

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 36 Number 8

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Bulletin

Millennium Workers' Tale •
Northern Ireland regionals



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover photograph Interior of Lloyd's of London, designed by Richard Rogers Architects, with the podium holding the famous Lutine bell. Financial services are featured on one of Royal Mail's new Workers' Tale stamps – see page 240. Photograph Richard Bryant/Arcaid.

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 and Trafalgar Square) Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

6 April	Issue Millennium Settlers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
20 April	Issue Definitives 7p, 38p, 44p & 64p. A 19p stamp, in olive-green, will be reissued, also the 20p with two phosphor bands – these are not regarded by Royal Mail as new stamps
22 April	Withdrawal Comedians stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
26 April	Issue Stamp books: £1 (1 × 1p, 1 × 2p, 1 × 19p, 3 × 26p), £1.52 (4 × 38p), £2 (1 × 19p, 7 × 26p), £2.56 (4 × 64p)
27 April	Issue Millennium Workers' Tale stamp cards
30 April	Withdrawal 10 × 1st class Harrison book, issued 8 November 1997
4 May	Issue Millennium Workers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
4 May	Issue A United Kingdom of Crafts – three aerogrammes, England, Scotland, Wales
4 May	Withdrawal £1 and £2 machine-vended books issued 5 May 1998
12 May	Issue Stamp books: £1.04 (4 × 1st class and Berlin Airlift commemorative label) and £2.60 (pane of 8 × 1st class definitives and pane of 26p Settlers' and Workers' Tale stamps se-tenant)
12 May	Issue Berlin airlift unfolded pane and Philatelic Medallie Cover – both available from British Philatelic Bureau only
25 May	Issue Millennium Entertainers' Tale stamp cards

Contents



Northern Ireland regionals

Brian Warren describes the decimal issues, in the first of two new articles **244**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. ● **Editor** JR Holman ● **Price** 35p 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

Issues and withdrawals for April and May **226**

This month The Editor reviews this issue **228**

Stamp scene Rowland Hill Awards nominees; Stamp '99 at Wembley; New BPT publications **228**

Royal Mail news New definitive stamps; New stamp books; Pictorial aerogrammes **230**

1998 Bulletin poll The Editor announces your favourite authors and stamps, and the results of our prize draws **232**

The National Postal Museum With its doors now closed, we feature a few of the Museum's many treasures **234**

British migration As the Settlers' Tale stamps go on sale, James Mackay describes a millennium of migrations **235**



Millennium stamps A preview of the fifth of Royal Mail's 12 sets of stamps for 1999 **240**



TPO postmarks The travelling post offices, by Peter Johnson **247**

Decimal stamp books Part 45 by DGA Myall **250**



Bath Postal Museum On its 20th anniversary, by Ivan Holliday **252**

Postbag Letters to the Editor **254**

Competition Identify a special stamp and win new Machins **255**

Events for April **255**

This month The Editor previews this issue



THIS MONTH marks the 75th anniversary of the first British commemorative (special) stamps – for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. The stamps were issued on 23 April 1924, the opening day of the exhibition. Included with this *Bulletin* is the sixth in our Bulletin Publication series, about the Empire Exhibition stamps. It has been written by Alan Sabey, FRPSL, a leading collector of these stamps. On the subject of special stamps, we announce the results of our favourite stamp and *Bulletin* author poll for 1998. My thanks to all the readers who voted and to my colleague Barbara Best who kept score. See page 232 for the results.

We preview the fifth set of Millennium stamps (*Workers' Tale*) and give details of new national definitives and stamp books. April and May will be busy months for GB collectors.

The main UK philatelic events this month are the Rowland Hill Awards Ceremony (8 April), and the Stamp '99 exhibition at Wembley (15-18 April). This will incorporate an exhibition – *Trains 1999* – relating to railway philately, one of the most popular aspects of which is Travelling Post Office postmarks. I am pleased to include an article on TPOs by Peter Johnson, a well-known writer on this subject. The Wembley exhibitions are noted for their relaxed and friendly atmosphere. I hope many readers will enjoy a day at Stamp '99. JOHN HOLMAN •

Stamp scene Stamp '99 • Nominations for Rowland Hill Awards • BPT publications

Stamp '99 The fifth of the popular 'Stamp' exhibitions, will be held at the Wembley Exhibition Centre, 15-18 April. Sponsored by Stanley Gibbons and Royal Mail, it will include attractions for collectors of all ages.



Stamp '99 opening hours

15 April	11.00-18.00
16th-17th	10.00-18.00
18th	10.00-17.00

Tickets & further information

A free ticket was enclosed with last month's *Bulletin*. For further tickets or information phone 01425 461353

TRAINS 1999 The exhibition incorporates a special display of stamps and philatelic material relating to railways, similar to the successful Birdpex exhibition held at Stamp '98. Sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, the British Philatelic Trust and the Railway Philatelic Group, it includes competitive exhibits and a special invited display by Delaey Yannick entitled 'The Railways, We Need You', showing the development and evolution of locomotives and trains. This is the only Railway Thematic exhibit to gain an International Large Gold Medal. The competitive entries, in thematic, traditional, postal history, postal stationery, revenues, cinderellas, maximaphily and open class, adult one frame, youth, and literature classes, include exhibits on Victorian Urban Mass Transit, Austro-Hungary, British railway letter stamps, parcel stamps of Australia and Britain, travelling post offices of Britain, Australia, etc, railway air letter services, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and much else. They will appeal to 'railway buffs' as well as to all railway philatelists. The judging will be to UK National Regu-

lations; those awarded Gold, Large Vermeil or Vermeil medals will qualify for entry into international exhibitions. Adult entries will comprise a minimum of two and a maximum of five frames (32-80 sheets). Trains 1999 is being organised by Francis Kiddle for the Railway Philatelic Group.

ATTRACTIONS FOR YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG Young visitors will enjoy the Thomas the Tank Engine land train, model railways and memorabilia. With the aid of a special activity pack, they can take part in a range of challenges. As they complete these, they accumulate reward points to use in the free auction. The Royal Mail's Children's World will provide entertainment, a design-a-stamp competition, and goody bags for all young visitors. The National Youth Stamp Group, in association with Stamp Active and the BPT will run youth areas. Kids Corner will provide help with collecting, the popular Treasure Hunt, children's auctions, and free information packs for anyone interested in running a school or junior stamp club.

Attractions for adults include philatelic talks and workshops, a free valuation service, and a clubs and societies meeting room. The ABPS and BPT Exhibition Committee will be holding an 'Exhibitors Surgery' for new, potential, or established exhibitors to receive personal advice and guidance by national and international judges. All visitors to the exhibition receive a free exhibition guide and philatelic gift.

ROYAL MAIL SERVICES The Royal Mail stand will sell the full range of philatelic products, including the first four issues of Millennium stamps. A special handstamp will be applied to mail posted at the stand or sent to the Special Handstamp Centre (address opposite). Covers should bear at least 1st class postage and be submitted by the date of the postmark requested ●

Wembley Exhibition Centre is close to the North Circular Road (A406). A free shuttle coach will run to Wembley Park underground station.

The NYSG would welcome any donations of unwanted stamps and covers, particularly on a railway theme, for use at Stamp '99. Contact NYSG, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury OX16 9LB.

Special Handstamp Centre Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB. Please state Stamp '99 handstamp and date(s) required.

Rowland Hill nominations The finalists for the 14 Rowland Hill Awards are as follows. The winners and runners-up will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 8 April and will be published next month ●

ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS

Stamp Innovation Robert Maude, House of Questa, Roundel Design and Richard Green

Product Innovation Philatelic Software Ltd, Antonio M Torres

Journalistic Excellence Keith Elliot, John Holman, Sheila Foster

Post Office Excellence Orpington Post Office, Stratford-on-Avon PO, Newport Sub PO

BPT INITIATIVE AWARDS

Youth Work Edith Rees, Erene Grieve, Pamela Hiscock

Young Collector Joanna Shute, Paul Walker, Scott Ferguson

Authorship Dr K W Statham, Hugh Feldman, Philip Beale

Research Graham Mark, John Scott, Dr K W Statham

Community Work Falkirk & District Philatelic Society, Lincoln Philatelic Society, John Hobbs

Teamwork National Youth Stamp Group, Amersham & District Philatelic Society, Brighton & Hove '98 Organising Committee

New Horizons David Cox, Frank Jones, John Davies

PTS ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Business Enterprise Gerald Bodily, Roy V Jones, Robert Danzig

Retail Development Christopher Mansfield, Rowan Baker, Paul Dauwalder

Personal Contribution David Cox, Frank Jones, John Davies

Please note that the Rowland Hill Awards ceremony is for invited guests only.

Regulations and Guidelines

100 pages, card covers. Available by sending £1 in mint British stamps to British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT

Tokelau/Union Islands

Available from the Trust, address above, price £40, postage £2 UK, £5 overseas

BPT publications The British Philatelic Trust has recently reprinted *General and Special Regulations & Guidelines for the Evaluation of Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions*. First published four years ago (reviewed here September 1995), it provides essential information for anyone contemplating entering major exhibitions in Aerophilatelic, Astrophilatelic, Literature, Maximaphily, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Traditional, Revenue, and Youth classes. The Thematic section has been amended since the 1995 printing. As yet there are no regulations/guidelines for the experimental Open and Social classes. Even those not considering exhibiting may find useful pointers for the formation and arrangement of their collections.

