isaac Herzog (shown on an Israeli stamp of 1984) was the first Chief Rabbi of Palestine (and later Israel) from 1935 till his death in 1959. After the war, young Herzog returned to Palestine, becoming Director of Military Intelligence in the War of Independence. After the Six Day War (1967) General Herzog was appointed Military Governor of Jerusalem and the West Bank. He became Israeli Ambassador to the UN (1975-78), a Labour member of the Knesset (1981) and President from 1983 to 1993.

No account of the British connection with Israeli philately would be complete without a reference to the late Abram Games, designer of the British Olympic 3d stamp of 1948 and Israel's Third Maccabiah stamp of 1950, both conveying the impression of speed; and James Smith of Sheffield, designer of the very attractive Songbird definitive series of 1992-95 (see illustrations on page 275) •

Chaim Herzog was for many years a popular broadcaster, speaking fluent Hebrew with an Irish brogue! He died in 1997 and is buried on Mount Herzl among Israel's great leaders.



Top, miniature sheet in tribute to Palestinian settlers in the British army, showing a Jewish soldier in British uniform teaching Hebrew to survivors of the Holocaust.

Centre, 1987 stamp showing a map of the Holy Land by British explorer Christopher Costigan (1835).

Centre right, Haviva Reik, aircraftswoman of the WAAF, on 1988 stamp honouring Jewish underground fighters in Nazi-occupied Europe.

The Balfour Declaration of 1917 laid the foundations for the State of Israel. The 50th anniversary of this historic manifesto was celebrated by a pair of stamps issued by Israel in November 1967. The Zionist leader Dr Chaim Weizmann was portrayed on the 15a (bottom) and Prime Minister Balfour on the 40a (centre right, above a portrait by H Walter Barnett, courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London).



JEWISH BRIGADE GROUP

1995 1915



הפגשה עם שאריות הפלטה
ישראל 2.50
התנדבות היישוב לעבא הבריטי במלחמת העולם השנייה
YISHUV VOLUNTEERS TO THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
طوع السكان اليهود للجيش البريطاني إبان الحرب العالمية الثانية



חקר נהר הירדן
ויס המלח
כ קוסטיגאן, ת. ה. מוליוה
Expeditions of C. Costigan,
1835, T.H. Molyneux, 1847



...YOUR CHILDREN SHALL COME BACK
TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY.
JEREMIAH 31:17



The Empire Exhibition of 1938 An escape from everyday things, by Jean Matheson



'WHEN JOHN CITIZEN goes to an Exhibition – he wants to escape from everyday things' ruled Thomas Tait, architect of Glasgow's 1938 Empire Exhibition. The temporary buildings in leafy Bellahouston Park were to be colourful, contrasting with grey tenements nearby, while the fountains' changing effects – 'organ pipes', 'Prince of Wales feathers' and 'tiaras' among them – would take on many hues from under-water lighting.

The large site away from the city centre needed its own fire brigade, an ambulance station, and a post office which delivered all mail addressed to exhibitors. In addition to 960 lines for exhibitors, the GPO provided for the exchange – Exhibition Glasgow – over 70 public telephone kiosks and points, stamp machines in the largest pavilions, and 12 post boxes throughout the Park. Mail was collected frequently and date-stamped by a

machine equipped with a special exhibition die. Stamps were available wherever postcards were sold.

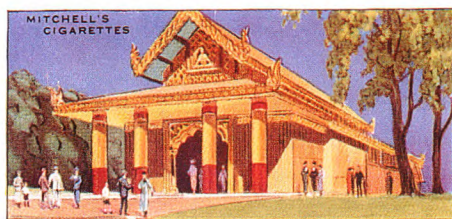
In that summer's almost incessant rain, over 12 million visitors came to Bellahouston, led by the new King George VI, who opened the Exhibition on 3 May, and Queen Elizabeth, who soon said that she 'wouldn't mind a cup of tea' as it was so cold. Restored, she visited the Canadian Pavilion, where the 'Mounties' would be one of the Exhibition's greatest attractions, and bought Shirley Temple dolls for the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose. More gifts awaited them at the 'Clachan', the model Highland village, where the postman cleared the box in its tiny office as the Royal visitors appeared, and offered to the King parcels, addressed to the Princesses, containing books of Scottish songs.

