

July 1995



Royal Mail

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 32. No: 11 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 75p



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British Philatelic Bulletin

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Main Feature

Air Mails During the 1919 Railway Strike 330

Part 2 of Richard Beith's study on early airmail services and surviving covers.
(Continued from June Bulletin)



Airco DH 10 G-EAJO used to carry mail during the 1919 strike

Royal Mail News

New Definitive Stamps

Two new definitive stamps – one low value and one high value – will be available at post offices and philatelic outlets from 22 August. The £1 stamp will no longer be part of the high value range, now being issued in the Machin series. It will be printed, in mauve, in the same format as other low value stamps from 1p to 60p. As a security device the stamp is being printed in a special "Iridodin" ink which gives the background a somewhat metallic sheen.

The design of the current £1 high value, showing Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland, will now be used for a new £3 stamp, printed in purple.

Supplies of the £1 Carrickfergus stamp will be sold to exhaustion at post offices. Collectors will be able to obtain this stamp from the Bureau and philatelic outlets until further notice.



Carrickfergus Castle was built in c1180, in the reign of Henry II, by John de Courcy, and commands a strategic position at the entrance to Belfast Lough. The borough of Carrickfergus, which now has a population of 33,600, developed as an important town long before Belfast. The castle was frequently attacked, in

1204 King John recaptured it from the Earl of Ulster and in 1689 troops loyal to James II/VII were forced to surrender it to the forces of William III. The following year King Billy stepped ashore at Carrickfergus on his way to the Battle of the Boyne. The castle was garrisoned until 1928 and in 1961 The Queen landed at Carrickfergus at the start of a Royal tour of Northern Ireland.

The design of the new £3 stamp was first used on the £1 stamp issued on 18 October 1988. This was withdrawn in March 1992 and replaced by a stamp of similar design, but re-engraved and with a silhouette rather than a line-engraved head of The Queen. An "enhanced" version of the 1992 stamp went into distribution late in 1994.

The engraving of the castle is based on a photograph taken by HRH The Duke of York, who was pictured taking the photograph in the *Bulletin* of September 1988 (page 4).

Technical details

£1 stamp

Printers: Joh Enschedé et Zonen

Process: Photogravure

Size: 20 x 24mm

Sheets: 200

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: 2 phosphor bands

Paper: OBA free (OBA = Optical Brightening Agent)

Gum: PVA

£3 stamp

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Intaglio (Recess)

Size: 41 x 30mm

Sheets: 100 (4 panes of 25)

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: None

Paper: OBA free

Gum: PVA Dextrin

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 22 August, price 25p. There will be separate envelopes for the £1 and £3 stamps.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail covers bearing the £1 stamp cancelled with a



pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Windsor, or cover bearing the £3 stamp with Bureau or Carrickfergus postmark. Prices: £1 stamp – £1.59 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.36 overseas (no VAT); £3 stamp – £3.94 UK, £3.36 overseas. Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 22 August 1995.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, SLOUGH SL1 1AA (Windsor postmark) or Scotland/N Ireland SHC, Royal Mail, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA (Carrickfergus). The outer envelope should be endorsed "FD9516A" (Bureau), "FD9516B" (Windsor) or "FD9516C" (Carrickfergus).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

A presentation pack containing the new £3 stamp will be produced, price £3.35. This will be available, from 22 August, from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices. There will be no pack for the £1 - this stamp will be included in the Low Value Pack in due course.

Stamp cards reproducing the designs of the new £1 and £3 stamps will be available from the Bureau, POC philatelic outlets, and main post offices about one week before 22 August. Price 25p each.

£1 High Value Definitive

A number of readers commented on the usefulness of the illustrations and descriptions of

the "old" and "new" printings of the £1, £1.50 and £2 Castle high values in the April *Bulletin*. A number reported they could not find the "small window" referred to on the old printing of the £1 and clearly seen, below the top window at left on the illustration published. It would appear that this is a plate flaw (possibly constant on a particular plate) on the example examined by the Editor and is best not used for identification purposes. The new printing should thus be differentiated by the other distinguishing features mentioned: less lines on the small boat alongside the launch at right; more prominent windows on second boat from left. These appear to be constant. Unfortunately there is not such a clear shade difference between the two £1 stamps, as noticed for the £1.50 and £2 values. The new £1 has a somewhat "bottle green" shade; whereas the old printing is more "emerald green". We hope these notes prove of help to collectors sorting stamps between the two printings, and regret any confusion caused by the illustration used in April.

New Aerogrammes



A Youth Olympics aerogramme will go on sale at post offices on 4 July, price 45p. Seven pictorial aerogrammes, featuring Railways, are expected to go on sale during September. Six standard sized aerogrammes will be issued in a pack, a larger size aerogramme issued separately – as the Birds aerogrammes of 1994. It is hoped to give further details of the Railway aerogrammes next month.

A new Scottish aerogramme entitled "Pre-

Historic Scotland" will go on sale at the 2135 post offices throughout Scotland and at the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets on 18 July, price 45p. The aerogramme, designed by Tayburn Design has been printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd. It features the Standing Stones of Callanish, Western Isles; Jarlshoff, Shetland Isles, and Skara Brae, Orkney Isles. An article on Pre-Historic Scotland, by Dr James Mackay, is published in this *Bulletin*.

Two other Scottish aerogrammes are still available from the Bureau: Gordon Highlanders (to be withdrawn 18 July 1995) and Glasgow School of Art (issued 4 April 1995), price 45p each. Scottish aerogrammes were introduced in 1974, the Pre-Historic Scotland will be the 42nd in the series.



New Priority Service Envelopes

New envelopes for Special Delivery, Registered, and Registered Plus services are in preparation, produced from "plastic" rather than "paper" material. Six envelopes – two sizes for each of the three services – will go on sale at post offices from 7 August onwards. They may not be available at all offices on 7 August. The old-style "paper" envelopes (Guaranteed Delivery and Registered Plus), will be withdrawn from use as the new envelopes become available. The new envelopes will be stocked by the British Philatelic Bureau, but will not be available from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets.

New NPM Postcards

The National Postal Museum will issue four new cards depicting postal uniforms on 8 August, day of issue of the Shakespeare's Globe stamps. The cards will be available to callers at the Museum's shop (25p each), or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (£1 per set). A special Museum handstamp will be used on 8 August. Collectors may send cards/covers to receive this handstamp to: London Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, Farringdon

Road, LONDON EC1A 1BB. Please request "Museum special – 8 August". The Museum's regular Maltese Cross cancel will also be available – ask for handstamp 1985.

The Museum's *Review of 1994* has recently been published and is available from the NPM shop or from the Bureau, price £5. It will be reviewed here shortly

The National Postal Museum is situated in King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP, a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station. Open Monday-Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free. Permanent displays include the UPU Collection of World Stamps and the R M Phillips Collection of British stamps of the 19th century. A report on the "Victorian Posts" special exhibition will be published here shortly

British Life Stamped on Worldwide Poster

The British way of life and its contribution to world events is depicted in stamps on a new poster being distributed worldwide. The varied collection of stamps old and new have been laid out in the shape of Britain, telling their own story of the country and its traditions. A joint project between Royal Mail and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the eye catching poster entitled "First Post" also represents the breadth of design talent used in stamp issues throughout the years.

Barry Robinson, Royal Mail's Design Director, said: "Through the diverse designs of our many different stamp issues the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is able to tell a concentrated story about Britain's rich heritage, its achievements and contributions to world events as well as our way of life. The poster is not only educational but attractive to look at and mirrors the depth, range and vitality of the creative skills we have available."

Designed by Trickett and Webb, the 60 x 84cm poster features a pictorial history of definitive stamps showing successive monarchs through 150 years on one side and the UK stamp "map" on the other. A broad range of subjects are covered by the choice of stamps used, from sport and wildlife to social reform and exploration, each carrying a brief description of the stamps and their topic.

Ten thousand copies of the poster are being distributed through 220 British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates around the world, which will be able to order further copies, including foreign language versions, for industry, schools and colleges.

First Post

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Copies of the poster, price £6.50, are available in person from the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP, Tel. 0171-239 5420. Overseas the poster can be obtained free from British Embassies.

RSA Postage Stamp Design Competition

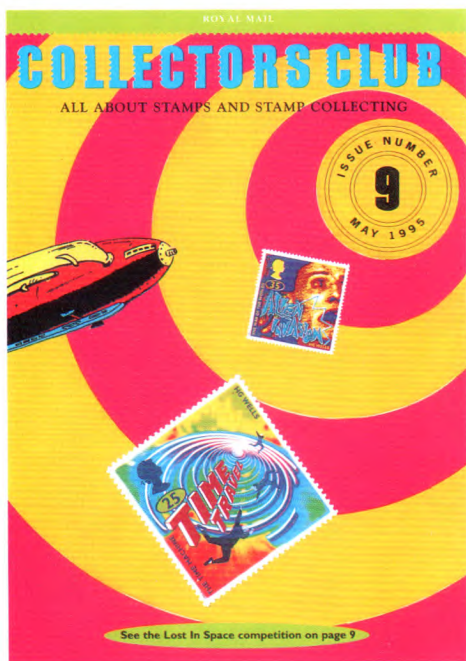
Each year since 1971 Royal Mail has sponsored the Postage Stamp section of the Royal Society of Arts' Annual Design Competition for students at art colleges in the UK. The 1994/95 competition involved designing stamps celebrating 50 years of children's television. The winner, Wendy Nelson, aged 21, of Stonehaven, Scotland, receives a £500 travel award which will help fund a trip to Uganda. Her designs featured Noddy, Sooty, and Thomas the Tank Engine. The Postage Stamp Competition was judged by Barry Robinson and Jane Ryan, respectively Design Director and Design Manager, Royal Mail National.



Royal Mail Collectors Club

The Collectors Club was established at the beginning of 1994, taking over from the former Stamp Bug Club. Aimed at young collectors between the ages of six and 14, the Collectors Club has over 70,000 members – making it by far the largest philatelic organisation in the UK. On joining new members receive 100 used stamps, a membership card and badge and a handy guide to collecting. Album pages for new British special issues are sent out annually and members receive a colourful magazine six times a year which incorporates "Collectors Corner" for advertising stamps for exchange. The magazine, available only to Club members, is the only one aimed solely at the young collector.