The Trust, in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Study Group, has published the second edition of *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of the Tokelau/Union Islands* by A H Burgess. As a result of further research the book is now more than twice the size of its 1977 predecessor •

Royal Mail news New definitive stamps • New stamp books • Craft aerogrammes

New definitives All stamps are printed by De La Rue in gravure. A pack containing one of each of the four new stamps and the re-issued 19p will be available, price £2.10.



Settlers' Tale Plate numbers (20p) and cylinder numbers (others) and colours are:

20p W1 (phosphor) • W1 (gold) • W1 (silver) • W1 (black) • W1 (magenta) W1 (blue) • W1 (greenish yellow)

26p W1 (greenish yellow) • W1 (magenta) • W1 (new blue) • W1 (grey-black) • W1 (silver) • W1 (phosphor)

43p W1 (greenish yellow) • W1 (magenta) • W1 (new blue) • W1 (grey-black) • W1 (gold) • W1 (chocolate) • W1 (phosphor)

63p W1 (greenish yellow) • W1 (magenta) • W1 (new blue) • W1 (reddish violet) • W1 (deep reddish violet) • W1 (gold) • W1 (phosphor)

New definitives New postal rates come into force on 26 April. The 2nd class rate will be reduced by 1p to 19p, the 1st class and Europe rates remain 26p and 30p, overseas postcard, airmail 1st and 2nd stage rates increase by 1p to 38p, 44p and 64p.

Four new definitive stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 20 April: 7p light grey, 38p ultramarine, 44p stone, and 64p sea green. (The 7p makes up the difference between 2nd and 1st class.) The 19p olive green stamp (first issued 1993) will be reintroduced. Not regarded by Royal Mail as a new stamp, it will not qualify for 'first day of issue' postmarks.

FD envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets, price 25p. Serviced covers with Bureau or Windsor pictorial postmarks can be ordered from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £2.22 UK, £1.89 overseas. Collectors can send stamped covers for these postmarks to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (postmark reference FD DEF 9905) or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (FD DEF 9906). A non-pictorial Windsor postmark will also be available from the Slough Handstamp Centre (FD DEF 9906 NP). Bilingual versions of the Windsor pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks will be available from the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (FD DEF 9906 BIL, FD DEF 9906 NP

BIL). Details of sponsored postmarks for 20 April will be published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Details of new stamp books are given below; no new coils for overseas rate stamps will be produced. Books and coils containing 1st and 2nd class definitive stamps will remain on sale.

The 20p definitive, with centre phosphor band, will remain on sale at post offices until replaced with a two band version. This will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 20 April ●

New stamp books Four books will be issued on 26 April when the new postal rates are introduced. These contain: £1 – 1 × 1p, 1 × 2p, 1 × 19p, 3 × 26p and two labels; £2 – 1 × 19p, 7 × 26p (total value £2.01); £1.52 – 4 × 38p; and £2.56 – 4 × 64p.

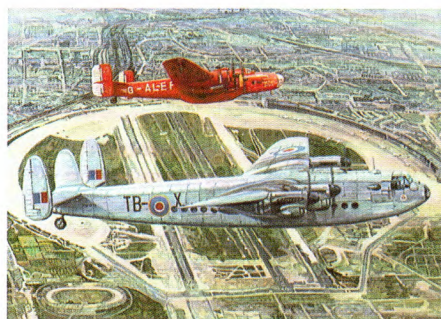
Two new books, both printed by Walsall in gravure, will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 12 May. The first, price £2.60, contains a pane of eight 1st class definitives and a pane of one each of the 26p Settlers' Tale and Workers' Tale stamps printed se-tenant. Note that the 26p Workers stamp from sheets of 100 was printed by De La Rue.

The second book, price £1.04, contains a pane of four 1st class stamps and a pictorial label commemorating the Berlin Airlift, designed by John Gorham. Books will be available from non-philatelic outlets as stocks are required. A Philatelic Medallion Cover (PMC) will also be available, bearing the Berlin Airlift label pane cancelled by a special Brize Norton postmark, and a commemorative medal, price £12.95

There will be no first day postmarks on 26 April or 12 May; any sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* ●

Craft aerogrammes Three new pictorial aerogrammes, one each for England, Scotland, and Wales will be available from 4 May, price 45p each. Entitled 'A United Kingdom of Crafts', they feature glassworking, pottery and weaving (English), basket, crook and Orkney chair making (Scottish), and woodworking, harp making and Jacquard weaving (Welsh). Designed by Navy Blue Design Consultants and printed by Rexam Envelopes (formerly McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd), they will be on sale from the Bureau, philatelic outlets and post offices in the respective countries. The English aerogramme will also be available at post offices in Northern Ireland. Please note they do not qualify for first day of issue postmarks in use on 4 May ●

Bulletin publications Limited stocks remain of three of our earlier publications and readers who still need copies are advised to order as soon as possible. Any remaining stock will be withdrawn from sale on 30 June. The three titles are: Publication no3 *Burns Bicentenary* (published 1996), no4 *British Victorian Stamps* (1997), and no5 *Introduction to Thematic Collecting* (1998) ●



1948 BERLIN AIRLIFT 1949

Berlin Airlift pictorial label

Unfolded panes will be available only from the Bureau, price £1.04

Bulletin publications Price £2.95 each from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT

Bulletin stamps poll The Editor announces your favourite stamps and Bulletin authors of 1998, and prize draw results

IN DECEMBER we invited you to vote for your favourite set of special stamps of 1998, also your favourite individual stamp and *Bulletin* author. This was our 13th annual stamp poll and as in previous years we received a good response from collectors in all parts of the world.

Favourite set As always points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for first choice, two points second, and one point third. This enabled us to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. The voting was as shown opposite.

For interest past winners were: 1986 Nature Conservation; 1987 Flowers; 1988 Linnean Society; 1989 Birds; 1990 Queen Mother's 90th Birthday; 1991 Maps; 1992 Wintertime; 1993 Autumn; 1994 Age of Steam; 1995 Christmas; 1996 Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust; and 1997 The Great Tudor (Henry VIII).

The Lighthouses stamps were not only the favourite set but included three of the top ten individual stamps. On the other hand, the Princess Diana stamps were the fourth favourite set but still included three stamps in the top ten. I was rather surprised that the Christmas stamps didn't score better, with only the 20p amongst your favourite 20 individual stamps.

Favourite stamps The two favourite individual stamps were both from the Endangered Species set designed by Robert Maude, who is the designer of this *Bulletin*. This was Robert's first set for Royal Mail and he was delighted by the result. For comparison the favourite individual stamps of 1996 and 1997 were the Wildfowl & Wetlands 19p and Henry VIII. It will be most interesting to see the favourite stamps of the 1999 Millennium series.

Favourite Bulletin author This was the third year we had conducted this poll and it does not really surprise me that Douglas Myall has scored a hat-trick for his Stamp Books articles. James Mackay ran him a very close second with Dorothy Martin and James Negus third and fourth.

Over 1800 of you cast your votes and a good number added comments about the articles, particularly on the wide range of subjects covered by Jim Mackay and on his informative yet easy-to-read style. It is gratifying that you carefully read and enjoy the *Bulletin* articles.

Draw winners All the voting forms went into the proverbial hat (really a large cardboard box) for the two draws.

The first drawn in the FAVOURITE STAMPS draw was B D Cameron of Kent who wins £250. Runner-up prizes of £50 each were sent to K Tillet of Essex, I Bloch of Switzerland, and D Davis of Middlesex.

Winner of the FAVOURITE BULLETIN AUTHOR draw was Mrs M Staines of Suffolk who receives £100. Douglas Myall also receives £100 as favourite author.

Our thanks to all of you who cast your votes. My thanks also to Barbara Best of Royal Mail's Design Division who, for the fourth year, counted up all the votes. The 1999 poll will be announced in the December *Bulletin*.

Favourite Greetings stamps In the January *Bulletin* we asked you to vote for your favourite of the nine sets of Greetings stamps issued over the past decade. The voting figures were: 1997 Flowers 174 • 1991 Good Luck 158 • 1992 Memories 143 • 1994 Messages 101 • 1996 Cartoons 75 • 1990 Smiles 46 • 1989 First issue 34 • 1995 Greetings in Art 31 • 1993 Gift Giving 29.

