

Philatelic Bulletin

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I am delighted to take over from Archie Page as Acting Editor of the Bulletin for the time being.

On the fourth day of August, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will celebrate her eightieth birthday, and on that day a commemorative postage stamp will be issued in honour of the occasion. This is the first time in our history that a royal birthday has been recorded in such a manner.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin appear details of a first-day cover service offered by the Philatelic Bureau.

Her Majesty shared the keen interest of her late husband, King George VI, in the study and design of postage stamps, which was abundantly demonstrated when she visited in November 1972, an exhibition of stamps staged in Postal Headquarters, to mark the Silver Wedding of her daughter Queen Elizabeth II. It was at this exhibition that the Queen Mother paused nostalgically at a display of stamps, issued in 1948 to commemorate her own silver wedding.

The Philatelic Bulletin offers congratulations and good wishes for the future.

1980 Stamp Programme New Issue Date

Because of the introduction of the special commemorative stamp to mark the 80th birthday of HM The Queen Mother on 4 August 1980, the following new issue date for the 'SPORT' stamps will be - 10 October.



First Day of Issue Handstamp Facilities

First day of issue facilities will be available from the Head Post Office, 36-40 North Bridge Street, BATHGATE, West Lothian, EH48 4AA with the 'Famous People' commemorative stamps issue on 9 July 1980.

New Illustrated Stamp Books

Our reproduction shows no. 3 of the second series of stamp books with illustrated covers which became available from 25 June 1980.

The British Philatelic Federation

When I was invited to become assistant editor of 'Philately', the magazine of the British Philatelic Federation Limited, day dreams of my youth when I thought I might like to be a newspaper reporter came flooding back. After a short spell as assistant editor I moved into the editor's chair.

It is my job to keep members informed of the activities of the British Philatelic Federation, and to impart knowledge by way of specialised articles. There is a junior section, a programme planner for society secretaries together with articles on society organisations, local events and specialist society editions. The Honorary Secretary, BPF Ltd., 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE, will be delighted to send a free copy to anyone who cares to write.

What is the British Philatelic Federation? The Federation (BPF) came into being in 1976 following the merger of the British Philatelic Association Limited (BPA) and the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain (PCGB). As a generalisation the BPA catered for the trade and the PCGB, an unincorporated body was comprised of collectors and saw as its main task the organisation of the annual Congress. Thus the BPF is the only organisation in the United Kingdom which can claim to represent all sections of philately. Its membership is composed of collectors, business members, societies and regional associations and federations in the United Kingdom and overseas.

The British Philatelic Federation has retained the annual Congress which has been held yearly since 1909 when the first was held in Manchester. No Congresses were held during the war years of 1915-1919 and 1941-1945.

The Congress is held in a different venue each year at the invitation of a local philatelic society or federation. It follows a similar pattern, business being combined with visits to places of local interest. Papers, usually three in number, are presented by invited speakers and these are debated and discussed. The AGM takes place on the last day, Saturday. Other discussions take place concerning the future of the hobby and the ways in which the Federation can meet the needs of its members. Times are changing and the business sessions are becoming more important and more

time is being given to serious discussion.

This year the Congress is being organised by the Cambridge Philatelic Society from Wednesday 20 August to Saturday 23. The headquarters are Trinity College by kind permission of The Master and Fellows. An added attraction will be the opportunity to 'live in Hall' although hotel accommodation is available.

The provisional programme is as follows:

Wednesday 20 August	10.00	Formal Opening of Congress by The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Cambridge. Investiture of the Chairman of Congress. Official Welcome by the Chairman of the BPF.
	11.15	Opening Address by the Chairman of Congress. Loyal telegram.
	11.30	PAPER.
	14.15	Conducted tours of Colleges. Tea.
	18.15	Civic Reception at The Guildhall.
	20.30	Talk: 'Expertising' by W R Hart, BSc, FCIS.
Thursday 21 August	09.30	PAPER. For visitors - Short conducted tour of 'The Backs'.
	11.30	Open Discussion on current philatelic events and trends.
	14.15	Visit to Wimpole Hall and tea there.
	20.00	Auction of Members' material for the benefit of the Melville funds. Talk.
		PAPER.
Friday 22 August	11.00	For visitors - Visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum.
	11.30	Talk.
	14.00	Visit to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Tea at Whittlesford.

Saturday
23 August

- 20.00 Meeting of Society Representatives.
- 09.15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Philatelic Federation Ltd. Resolutions.
Presentation of Certificates of Awards of Merit.
- 11.30 Discussion on BPF matters.
Address on the arrangements for 1981 Congress.
- 14.45 Introduction of the Distinguished Philatelists.
Award of the BPF Congress Medal.
Signing The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.
Closing Address.
- 19.30 BANQUET followed by Dancing.

The proposed Papers concern the work of the Society Secretary, Aerophilately and the Dangers of Philatelic Investment.

Further details about this year's Congress are obtainable from the Honorary Organising Secretary, Brian F Sutcliffe, 4 Leyburn Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, CB1 4XR.

Over the years the PCGB and now the BPF has sought to give recognition to those who have made outstanding contributions to the status of the hobby.

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was instituted in 1921. The first signatory of the Roll was His late Majesty King George V, who laid the foundation of the Royal Philatelic Collection. To be chosen to sign the Roll is regarded as the pinnacle of philatelic achievement. It is conferred upon those throughout the world who have formed notable collections, published research work for the benefit of philately, undertaken journalistic work and organised philatelic exhibitions, Congresses or societies. The ceremony of Signing the Roll is held on the last day of Congress.