Issue 9 of the magazine has recently been published and contains an interesting article on



the Science Fiction stamps. Readers are asked for their views on what life will be like in the year 2000, what they think fashion will be like, will computers have taken over our whole lives? (*God forbid! Ed.*). The section entitled "Treasures from Postal History" tells of the carriage of mail on the railways with illustrations of the first Travelling Post Office coach of 1838 and of the Night Mail from Euston. There is mention of Royal Mail's own underground railway in London which runs between Paddington and the East End and carries 50,000 mail bags every day.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and a special feature looks at the stamps used at its offices in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. These stamps are often by world famous designers, featuring works of art. A famous stamp shows the stained glass window by Chagall which is to be found in New York. The UN is commemorated by two stamps in Royal Mail's Peace & Freedom set (2 May 1995) – these and the others in that issue (British Red Cross, and Celebrating Victory) are described with concise background stories of the organisations.

For the younger readers the cartoon adventures of Sammy the Stamp Bug (nephew of the original Stamp Bug of 1980) will appeal, as will the jokes sent in by young members. All-in-

all an enjoyable 16-page read for young collectors.

Membership of the Club costs £5 for two years (£9.50 overseas) or just £7 for five years (£13.50 overseas) – a real bargain! Membership makes a worthwhile gift for an older collector to give a young relative or friend. Subscriptions should be sent to: Royal Mail Collectors Club, Freepost, NORTHAMPTON NN3 6BR. For a sample copy of the magazine write to: Julietta Edgar, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL.

Fluorescent Ink on Stamps

Following an improvement to our post-coding operations and changes in the coding detection system, there is a need to remove the yellow fluor additive currently used in the phosphor on stamps. To assist quality assurance of stamp production, fluor will continue to be used, and the yellow will be replaced by a blue.

All stamps will eventually be affected, initial printings commenced in May. Long term products such as definitive sheets, books and coils will be phased into general use as current stocks are used. The first special stamps to incorporate the new fluor will be the Rugby League set to be issued on 3 October.

The changes will be invisible to the naked eye. There will be no dedicated first days of availability but stocks will be supplied to the British Philatelic Bureau for specialist collectors who use ultra violet lamps. Announcements will

be made in the *Bulletin* as and when “new” items are available

The following are expected to become available during July: rolls of 19p and 25p definitives; 25p Scotland and Wales country stamps; 4 x 2nd and 10 x 1st NVI books printed by Harrisons; and 10 x 1st and 10 x 2nd NVI books by Questa. The 25p stamp in the “Inspiration for Victory” £1 book, issued in September 1995, will also bear the new fluor.

Postbus Postcards

In the April *Bulletin* mention was made of new forthcoming postcards showing postbuses in the South East. The cards have the following reference numbers and feature six routes:

- PBSE1 – Gravesend-Betsham
- PBSE2 – Horsham-Maplehurst
- PBSE3 – Sittingbourne-Wormshill
- PBSE4 – Rochester-Cooling
- PBSE5 – Ashford-Biddenden
- PBSE6 – Canterbury-Wootton

The first two were issued on 11 April, 3 & 4 on 2 May, and 5 & 6 will be available from 5 September. The print run is 1000 of each card. The cards are available in pairs (1/2, 3/4, 5/6) at £1 per pair unused, £2.30 with first day postmark. Remittances payable to “Royal Mail”. Orders/enquiries: Jack Wahlberg, Postbus Manager, Royal Mail S E Division, Redstone Hill, REDHILL, Surrey, RH1 1AA, Tel. 01737 777019.



Stamp Scene

Obituary – Albert B Johnstone

With the death on 1 March 1995 of Albert B Johnstone, Scotland has lost one of its leading philatelists. Albert was a native of Edinburgh and spent much of his life in that city. In his younger days he was a keen footballer and tennis player and a proficient violinist. During the Second World War he served in the RAF and later worked for a fine cloth producer. Albert assembled good collections of Canada and Trinidad but was best known for his studies of New Zealand stamps. His publications established him as an authority and gained him international recognition. At the time of his death he was associated with the production of a new book on New Zealand Railway TPOs. Albert was President of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (1968 and 1977), the Edinburgh Philatelic Society (1955 and 1977) and the Scottish Philatelic Society (1983). In 1979 he signed the Book of Scottish Philatelists, Scotland's most prestigious philatelic recognition. He was Vice-Chairman of the 1993 Philatelic Congress of GB held in Edinburgh, where his paper "New Zealand – Forensic Philately" was well received.

Many will remember his regular column "To Err is Human" published under the pseudonym Jack La Roche in *Stamp Collecting*. He contributed "Errors in Stamp Design" to *Linns Stamp Weekly*. His last piece, "Forward Philately" appeared in *ABPS News* in January 1995.

The hobby has lost a friend who was at all times one of the world's gentlemen – in every sense of the word.

Tom Rielly

ABPS News

The April 1995 issue of the newsletter of the Association of British Philatelic Societies reports on the new signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, Spring Stampex, the National Youth Stamp Group and on the activities of many of the Association's affiliated local and specialist societies. There are several interesting short articles by James Negus, Michael Elliott, Alan Wood, and Herman Herst, Jr., and a feature on the India Study Circle for

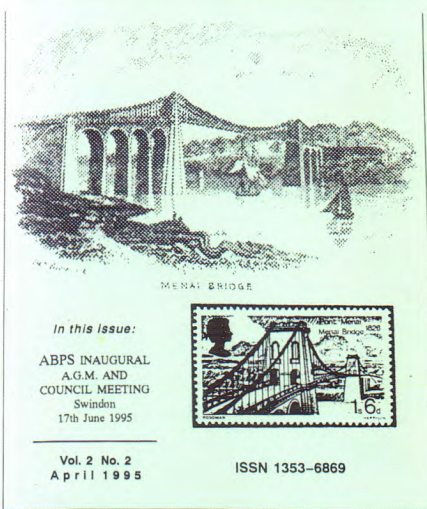
Philately.

Primarily the membership of the Association comprises the local and specialist societies of the UK. Individuals can become "Friends" and "Patrons" of the Association. Details available from the Hon Treasurer: M J Elliott, 15 Damian Way, Keymer, HASOCKS, W Sussex, BN6 8BH, Tel. 01273 843904.

ABPS NEWS



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES



A New Postal Museum - A First for Wales

The Llangollen Postal Museum was officially opened by Colin Burbage OBE, Chairman of the Post Office Board for Wales and the Marches on 6 April 1995. The ceremony was attended by Clwyd County, Post Office, and other officials including the Mayor and Mayoress of Llangollen.

This privately financed museum fulfils a long-standing ambition of Llangollen's Postmistress who has made the venture possible. The objectives of the museum include the recovery and restoration of Postal artefacts and documents, philatelic material and other related items, for exhibition to the public. With the fast moving changes within the Post Office, even relatively recent items have been forgotten by many and are unknown to the younger generations.

The exhibits have been assembled from scratch with the assistance of the Post Office, purchases, donations and the loan of material. It is hoped that more items will be acquired to extend the range of the displays and in particular there is a need for items that can be used in "hands on" exercises for schools. The most urgent of these would be a hand operated cancelling machine such as a *Krag*.

The material has been assembled and displayed by the acting curator, Derek Lang, but the museum has no paid staff. All voluntary help is essential since the initial nominal entrance charges (£1, 50p children over eight and OAPs) will not cover the running costs for lighting, heating and cleaning.

The opportunity to start this museum was not to be missed since it offered provision of a postal and philatelic centre for those who are unaware the possibilities proffered by the subjects, or are unable to travel to other centres, such as London and Bath. The desire is to encourage and promote interest in postal and philatelic studies or even a simple interest in collecting, to the advantage of all. While the main concentration will be on Wales and the Marches, a wider audience will be sought; Llangollen attracts a large number of overseas visitors to its famous Eisteddfod.



Colin Burbage, with Mrs W Mayne-Flower, Postmistress and benefactor, opening the museum.

Over 12 months of concentrated work have gone into the project but the effort will have been worthwhile if the intended results of this non commercial project are achieved. The Museum is located at 6 Castle Street, LLANGOLLEN, Clwyd, LL20 8RU. Phone 01978 860230 for opening times.

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

Five of the world's top philatelists will sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists – Britain's top

philatelic accolade – at the 77th Philatelic Congress of GB in October. Since 1921 some 260 philatelists from 36 different countries have added their name below that of King George V, himself a noted collector.

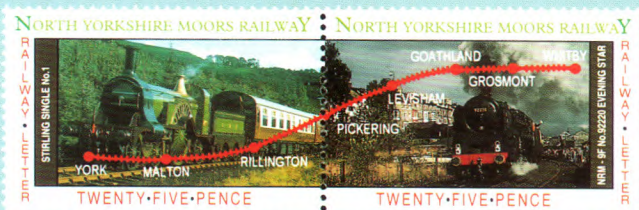
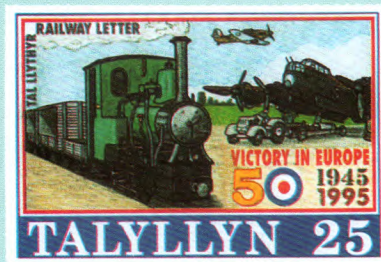
Two of the new RDPs are British – Charles Goodwyn and Francis Kiddle. Mr Goodwyn is a specialist in the Postal History and Local Posts of China. He is co-author of *The Crown Colony of Wei-Hai-Wei 1890-1950*, published by the Royal Philatelic Society in 1985. He has been Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President of the Royal, and Company Secretary of the Stamp World London 1990 exhibition. Mr Goodwyn takes over from John Marriott as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection in September.

Francis Kiddle is well-known in many philatelic societies and is currently President of the Royal and Chairman of the Cinderella Stamp Club. His collecting interests are widespread, including GB, Australian States, Morocco Agencies, Kuwait, and many cinderella subjects, including revenues. Mr Kiddle held office in the now defunct British Philatelic Federation, was Librarian of the Royal for 15 years, and has served on the British Philatelic Trust since 1985. He was a member of the Management Committee of the 1990 international exhibition, and has served on the juries of many such exhibitions. He is a member of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie's Commission for Literature.

Joining Messrs Goodwyn and Kiddle in adding the coveted initials RDP after their name will be Robert Francon of France, Frantz-Caspar Moldenhauer Jr (Norway), and Kenneth Rowe (Canada). Our congratulations to all five on this recognition of their philatelic work.

Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here are new 25p railway letter stamps from the Mid-Hants and North Yorkshire Moors Railways, issued respectively on 27 May and 7 July. The Mid-Hants stamp, showing BR electric train and MHR steam train, hauled by loco no. 31806, commemorates the 10th anniversary of the return to Alton. The stamps are printed in miniature sheet format, folded, with the reverse showing the first official train leaving Alton for Alresford in May 1985. The stamps are available mint at face value plus 40p postage. Orders/enquiries about FDCs to: Postal Co-ordinator, Mid-Hants Railway, ALRESFORD, Hants, SO24 9JG.



The two new NYMR stamps commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the York to Pickering Railway. Printed as se-tenant pairs in sheets of eight, they feature historic locomotives and a map of the railway. Price 50p per pair, £2 per sheet, postage 50p. For details of first day covers see *Commemorative Covers Review*. Orders/enquiries: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

Details of new stamps from the Nene Valley railway were published in the May *Bulletin*; new stamps/covers from the Gloucestershire Warwickshire, Festiniog and Talyllyn railways were included in last month's *Commemorative Covers Review*. The Railway Letter Service is operated by a number of independent railways under agreement with Royal Mail.

Guild of St Gabriel

The Guild of St Gabriel was founded in the UK in 1954, it is interdenominational and is affiliated to the World Union St Gabriel. Membership is open to anyone no matter what denomination, creed or religion, who is interested in collecting postal material of religious interest.

The theme of *Religion* is very wide including, among a seemingly endless list, subjects such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism and other Faiths; the Bible (Old and New Testaments); Bible Stories; Churches, Abbeys, Monasteries, Cathedrals and other sacred Buildings; The Holy Land; Church

and Religious History; Stained Glass Windows; Paintings and Religious Art; Madonna and Child; Manuscripts; Methodism; Missionaries; Popes and Papal Visits; The Vatican; Christmas and Easter Issues; Animals/Birds/Flowers and Plants of the Bible. A group of members hold meetings in London on the third Saturday of each month (except August) when members and invited guests give displays and talks. Provincial, overseas members and visitors are always welcome at these meetings. There are also meetings in Birmingham.

A Bulletin, aptly named *Gabriel*, is issued quarterly to keep members informed of Guild activities. This also contains articles on various topics of interest, news, views and a new issues listing to inform on what is becoming available in the way of religious stamps.

Other activities include a quarterly postal auction (details of lots are circulated with the *Gabriel Bulletin*) and an active exchange packet (not available to overseas members). The Guild's Annual General Meeting and Convention, normally held in London, is the main event of the year. It is predominantly a social occasion at which the necessary business matters are included.

Further information on the Guild and membership (annual subscription £10) may be obtained from the Secretary: Peter J Greening, 230 Powder Mill Lane, TWICKENHAM TW2 6EJ.

Machin Definitives: A Major Discovery

Pete Daniels, the specialist dealer in Machin definitive stamps and President of the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle, reports, in his latest price-list, a new addition to the list of recorded decimal Machin cylinder blocks: 12p Emerald-Green CB FCP/DEX starred paper, Cylinder 9 no dot (Phosphor No. 41).

Found early in December 1994 at a regular monthly auction held in the West Midlands, in a collection which, Mr. Daniels suspects, was formed in the Darlington area, the unique block has remained undetected and unrecorded – until now – since its issue over 10 years ago. The block has subsequently been awarded a BPA Certificate.



The Dutch Post Office Mauritius

In the January *Bulletin* we recorded the acquisition by the Dutch Postal Museum of an unused example of the 2d Post Office Mauritius stamp of 1847 – one of the world's rarest stamps. On 17 January the Netherlands Post Office (PTT) issued an 80 cent stamp featuring the Mauritius classic. The Netherlands stamp was printed in a combination of offset and

copperplate by Joh. Enschedé Security Printing of Haarlem in sheets of 50. Some 8½ million stamps have been produced. It is one in a set of three, the other two honouring graphic designer and printer Hendrik Nicolaas Werkman (1882-1945), and the Mesdag Museum.



Rocket Post Island For Sale

In "Out of the Arc..." (April *Bulletin*) Kevin Squelch described the rocket post experiments of the Isle of Scarp in 1934. *The Daily Telegraph* of 5 May 1995 reported that this 2488 acre island is up for sale. The last crofters left in 1971. *The Telegraph* report mentions the unsuccessful rocket experiments which resulted in letters being scattered on the beach and quotes from a contemporary report in a local newspaper: "Someone in the crowd laughed."

July Exhibitions

There are two important exhibitions in London for collectors this month. The annual "Thematica" takes place at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, W2 on 1-2 July and "Rare Stamps of the World" at Claridge's Hotel, W1 on 6-8 July.

Thematica has now become part of the philatelic scene and is an ideal opportunity for thematic collectors to meet, see good displays, and obtain stamps from specialist dealers.

The Rare Stamps exhibition is a new venture, described as "probably the most important assembly of Philatelic rarities ever gathered together in one room." A hundred frames of rare stamps will be on display – a treat for all collectors interested in such issues but whose pockets lack the depth to indulge in their dreams (That includes me! Ed.) Admission will be £10 which includes an exhibition handbook in which each participant describes a favourite item.

Air Mails During the 1919 Railway Strike

Part 2

RICHARD BEITH

Continued from June

Local Post Office Air Mail Schemes

It is hardly surprising that a number of local air mail schemes have been noted. It would appear that these were inspired locally to keep His Majesty's mails moving. If and when Postal Headquarters found out about these local efforts, the first question was usually: "Did your scheme involve the Post Office in any extra expense?" The author has noted the following, there may well be references to additional services buried in local press archives:

1. Glasgow-Dundee

The *Glasgow Herald* for Monday 29 September reported that: *Through the efforts of Captain French and Captain Reeve, of the West of Scotland Aviation Company, mails were carried yesterday from Glasgow to Dundee by aeroplane.*

The WSAC was based at Renfrew and flew Avro 504Ks. They specialised in taking Glaswegians to Gleneagles for the golf. Nothing is known of the duration of this service or of the weight of mails carried.

2 The Cranfield Circuit

The *Nottingham Journal & Express* for 2 October 1919 carried the story of the Cranwell mails under the heading: *AIR MAILS – Lincolnshire Towns linked up with Nottingham.*

The origin of this service is explained in a number of Post Office inter-departmental memoranda. On 1 October 1919, the Head Postmaster at Lincoln, Mr Pye, reported that: *... General Scarlett, OC Cranwell Camp, approached me yesterday with reference to his proposal for the conveyance of mails by aeroplane between the following places: Nottingham (Hucknall Aerodrome), Lincoln (Waddington Aerodrome), Boston (Frieston Aerodrome), Sleaford (Cranwell Aerodrome) and Grantham (Spittlegate Aerodrome) and this morning I made up a special bag for Cranwell Camp Post Office at 9.0 am containing labelled bundles for the places named. A return bag was received this afternoon containing letters from Boston, Grantham and Sleaford. The bags are being conveyed between the aerodromes*

named above and the Head Offices associated with them by means of RAF cars and Post Office staff at Cranwell Camp PO are dealing with the mails. I should be glad to have your authority for this experimental air service.

The reply from London was brief and to the point: *May it be understood that the air service described by you was carried out without extra cost to the department?* Mr Pye later confirmed that this was the case and on 22 October 1919, he wrote from Lincoln, emphasising that: *The letters carried by this Air Service were letters posted in the ordinary way and were subject to no charge in addition to the ordinary postage rate. No registered letters were sent from or received by Lincoln by the service. The service was performed on the 1st and 4th instant only. I understand that the service would have been performed regularly but for difficulties encountered in the Post Office.*

The best Post Office estimate was that over 5000 letters were carried on this scheme.

3. The Barrow-Whitehaven-Barrow Mails

The existence of an airship mail sent from Barrow to Whitehaven was recorded in the 11 October issue of the *Workington News*. A letter on file from the Postmaster at Barrow-in-Furness, dated 21 October 1919, notes that: *At 1.0pm on Sunday 5th instant the Commanding Officer of the Walney Island Airship Station, Captain Little, RAF, intimated by telephone that he was desirous of assisting the mail service and that an airship which was going out on a short cruise was available for the conveyance of any Mails on hand for the Isle of Man or for the Cumberland district. A number of forward bags of delayed correspondence for Whitehaven and its sub-offices were waiting despatch at that time and I decided, after it had been ascertained that arrangements could be made for receiving the mail at Whitehaven, to take advantage of Captain Little's offer... The number of items forwarded to Whitehaven was approximately 800... It was further arranged that a special despatch should be made up at Whitehaven for conveyance to Barrow by Airship on its return journey, and by this Mail items for Barrow and the South, approx. in number 900, were received... The airship left Walney Island for Whitehaven shortly before 3.0pm, returning*

at about 4.30pm – the weather conditions being ideal. If the Strike had not come to an end when it did, it was highly probable that Mails for the Isle of Man would have been sent to Barrow from Liverpool for conveyance by Airship, the Steamer Service to the Island having become disorganised through the Strike.

4. Fresson's Skegness – Cambridge Mail

Regular readers may remember that the late Captain E E Fresson was frequently mentioned during reports of the May 1994 celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of the Orkney Air Mail. There is also a reference to Fresson carrying air mail back in 1919: In September 1919, Ted had contracted to carry out two weeks of joy riding for the Cambridge School of Flying, using an Avro 604K three seater. He collected the aircraft on September 20th and with (his wife) Dorothy set off for Skegness where he was to do the joy-riding... At the end of September there was a national rail strike, and the authorities banned Ted from having any further petrol for his flying, or even sufficient to get the aircraft back to Cambridge to its owners. But eventually the civil authorities allowed him the fuel on condition he carried as much mail as possible (it had by now been held up for several days) and deliver it to the Cambridge Postmaster. So Ted packed Dorothy into the rear cockpit, and surrounded her and himself with the mail

bags, and they spent an uncomfortable one hour 20 minutes in the air before they reached Cambridge, flying over the Great North Road and seeing many convoys of lorries carrying urgent supplies along it. (Reference 2).

Semi-official schemes

1. Leeds and London

The North Sea Aerial Navigation Company carried mail to and from London (Hounslow) on 30 September. They used the Blackburn Kangaroos G-EAIT and G-EAKQ, which had cabin accommodation for seven passengers. An additional Kangaroo carried mails from Hounslow to Leeds on 28 September; this was G-EADG of the Grahame-White Air Service. (Ref. 3). Baldwin records that letters carried to London on the 30th were postmarked on receipt at 6.0pm and that they bore a cachet: *The North Sea Aerial Navigation Co. Ltd., Leeds.* (Ref. 4).