All entries went into a prize draw. The sender of the first entry drawn, I Mactier of Essex, was sent £100. Twenty runner-up prizes of greetings stamps presentation packs and first day covers were awarded. Our thanks to all who entered •



Decline in distribution



20 ENDANGERED SPECIES

Common dormouse
Muscardinus avellanarius

Favourite stamps Voting was as follows (stamp numbers as per December *Bulletin* in light type)

Endangered Species 20p 1	148	Comedians 20p 22	23	Queen's Beasts 14	5
Endangered Species 31p 3	145	Speed 63p 44	22	Comedians 37p 24	4
Lighthouses 20p 17	128	Queen's Beasts 16	21	Christmas 43p 48	3
Princess Diana 10	121	Endangered Species 43p 5	16	Speed 20p 40	3
Christmas 20p 45	66	Carnival 20p 36	16	Queen's Beasts 13	2
Lighthouses 37p 19	63	Princess Diana 7	15	Health 63p 30	2
Magical Worlds 20p 31	61	Comedians 63p 26	15	Carnival 43p 3	80
Lighthouses 26p 18	59	Endangered Species 63p 6	14		
Princess Diana 8	56	Lighthouses 43p 20	14		
Princess Diana 9	55	Magical Worlds 43p 34	14		
Lighthouses 63p 21	45	Christmas 30p 47	14		
Magical Worlds 37p 33	45	Health 26p 28	12		
Endangered Species 26p 2	43	Health 43p 29	12		
Princess Diana 11	33	Speed 43p 43	11		
Speed 26p 41	32	Endangered Species 37p 4	10		
Queen's Beasts 12	31	Speed 30p 42	10		
Magical Worlds 26p 32	27	Queen's Beasts 15	9		
Magical Worlds 63p 35	26	Carnival 26p 37	9		
Comedians 26p 23	25	Carnival 63p 39	9		
Health 20p 27	25	Christmas 26p 46	8		
Christmas 63p 49	25	Comedians 43p 25	6		

FAVOURITE SETS

Lighthouses	2566
Endangered Species	2380
Queen's Beasts	1178
Diana, Princess of Wales	1150
Magical Worlds	1109
Speed	699
Christmas	697
Comedians	391
Carnival	266
Health	243

National Postal Museum With its galleries now closed to the public, we feature a few treasures from the R M Phillips Collection



ALTHOUGH the Museum galleries are now closed to the public, the staff at King Edward Street are busy packing stamps and artefacts ready for the move to temporary accommodation at the Post Office Archives. Meanwhile, material not already packed can be seen by prior appointment.

Until the Museum re-opens, we will feature each month some of its many treasures, this time two fine registered covers from the R M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps. The first bears two imperforate 1d brown and three imperforate 2d blue with white lines to cover 2d postage and 6d registration fee. The cover was posted from Truro, Cornwall to Saxmundham, Suffolk in May 1851. Mr Phillips noted on the album page that the registration fee was reduced from 1s to 6d in March 1848. The second cover was sent from Penrith, Cumberland to Lancaster in January 1856. It bears five perforated 2d blue, with corner letters at bottom only, to cover 4d postage and 6d registration. Phillips noted the stamps are the scarce plate 8, watermark Large Crown, perforation 16.

To make an appointment to view any material not already packed for moving, telephone 0171 776 3636

Post Office Archives Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT

Association of Friends Ray Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield, TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825 766546.

Museum publications Copies of the Museum's *Review* of 1996 and 1997-98 are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £5 each. The beautifully-illustrated Reviews contain many features of interest to stamp collectors and postal historians. They were reviewed here in August 1997 and January 1999. Also available from the Bureau are the first four of the Museum's *Special Stamp History* books dealing with the 1929 Postal Union Congress issue, 1935 George V Silver Jubilee and 1936 proposed Memorial issue; 1936 proposed Edward VIII Coronation issue; and 1953 Coronation issue. Price £7.50 each; the 1953 Coronation book was reviewed here in September 1997, the others in September 1998.

Association of Friends The Friends of the NPM remains active, with a series of visits and events planned for 1999. The Association hopes to have a stand at the Stamp '99 exhibition at Wembley (15-18 April), and will be at the Midpex '99 exhibition in Coventry on 3 July. Visits are being arranged to the Royal Mail premises, stamp printers and other museums. Postcards featuring items from the NPM's R M Phillips and Frank Staff collections are in preparation •

British migration

As Settlers' Tale stamps go on sale, James Mackay looks behind the designs at a millennium of migration

THE FOURTH QUARTET in the Millennium series goes on sale on Tuesday 6 April. The stamps are in the same almost-square format as the previous issues and are numbered in descending order from 36 to 33. Four different artists were commissioned to produce the designs symbolising the movement of population within, from and to the British Isles over the past 1000 years.



Migration to Scotland Of the Picts, the aboriginal inhabitants of what is now Scotland, there is now little trace other than in such place names as Pitcur, Pitmain and Pitarrow, or the Pentland Hills (south of Edinburgh) and the Pentland Firth (between Orkney and the north-east mainland). The Picts, in fact, derived their name from the Latin *Picti* (painted), which alluded to their habit of decorating their faces and bodies with dyes such as woad. In their own language they were *Cruithne* or *Pruithne*, depending on whether they spoke a Q-Celtic or P-Celtic language. From the latter or Welsh version came Brythonic and hence Britannic.

The warlike Picti inhabited Scotland at the time of the Roman incursions in the 1st and 2nd centuries, but during the Dark Ages there was a migration of Celts from northern Ireland. The Scoti occupied Dalriada (modern Argyll) and through the Christianising missions of Columba and his followers in the 6th century (shown on two stamps of 1997) gradually extended their sway over the Picts. In 844 Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Scots, inherited the Pictish throne through his mother, and the unification of Scotland had begun.

At that time the land south of the Forth-Clyde isthmus was occupied by other races. The Britons of Strathclyde were of Cymric stock, akin to the people of Cumbria and Wales, hence the many Welsh-sounding place names in south-west Scotland to this day. The Lothians and Borders were occupied by an Anglo-Saxon race whose kingdom of Northumbria extended from Edwin's Burh (Edinburgh) to the Humber estuary. Galloway in the extreme south-west remained a distinct Celtic principality while Caithness, Sutherland and the Western Isles were under the rule of Norse jarls (earls).

Scotland was unified in the generation before the Norman Conquest of England. After the defeat of Macbeth in 1057 and the return of Malcolm III from exile in England, the Anglo-Saxon influence over Scotland was intensified, thanks to the efforts of Malcolm's wife Margaret who belonged to the line descended from Alfred the Great.

Migration to Scotland, by John Byrne, is a reminder that the movement of peoples within the UK helped establish the ethnic fabric of these islands. The Norman migration to Scotland was much less violent than their invasion of England, and the stamp, showing a peace dove and a Norman knight, reflects this. The map shows the border areas in the 6th century.



Robert Bruce, King of Scots, is from the family of De Brus which originated near Caen in Normandy. He was shown on the 4½p stamp in the 1974 Medieval Warriors set (detail above, with his Great Seal). His daughter Marjorie married Walter FitzAlan the Steward, and from them came the Stewart dynasty.

For half a century the Anglo-Saxon influence predominated, but following the accession of David I in 1124 this was replaced by Norman customs, laws and concepts in government and land tenure. To subdue the unruly elements among his different peoples, David imported Norman mercenaries whose success he rewarded with extensive grants of land according to the feudal system recently established in England. In the sense that the Normans were invited into Scotland, their migration to Scotland was much less violent than their invasion of England, but it was all-pervasive.

By the end of the 12th century most of the land in Scotland was in Norman hands, and most of the great Scottish families of the present time can trace their ancestry back to the Normans.

The Pilgrim Fathers Migration from these islands on a large scale began in the late 16th century as a result of the discovery and annexation of land in the New World. Virginia, named in honour of Elizabeth the Virgin Queen, was colonised unsuccessfully by Sir Walter Raleigh between 1583 and 1588, an episode recalled by an American 5¢ stamp of 1937 which celebrated the 350th anniversary of the birth of Virginia Dare at Roanoke Island in what is now North Carolina. The first British baby born in North America was shown with her mother and father in front of their log cabin. Captain John Smith and Pocahontas, the Indian princess, were depicted on two American stamps of 1907, and more recently have featured on stamps featuring characters from the Disney feature cartoon *Pocahontas*.

Thirteen years later, however, came the settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony by religious dissidents fleeing from persecution in England. These were Puritans who had previously left their native Nottinghamshire in 1608 and settled in the Netherlands, but when they ran into religious opposition there as well, they decided to migrate to the New World. They negotiated with a London stock company to finance their voyage and charter two vessels, the *Speedwell* and the *Mayflower*, though the latter ship was the only one to make the pilgrimage. After a voyage lasting 66 days from Plymouth they landed at Cape Cod. On 26 December 1620, 102 settlers (of whom only 35 were actually Puritans) landed on the site of what is now New Plymouth.

In their first year almost half the settlers died of disease or malnutrition. When the first harvest was gathered in, in the autumn of 1621, the settlers gave thanks to God, and thus instituted the great American holiday known as Thanksgiving. The original settlers were initially known as the Old Comers and later as the Forefathers; the term Pilgrim Fathers did not come into general use till the 19th century. American stamps of 1920 marking the tercentenary featured the ship, the landing of the Pilgrims and the compact with the Indians.

Wilson McLean's design for the 26p Settlers' Tale stamp recalls the kindness of the Indians who provided food for the *Mayflower* settlers in their first winter. Below, the Pilgrims give thanks for their safe voyage, in a painting by G H Broughton, 1869.