Small though it was, most of the 10,000 postcards sent daily from the Exhibition were posted at the Clachan office, which doubled as the 'village shop'. Out of doors, villagers spun wool which they coloured with vegetable dyes, then wove into tweed, or mended fishing nets. The picture was completed with a laird's castle, old houses from various parts of Scotland, and a highland inn, with seaweed custard on the menu.

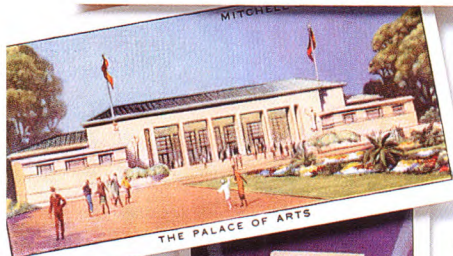
Royal visit Their Majesties lunched on Scottish salmon in the exclusive *Atlantic Restaurant*. Shaped like a liner's prow, it stood on a small hill, and the waiters were dressed as stewards of Glasgow's *Anchor Line*. They then visited the Empire Tower, known as 'Tait's Tower', which commanded views of 80 miles around, and housed a restaurant where trees grew through the floor – Tait's compliance with a veto on felling at Bellahouston.

Valentine & Sons of Dundee was the sole concessionaire for the black and white photographs, and the 'Art Colour' cards reproduced from water colours. All carried the Exhibition logo – a checked lion.





THE BURMESE PAVILION



THE PALACE OF ARTS



THE CANADIAN PAVILION

Cigarette cards issued by Mitchell's, the Glaswegian tobacco company, featured the Exhibition's bright buildings – pink, blue or 'French grey' – some decorated with frescoes.

Acknowledgments

Aberdeen Press & Journal, and *Glasgow Herald*, contemporary Press reports

Empire Exhibition Scotland – 1938, Official Guide

Bob Crampsey *The Empire Exhibition of 1938: The Last Durbur*, Mainstream 1988

Perilla Kinchin and Juliet Kinchin *Glasgow's Great Exhibitions*, White Cockade

At the traditional Burmese Pavilion the King saw models of his Empire's greatest oilfield and an ultra-modern refinery. The Peace Pavilion's carillon rang out 'Here's a health unto His Majesty' as he laid a stone brought from Balmoral on a cairn in the Garden of the Good Neighbour. The United Kingdom Pavilion, where a vast illuminated globe revolved without visible support, and the blue Scottish Pavilions with emphases on

health and town planning, were among the obligatory ports of call, as was the Palace of Engineering with its models of locomotives, liners, dams and bridges.

In the Scottish Farm House kitchen, the Queen talked with cooks preparing traditional fare, and there was time for her and the King to call at the Scottish Church, whose silver font bowl was a gift from her, and at the Palace of Arts to see highlights of Scottish painting, including pictures the King had lent, but they missed – although they surely noticed it – the Post Office Pavilion.

Post Office Pavilion Described in the official guide as 'a series of retreating facades', this scarlet building, adorned with a gold-fluted cornice, stood on a black plinth. 'The whole is topped by a wireless mast which stands nearly a hundred feet above ground level, and has a red flashing beacon'. Inside this striking building, visitors could see exhibits ranging from Great Britain's earliest postage stamps to TIM, the speaking clock, already much-used in London, and soon coming to Scotland.

At a replica of a coastal wireless station, visitors could speak to masters of trawlers in Scottish fishing grounds. Elsewhere, a postman operated a stamp-cancelling machine which could process 600 letters per minute. In the miniature theatre, a revolving stage showed occasions suitable for Greetings Telegrams (but the Guide, mindful of the crowds to come, withheld the 'plot').