2. Barrow, Sheffield and London by Vickers Ltd

Messrs Vickers arranged for their mails to be flown from Barrow to Sheffield and from Sheffield to London via Birmingham. Mail was flown in the Avro 504K G-EADS, piloted by L Jones and a Vickers non-rigid airship was used between Barrow and Sheffield. The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* for 2 October 1919 recorded:



Fig. 3: A cover flown from London to Glasgow, postmarked LONDON EC 9PM 1 OCT 19, endorsed By Aeroplane Mail and with manuscript Recd. 3/10/19.

Messrs Vickers have inaugurated an aerial service between Sheffield and London and Barrow, and the scheme is working out quite well... One aeroplane arrives in Sheffield from London at 10.15 am and mails from Barrow are then transferred to another machine waiting at Coal Aston, and which leaves immediately for Barrow. The mail for London leaves at 1.30pm.

In the edition for Monday 6 October, there was a photograph indicating local Post Office involvement with the service, captioned: *Mails from London by aeroplane. Handing parcels to a Post Office official at Coal Aston Aerodrome on Saturday 4 Oct 1919* (Refs. 4, 5).

3. London and Birmingham

The British Aerial Transport Co. made at least one flight over the Hendon and Castle Bromwich route on 29 September, in a BAT FK26 piloted by Major C Draper, but there is no record of any mail carrying activities. (Did BAT carry the later surcharged mail to Birmingham?)

Surviving flown souvenirs

The Government Despatch Service

Some covers should have survived in non-philatelic archives but only one has been seen by the author. It was a legal sized envelope bearing the crest of the Greenock police on the flap. The envelope was addressed to *The Under Secretary for Scotland, Scottish Office, LONDON SW1* and

endorsed with a typed: *For Aeroplane Service*. The cover bore oval cachets of the *CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE, GREENOCK, 3 OCT 1919* and of the *AIRCRAFT ACCEPTANCE PARK, RENFREW, 4 OCT 1919*.

Post Office Internal Air Mails

As noted in part 1, 3296 items were carried on the official service. Where these have survived they should be instantly recognised by the presence of the air mail surcharge of 2/- per ounce coupled with a postmark dating from the strike period. In addition, typed or manuscript markings making some reference to carriage by air are usually to be found. Of course, many of the business letters weighed over 2 ounces; letters franked with stamps to a value of £10 or more have been reported. Figure 3 shows another typical cover and Figure 4 shows one of the first Hounslow-Glasgow mail planes. The writer has seen less than 20 such covers (mainly as photocopies) over the last 25 years. If 5% of the covers flown have survived the wastepaper baskets of time, there should be 165 covers out there somewhere!

Post Office External Air Mails

Although not identifiable by the presence of a surcharge, Newall (Ref. 6) lists five types of continental mail from 29 September 1919: London-Paris by Handley Page Limited; London-Paris by AT&T (Air Transport &



Travel); London-Brussels and Brussels-London by Handley Page and Southampton-Le Havre by Supermarine Aviation Works Ltd. All covers are stated to have an appropriate endorsement.

Local Post Office Air Mails

No surviving covers have been reported from the four services listed above. However, a cover has been noted posted in Wick, Caithness, on 3 October 1919, franked at the usual 1½d, addressed to Elgin and endorsed *per Aeroplane post*. Was this a matter of wishful thinking on the part of the sender or was there an unrecorded local initiative in the Highlands? (Ref. 7)

Semi-official mails

As noted, some covers have been recorded by Baldwin. (Ref. 4)

Conclusion

Flown covers may be hard to find, but the strike mail flights were an important event in the early history of commercial aviation in the British Isles. The author would be delighted to hear from readers with additional input into this story. Please write care of the Editor.

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Acknowledgements

Research on contemporary Scottish newspapers took place at least 15 years ago in Glasgow's excellent Mitchell Library. More valuable information was obtained by consulting the Post Office Archives in London in the autumn of 1994. Files relating to the 1919 Railway Strike are held under reference POST 30/4489. The writer wishes to thank the staff at the Archives for their friendly help and assistance, and Eric Tawn of the British Aerophilatelic Federation for help with the illustrations.

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Fig. 4: The Airco DH 10 G-EAJO, piloted by Captain Gathergood, which flew the mails from Hounslow to Glasgow on 2 October and back to London on 3 October. The covers shown as Figures 2 and 3 were almost certainly carried in this machine. (Photo: Flight)

Note: Figs 1 and 2 were in the June Bulletin.

Look Before You Lick!

6. First and Foremost – Part 1

MATT HINTON

Not all that long ago, someone whom I can only assume was not an expert philatelist approached me with the intention of selling a rare variety of Machin to me. However, thoughts of a quick fortune for them were soon dispelled as I explained that the “d” was deliberate, and not an erroneously inverted “p”!

Most of my previous “Look” articles have centred around decimal Machins in one form or another. These are almost certainly the most studied of all GB issues. However, the first Machins were issued in 1967 and the pre-decimal series is all too often forgotten. It is a little known fact that there exists about 200 individual stamps in the set, including a whole host of errors and varieties to look out for.

which originally appeared in scarlet was reissued in eggshell-blue. There are plenty of variations in shade within the series. The best examples include ½d deep and pale, 1d green olive and yellowish olive, 4d olive brown, deep olive brown, sepia and deep olive sepia, 5d deep and pale, 6d dull, bright, and claret, 1s deep and pale, and 1s 9d dull and bright. The £1 high value stamp exists in a recently discovered indigo shade, as opposed to the normal blue-black colour. The 1s 6d can be found with the greenish blue colour omitted (SG 743a), sometimes with a broad left phosphor band – worth around £75 and £100 respectively. The omission leaves only the deep blue colour visible. Some 4d sepia, 1s and 1s 6d stamps were



Top: 4d sepia and deep olive brown; 4d uncoated paper and normal. Below: 5d screened border and normal; 6d normal and claret shade. (Illustrations courtesy Hampstead Castle, Machin dealers.

Over about 3½ years, the 14 values were issued in four instalments, ending with the 5d, 7d, 8d and 10d values on 1 July 1968. On 6 January 1969 the 4d value, which had previously been issued in olive brown sepia, was reissued in scarlet. The change may not have pleased The Queen as sepia was her selected colour for the 4d stamp in 1967. On the same day the 8d,

prematurely issued and are known used as early as 25 May 1967 (the official day of issue was 5 June).

Phosphor

During the pre-decimal period, all stamps were overprinted with one or two phosphor bands in the same way as today – one band signifying the

2nd class (postcard) rate and two bands being used on all other values. The 1s 6d value on Phosphor Coated Paper (PCP), SG 743c, was officially announced as an experiment but, because the new paper tended to absorb moisture, the phosphor signal was weak and the stamps (140,000 sheets of 240), were not sold in the ALF areas.

Another experiment with phosphor, which perhaps should not have reached the market place, was the 5d value which, for about £200, can be purchased with two phosphor bands on PCP (SG *Specialised* U17Bc).

All of the values are known with missing phosphor – the cheapest being the 3d head A (see below) with Gum Arabic (GA) which costs far less than a flutter on the National Lottery! This stamp is number U8Ab in the SG *Specialised Catalogue*. At the other end of the scale, the most expensive missing phosphor is, as far as I am aware, the 4d scarlet head A, GA which attracts a price tag of around £800 (SG *Spec* U15A). Both of these stamps should have carried a centre phosphor band.

The phosphor bands presented other problems, too. When the wide band – which falls across two stamps to create the two-banded effect – is displaced, it leaves a broad band at either the left, right or centre of the stamp. Most of these retail at only a couple of pounds or so. There are also a few stamps in the series which bear a narrow band, but these are quite scarce. The centre band can also shift – e.g. the 3d CB GA head A from horizontal coils, which costs about £2 (SG *Spec* U8A[2]).

Bands are sometimes also displaced vertically. This is seen on the 4d sepia CB head B with PVA gum (SG *Spec* U313B[2]) where the band falls 1mm short of the top of the stamp. This fetches around £10.

Screening

The phosphor bands were applied using two different screens – a fine 250 dots per inch and a coarse 150 dots per inch. With practice, the two are fairly easy to differentiate. The cylinder used during the production of the 3d and 4d booklet stamps was made up of both 150 and 250 screen bands. Stamps therefore exist, and are surprisingly not costly, which show a band with part 150 screening and part 250 screening. One dramatic example of how screening affects value is to be found on the 6d coil value (SG *Spec* U18B[1] and [3]), where the 150 screen sells for about £5 but the 250 screen about 20 times as

much! Also look out for the 1s9d with a heavy All Over Phosphor coating (AOP), as this can be worth over £50.

Paper

It is widely thought that all of the stamps, with the exception of the 1s 6d PCP, are printed on Original Coated Paper (OCP). I separate the papers as follows: a creamy coloured paper used for the 4d sepia, 1s and 1s 9d, a blue-tinted version employed after this, and the real OCP which took over in 1969. A few copies exist with a variety called “uncoated paper”. Here the paper is rough with the paper fibres visible to the naked eye. This leaves a rough impression and less prominent screening dots. The best example is the 3d two bands which is worth about £1000 or more, and the cheapest is the 4d scarlet CB PVA head B (SG *Spec* U14Bb) which only costs around £4. *To be continued.* © Matt Hinton 1995

Bulletin Back Numbers

Back issues are available for one year from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, price 75p per copy. Some back issues are also available to callers at the shop at the National Postal Museum.

For earlier issues a back number service is operated by Maynard Davies of Bristol who has for sale bound reprints of Vols 1 and 2, photocopies of issues from Vols 3-6, and original copies of many issues from Vol 7 onwards. Mr Davies is interested in purchasing issues from Vols 3-6, but not later issues. He cannot undertake the time-consuming task of searching and copying specific articles. Enquiries, accompanied by stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon, to: Maynard Davies, Hall Floor Flat, 4 Cecil Road, BRISTOL BS8 3HR.

Win a Holiday Promotion

To encourage customers to purchase stamps from post offices, Royal Mail and Post Office Counters Ltd, will be running several promotions during the next year. Until 31 August 1995 customers purchasing £2.50 worth of stamps from post offices can win a holiday, a city break, or a pair of Ray Ban sunglasses. The 3-week world holiday, for two people, will include stops in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Hawaii, San Francisco and New York. There will be six European Citybreak holidays for two, and 200 runner-up prizes of Ray Ban sunglasses. Watch out for posters and leaflets at your local post office.