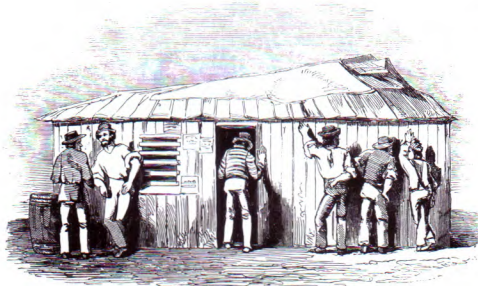


Sir Walter Raleigh, in a portrait miniature by Nicholas Hilliard, and below on Explorers issue of 1973. Raleigh's colony in Virginia failed, but in 1607 the settlement of Jamestown was established. The tercentenary was marked by US stamps in 1907 (bottom). 1907 (bottom). Fritz Wegner's 196d stamp and the US issue, below, both commemorated the 350th anniversary of the *Mayflower*'s voyage in 1620.



Captain John Smith, far left, a detail from a 1907 US stamp issued for the tercentenary of Jamestown. Pocahontas, the Indian who saved his life, also appears in this series, above.

CAPT. JOHN SMITH • 1631



THE POST-OFFICE, SOFALA, TUDOR RIVER.

This illustration of a post office in the gold fields of New South Wales, 'built with timber uprights and window-bars, and roofed with sheets of bark' is from *The Illustrated London News*, 1852. The Australian gold rush tripled the population in a decade.

Mass emmigration Jeff Fisher's design for the 43p stamp alludes to British migration to Australia which began in 1788, shortly after the loss of the American colonies at the end of the War of Independence (1783). That Botany Bay began as a penal colony is symbolised by the ball and chain in the lower left-hand corner. The First Fleet set sail in 1787 carrying 213 marines and 788 convicts (both male and female) as well as the ship's crews. On 26 January 1788 the settlement was established at Sydney Cove. Transportation of convicts to penal colonies in Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), South and Western Australia and Norfolk Island ceased in 1852. By that time economic migration was well under way, as the Colonial Office assisted many thousands (some-

times entire parishes) to emigrate. Stamps of Australia in 1938 and 1988 celebrated the 150th anniversary and bicentenary respectively, the latter coinciding with a joint issue of four stamps by Royal Mail.

Migration to the UK The top value of the series, 63p, designed by Gary Powell, shows a close-up detail of a Caribbean humming-bird, symbolising immigration to the UK. Within the body of the bird is the outline of an immigrant from the West Indies. In fact, for centuries, the British Isles have been a haven for refugees and immigrants, from the Sephardic Jews and French Huguenots in the 17th century onward, who have significantly enriched the life and culture of their adopted land as well as materially improving and enhancing science, technology and the arts in general. Over a century ago there was already a substantial influx of Chinese, Indians and Africans, mainly in seaports. Large numbers of Ashkenazi Jews fled from the pogroms of eastern Europe at the turn of the century and many more settled in Britain as a result of Nazi persecution in the 1930s and 1940s.

The stamp specifically notes the immigration from the West Indies which began in June 1948 with the arrival of 492 Jamaicans aboard the *Empire Windrush* to fill a labour shortage in transport, foundries and the new National Health Service. Two generations later, eminent men and women of Afro-Caribbean descent are to be found in all walks of life, including the Commons and House of Lords. Apart from the Trinidad carnival dancers on a 6d stamp of 1965, Britons of West Indian origin may be found on a number of stamps – the 10p marking the 150th anniversary of the Metropolitan Police (1979), a boxer on the 15p in the Sports Centenaries set (1980), a boy scout in the Youth Organisations set (1982), the children's nativity play (1994), jazz musicians in the Greetings series (1995) and a small boy reading an Enid Blyton story (1997). In 1998 the entire set of four stamps in the Europa series was devoted to the Notting Hill Carnival, which is now the oldest and largest festival of its kind outside the Western Hemisphere •

Seal of Robert I, p236 © Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland, 1999; Raleigh, p237 National Portrait Gallery, London; Broughton Pilgrims, p237 Mary Evans Picture Library; Above, *The Illustrated London News* Picture Library; Right, Hulton Getty



Top row: Settlers' Tale and Australia's bicentenary 1988. Bottom row: Nativity play 1994, Youth Organizations 1982 and Australia's 150th anniversary 1938. Above 'No Prejudice', *Picture Post* 1949.

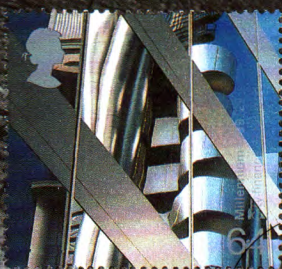
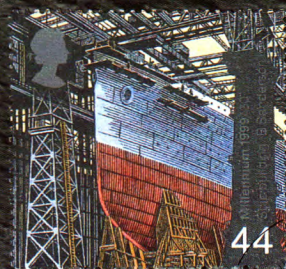
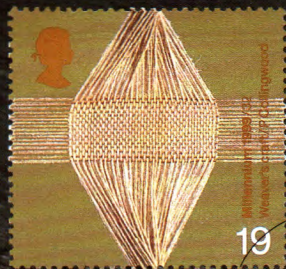
The Workers' Tale

The fifth of the 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued in 1999 is on the theme of workers

Workers' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 4 May

The design of the **19p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) symbolises weaving – the manufacture of textiles has been an important British industry since the 8th century when woollen fabrics were exported to the continent of Europe. By the 12th century raw fleeces or manufactured woollen cloth were Britain's largest source of export income. During the 19th century cotton overtook wool in economic importance.





Peter Collingwood's design for the 19p stamp symbolises weaving – textile manufacture been an important British industry since the 8th century.

The 26p stamp, featuring a northern mill to was designed by David Hockney. Hockney born in Bradford in 1937, and in nearby Sal is a gallery devoted to his work. Designer of 1992 European Single Market stamp, he was made a Companion of Honour (CH) in 1997.

Britain's highly skilled shipbuilding workers: recalled by Bill Sanderson's design for the stamp. Shipbuilding in Belfast featured on 4d stamp of the 1964 International Geographical Congress set. Ships have been depicted many British stamps, most recently the 43p the Travellers' Tale issue in February.

The 64p stamp, designed by Brendan Neil, represents the financial services of the City of London. Buildings in the City were featured on the 17p value in the Royal Mail set of 1985.

Below, the *Majestic*, Britain's largest liner at the time, during refitting at Southampton, 1961. Photograph by A. Hudson, Hulton Getty.

ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM STAMPS 666 1999

The **26p** value (basic 1st class inland letter rate) features a typical scene from the mill towns of northern England where the combining of the cotton spinning and weaving trades into single mills occurred to the greatest extent. Lancashire had the advantage of an established textile industry, a skilled workforce and coal and water for steam power. By 1840, the year of the Penny Black, there were some 180,000 workers in Lancashire's cotton mills. In Yorkshire, the mills processed woollen cloth and Bradford became known as 'Worstedopolis' due to its international standing in the wollen industry.

British textile designs featured on four stamps in 1982. Cotton mills at New Lanark and the Templeton Carpet Factory in Glasgow were the subject of stamps in 1989 and 1990. Textile machinery was shown on a Social Reformers stamp, honouring Robert Owen, in 1976. Flax – the basis of the linen industry – was depicted on the Northern Ireland regional stamps of 1958-69.

Britain's highly skilled shipbuilding workers are recalled by the design of the **44P** value (basic airmail letter rate). Output from the UK's shipbuilders rose steadily during the latter 19th century up until the First World War – the UK production of merchant ships averaging nearly two-thirds of world totals. Production was concentrated on Belfast, the Clyde and the North East which specialised in the construction of ocean-going 'tramps'.

The **64p** stamp (second step airmail letter rate) features the financial services industry of the City of London. Banks from nearly 80 countries are based in London and foreign banks account for more than half the assets of the UK banking sector. London is the world's biggest centre for foreign exchange dealing. Between 1989 and 1995 the average daily volume of dealing in London increased to 36 per cent – more than the combined totals of New York and Tokyo.



Presentation pack This well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) will be available from philatelic outlets and main post offices.

that on average of three people shared each bed in 1848. Yet it was also a time of social experiments. Close to Bradford is Saltaire, the model village established in 1851 by Titus Salt to provide decent living and working conditions for his employees at the mill.

In contrast to country people, workers became consumers, dependent on wages. Money redefined working relationships. Middle-class professions, such as accountancy, in turn developed to 'service' the new industries. Through the division of labour, society was becoming stratified – as well as to modern capitalism, the Industrial Revolution was to give birth to socialism.

Britain dominated the world of heavy industry, too. Massive engineering became possible, so that ships, gargantuan by the standard of earlier centuries, could be launched from the Clyde and the Tyne. The ill-fated *Titanic*, the largest ship afloat at the time, was built in Belfast. Bridging the centuries, between 1890 and 1914, Britain launched about two-thirds of the world's ships and carried

The workplace for many people has changed dramatically in this century, from the mills and factories of manufacturing industry to the offices of the modern service sector.



Buildings in the City were shown on the 17p value in the Royal Mail set of 1985. Interestingly the former PO Headquarters in London is now occupied by the Japanese bank Nomura, and Merrill Lynch, a US merchant bank will be taking over King Edward Building, former home of the London Chief PO and the National Postal Museum.