There was a model of the 'Tube' railway used for carrying mails under London, but the amazing feature was the building's roof, which would suddenly vanish, leaving those inside seemingly looking into an open sky with moving cumulus clouds. Then, magically, an aeroplane would appear, flying round the interior walls, over maps of the Empire.

Visitors could press a switch to check the times Air Mail letters would take to reach their destinations.

While the Exhibition was not a success financially, it boosted the local economy, attracted many visitors from overseas, and entertained the ordinary people who, unlike Kings and Queens, could relax in Billy Butlin's Amusement Park, join in the competition to find the 'world's largest teapot' and watch Australia's champion sheep-shearer in action ●

Glasgow Thematic Society Margaret Morris celebrates 50 years of one of the country's oldest thematic groups

6TH MAY (Penny Black Day) marks the 50th anniversary of one of the oldest thematic groups in the country. The first Minutes Book survives and makes fascinating reading.

The Glasgow Thematic Society was founded by Captain Philippe Durand, FSA (Scot), a noted pioneer of this branch of philately. He was a regular attendee at the Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain and consistently promoted thematic collecting at a time when this was considered a somewhat childish and laughable activity.

Indeed, in those early days, the Glasgow Thematic Society was something of a refuge for people collecting according to this method. Thematic displays at ordinary philatelic societies or stamp clubs were a rarity and it was comforting to be able to meet other like-minded collectors and to see what they were doing.

Nowadays most societies and clubs have several thematic evenings in their syllabuses and many organisations exist for collectors of individual themes. You might think that because of this there is no longer any need for a group like the Glasgow Thematic Society, but it survives. Admittedly the membership is smaller than it used to be – mainly due to the present wide acceptance of thematic collecting – but there is great enthusiasm and a friendly spirit with no competing.

Unlike the numerous specialist thematic groups which have a widely scattered membership all collecting the same theme, the GTS has a localised membership who collect an amazing variety of themes. It has therefore always been possible for members to split and share a set. In addition, it is most certainly possible for them to share information and it is fascinating to discover how many cross-references there are between themes. One has only to show the latest few pages from a collection and raise a query – sure enough one of the other members will have the answers from his or her own expertise and background.

There is also great interest in methods and styles of writing-up. In earlier times, many of the

*The Maltese Cross Cancellations of Scotland
Some of the distinctive types used*

The Maltese Cross type of cancellation was introduced in May 1840



*Scottish Cross
Small Centre*



*Scottish Cross
Large Centre*

It was used to cancel the Penny Black and later the Penny Red



Greenock



Xhlo



Kilmarnock



Montrou



Perth



Stirling



Stonehaven

Postcard published on the occasion of the Society's hosting of the ASPS Annual Congress in 1990. Details of the Glasgow Thematic Society may be had from the Secretary: Joyce Rose, 38 Muirton Drive, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 3AS.

members were good calligraphers and typing has also always been popular. However, more and more members are experimenting with computers and training their printers to do what they want. It is stimulating to learn about all these trials and members learn a lot from each other.

The Society continues to make its impact on the philatelic scene in Scotland and teams are requested to give displays to other (traditional) clubs. Individual members are well known and in demand as speakers.

The range of themes collected by members is very wide and includes some really unusual ones, but there is special interest in Aviation, Wildlife and of course Scotland.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary, the GTS played host to the British Thematic Association, held an exhibition at the Museum of Transport and had a theme Dinner on board a canal boat. This time, for the Golden Jubilee, the exhibition will be at the Mitchell Library for the whole month of May and the theme Dinner will have a musical flavour.

Meetings are held monthly, on the first Monday, from October to April •

Decimal stamp books 39 Specialist report by D G A Myall

The decimal Wildings Anyone under 30 will not have seen stamps with the Wilding image on their mail but in their day they were very popular with the public and, of course, with collectors. The appearance of the decimal versions has prompted aficionados of the design to declare with evident jubilation: 'The Wildings are back!'. But are they? The stamps are very different indeed from their predecessors. In fact almost every aspect of them has been changed. In this review I want to take a closer look at these changes as I think that they tell us a lot about developments in stamp printing that have taken place in the Machin period and which will leave their mark on future designs.