Stamp '95: Report

It was a good show, its success reflecting the tremendous amount of work which went into planning this new type of stamp exhibition for the UK. The aim was to attract more youngsters, adults new to the hobby, even those thinking about taking up stamp collecting. A difficult task but the organisers are to be congratulated on a successful first venture which bodes well for the future. Nearly 16,000 adults and about 2500 children visited Stamp '95, enjoying a wide range of displays, activities, postal administration and dealers' stands.

The exhibition was opened by Olympic athlete Fatima Whitbread, herself a stamp collector. By the time Fatima made her opening speech there was already a long queue of people waiting for the doors to open. Once inside they quickly made for the dealers but many soon found themselves fascinated by the "feature stands" and displays.

Valuation Service and Seminars

The free valuation service kept all the valuers very busy. Such was the demand that appointments for this service had soon to be reduced to 10 minute rather than 15 minute intervals as originally planned. Items valued ranged from single stamps and old envelopes and postcards to childhood collections, which had lain untouched for many years, and specialised collections.

The seminars were also well attended, subjects ranging from Beginning a Stamp Collection, to Sir Rowland Hill, and the stamp printers Perkins Bacon. The speakers enjoyed giving the talks and answering questions from their audiences. Perhaps the word seminar could be changed next time, its academic connotation may have put some people off attending.

Royal Mail participation

The British Philatelic Bureau did not provide the traditional type of stand seen at Stampex, but a more informal display/sales area. Staff were kept busy by collectors wanting new issues, including stamp books and in particular the self-adhesive stamp book which was withdrawn from sale at the end of the exhibition. A computer link up to the Bureau in Edinburgh enabled customers to check their accounts.

The Collectors Club area was the centre of attraction, with colourful murals and rotating models of Sammy the Stamp Bug and family. Some new members were recruited.

Design-a-Stamp Competition

With stamp printers, The House of Questa, and designer Clive Abbott, Royal Mail entertained hundreds of children in the Design-a-Stamp Competition area. Over 300 entries were produced using computer technology or the more traditional crayon, felt-tipped pen, or coloured pencil. Fatima Whitbread took a keen interest in the competition and even tried her hand at designing. The winners were: Nikesh Patel (5-9 years age group), George Castaldini (10-13 years), and Anh Nguyen (14-16 years). The winning entries have been printed as a souvenir sheet by The House of Questa, a free copy will be included in next month's *Bulletin*.

Adult Prize Draw

All adult visitors who registered on entry to Stamp '95 were automatically entered in a free draw offering no fewer than 120 prizes. The first prize – a trip for two to the Singapore '95 world stamp exhibition (September 1995) was won by Mr W E Mole of Essex who received his prize at a special presentation in London on 20 June. The prize was donated by Stanley Gibbons, others were provided by Prinz, Morley-Bright, Lighthouse, and Royal Mail.

Feature Stands

Derrick Page and Barry Tennant were kept busy on the National Postal Museum stand showing



Fatima Whitbread with stamp designer Clive Abbott
(Photo: Mike Macleod - IMC Photography)

visitors the blue album and pages in the Freddie Mercury collection displayed below a large poster of the late singer. All who came to see this collection were given a free NPM postcard bearing a special Freddie Mercury cachet.

The NPM display relating to the Penny Black was, perhaps, of greater interest to the more traditional philatelist, as were stamps from the Museum's world collections which included stamps from the new states of the former Soviet Union. Dr John Enoch was on hand to demonstrate and answer questions about the StampMaster computer program which is based on the Museum's Chronolist of British stamps.

The Association of Friends of the NPM had their own stand where Secretary Ray Pottle and colleagues supplied information about the Friends' many and varied activities, publications, souvenir cards and covers.

David Harrop's feature stand provided a colourful display of Post Office memorabilia. David, who began this collection in the early 1980s, has displayed at country fairs and rallies throughout the country and at Stampex. He began by rescuing items from the scrap heap, later buying items from antique and junk shops and at auction. For his Stamp '95 display David selected some of the gems of his collection: everything from a 16th century letter from a firm of Italian merchants to mail coach tokens, acts of Parliament, and a magnificent 4ft model of the Cunard liner RMS *Queen Mary*. Visitors could try their skill with pen and ink and sort letters in a vintage sorting frame.

Wembley is famous as the site of the 1924/25 British Empire Exhibition, many souvenirs of which, from the collection of Alan Sabey, were displayed on the Exhibition Study Group stand. Alan and other ESG members answered questions on Wembley and other exhibitions.

Displays

The traditional philatelic displays concentrated on the Wembley Exhibition stamps, postal stationery, postmarks, and related material. Mr Sabey exhibited press and souvenir telegrams, postal applications for the stamps (on sale only at the exhibition post office), relevant PO circulars, illustrated covers, sketches for the postmarks, promotional labels, postcards, programmes, and a most interesting official envelope used for despatching exhibition tickets. Hassan Shaida displayed an enamel reproduction of the 1d stamp, an unusual use of a bisected stamp, complete sheets of 1924/25 stamps, coil strips and joins, Army PO cancel used at the exhibition, postal stationery cut-outs used on cover, and original stamp designs by Harold



The Royal Mail stand - centrepiece of the exhibition (Photo: Stamp '95)

Nelson (designer of the issued stamps) and Miss Maitland Howard. Of special note was a 2d postal stationery envelope with a triangular mark used to denote a ½d refund when the postal rate was reduced, used with Exhibition slogan cancel. Such marks are rare.

Peter Jennings displayed part of his well-known collection "Douglas Gumbley: From Air Mail to Air Letter" which included items dating back to the 1907 Daily Graphic Balloon Flight (England-Sweden), and the 1911 Aerial Posts from Hendon to Windsor and at Allahabad, India. A choice item was a 1927 registered official cover from Baghdad, addressed to the Governor General of the Sudan, Khartoum. More recent items included the Forces Air Letter of 1945, the 1948 and 1953 Olympic and Coronation aerogrammes (the latter signed by the designer, the late Stuart Rose) and proofs of the 1973 Guernsey aerogramme commemorating Douglas Gumbley.

Also on display was exhibition material from 1908 (Franco-British Exhibition) to 1940 (Stamp Centenary). It was heartening to see many visitors enjoying these well-presented displays.

Looking Forward to Stamp '96

The organisers, in particular Mr Paul Fraser, Chairman of Stanley Gibbons, and James New his Marketing Manager, can be proud of Stamp '95. It was, as it was billed, a new-style exhibition with good facilities and activities and displays to interest collectors of all ages and levels of experience. A number of visitors commented on the absence of some well-known dealers and it is to be hoped that they will support Stamp '96 so helping to establish this exhibition as a permanent part of the UK philatelic calendar.

Your comments on Stamp '95 will be welcome.

Pre-Historic Scotland

JAMES MACKAY

The latest in the long-running series of Scottish aerogrammes, scheduled for release on 18 July, is devoted to the pre-history of the remoter parts of the country. There is ample archaeological evidence of human settlement in what is now Scotland from at least 7000 BC. The earliest inhabitants were nomadic and it was only around 4000 BC that they began forming permanent settlements. Of the rudimentary wattle and daub dwellings little has survived, although their presence is indicated by middens containing fragments of pottery and primitive stone tools.

Rather more substantial are the hill-forts, brochs, crannogs and weems, the barrows, barps and burial mounds, and of course the standing stones, sometimes single megaliths but more spectacularly the circles and alignments which clearly had immense mystic importance. Probably the most notable of the stone circles is that located at Callanish on the west coast of Lewis, most northerly of the Outer Hebrides, featured on the front of the aerogramme. Were this circle sited on the mainland it would assuredly be as famous as Stonehenge, but its very remoteness has prevented familiarity.

Standing eerily on a curving headland overlooking East Loch Roag, the massive grey monoliths have an atmospheric quality that has been likened to the stone heads of Easter Island. In Gaelic, these stones are known locally as "False Men", from the strange lighting effects from the North Atlantic playing on the rounded shapes, particularly on a stormy day. The true extent of Scotland's greatest megalithic remains was not known until 1858 when Sir James Matheson ordered the crofters to clear the peat which had grown up around them. In so doing, the islanders discovered a tiny chambered cairn in the centre. The stones are arranged in three circles, of which the earliest is the most perfectly formed. Astronomers working about 5000 years ago are believed to have used complex moon configurations at Callanish; looking along the south row of stones from the main circle they would see the moon's maxima at the extreme delineation skimming the horizon every 18.61

years. This therefore gives substance to the ancient Greek legend of the winged temple of the Hyperboreans at which, every 19 years, the moon god danced continuously the night through, from the vernal equinox to the rise of the Pleiades.

Architectural Wonder

By contrast with the magic and mystic quality of Callanish, Jarlshof (shown on the central panel), is one of Scotland's architectural wonders, with continuous settlement on the same site spanning a period of more than 4000 years. Sir Walter Scott (who visited the area in 1814), coined the name in his novel *The Pirate*, long before the existence of a Norse settlement here was confirmed. A violent storm in 1905 swept the sand of centuries away to reveal a site which had been occupied by seven distinct civilisations.

In fact, Jarlshof, lying within the shadow of Sumburgh Airport at the southern tip of Shetland, was inhabited from pre-historic times right down to the 17th century, and exhibits a staggering profusion of buildings from the Late Neolithic to the Jacobean period. From the Bronze Age there is a metal-worker's studio; from the Iron Age there are earth houses and a fortified broch. The best preserved dwellings, however, are the semi-underground wheel-houses of the third to eighth centuries, so-called because the rooms radiate from a central hearth. These, in turn, gave way to the long-houses of the Norse period, then there is the medieval farmstead and finally the remains of the seventeenth century manor house. From a platform high above the site the visitor gets a stunning view of this jumble of four millennia all packed one on top of the other. Adding to the incongruity of it all is the constant roar of helicopters on their way to and from the offshore oil rigs.