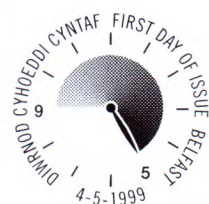
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 4 May, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Belfast must reach the Bureau by 4 May. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 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, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (Belfast postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9909' (Bureau), or 'FD9910' (Belfast). Covers can be posted or handed in covers at main post offices for the Belfast postmark. A non-pictorial Belfast postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the Glasgow Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9910 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Belfast pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD9910 Bil (pictorial) and FD9910 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may bear just the 19p Workers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 4 May.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, also three FDC and three presentation pack pages, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99 •



Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Print

Process 19p lithography, others gravure

Size 37 x 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 x 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p • two bands others

Gum PVA

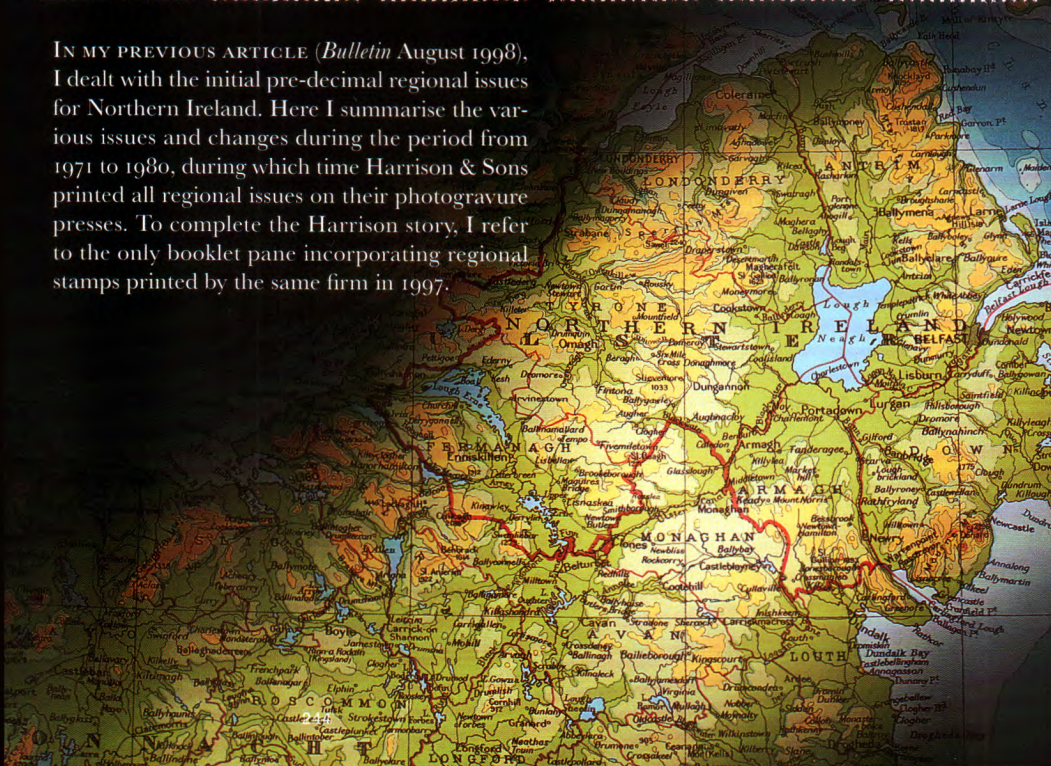


Northern Ireland regionals

Brian Warren writes about the decimal photogravure issues, in the first of two articles



IN MY PREVIOUS ARTICLE (*Bulletin* August 1998), I dealt with the initial pre-decimal regional issues for Northern Ireland. Here I summarise the various issues and changes during the period from 1971 to 1980, during which time Harrison & Sons printed all regional issues on their photogravure presses. To complete the Harrison story, I refer to the only booklet pane incorporating regional stamps printed by the same firm in 1997.



Design and sheet layout The basic Machin head of the Queen in reduced format was used for all regional issues. In addition, each region incorporated an emblem associated with the country. In the case of Northern Ireland, the design incorporated the Red Hand of Ulster emblem superimposed on a six-pointed white star representing the six counties of Northern Ireland together with a crown. This new design by Jeffery Matthews replaced the previous individual designs of the £sd era. Various alternatives for the regional symbols are known and a single copy of an unadopted design of the 2½p value exists with the Red Hand of Ulster without the star and crown of the issued stamps. This unadopted design was reproduced on a privately produced souvenir card issued for Stampex Ulster in 1988. The majority of values were printed in sheets of 400 stamps consisting of two panes (no dot and dot), each of 200 stamps arranged in 20 rows of 10 stamps, the panes being guillotined before issue. Apart from the usual sheet markings, the sheet value totals were preceded with either the words NORTHERN IRELAND or N IRELAND. They appear four times on each sheet, twice in both the left and right margins. All Harrison values were perforated 15 × 14.

The initial issues The first decimal regional issues following decimalisation on 15 February 1971 were issued on 7 July 1971. The main letter rates determined the four values: 2½p (inland 2nd class), 3p (inland 1st class), 5p (Europe) and 7½p (airmail zone B). This basic set of four rates was covered by the regional stamps for the majority of the period between 1971 and 1980. The 2½p value and all subsequent stamps for the 2nd class inland rate had one central phosphor band (CB) and the other values had two phosphor bands (2B). Initially all stamps were printed on original coated paper (OCP) with poly vinyl alcohol (PVA) gum.

The 2½p and 3p values were printed on either the Thrissell or Halley presses and comb perforated on the Grover. Both the 5p and 7½p values came from sheet-fed printings on the LN & M press and were also comb perforated on the

Grover. Subsequently, all values (except the 5½p and 8p) were printed on the Jumelle press, which incorporates rotary perforation on the web.

A whiter fluorescent coated paper (FCP), which gives a brighter reaction under ultra-violet light, was introduced in 1973 and used for all subsequent issues until 1980. The 2½p and 3p values were also reprinted on FCP and are scarce on this paper particularly in cylinder blocks. In May 1993, Harrisons made use of some phosphor, which had been contaminated with a phosphor based on zinc sulphide of a type used by other postal administrations. The Post Office referred to this type as 'yellow phosphor' due to the light exhibited by zinc sulphide, but it is more generally known as 'jet phosphor' by collectors after its discoverer, J E Thompson. It was used on various national and regional definitives but in the case of Northern Ireland, it is only known to exist on part of the 3p FCP/PVA printing. It is actually more common than the normal phosphor type of the 3p on the same paper. The yellow phosphor reacts after irradiation by longwave ultra violet light and is distinct from the then normal violet phosphor, which only responds briefly to short-wave uv light.

Rate changes Rate increases on 10 September 1973 were followed by the release of three new values on 23 January 1974: 3½p, 5½p and 8p. The inland 2nd class rate was now 3p and therefore this value reverted to a single centre phosphor band and issued on the same date. Dextrin was now added to the PVA gum (PVAD). As this is virtually colourless, a bluish-green colouring was added to distinguish it from PVA. All subsequent issues until 1980 were printed on this PVA/PVAD paper. Part of the 3p CB printing was also printed on FCP/PVA paper. The sheet-fed Grover perforator produces an imperforate bottom margin; however perforation encroachment was common on the 3p CB value (both PVA and PVAD printings). Both the 5½p and 8p values were from single pane, reel-fed printings on the Timson press and therefore only no dot cylinder blocks exist for these two values. The 3½p value was the first value to be printed on the Jumelle press.

4 / First local
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10



Pane of prestige stamp book celebrating 75 years of the BBC

Inland (but not overseas) rates increased again on 24 June 1974 and the 3½p value was subsequently re-issued on 6 November 1974 with a single centre phosphor band together with a new 4½p value. The next set of increases was appropriately on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 1975: 5½p, 7p, 8p and 10p. The 5½p was re-issued with a single centre phosphor band on 21 May 1975; an 8p value already existed but 7p and 10p values were not issued given that a further rate rise was pending. The 5½p CB was also a single pane printing and was rotary perforated on the Swedish lawnmower perforator. This method relies on rotary blades shaving off the circles of paper that have been pushed through from the front. This gives rise to particles of surplus paper remaining. The left margin of the 5½p CB sheets exists either fully perforated or with two extension holes. This type of perforator was not used subsequently by Harrisons for Northern Ireland regionals.

Due to runaway inflation, a further increase in postal rates came into effect six months later on 29 September 1975. Four new values to match the new rates were issued the following year over two release dates commencing with the 6½p CB and 8½p values on 14 January 1976. In 1976, the pins across the interpane margin on the rotary perforation cylinder of the Jumelle press were removed, giving a single extension hole in the left margin of dot panes (and right margin of no dot panes). Both the 6½p and 8½p values exist with both types of perforation in the margins. The 6½p CB value was the only stamp during the Harrison period with a change in ink cylinder (1 and 2). New stamps for the overseas rates (10p and 11p) were not added to the series until 20 October 1976.

There was a gap of nearly two years before the next significant set of rate changes on 13 June 1977. Three new values were issued on 18 January 1978: 7p (2nd class), 9p (1st class) and 10½p (Europe). There was no change in airmail rates, only a reduction in weight steps.

A further two year period elapsed before the next round of increases on 20 August 1979: 8p (2nd class), 10p (1st class), 11½p (Europe) and 13p (airmail zone B). A 10p value already existed, but no new regionals were issued for the remaining three rates, as a further rise in rates came into effect on 4 February 1980. A 10p centre band and three new values – 12p (1st class), 13½p (Europe) and 15p (airmail zone B) were issued on 23 July 1980. Phosphor coated paper (PCP), whereby the phosphor is incorporated into the coating, was introduced for the regionals with the release of the three new values which also brought to an end the Harrison period. A summary of the various issues is set out in the table opposite.