Paper One of the biggest differences between the paper used for the pre-decimal Wilding definitives and the new stamps is that the former was watermarked.

In fact, the three values with the design by George Knipe exist with three different watermarks. The first of these consisted of the £2R multiple cypher and a flat, 'Tudor', crown. It was first used on the three values from 1952/53. The second watermark still had the £2R cypher but the crown was changed to a rounder version, known as the St Edward's crown. The three values appeared with it from 1955/56. The third watermark omitted the £2R cypher (to meet, it was said, Scottish nationalist feelings) and consisted only of the St Edward's crown in a multiple 'wallpaper' pattern; this is known simply as the 'crowns' watermark. The three values were issued with it from 1958. Since these three values were issued only in sheet form (the 6d coils were made up from sheets) there are no inverted or sideways watermark varieties. There were, however, plenty of other things to interest philatelists.

Collectors recognise two papers with the crowns watermark. They call them 'cream' and 'whiter', the latter appearing from around April 1962. These are inexact terms and the cream paper was itself named 'new white paper' when it first appeared toward the end of the George VI series. However, it is generally agreed that the later



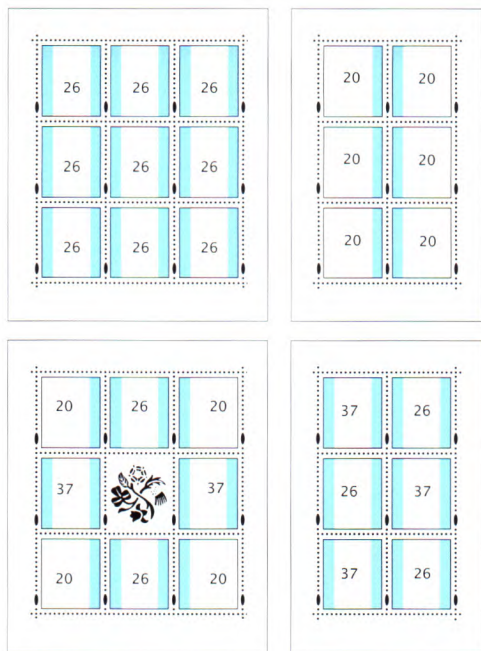
Dorothy Wilding was a celebrated photographer who had enjoyed a long and successful relationship with the royal family. She had been capturing their cameras since the 1920s and took the official portrait of the 13-year-old Prince Charles. Wilding's work has already appeared on commemorative and Commonwealth stamps, those of George VI and Queen Elizabeth II featured on the 1957 Coronation set and the recent Silver Wedding, 1988. This combination of royal philately experience made her the perfect candidate for the definitive postman. She, like her husband and son, had a reputation for being an easy-going and friendly person. Her photographs of the prince and princesses have been used on the 1950s to 1960s and 1980s, were immensely popular, and have a timeless quality.

Wilding paper had fluorescent material added; it is catalogued, with dates of issue, and provides noticeably brighter shades.

The paper used for the decimal Wildings does not have a watermark. In fact, no Machin stamps have been issued on watermarked paper (and no Wilding sheet stamps appeared on unwatermarked paper). Nor does the modern paper have any added optical brightening agent; it appears dull under the lamp when compared with the so-called whiter paper of the pre-decimals.

Gum Gum arabic was used for all pre-decimal Wildings. This is a natural substance with a shiny appearance and a tendency to make the paper, which was made by Harrison, curl. The decimal values were printed on paper made by Tullis Coatings Ltd and gummed with polyvinyl alcohol, a synthetic matt adhesive.