Uncovered by freak storm

The back of the aerogramme is devoted to Skara Brae in Orkney, an entire Neolithic village, buried for thousands of years in the sand until uncovered by a freak storm in 1850. As you approach the site there is nothing to see, until you are virtually standing on top of it, and then the semi-underground complex of houses and outbuildings suddenly and dramatically comes into view. Skara Brae is 5000 years old, yet its state of preservation, right down to the furniture and the sophisticated drainage system, is such that it is hard to believe that this settlement is

PREHISTORIC SCOTLAND

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SCOTLAND FOR AT LEAST 9000 YEARS. SOME OF EUROPE'S FINEST PREHISTORIC SITES ARE TO BE FOUND HERE. MANY, INCLUDING THOSE FEATURED BELOW, ARE IN THE CARE OF HISTORIC SCOTLAND AND OPEN TO VISITORS.



CALLANISH

WESTERN ISLES

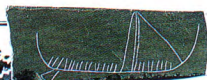
CALLANISH ON THE Isle of Lewis is a unique cross-shaped setting of standing stones, erected 5000 years ago. An avenue and three lines of stones lead to a central stone circle, within which sit a central pillar and a tiny burial cairn.



JARLSHOF

SHETLAND

JARLSHOF IS AN extraordinary place. To walk round it is to pass through 4000 years, taking you from late Bronze Age huts through Iron Age, Pictish and Viking settlements to a medieval farmstead and finally an early 17th-century laird's house.



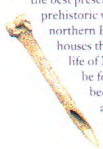
PREHISTORIC SCOTLAND

SKARA BRAE

ORKNEY

THE VILLAGE OF Skara Brae was inhabited before the pyramids were built and flourished centuries before the construction of Stonehenge. It is some

5000 years old and is the best preserved prehistoric village in northern Europe. Inside the stone houses the everyday domestic life of Neolithic times can be found: hearths, larders, beds and even dressers are all fashioned from flagstones.



The entrance to each house would have had a stone or wooden door.

Designed by Taybun
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

TO OPEN, SLIT HERE (GUS A FOSGLAIDH GEARR AN SÈB)

By air mail
Par avion

Aerogramme

An aerogramma
Lufthochzeit



Great Britain
Postage

SECOND FOLD HERE (SÈO AN DARA FILL-EADH)

Sender's name and address (Amh a seòladh an sgrìobhaiche
Faisg na h-àiteachd, àiteachd agus àiteachd)

Stamps
(Còig a chur)

An aerogramme should not contain
any enclosure (Na cuir càil ann bhon
na lèiridh seò)

For Aerogrammes
Aerogrammes can be purchased from the National Museum
of Scotland. Other aerogrammes by country
(of National Museum)

Designed by Taybun
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

FIRST FOLD HERE (SÈO AN CIAD FILL-EADH)





Skara Brae, Orkney (Photo: John Holman)

actually much older than Stonehenge, and the pyramids of Egypt, for that matter.

Skara Brae lies close to the shore, where the Bay of Skail takes a huge bite out of Mainland's rugged west coast. The waves continually assault the edge of the site, and it is probable that a great deal of the site has disappeared due to erosion over the centuries. Sufficient remains, however, to intrigue and spellbind the visitor, exploring the labyrinthine passageways between the spacious subterranean houses. Their symmetrical ground plan and careful layout forcibly suggest a suburban housing estate. All the houses have identical designs, complete with little cupboards, stone-sided beds, fish tanks and central hearths. All have elaborate stone dressers arranged opposite the doorways, suggesting the display of treasured nick-nacks to best effect, to impress passing neighbours. The five vignettes on the back of the aerogramme show a general view of the village, a stone dresser, a narrow connecting passageway and some of the numerous stone artefacts now displayed in the nearby museum.

Archaeologists believe that the people of Skara

Brae were a self-sufficient, closely integrated community of farmers and fishermen. Everything they possessed was made from stone, bone, wood or skin; there is no evidence of textiles or metalwork of any kind. Yet one cannot dismiss the people who lived here as primitive. Many of the stone and wood carvings they fashioned were of great beauty and intricacy, while their building techniques, and particularly the ingenious system of sanitation flushed by running water, are evidence of a highly developed civilisation. The inhabitants occupied the site for six centuries and then appear to have abandoned it suddenly – no one knows whether foreign invaders or the merciless onslaught of the elements drove them out. The latter seems the likeliest cause; perhaps it was inundated by sand swept up in a massive storm, to remain undetected for 4000 years until another storm of similar ferocity uncovered it again.

© James Mackay 1995

Editor's note:

Another Scottish prehistoric monument – Ring of Brogar, Orkney – featured on the first Scottish aerogramme, issued in May 1974.

Varieties of Yesteryear – 6

The 1887 “Jubilee” Definitives: Two Dies for the 5d Value.

FRED GEE

The GB definitives of 1887, commonly known as the “Jubilee” issue, have always been popular with collectors of QV stamps, perhaps because of their brighter colours – some of them almost garish – when compared with the sober tones of all earlier GB stamps. Some of the stamps in the set were printed in a single colour, and the gaudiest of these were the values which were printed with a fugitive purple ink, but on brightly-coloured papers: blue for the 2½d, yellow for the 3d, and rose red for the 6d.

Another innovation, apart from the use of coloured paper, was the use of two colours for the actual printing of some of the stamps, combining fugitive inks (purple and green) and stronger reds, blues, or brown. The use of two colours in these designs meant that two different

the original dies were re-used, and throughout the lifetime of this set there was only one head die, and only one duty die, used for each of the values. That is, with one exception – and the exception was the 5d.

For, in producing printing plates for the 5d stamp, *two* dies were used for the duty plates. It was not that the original die became worn or damaged and had to be replaced, because both 5d duty dies were cut in the course of the preparations for this issue, and within a short time of each other: the die proofs of the first plates made from these two duty dies were dated 13 August 1886 and 9 November 1886 respectively. And both dies appear to have been in use concurrently as replacement duty plates were needed for further printings of the 5d stamp. Another mystery for the postal historians amongst us to investigate!

But for the collector, as opposed to the historian, the significant fact is that there were differences between the two duty dies of the 5d. Stamps from the respective dies are most readily distinguished by studying the dots to the right of the letter “d” in the value tablets. Die I has square dots to the right of both letters “d”, whereas on Die II the dots appear as little more than fine vertical lines. (As a matter of interest, the



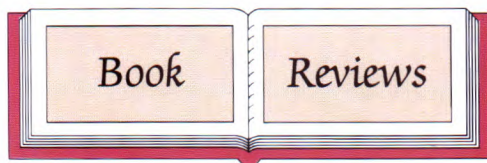
1887 “Jubilee” 5d: Duty plates from Die I (left) and Die II plates had to be used for the production of each such stamp: the “head” plate, as its name suggests, printed the Queen’s head and surrounding ornamentation in one colour; the “duty” plate printed the remaining ornamentation and, most importantly, the figures indicating the postal value of the stamp, in the second colour.

These printing plates, naturally, suffered wear and tear, and replacement plates had to be made up from time to time. In making the new plates

1887 duty dies were re-used for the bi-coloured stamps amongst the KE VII definitives, but in making the new plates for the 5d only die I appears to have been used.)

Examples of the QV “Jubilee” 5d printed from die I plates are not as common as those from the die II plates, but they are certainly not scarce. So, if you have examples of this stamp in your collection, take a close look at the value tablets to see whether you have both versions of this interesting variety.

© Fred Gee 1995



Perhaps the main loss of the collapse of the British Philatelic Federation in 1992 was its excellent *Year Book*. Happily the new **Association of British Philatelic Societies' 1995 Year Book and Directory** more than replaces the former BPF publication as an essential work of reference for philatelic society secretaries and all serious collectors. Naturally a sizeable section is devoted to the ABPS itself, detailing its activities in 1994, its aims, constitution, and committees. Of great value are listings of national, local, and specialist philatelic societies, the last two categories divided between those affiliated or non-affiliated to ABPS. The affiliated local societies are also listed under their Regional Federations, and by location. The data given on affiliated societies includes date founded, number of members, subscription rates, meeting place, secretary's name and address, and, where applicable, publications.

Much has been written in recent years about the decline in philately in the UK but it is pleasing to see that there are still several hundred societies, with some specialist societies boasting over 500 members. The lengthy list of individuals willing to give talks to philatelic societies encourages the belief that the philatelic community is far from moribund. Individuals keep the hobby alive, not big organisations that see philately in terms of "marketing" rather than collecting, study, and sharing one's enjoyment and research with others. Marketing has no place in philately. Long may individual and society effort flourish. Philatelic events of 1995/96 are listed, the 1994 Philatelic Congress is reviewed, and details given of APBS Workshops, Seminars and Lectures. Contact addresses are given.

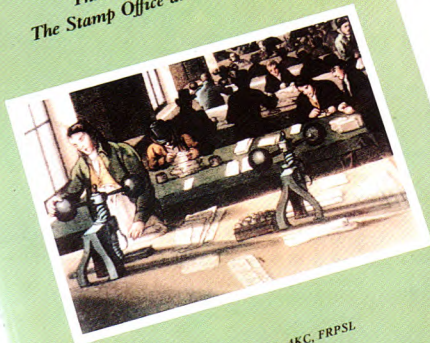
The "United Kingdom" section includes information on the National Youth Stamp Group, Stamp Active, British Philatelic Trust and the British Philatelic Centre, and Stampex. There is a useful account of "Where to see and study stamps" which includes the National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives, and a similar record of British Philatelic Magazines including this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The information about each magazine is considerably expanded on that in earlier Year Books. The

"International" section deals with the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, and lists some of the main philatelic bureaux, dealer organisations, philatelic magazines and stamp catalogues from around the world, also forthcoming international exhibitions to the year 2000. Pat Rothnie, Chairman of the ABPS's Communications Sub Committee, is to be congratulated on this new *Year Book* – hopefully the first of many. 200 pages, card covers. Price £20 (free to affiliated societies and to individual ABPS Patrons and Friends), from: ABPS, 16 Curlew Hill, Lancaster Park, MORPETH, Northumberland, NE61 3SH.