Booklet stamps and change of contract The 1980 issue was the last set of regional sheet stamps to be printed by Harrisons & Sons. Harrisons (now De La Rue Security Print) were not involved again with regional stamps until 1997. The prestige booklet celebrating 75 years of the BBC issued on 23 September 1997 was printed at the High Wycombe plant and pane 1 contained one each of the 26p and 37p values from each of the three re-

gions in se-tenant format. All stamps had two phosphor bands and are perforated 15×14 with the now normal elliptical hole on each vertical edge. They were printed on OFNP/PVA (bluish gum) paper. This non-phosphorised paper (NP) is similar to FCP but has no optical brighteners added (OBA Free or OF) and is thus considered more environmentally friendly. Although there have been other booklet panes containing regional stamps, none were printed by Harrisons. In 1981 the stamp contract for the Northern Ireland (and Wales) issues was awarded to the House of Questa utilising the lithographic process. The litho issues will be the subject of a future article •

Harrison photogravure issues

Value	Phosphor	Colour	Issue date	Paper/gum
Sheet stamps				
2½p	CB	pink	05.07.71	OCF/PVA
2½p	CB	pink	06.73	FCP/PVA
3p	2B	bright blue	05.07.71	OCF/PVA
3p	2B	bright blue	06.73	FCP/PVA
3p	2B JET	bright blue	06.73	FCP/PVA
3p	CB	bright blue	23.01.74	FCP/PVAD
3p	CB	bright blue	04.74	FCP/PVA
3½p	2B	grey-green	23.01.74	FCP/PVAD
3½p	CB	grey-green	06.11.74	FCP/PVAD
4½p	2B	steel blue	06.11.74	FCP/PVAD
5p	2B	pale violet	05.07.71	OCF/PVA
5½p	2B	dark purple	23.01.74	FCP/PVAD
5½p	CB	dark purple	21.05.75	FCP/PVAD
6½p	CB	peacock blue	14.01.76	FCP/PVAD
7p	CB	red-brown	18.01.78	FCP/PVAD
7½p	2B	light brown	05.07.71	OCF/PVA
8p	2B	red	23.01.74	FCP/PVAD
8½p	2B	yellowish green	14.01.76	FCP/PVAD
9p	2B	blue	18.01.78	FCP/PVAD
10p	2B	beige	20.10.76	FCP/PVAD
10p	CB	beige	23.07.80	FCP/PVAD
10½p	2B	steel blue	18.01.78	FCP/PVAD
11p	2B	rose	20.10.76	FCP/PVAD
12p	2B	yellowish green	23.07.80	PCP/PVAD
13½p	2B	red-brown	23.07.80	PCP/PVAD
15p	2B	bright blue	23.07.80	PCP/PVAD
Booklet stamps				
26p	2B	rust	23.09.97	OFNP/PVA
37p	2B	rhododendron	23.09.97	OFNP/PVA

Collecting TPO postmarks

by Peter Johnson



Interior of a TPO, Willesden Distribution Centre, 21 May 1997

THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS of railways than can be linked to philately, notably with thematic stamp issues, but the postmark collector will find much of interest, too. This article provides some background information about the postmarks relating to the Royal Mail's travelling post offices (TPO), the mail-carrying trains on board which letters are sorted on the move.

The first experimental TPO of 1838 was issued with a stamp that read, 'Missent to Railway Post Office'. As the network expanded there were stamps reading 'Missent to London & Birmingham Railway Office' and 'Missent to G N (grand Northern) Railway Post Office Day'. Less informative stamps containing initials, such as 'EGW' (evening, Great Western) or 'IRPOM' (Irish, Railway Post Office, morning) served the same purpose. The earliest types contain their message in straight lines without borders; later ones were shaped as stars, lozenges or circles. In contrast, the Bristol & Exeter RPO had its own distinctive circular wax seal, now in the National Postal Museum.

As the TPO network extended further the services were named after the railway companies that ran the trains, Highland, South Eastern, etc, names that became archaic, remaining in use long after the railway companies had ceased to exist. Some services did, however, have more prosaic, geographical, names, London-York-Edinburgh, Plymouth-Bristol, etc.

The first circular datestamps were issued in the late 1860s/early 1870s. With few exceptions the name of the TPO was placed around the edge, within a border. The date was placed in the centre of the stamp, usually in two straight lines. They were mostly $\frac{13}{16}$ " or $\frac{15}{16}$ " diameter. The space above the date was often used to show the time or, by using letters or numerals, to show operational data. This could be an indication to show if the datestamp was being used on a day or a night mail, or an up or a down duty, or to show which crew was using it. A few of the smaller sorting carriages were issued with circular stamps that had no dates. In these instances the name of the service was placed across the centre.

Public access From 1860 the public were allowed, subject to payment of a supplementary fee, to post letters on the TPOs; the supplement was called the late fee and it was pre-paid by means of postage stamps affixed to the letter. Items posted without the late fee were held back and forwarded by the normal service. In 1891 it was decided to accept such items, with a surcharge of double the deficiency being levied on the recipient.

A new type of datestamp was introduced from the 1890s. The outer diameter was 1", the layout as before but the name was separated from the date by an inner ring, $\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter. For services with a short name the space was filled with one or two thick arcs at the base. Collectors know these as 'double ring datestamps with thick arcs'.

This issue was replaced from the 1950s by similar stamps having thin arcs where necessary.

With the introduction of the new services from the late 1980s a policy of standardisation of the layout and style of datestamps was brought in, producing modified TPO titles, too. In particular anachronistic references to 'night' TPOs were removed and side numbers, see later, eventually settled down to be styled as 'No 1' or 'No 2' as appropriate. It was this programme of datestamp standardisation which resulted in the North Eastern TPO Night Up becoming the North East TPO Up from 30 May 1995, for example. The effect of this programme has been to leave only the Midland and Great Western TPOs retaining a pre-nationalisation, or even pre-grouping, railway company name.

Two further matters relating to the datestamps are worthy of comment. The first is that although many services run throughout the night the date is not changed at midnight for administrative reasons. As a result an interesting situation was created for collectors when new stamps were issued. It was possible to buy the new issues at midnight at the 24-hour post offices at King Edward Building (London Chief Office) and Trafalgar Square. The stamps were affixed to first day covers and posted on to Up TPOs that arrived at London sufficiently late for those collectors who hurried to reach them at the penultimate station on their route. The result was a first day cover dated the day before the stamps



A cover posted on the Midland TPO, with the datestamp showing the side number and the direction of travel.

were issued. In 1953 the GPO took steps to eliminate this anomaly. On the nights when new stamps were issued the TPOs concerned were issued with a reserve datestamp bearing the correct date but with the letters AM above it; this was to allow a distinction to be made with the following night's mail which would be cancelled with the same date. The outcome was an even more collectable item for collectors!

Disruption of railway services were closely monitored by TPO collectors in case it had an effect on TPO services when new issues were due, for the regular AM datestamp could then be in the wrong place, requiring alternative arrangements to be made, which could produce a rarity! The use of AM datestamps came to an end when the Trafalgar Square office ceased to open all night in 1981.

The second matter for comment concerning datestamps relates to side numbers, to which a passing reference has already been made. On the longer trips a crew will make a down journey the first night and return with the up on the second night. A second crew will be working in the opposite direction. To distinguish them the first will be called side 1, the second side 2. These distinctions are shown on the datestamps, so it is possible to post on the same train two nights running and get different postmarks.

TPO postings Letters can still be posted on TPOs but the development of the modern railway network and Royal Mail's own network of private stations is reducing the number of places accessible to collectors for posting by the public. It is no longer possible to spend a night at Crewe station and post on up to a dozen TPOs, for none call there now, they all use Royal Mails private station at Warrington instead. Similarly TPOs are no longer seen at the major London termini, because they now use the Willesden distribution centre (*Bulletin* August 1997). Even where TPOs call at main line stations, at some times of the night, when no public trains are expected, they might be locked, making the TPO inaccessible to the would-be poster.

Collectors and enthusiasts who do manage to

find a station open with a TPO standing in the platform should take care not to intrude upon, or delay, the operational function of it. The public is not permitted to enter TPOs and photography on them is not permitted. Collectors posting on TPOs should hand in any philatelic mail as early as possible so that the crew stands a reasonable chance of cancelling the stamps before departure. Affixing more than one stamp to a cover is a method of getting more than one strike, one of which may be legible!

Good strikes of older TPO datestamps and markings are scarce and attract good prices. Impressions can be found cancelling loose stamps that are still collectable. For post-war items the strikes must be clearly legible.

A number of picture postcards featuring or relating to TPOs have been published; collecting them makes an interesting sideline. Some of those dating to the Edwardian period are quite scarce and command a good price. In more recent times several Post Office regions issued TPO postcards which proved popular and consequently are still fairly easily found.

The Post Office Archives (at Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB) is probably the largest single source of information for anyone interested in the TPOs. In addition to the usual business records it contains the Impression Books, their pages bearing impressions of nearly every postal marking ever issued. Unfortunately there are gaps in the collection but many TPO strikes are recorded, some being otherwise unknown.