Phosphor Phosphor tagging of British definitive stamps to aid mechanical sorting of mail began after the introduction of the crowns watermark paper (ignoring a few issues on St Edward's paper where the phosphor was combined with graphite lines). There were three different phosphors during the Wilding era. They are known as green, blue and violet, from the colour of the afterglow when irradiated with ultra violet light. These inks were applied by photogravure and typography and the width of the bands was either 8mm or 9.5mm. On some values, notably the 6d, the phos-



Phosphor bar arrangements on the decimal panes, above, and two pages from the Prestige stamp book *The Definitive Portrait*

phor was printed on both the cream and the whiter paper. The phosphor stamps provided plenty of variety and were undoubtedly one of the features which led to the popularity of the series; it was not all down to the design!

The phosphor bands on the decimal Wildings are 9mm wide, applied by gravure and are a development from the violet phosphor but with a different activator. They also have a blue fluor added to the ink to help check that the phosphor has not been omitted in error.

Another difference is that the bands are not continuous down the vertical perforations as they were on the pre-decimal stamps but are both interrupted (short at the top and bottom of each stamp) and inset from the left and right edges of the design. Such arrangements were developed during the Machin era to avoid the phosphor overprint appearing where it was not wanted. These special layouts allow for small phosphor shifts which commonly occur with modern printing; there are unlikely to be any varieties of the decimal Wildings caused by mis-registration.



Cylinder making and printing The pre-decimal stamps were printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd from double pane cylinders made by the traditional acid etch method of photogravure.

The direction of printing (equivalent to the direction of the watermark as seen from the front of the stamps) was upright. The decimal versions were printed by Walsall Security Print Ltd from single pane cylinders made by the new method of gravure in which the engraving tool, a diamond stylus, was controlled by a modern computer. The direction of printing was inverted.

Perforation Wilding sheet stamps with the Knife design were perforated by Grover machines, most of which were sheet-fed with a 2-row comb; there is no trace of swarf at the holes. The decimal Wildings were perforated in the web by a rotary APS machine with distinctive lumps of swarf at the top of the holes.

Both were gauge $14^{3/4} \times 14$ but the decimal stamps have an ellipse at the left and right sides. Incidentally, this is placed one hole lower than that on the Machin small definitives. I understand that this was not intended and that the whole of the print run was affected.

Lettering of the values The three Knipe pre-decimals had the value stated in words. They were not the first Great Britain definitives to have this characteristic; the George vi 7d to 1s values also had it 'for artistic reasons'. The feature has been

retained for the decimal versions but the lettering was re-designed to suit modern printing techniques.

Summary To the philatelist's eye, then, there are many differences of detail between the original Wildings and their modern versions, even allowing for the different colours. If you compare, say, the 6d with the 37p you will find that these superficially similar stamps are in fact almost as differ-

ent as chalk is from cheese. One could justifiably describe the new stamps as Wildings with Machin features!

What next? The Machins will be the subject of the second book in the Millennium trilogy; or, rather, the methods used to print them will. We are promised something special in the next book of the trio and judging by the Wilding books we are in for a treat. I can hardly wait. ●

Books New edition Stanley Gibbons GB stamp catalogue

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue: volume 5 Queen Elizabeth II Decimal Special Issues

The 3rd edition, now available, includes all issues from 1971 until the end of 1997. Like vol 4, published last year, it is now in loose-leaf format, the pages with large punch-holes for easy use in a sturdy four-ring binder. A better paper stock has been used and the text is easy to read. For the most part the quality of illustration is good, but there a few weak reproductions which hopefully might be improved next time.

In their preface, editors David Aggersberg and Robert Oliver (they seem to have been around for ever!) give their considered opinions on the design of the stamps recorded in this volume: 'It is the Royal Mail's intention that the designs of its special stamps should reflect as many aspects of the national life as possible. Within the confines of this brief restricted, rightly or wrongly, by the need to provide balance and avoid controversial subjects, they have clearly succeeded. The avoidance of a recognisable "house style" has provided a rich variety of approach not seen from many other countries. The blend of traditional and progressive is refreshing. Certainly not every experimental design has been a success, but the Great Britain special stamps issued since 1971 form an attractive and interesting collection with more than enough technical detail to appeal to the specialist.'