Somewhat belatedly we review **Creating A Good Impression**, published last year to coincide with an exhibition at Somerset House to mark the tercentenary of the Stamp Office (see May 1994 *Bulletin*, page 269). The author, Harry Dagnall, reminds us that "there has been inland revenue ever since the government of the country began", which, down the ages, has been collected in a variety of ways, including "in later times, to improve accounting control and to facilitate its collection, the use of stamps." But the Stamp Office remains a largely unknown institution, whose role in keeping the government of the country going deserves, says Mr Dagnall, to be better known. The Office began to collect funds raised by an Act of 1694 granting King William and Queen Mary "several duties upon vellum, parchment and paper... towards carrying on the war against France." A "stamp" was impressed on the vellum and parchment to show the duty had been collected. Six values were produced – 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s 6d, 5s and 40s; the designs based on the devices of the Order of the Garter. The dies were engraved by John Rollos, His Majesty's Engraver of Seals, 1694-1743, and the "stamps" embossed in colourless relief by means of a simple hand operated fly-press. Mr Dagnall provides an interesting account of the genesis of the stamps and much useful information for present-day collectors of these revenue stamps. Coloured embossed postage stamps were introduced in 1841, but inked impressions of revenue stamps did not follow for 30 years. Opaque ink would have obliterated any text written underneath, (the stamps often being impressed over written or printed matter), but inks developed in the 1870s were permanent, consistent in colour, took evenly, and did not obscure text. Their

CREATING A GOOD IMPRESSION

Three hundred years of
The Stamp Office and stamp duties



H. Dagnall MA, AKC, FRPSL

adoption involved the introduction of new presses capable of automatically inking the die between each impression.

Chapters 4 and 5 look at the taxing of gambling ("stamps" applied to dice and playing cards), and knowledge (newspapers and almanacs). The newspaper tax stamps popular with some philatelists (see "Philatelic Terms Explained", *Bulletin*, August 1989) kept the Stamping Office busy – some 28 million were applied in 1828, rising to 93 million by 1850! Chapter 14 deals with "Stamp Office people" including the engravers such as Warren De La Rue and his son Warren William who worked on the dies from 1860 to 1910. Before 1910 the engravers were independently employed and also worked for the Royal Mint and private individuals. Since 1910 Stamping Office dies have been engraved at the Mint. William Wordsworth, better known as a poet, was Distributor of Stamps in Westmorland, 1813-42, a usefully lucrative appointment. The Hill family also worked in the Stamp Office, both Edwin and his son Ormond being Superintendent of Stamping. Today's Stamp Office, described in chapter 15, handled revenue from stamp duties of £1289 million in 1992/93. Yet this staggering sum is a mere 1.7% of total Inland Revenue receipts. The Office employs about 200 staff. The stamp values have increased considerably since the highest rate of 40s (£2) in 1694. High-

duty dies for £15,000 and £50,000 were registered in 1890 and 1948, £100,000 and £250,000 in 1979. An even higher value was to come; in 1986 a die for a ONE MILLION POUND stamp was registered. As Mr Dagnall writes: "The need for a stamp of this value should not cause surprise when one considers the assets that are transferred when one large company is taken over by another." During its first 12 months, it was needed on no fewer than 120 occasions. It holds the record of being the highest value of any stamp, not only in the UK, but in the world! Mr Dagnall's well-written text and carefully selected illustrations should delight not only revenue stamp collectors but all interested in economic/administrative history. 130 pages, hardbound with dust jacket. Price £19.95 from HMSO bookshops and agents and through all good bookshops. Orders may be placed by telephone to HMSO: 0171 873 9090.

For 27 years every major philatelic title passed through the hands of Harry Hayes at his base in Batley, Yorkshire. Now available are the first two volumes of **Harry Hayes Philatelic Literature Auctions – Index to Lots and Realisations**, compiled by Raymond Price and covering, respectively, publications of the 1980s and 1970s. (Vol 3, covering the 1950s and 1960s, is in preparation.) The Index lists all books offered for sale by subject, author and title, and includes prices realised. An invaluable reference work. Price: Vol 1 £14 (US\$22.50), Vol 2 £27.50 (\$47.50). Available from James Bendon Ltd, PO Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus.

Collectors of slogan postmarks will be well aware of the series of books by Cyril Parsons, Colin Peachey and George Pearson. The latest – **Slogan Postmarks of the Nineties: Part 1 The First Five Years 1990-1994** – is now available. This follows on from *Collecting Slogan Postmarks* (covering the period 1917-69), *Slogan Postmarks of the Seventies*, and *Slogan Postmarks of the Eighties*. The book is arranged in 12 sections: Introduction; Background; Postal History of the Nineties; "Post Code" Slogans; General Slogans; Exceptional Uses; Handstamp Slogans; Maritime Slogans; Slogans used at FPOs; Channel Islands & Isle of Man Slogans; Miscellaneous Slogans; and Ink Jet Machines.

Section 3 contains a useful account of changes brought about by postal mechanisation and the concentration of mail into Automated Processing

Centres; the reintroduction of Sunday collections; the introduction of coloured slogans, etc. Most interesting is the table showing the number of slogans used each year from 1957 to 1994. From a mere 17 in 1957, a peak of 440 were used in 1968, declining to just 78 in 1985. The number has grown again in recent years, averaging 146 for the years 1990-94.

To meet the need of thematic collectors for a clear slogan impression, a "handstamped impression" service was introduced in 1993. In many cases the town die on these handstamp slogans differs to that actually applied by machines. The handstamp slogans are illustrated so "collectors of the future should be able to differentiate these items from the real operationally used slogans".

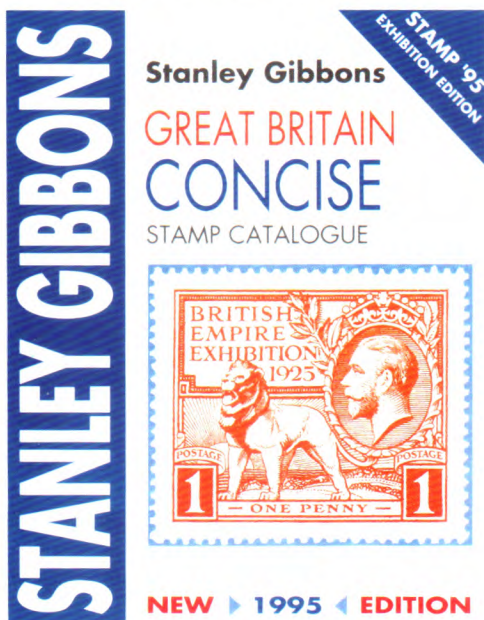
Included under "Miscellaneous Slogans" are slogans applied to Paid mail, and to mail posted in the wrong box and delayed, e.g. "Item not posted into correct posting box/SUBJECT TO/POSSIBLE DELAY". Royal Mail has been concerned about the amount of metered mail bearing the wrong date of posting. Slogans are applied over the meter impression to show the correct date, e.g. HULL METER POST/POSTED ON DATE/SHOWN NOT AS/METER POSTMARK. Keen collectors carefully check all their mail for such markings.

This well-researched and presented book will be of value not only to regular slogan collectors, but also to thematic collectors and all with a general interest in modern postal history. The authors are to be congratulated on another useful publication. Price £6.95, postage £1 UK £1.50 overseas. Available from: Colin Peachey, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH.

The 1995 edition of Stanley Gibbons's popular **Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue** was published at the end of April to coincide with the successful Stamp '95 exhibition at Wembley. Appropriately the front cover features the 1d British Empire Exhibition 1925 stamp depicting the Wembley Lion. The listings cover all British stamps from 1840 to the Springtime set (March 1995), including Postage Dues, Regionals (Country stamps), Royal Mail Postage Labels ("Framas"), Officials, Postal Fiscals, Specimen Overprints, and Stamp Booklets. This catalogue is ideal for those who want to take their collecting beyond the Part 1 listing but not to the depth of the *GB Specialised* listings. The *Concise* includes, for example, watermark inverted

varieties, gum changes (gum arabic/PVA), major shades, etc. First day cover collectors are catered for, the Bureau and "alternative office" pictorial first day postmarks are illustrated.

The Machin decimal listings are divided between stamps with standard perfs (SG X841/1058), stamps with elliptical perfs (Y1667/1753), NVI issues (1445/52; 1511/16; 1663a/6), and Double Heads (1467/78). A number of prices have been revised since *Collect British Stamps* was published last November. For example, the 75p Questa with revised face value (SG X1024) is increased from £9 mint/£5 used to £10/£6.50, and the Walsall 14p (X1051) from £2.50 to £3.50 m/u. On the other hand the Walsall 29p 2 bands (X1054) is down 75p to £3 m/u. The now withdrawn 1982 Postage Dues



(D90/101) are up mint by £4.50 but remain the same price used. The scarce Scottish 31p Type 2 (S51Ea) continues its spectacular rise, up a further £10 mint/£20 used on the 1994 prices.

A number of recently discovered errors and varieties have been added since the 1994 edition of the *Concise*, including 1987 St John Ambulance 18p with black printing double, and 19p and 25p Harrison definitives, Channel Tunnel 41p, and 1994 Christmas 19p in imperf pairs. 304 pages, card covers. Price £11.95. Available from good bookshops, stamp shops, Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or by post from:

Stanley Gibbons, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Postage £3 UK, £6 overseas. Free Credit Card Mail Order Hotline 0800 611622.

To coincide with the author's 100th birthday, the Scottish Postal History Society has recently published a second edition of Bruce Auckland's well-known **Postal Markings of Scotland to 1840** (first published 1985). In his Preface the Editor, Ron Stables, states: "Bruce's first edition ... was a major advance in the published information to that date and one which only someone with his breadth of knowledge could have accomplished. The current edition is merely an extension of the earlier volume albeit rearranged and substantially expanded. However it remains in essence Bruce Auckland's. . . ." The new edition, in A4 format, is well-illustrated with useful maps as well as reproductions of postal markings. The introductory matter is somewhat shorter than in the first edition but still provides a comprehensive "Background to Scotland's Postmarks", notes on the illustrations and a suggested price guide. A coding system is used – from A (up to £3) to K (above £200). It is emphasised that prices vary very widely, and the guide should be used with discretion. Bargains are still to be found.

The illustrations and listings are arranged alphabetically by county, from Aberdeenshire to Wigtownshire, with separate sections for Edinburgh & Leith and Glasgow. The maps show Mail Coach, Horse Post/Mail Gig, Foot Post, and Seaborne Mail routes with main towns and villages marked. The postmark listings, alphabetical by place, cites reference and type numbers, size, inscription, date in Archives proof book, earliest and latest known dates of usage, colour and price. The reference numbers are coded for each county – AB (Aberdeenshire), BK (Berwickshire), etc. The sections for Edinburgh & Leith and Glasgow include the markings of the city and district offices. The scarce markings of Peter Williamson's Penny Post (1773-93) are to be found in the Edinburgh section.