Information about current TPO postmarks and network developments is often included in *TPO*, the journal of the TPO & Seapost Society. The Society also operates a postal auction that often includes unusual TPO material.

Even a small assortment of TPO postmarks can add distinction to a collection. Whilst additions can be made by buying from a dealer the thrill of the chase for something different by personal posting will add considerably to the enjoyment of building it up •

Details of the TPO & Seapost Society are available from the Secretary, C J Bartlett, 41 Paxton Gardens, Woodham, Woking GU21 5TS

Decimal stamp books 45 Specialist report by D G A Myall



The three new large Machins (from left): intaglio (recess) by Enschedé, letterpress by Harrison and embossed by Walsall.

Right, Czeslaw Slania, engraver of the large intaglio Machin. Photograph courtesy Swedish Post Office.

Profile on Print This is the very appropriate title of the second of the three prestige books publicising next year's Stamp Show 2000. It contains the most beautiful and the ugliest Machins ever issued. The most beautiful Machin issued to date was the £1 black of 1970-72 but this has been overtaken by the large intaglio stamps from master engraver Czeslaw Slania also printed in black. It is interesting to compare these two stamps side-by-side. I find Slania's version more open, with more white space and more delicate shading, resulting in a brighter portrait. There is a timeless beauty about this method of stamp printing and if all Machins were thus I am sure that they would have an even greater following than they do.

By contrast, I think that the letterpress stamps are crude. The lines of shading are few and thick, and the choice of black, with a solid background, gives a funereal look to each stamp.

Both these stamps are in the large format. The third was printed by embossing. Like letterpress, this process has been used to date for the Machin portrait only on postal stationery. At first, this seems to be a rather insipid version, with the portrait and background wholly in white except for the grey indicator, but it really comes into its own if viewed under an ultra-violet lamp. Then, the background phosphor fluoresces brightly, leaving the dark head standing out and allowing the true three-dimensional effect to be seen to advantage. (If you do not possess a lamp, take the book to a local shop or building society which uses one

to check for forged banknotes and ask them to let you see it. You will want to get your own lamp right away!) These stamps were printed by Walsall and are self-adhesive, with simulated perforations. They look a bit fragile and a thin waxed interleaf helps to protect them while in the book. When used for postage, however, they might well get flattened by a thump with a steel date stamp.

The stamps on the other two panes are the normal size and were printed in gravure and lithography by De La Rue and Questa respectively. The latter are identical with Questa's former lithographic stamps, complete with jawline mark and 8mm phosphor bands instead of the now normal 9mm. The De La Rue stamps are, however, a bit of a surprise for the specialist. A special phosphor cylinder was made, (with 9mm bands) primarily to avoid phosphor printing onto the central label, but it results in every stamp having either short or inset bands or both. The direction of printing is also inverted. (You can tell by the 'swarf' method which I described in an earlier article; this is at the top of the holes on the back of the new pane.)

There are other differences between some of the stamps. I have already mentioned the kiss die-cut perforations on the embossed ones. The gauge is 14×15 . It is the same on the letterpress stamps but on the intaglio ones it is $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$. If you count the number of complete holes on the long sides of the stamps you will find 29 on the letterpress version but only 28 on the intaglio one. The

gauge on the small format stamps is the normal 15×14 , with ellipses. The large format stamps do not have ellipses.

One of the enduring attractions of prestige books, apart from the stamps they contain, is the information given in the text. The new book is of even greater interest to stamp collectors than usual. There are descriptions of all five printing methods employed, illustrated with photographs. Both Arnold Machin and Czeslaw Slania are pictured at work. The book was printed and assembled by Questa. In my view, it is the best prestige book to have been issued.

Questa gravure book Last time, I promised to say something about the first books to be printed by Questa in gravure which were issued on 1 December last. The portrait is the new, sharp, image which I have christened head B4. Uniquely, the cylinders were engraved by laser instead of the diamond stylus used by other printers. The very fine screen used gives a pleasing appearance to the head, seen to best effect on the 2nd class stamp. One surprise is that the panes in the two books of NVIs are perforated 14 instead of the normal 15×14 (which was used for those in the £1 and £2 machine-vend books). Count the number of complete holes on the short sides, ignoring the corners; there are only 13 on the NVI stamps but 14 on the value stamps. A single colour cylinder was used for each stamp, Q1 in all cases; there are no phosphor numbers printed. On the books of 10, the number may be found against either the top or the bottom row of stamps. For some time now, Questa's machine booklet panes have

been perforated at the edge of the binding margin. This is still so but the NVI panes are now perforated similarly and a new feature is that this edge now has ellipses.

Questa perforation variety Specialist dealer Mike Holt has told me of an unusual perforation variety discovered on some panes from the £2 book. These have the ellipses two holes down from the top of the stamps instead of two holes up from the bottom. They were lithographed and, unlike the gravure panes for these books, they were printed and perforated in the sheet. It seems likely that some sheets, possibly as few as five, were fed into the perforator inverted. Only three non-cylinder panes are known, so examine yours carefully!

Revised validity notice in books of 1st class NVIs

Since the introduction of a pan-European letter rate in April 1998, a 1st class NVI has not been sufficient to pre-pay it. It seems that quite a few people still think it does and a revised notice (below) is intended to make the position clear. In case anyone thinks that they are not valid at all for overseas mailings, the notice goes on to say that they can be so used so long as the full cost is paid. The new notices will appear on the covers of books issued from 16 March; it affects only the books with 1st class stamps, including the Flowers Greetings book. The books with 2nd class stamps continue to have the old notice. Cylinder numbers seen to date are w2 and Q1 on the Wall-sall and Questa books of 10, and w17 w23 w28 w17 w15 w21 on the greetings book. The cylinder number in the 'E' stamp book (19 January) is w1 ●

These stamps are valid whatever the current postage rate and may be used for First Class stamps up to 60g within the UK. **Please note that the First Class rate is no longer valid in Europe.** However, these stamps can be used in part payment for postage on any item to any country provided the full cost of postage is paid. Information on postage rates is available from post offices.

Postcode enquiries tel: 0345 111 222
Customer Services Helpline tel: 0345 740 740
Monday to Friday (calls charged at local rates)
Textphone 0845 600 0606 (for the deaf and hard of hearing)

Left, revised text in books of 1st class stamps (16 March), and below, Questa £1 books in litho (left) and gravure



Bath Postal Museum's 20th anniversary by Ivan Holliday

Details from two Bath Postal Museum postcards: Penny Black posted on 2 May 1840, and John Palmer, deviser of the Royal Mailcoach in 1784.

The Museum is normally open Monday to Saturday 11.00-17.00; Sunday 14.00-17.00.

For details of events please contact the Museum: 01225 460333.



BATH Postal Museum celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The Museum, which was founded by Audrey and Harold Swindells and which was originally situated in the basement of their house at 51 Great Pulteney Street, opened to the public on 27 April 1979. Bath has played an important part in the development of postal services and friends had persuaded Audrey and Harold that it was the right place to set up the Museum.

First of all, Bath was the home of Ralph Allen (1694-1764), a postmaster of Bath, who organised a system of 'cross posts' in England which joined the major provincial cities. Up to then the mail services had been arranged on the basis of radial routes starting from London. If, for example, one wished to send a letter from Bath to Gloucester, it had to go via London. As letters were then charged on the basis of the distance travelled, the introduction of Allen's direct service considerably reduced their cost. The Government of the day granted contracts to Allen to operate these posts which were renewed until his death, after which they were taken over by the Post Office. He became a very rich man and invested in the quarries which provided the stone for the buildings of Georgian Bath.

Secondly, John Palmer (1742-1818), another Bathonian, was granted licences to operate a countrywide network of mail coaches with a service from Bristol via Bath to London in 1784. These replaced the old system of 'Postboys' on horseback and provided in addition a country-

wide passenger service for the first time. By arranging a rapid change of horses at the various coaching inns, the transit time of the mails was improved dramatically. In the second half of the nineteenth century the mail coaches were superseded by the railways. Both Palmer and Allen ran their businesses from offices in Bath.

First stamp used Finally, although the 'father' of the Penny Black, Sir Rowland Hill, had nothing to do with Bath (he was born in Kidderminster), the very first recorded use of the stamp took place in Bath. The stamps were sent to post offices on 1 May 1840 ready for the official issue date which was 6 May but the Postmaster of Bath, Thomas Moore Musgrave, allowed at least one to be used on 2 May. The one surviving copy, on a small piece, sold at auction in 1990 for £55,000 and is now owned by a far-Eastern collector. Although stamps would obviously play a major part in the Museum, it was by no means the intention of the founders to establish a museum of stamps; the National Postal Museum and the collections of the British Library already covered this field. The Bath Postal Museum would have displays concerned with the development of written communications which would be of interest not only to philatelists but to a much wider range of visitors. The Museum was a success from the word go and got a favourable mention in the *Sunday Times* Good Museum Guide in its first year. At first the Museum was run entirely by volunteers

but in 1982 it became possible to employ a full-time curator. However, it continues to rely on volunteers for most of the staffing. A Society of Friends was established which organises a variety of events including talks and outings.