The technical detail – gum, paper, phosphor and particularly sheet markings – are explained in the introductory notes; the illustrations of the

markings are especially useful for anyone new to the subject. One of the main assets of this work is the listing and illustration of significant constant varieties – not so frequently collected these days. This is a pity as they can enliven a special issues collection, often rather dully restricted to single stamps, first day covers and presentation packs. Sadly in a way, the new technology used for gravure printing will significantly reduce, or do away altogether, with such varieties. The latest catalogued is on the 25p stamp in the 1996 Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust set.

This catalogue is also appreciated by those collecting cylinder and plate numbers, also printing dates and warrant numbers now added to sheet margins. These are listed and priced. Listings include the panes of special stamps in recent prestige books, also the double-head and gold definitives of 1990 and 1997 which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black and The Queen's golden wedding. Intriguingly, the 26p and 43p stamps in the 1997 Tales of Terror set are listed with two different widths of phosphor band; the wider considerably scarcer than the narrower. A commercially used example of the 26p Dracula stamp is recorded but not listed. The 26p gold definitive is known imperf – listed but as yet unpriced.

528 pages (392 in last edition). Price £24.95 from stamp dealers, booksellers, Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or by post from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH, postage £3 UK, £6 overseas. Mail order line 0800 611622. ●

Competition Win an 1884 £1 brown-lilac catalogued £1000

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Omniphil has over 1,000 collectors participating in this approvals service. With discounts like these no wonder their service is so popular. So, if you haven't tried their GB Home Approvals Service before, drop them a line and request their free 220 offer. Tell them if you collect used and mint and any other countries collected too. Reply to: **Omniphil Home Service, Bulletin Free High Cat Offer QV 180 Offer, PO Box 29 Stroud GL6 6RW.**

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: May Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 26 June. Entries must be posted separately, multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

- 1 Who was born in Brighton in 1964 and has worked on *Big Magazine*?
- 2 In which year was the Ross Smith flight?
- 3 What was the name of the Highland village at the 1938 Empire Exhibition?
- 4 When was the inland postcard first introduced?
- 5 Who was appointed Postmaster General in January 1910?

Answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil/GB Select Direct •



1st prize QV 1884 £1 brown-lilac, letters B-H, an average to good used example, few imperfections but fine colour, well centred, single duplex strike. SG 185, cat £1000, GB Select-Direct selling price £220. A stamp missing from most collections.

2nd prize QV 1840 2d blue, letters C-C, good to fine used 4 clear to good cross, small imperfections. SG 5, cat £325. GB Select-Direct price £55.

3rd prize QV 1874 5s pale rose, wmk Maltese Cross, letters I-F, sound good to fine, used example of scarcer plate 2, good colour and no faults, centred SE. SG 127, cat £400. GB Select-Direct price only £50.

The winners of February's competition were M Winter of Middlesex, M Pullen of Staffordshire, and C Scott of Cyprus.

The answers 1) The House of Questa; 2) 25 February-1 March 1998; 3) 2 February 1988; 4) Glenn Morgan; 5) Needles Rocks Lighthouse. Our thanks to all who entered.



Postbag

A cautionary tale My son Christopher, aged 11, has been collecting postcards for a few years, and has now become interested in the stamps themselves. To encourage him, I had the idea of doing something dramatic. I showed him how to trim them neatly and to sort the ones we were giving to charity. I then went to our local stationers and bought a good supply of white blotting paper. The next stage was to make certain that there were no valuable items amongst them, and then I told him to go upstairs and half-fill the bath. When he called 'ready' I gave him a box of stamps which were to be soaked, and told him to tip them in! Dramatic maybe, but not one of my better ideas. It took Christopher and I every spare minute we had over the next three days, this being as long as my wife would put up with them in the bath, to get them out and dried. Leaving stamps in water for three days is, I discovered, not very clever – many of them disintegrated, and others were only removed from the bath by back-breaking contortions!