The "England & Ireland" section covers offices outside Scotland where there is a Scottish association – offices lying close to the border and under whole or partial control of the Scottish authorities and offices with handstamps to denote the Scottish Additional Halfpenny mail tax. The reference numbers used are those from the Willcocks/Jay *County Catalogue*. The towns here listed are: Berwick, Bristol, Carlisle,

Dublin, Etal, Exeter, Falmouth, Ford, Liverpool, London, Longtown, Manchester, Newcastle, and Norham. There are good clear illustrations of over 90 "Standard Types" of postmark, including the Additional Halfpenny and Ship Letter markings, and a short "Selected Bibliography" under the headings Historical Background, Local Postal History and Postmarks. The lengthy index lists, alphabetically, over 850 places with county alongside for ease of finding, although page reference numbers are not given.

It goes without saying that this new edition is essential reading for all collectors of pre-1840 Scottish postmarks. It is to be hoped it will encourage greater interest in Scottish postal history – perhaps the greatest tribute that could be paid to Bruce Auckland's work in his centenary year. 216 pages, laminated card covers. Price £18, postage £3. Available from: Scottish Postal History Society, 22 Ochloch Park, DUNBLANE, Perthshire, FK15 0DU.

New from the American Topical Association is Handbook No. 125 **Tennis Philately** by Lester M Yearkes. When he published his first checklist of tennis stamps in the ATA's journal, *Topical Time*, in 1970, it contained just 85 stamps and eight souvenir sheets. The total now approaches 600, about half issued since tennis was reintroduced as a competitive Olympic event in 1988. The listings, in six sections, cover Stamps, Postmarks, Meters, Booklets, and Postal Stationery. The Stamps listing, arranged alphabetically by country and chronologically by date, quotes Scott catalogue numbers, the date of issue, purpose of issue and a key to varieties – imperforates, gutter pairs, etc. The Postmark and Meters list, quoting place, year, and text of postmark/meter, records over 1300 different postmarks/meters! The Booklets section is much shorter, but Postal Stationery totals over 1150 items, the majority from Austria. More illustrations would be welcome, although for these the serious collector will turn to Mr Yerkes's *Handbook of Tennis Philately* (1988). Only three British stamps are listed, but we fare better with postmarks, and a number of tennis advertisements are to be found in pre-war stamp books. A £1.55 stamp book of 1982 depicts ladies tennis fashions on the covers, and 1977 Wimbledon Champion, Virginia Wade, featured in "The Story of The Times" prestige book of 1985. 56 pages, card covers. Available from: American Topical Association, PO Box 630, Johnstown, PA 15907, USA. Price \$8 postpaid.

Postbag

J R HOLMAN



Northern Ireland Country Stamps

Pete Daniels, President of the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle, writes:

I should like to clarify matters regarding the width of phosphor bands on country stamps in the 1994 Northern Ireland and 1995 National Trust prestige stamp books. The different width bands are of relatively little concern to most collectors but of considerable interest to specialists. The 25p, 30p and 41p N Ireland stamps in panes 3 and 4 in the N Ireland prestige book all have 8mm wide bands (two bands each of 4mm), the same width as the stamps from sheets of 200.

The 25p country stamps (N Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) in pane 3 in the National Trust book all have 9.5mm bands thus making three new variations for the specialist collector.

Incidentally the 19p national definitive with left band in pane 2 of the NT book has a 4mm wide band (8mm shared with neighbouring 10p) – the same as the stamp in pane 2 of the N Ireland book. The 19p left band stamps in pane 4 of the NT book have a wider band – 9.5mm wide shared with the neighbouring 19p right band stamps. Again this makes an interesting new variation for us Machin aficionados.

I hope this information, correcting and supplementing earlier *Bulletin* reports, will be of interest and help to specialist collectors.

For details of the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle write to: Steve Van Kimmenade, 99 Clay Bottom, Eastville, BRISTOL BS5 7HB

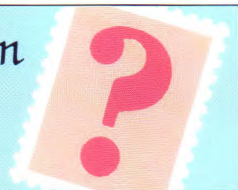
Keeping Communications Open

Stamp designer Jeffery Matthews writes concerning the caption to the Queen's 60th birthday stamp on page 269 of April Bulletin:

"I should like to point out that the caption is incorrect. In the second portrait the then Princess Elizabeth is not in uniform. The portrait was by Cecil Beaton and the Princess was wearing a military styled costume for her first public engagement – the official inspection as Colonel of the Regiment of the Grenadier Guards on her 16th birthday. Also, of course, the stamp was issued in 1986, not 1976."

I am obliged to Mr Matthews for setting the record straight. Ed.

Competition



Win Block of Four £1-£5 Stamps

The prizes for this month's competition are supplied by Royal Mail.

*2 x 1st prize: GB Castle High Values £1, £1.50, £2 and £5 in unmounted mint blocks of four

*4 x 2nd prize: GB Castle High Values £1-£5 unmounted mint singles

*10 x 3rd prize: British Philatelic Bulletin Publication No 2 – *British Stamp Design 1993* (The Work of the Stamp Advisory Committee)

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: July Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL to arrive by 25 August. You may submit as many entries as you like but each must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

1. What is the population of Carrickfergus?
2. Who piloted a BAT FK26 on 29 September 1919?
3. In which island group is Skara Brae?
4. Which stamp features on the front cover of the 1995 edition of the *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue*?
5. Who is President of the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle?

The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, their families and agents, of Royal Mail.

The winners of the April competition were:

Irene Goddard of Canada (Queen Victoria 10s), R J Green of Surrey (Penny Black), P Constantine of Bucks (Canada 1938 \$1), E Ericksson of Sweden and D Minett of Worcestershire (collections of German stamps). All prizes were donated by Avon Mixtures.

The answers were: 1. Central Hall, Westminster; 2. Jean-Michel Folon; 3. Harrison & Sons Ltd; 4. Wembley Exhibition Centre; 5. 1945.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Posting Boxes

No. 155 Mother & Son Boxes in Gibraltar

Our photographs this month were submitted by Roberta Hanson of Spain and show Queen Victoria and Edward VII boxes on the Rock. Ms Hanson tells us that the Victorian box is right opposite the Convent – the Governor's Residence – and the Edwardian box is in front of White's Hotel (previously the Holiday Inn). Ms Hanson writes: "Like the policemen in their helmets, they bring a touch of Britain to an exotic location." Another Edward VII box is to be seen near Casemates Square; this has the crown and Royal cipher painted in black.



Readers interested in letter boxes should consider joining the Letter Box Study Group which has some 700 members. For details send a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.

Events – July/August 1995

until April 1996: "Victorian Posts" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. Admission free. Enquiries: 0171-239 5420.

1-2 July: Thematica '95 exhibition at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Enquiries: F B Sole, 013724 67652.

6-8 July: "Rare Stamps of the World" exhibition at Claridges, Brook Street, London W1. Open 6 July 12.00-18.00, 7 July 10.00-20.00, 8 July 10.00-18.00. Admission £10 including souvenir catalogue. Enquiries: 0171-435 8425.

8 July: SWIPEX (South West of England Inter-Federation Philatelic Exhibition) at Guildhall, Plymouth, 10.30-16.00. Dealers, displays, youth corner, refreshments. Organised by Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset & Wessex Philatelic Federations. Enquiries: Mrs M Claydon, 01398 331731.

13 July-1 October: Display of 1982 Ascension 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin Voyage issue (stamps, artwork, proofs, etc) at British Library Philatelic Collections, Great Russell Street, London WC1. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00; Sun 14.30-18.00. Enquiries: 0171 412 7635/6.

15 July: Telford Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, 01952 223926.

21 July: Weston-super-Mare Phil Soc Annual Exhibition & Stamp Fair at St Paul's Church Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, easy parking, refreshments. Enquiries: 01934 813631.

30 August-2 September: 1995 Picture Postcard Show (incorporating BIPEX) at Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1.

British Philatelic Bulletin Publications

British Special Stamps 1985/86, price £3.95.

British Stamp Design 1993, price £4.99.

Available from British Philatelic Bureau.

July/August Digest

To be issued in July/August

4 July: Youth Olympics aerogramme

18 July: Scottish aerogramme – Pre-Historic Scotland. Available from post offices in Scotland, the Bureau, and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets.

July: New prestamped envelopes – 1st & 2nd class, DL, C5, C4 sizes. These may not be available at all post offices, collectors may order from the Bureau.

1 August: Shakespeare's Globe stamp cards

8 August: Shakespeare's Globe stamps (5 x 25p), and presentation pack

8 August: National Postal Museum Postal Uniforms postcards (set of 4). Available to callers at NPM shop, by post from British Philatelic Bureau

15 August: Stamp cards for £1 and £3 definitives

22 August: £1 Machin head definitive; £3 Carrickfergus Castle definitive. Presentation pack for £3 stamp.

August: New Priority Service envelopes – Special Delivery, Registered, Registered Plus – two sizes each (six envelopes in all)

Note: Some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau, and from Post Office Counters Ltd philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Gloucester, Guildford, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (Lombard Street, EC3 & Trafalgar Square, WC2), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Romford, Southampton, Southend on Sea, Stratford upon Avon, Truro, Windsor and York.

To be withdrawn in July/August

18 July: Scottish aerogramme – Gordon Highlanders

18 July: Birds aerogrammes (pack of six)

25 July: Northern Ireland prestige stamp book.

26 July: Bank of England stamp book (4 x 1st class stamps & commemorative label)

28 July: Golf stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

1 August: Summertime stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

1 August: National Postal Museum Uniforms postcards (issued 2 August 94). *Note:* These cards will be withdrawn at the Bureau on 1 August, but will remain on sale at the Museum shop.

8 August: 4 x 60p stamp book (issued 9 August 94)

22 August: Birds aerogramme (large size).



New Prestamped Envelopes

A new series of envelopes bearing postage paid symbols will be available during July, replacing the envelopes issued in 1991 bearing the Machin head of The Queen within a black octagonal frame. The new design shows the Machin head surrounded by the words POSTAGE PAID POSTAGE PAID. A service indicator – 1st or 2nd – is positioned to the right of the head. The 1st and 2nd class envelopes have two and one phosphor band respectively. The envelopes have been produced by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd. Sizes and prices as below

	1st class	2nd class
DL	30p	24p
C5 (paid to 100g)	42p	33p
C5 (paid to 60g)	31p	25p
C4	43p	34p

They will be available at post offices where there is a demand. Collectors will be able to order from the Bureau.



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