New premises By 1984 the original premises had become rather overcrowded when a wonderful opportunity arose. The entire building at 8 Broad Street, the site of Bath's Head PO from 1834 to 1854 – the very place where the world's first postage stamp was used on 2 May 1840 – suddenly became vacant. The building belonged to the then Bath City Council who were persuaded to grant a subsidised lease. After much fund raising, the ground floor display was opened at the end of 1985 by celebrity Friends Richard Briers and Leslie Crowther; The Queen Mother sent an unprecedented royal greeting by carrier pigeon. The first floor displays followed in June 1986.

The ground floor is concerned with 4000 years of communications. It starts with clay tablets from 2000BC still in their original clay envelopes and includes a wide range of social and official communications over the centuries – right up to the present day. Recently, this display has been enhanced by the loan of six early letter boxes including the earliest type of Victorian wall box.

The first floor of the Museum is larger, covering both 8 and 9 Broad Street. The main room was named after the late Adrian Hopkins, a distinguished postal historian and former Mayor of Bath, whose daughter, Ann, is a trustee and benefactor. It has displays relating to Thomas Moore Musgrave, Ralph Allen and John Palmer. Other displays in this room change from time to time using material from the archives. A popular display concerns the Wiloughby family – father and son – who were both postal workers in Bath in the period 1890 to 1930.

The Airmail room, organised by acro-philatelic author Donald Holmes, has material from many early flights accompanied by specially commissioned paintings by Dave and Len Hutton. A video on the history of flight, narrated by Richard Todd accompanied by aircraft sounds, runs in this room. An adjacent room is reserved for

special displays and from 27 April we will be running a display depicting the Museum's 20-year history. The video room on the first floor has a programme concerned with the story of the post from the earliest days. This room is also the meeting place of the Bath Philatelic Society.

The younger visitor is by no means neglected. In the basement we have a large children's room which contains quizzes, computer games and a variety of diversions; other activities are included in the galleries. The Museum is always happy to arrange school visits.

Events The Friends of the Museum meet from time to time for talks on a variety of subjects, not necessarily concerned with the post. These are quite informal affairs which are also open to the public and usually conclude with a glass of wine. This year we are planning a series related to the Millennium stamps which started in January with a talk by Mr Robert Lassam on Fox Talbot – the father of photography. The February talk was on the great ships of I K Brunel by Prof A Buchanan and in March the subject was Jenner.

Apart from the exhibition mentioned above, other anniversary events are planned. A buffet supper has been arranged for 27 April and the postal historian Denis Vandervelde has offered to give a display of his well-known collection of 'Disinfected Mail of the World' on 20 May, and on 21 May to chair a problem-solving session in international postal history. It has not been possible to arrange a mail coach run to coincide exactly with the Museum's birthday but it is hoped to have a run in August on the anniversary of Palmer's first London run.

The Bath Postal Museum is independent and self-funding. However, without our subsidised lease from the Bath and N E Somerset Council the Museum could not survive.

Any reader of the *Bulletin* on a visit to Bath would certainly find much of interest in the Museum. With prior notice the Museum is happy to arrange special visits for philatelic societies and other organisations when it may be possible to see some of the treasures from our archives which it is not possible to put on display ●

Postbag

Millennium stamps Can the Millennium stamps get any worse? So far we have: roman numerals, Neanderthal man discovers fire, strange meaningless shapes, half a head by Turner prize winner, airliner polluting the earth, child's painting of angel falling off bike, Thomas the Tank engine in utter darkness, and witch doctor inspecting gent's ear. As stamp collecting is a universal hobby, stamps should be self-explanatory, not left to obscure symbolism which needs notes to inform. I'm afraid the current series of stamps will lose more collectors than encourage more to take up the hobby. Back collecting British stamps February 2001. W HOWARD, THORNBURY, BRISTOL ●

National Postal Museum I was astounded to learn that our National Philatelic Collection is not now available for consultation by philatelists except under special circumstances. No explanation was given as to why suitable accommodation was not made available before the 'loss' of the King Edward Building. Some of the benefactors to the marvellous collection must be 'turning in their graves' (or very angry) to realise that their generosity is being treated so casually. How long and where? are the two questions which need to be answered. REX MORRISON, WORTHING ●

Prestige books As a collector of contemporary British stamps in as much variety as possible at a medium level (ie printers and perforations are in, gums and papers out!), I have particularly enjoyed the way in which prestige books have developed. As well as providing interest in their own fields, these books offer intriguing new stamp varieties and set-tenant possibilities. The *Profile on Print* book is, at the time of writing, anticipated with particular pleasure.

Unexpectedly, I noted an error of grammar in *Breaking Barriers*, with its reference on the third stamp pane to '...speed record breaking crafts'. This should be 'craft' which is both singular and plural when applied to vehicles, ships or aircraft. Too much to hope for a reprint I suppose! GORDON SWANBOROUGH, BROMLEY ●

Castle stamps The relegation of the high value (Castle) definitives to 'low value' Machin status is to be regretted. For more than a century British postal users have enjoyed larger and more attractive high value stamps – not unreasonable in view of the expense and an attractive feature for recipients of parcels. We are now told that the main reason for the change is 'to have a consistent image across Royal Mail stamps on permanent sale, that is stamps whose primary purpose is as a method of payment for posting rather than collecting'. This statement begs two questions. First, for whose benefit is the consistent image? Certainly not this consumer! Secondly, since when has the primary purpose of special stamps not been for posting? Those countries which issue stamps primarily for collectors are those whose stamps rapidly become treated as worthless by collectors and trade alike.

I would be more impressed if we were being told that the changes are being made because po counter clerks have asked for them. That at least would be consistent with their attitude towards special stamps which is often unhelpful, as your previous correspondents have attested. In view of this, might I suggest a further review of Royal Mail's stamp issuance programme. Longer runs of fewer specials would ensure greater availability and more legitimacy of issue. Finally, in case the argument still appears unconvincing, how much thought has been given to forgery – a £5 Machin must be a lot easier to forge than a £5 Castle. OLIVER R J PARR, LONDON W11 ●

Stamps availability and design Further to Mr Strickland's letter (January) I am fortunate in that my local sub post office never lets me down with covers or stamps, even providing traffic lights and other marks. I disagree with Mr Strickland's complaints about our stamps, I appreciate the variety of presentations. Surely the fact that the Post Office wins international prizes for its stamps disproves Mr Strickland's complaints. STAN DIXON, DEREHAM ●

Competition Win blocks of the new £1.50-£5 Machins



January's detail was from the 39p stamp in the 1993 set for the birth of John Harrison. P Hampshire of London E8 won first prize, and 20 runners-up prizes were also sent. Our thanks to all who entered.

SIMPLY IDENTIFY the special stamp from the detail shown above and send your answer, name and address on a postcard (or back of a sealed envelope) to: April Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. The sender of the first two correct answers drawn on 21 May will receive blocks of four of the new £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 Machin definitives. Ten runner-up prizes will also be awarded. This competition is not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

3-18 April Stamp Lincs '99, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Lincoln

10 April Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS Stamp Fair at the Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone, 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** B Stonestreet, 01622 675784

10 April Sussex Phil Socs Spring Convention and Haywards Heath & District PS Stamp Day, Clair Hall, Perry Mount Road, Haywards Heath (near station), 10.00-17.00. **Enquiries** 01444 811004

15-18 April Stamp '99 and Trains 1999 at Wembley Exhibition Centre. See Stamp Scene for details

17 April Exeter & District PS Stamp Exhibition & Fair at Priory High School, Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. Wessex Federation event, Children's Corner. **Enquiries** A Pavey, 01392 366044

17 April Camberley and District Stamp Club Public auction at Morgan Centre, High Street, Crowthorne. Viewing from 11.30, bidding 14.00. Approx 700 lots.

Catalogues, 30p, from Dr J F Pugh, 14 Hillsborough Park, Camberley GU15 1HG

19 April EMPEX '99 East Midlands Federation Annual Convention, Luton

24 April Railway Philatelic Group Annual Convention at Parish Church Hall, Clitheroe, Lancs. **Enquiries** Dr A Goodbody, Hawthorn House, Waddington Road, Clitheroe BB7 2JE

24 April North East of England Phil Assn Convention at Morton Park Business Centre, Darlington. NPS and invited displays from French and German twin towns

24 April Surrey Phil Socs Spring Convention, hosted by Wimbledon PS, at Community Centre, St George's Road, London SW19, 10.00-16.30. Exhibits, dealers, etc. **Enquiries** R Downing 0181 677 0455

27 April Opening of exhibition marking 20th anniversary of Museum at Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath BA1 5LJ. **Enquiries** 01225 460333 •

ROYAL MAIL CYBER STAMPS



For the first time, stamp enthusiasts can now access the facts behind Royal Mail's Millennium Collection via a new website at www.millenniumstamps.co.uk. You can discover the details behind each stamp by selecting: the month of issue, the inspiration behind the design, or the biography of the artist who designed it. Other areas include a news and events page, an interactive area for children and you can even buy the Millennium Collection online.

The website will help broaden the appeal of stamp collecting and will be updated each month as each set of Millennium Stamps is launched. The site will prove especially popular with children who will be able to see a virtual album filling up as the Millennium Collection grows. More interactivity is planned for later in the year to help maintain stamp collecting as a modern, fun hobby for people of all ages. Remember the address: www.millenniumstamps.co.uk.