Please do encourage your children to start collecting, but this is one experiment you should not try to repeat! JIM O'NEIL, HOYLAKES ●

Bulletin back issues Ron Jeffkins has for disposal volumes 6-34 (6-19 in folders) free to anyone who would collect or pay the postage. Contact Mr Jeffkins at 228 Dartford Road, Dartford DA1 3EY. Telephone 01322 227350 ●

Postmark collecting A friend, knowing of my interest in stamps, recently gave me several hundred envelopes from his company's mail. I was intrigued by some of the postmarks, having never really given them much consideration before. I noted several seem to be applied by ink-jet printing. Can you publish in the *Bulletin* the offices using these new postmarks, also sources of information on postmark collecting? M NEVIN, DOVER

Ink-jet postmarks are part of Royal Mail's Integrated Mail Processing (IMPS) development at mail centres in Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Crewe, Leicester, London South, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Preston, Swindon, Tyneside, Watford, Wolverhampton, and Worcester. The main guide on British postmarks is *Collect British Postmarks* published by the British Postmark Society (reviewed in October *Bulletin*, p62). For details of the Society write to: O Constantine, 28 Ystad Gaffa Court, Flint CH6 5JA. The BPS publishes an excellent quarterly journal. Royal Mail publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin* giving details of forthcoming postmarks and articles written by leading postmark collectors. For a sample copy write to The Editor British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. The *Postmark Bulletin* is available on annual subscription (£10 UK/Europe, £21.75 elsewhere) from the British Philatelic Bureau ●

Cover corner

SHOWN this month is a cover submitted by Frank Aldridge of Devon. The cover, produced by Philart, bears the Safety at Sea set cancelled by a special handstamp for the Grace Darling Museum at Bamburgh, Northumberland. Grace Darling, daughter of a lighthouse-keeper, helped rescue men from the stricken vessel *Forfarshire* off the Farne Isles in 1838. She featured on the 18p stamp in the Victorian Britain set of 1987 and on the recently issued English Lighthouses aerogramme ●



Posting boxes 176

THIS MONTH's photographs were submitted by David Trussler who 'spotted them during an Antipodean visit'. One is in Sydney, Australia, cast by Bubb & Son Victoria Foundry Sydney; the other is a Penfold in Arrowtown, South Island, New Zealand. It was cast by P & D Duncan Ltd of Christchurch.

Similar boxes were shown in this Posting Boxes feature in April 1988, December 1992, and December 1993. An interesting article 'In Pursuit of Penfolds in New Zealand', by Charles Muircroft, was published in the Letter Box Study Group Newsletter in August 1997.

For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary: Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces many interesting publications and postcards.



Events

1-31 May Glasgow Thematic Society 50th anniversary exhibition at Mitchell Library, Glasgow. **Enquiries** Joyce Rose, 38 Muirton Drive, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 3AS

2 May South Wales Phil Fed Convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30, admission 50p. Dealers, PO sales counter, displays, souvenir postcard. **Enquiries** G N Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY

7-9 May 12th International Stamp Fair, Essen, Germany. See p206 for further details

9 May Railway Philatelic Group Annual Convention at Guildhall Centre, Grantham, 10.00-16.00. Displays, dealers, etc. Admission free. **Enquiries** F Wilson, 01775 766117

12-21 May Israel '98 international exhibition, celebrating 50th anniversary of the State of Israel, at Trade Fair and Convention Center, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

15 May GB Philatelic Society displays – Presidential Display (B Bird) and Members at British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1. From 11.00. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 01189 344151

15-17 May 22nd Northeast Philatelic Week-end at Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Guest speakers, friendly atmosphere, souvenir booklet. **Enquiries** Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY

23 May Midland Phil Fed AGM and Convention, Hucknall, Nottingham

23 May Sudbury & District Phil Soc Stamp Fair at St Peters, Market Hill, Sudbury, Suffolk. **Enquiries** I G Pittway, 01787 461691

2-7 June Lorca '98 world exhibition for philatelic literature and modern philately at Palacio de Exposiciones y Congresos, Granada, Spain. **UK enquiries** P Pearson, c/o Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1N 1PE

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