In 1957 the Congress Medal was instituted to be awarded annually to a person who has performed outstanding work to advance the interest of philately apart from study and research, on a national basis.

In 1977 the Awards of Merit were introduced. It was felt that some recognition should be given to the collectors who had performed outstanding service in their local area but who might not qualify for the Congress Medal as the service was not of a national nature. This gives philatelic societies and

federations who are affiliated to the BPF, the opportunity of nominating their own members for this award and approximately eight awards are made each year.

The encouragement of junior collectors is very much a part of the Federation's work and in 1947 a fund was set up in memory of the late Fred. J Melville and since 1949 an annual national competition has been held. There are four classes from the under twelves to 21 years, and medals, from bronze to silver given for standards in each class. In addition the winner in each class receives a cup. This year the British Post Office is giving a special award for one year. This prize will take the form of a three-day seminar to be held at the Postal Museum in London during the school summer holidays.

In 1965 the PCGB, now BPF, was accepted into membership of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie as the official representative of Great Britain which enables this country to have a say in the international aspect of the hobby, especially international exhibitions.

How is the Federation organised? Broadly speaking there is a Council comprised of twenty members of whom twelve are collector members and eight are business members, elected at the AGM. The chairman of each sub-committee is a Council member and the eleven sub-committees range from Awards, Home Affairs, International and Melville and Youth. The officers give freely of their time and the paid staff is minimal.

How can a collector benefit from membership of the British Philatelic Federation? The Memorandum of Association of the Federation gives as one of its objects 'To promote, support and protect the science, study, knowledge, practice, business, hobby, collecting and the interest and status generally of philately, postal history and all other philatelic matters of whatever nature and in its widest sense in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.' With such a wide mandate the Federation benefits every collector whether directly or indirectly.

Membership gives the right to speak and vote at the annual Congress. It is here that views and opinions regarding the hobby can be expressed and resolutions, if passed, form a mandate to the Council of the Federation to take action. As the hobby is conducted in isolation it is always a welcome change to meet with fellow collectors and discuss the finer points of collecting.

Members receive concessional rates to National Exhibitions, a complimentary ticket for Stampex and entrance at half-price for the British Philatelic

Exhibition. The membership card is recognised world wide.

Also included in the membership fee are copies of the Federation's publications. The Yearbook: an essential book for society secretaries giving details of philatelic societies and inter alia a list of society speakers. The Handbook: in which the Papers presented at Congress are printed, and 'Philately', the Federation's magazine published every other month.

In addition members receive a concession in respect of fees for material submitted to BPA Expertising Limited for a certificate of genuineness. Furthermore the BPF will, on behalf of members, investigate complaints and try to resolve differences between collectors and dealers.

The cost of membership is £7 per annum for a collector member and £2 for a junior under 18 years. Affiliated society membership starts at £2 for a membership of up to 30 and is graduated according to the size of the society. There are separate rates for business members.

If you are a senior collector or new to the hobby the British Philatelic Federation has something to offer you. Write to the Honorary Secretary for particulars today and by joining help us to have a strong body to speak for the future of the hobby.

YVONNE KING

the written word, he was an obvious choice when offered the editorship. It is because of his natural ability and enthusiasm that the Bulletin enjoys the respect and popularity it does today, from a readership which is larger than that of any other philatelic magazine.

A keen follower of sport, Archie's 'love' is golf of which he is no mean exponent, and as such, a raconteur of golfing anecdotes.

After a lifetime in public service, devotion to everything in which he was associated on behalf of the Post Office, we wish him a long and happy retirement.



Retirements



Archie Page retired in May after 46 years' service in the Post Office. During his career, which started as a messenger boy, he has served in many areas of postal administration. However, it is as Editor of the Philatelic Bulletin, for the past fifteen years, that he is best remembered.

A man of irrepressible wit as well as a student of

Tony Rigo de Righi, Curator of the National Postal Museum, retired in May. As its second Curator, he came to the Museum in 1970 and was immediately thrown in at the deep-end, as it were, by having to prepare the Post Office Philatelic exhibit at 'Philympia' to be held during September of the same year.

As the author of 'National Postal Museum Notes' and 'Gems from the R M Phillips Collection' he quickly established, through his articles for the Bulletin, a new level of philatelic study eagerly welcomed by many readers.

During his ten years of Curatorship, Tony was responsible for staging many successful exhibitions in the Museum, including, '250 Years of Anglo-American Postal Links', 'The Young Collector', 'The Railways and the Post' and thematic displays such as 'Ships on Stamps', all of which were seen by many thousands of visitors.

Through his efforts and his writings Tony de Righi has brought a new impetus to the study of philately, welcomed by collectors both new and established.

After leaving the Post Office he plans to go on working in and with stamps for many years to come. We wish him every success.

Collecting the Victorians

7. The Penny Lilac and 'Postage & Revenue' Issues, 1881-84

Just a hundred years ago, on 12 July 1881, a pretty 1d lilac-coloured stamp made its début. It replaced the famous old 'Penny Reds' which had been in constant use for forty years, and marked the end of the Perkins Bacon contract for printing the line-engraved low-value stamps which, rather belatedly perhaps, the Post Office had decided were unsafe 'in that the cancellations could easily be removed without damage to the stamps'. De La Rue successfully tendered for the new contract to print (by 'surface-printing' or typography) new 1/2d, 1d (Venetian red), 1 1/2d and 2d stamps issued in 1880, and a new denomination for letters to India and the Far East – the 5d – in 1881.

By an Act of Parliament of 1881, postage stamps were required to perform fiscal duties as well as the prepayment of postage – hitherto there were separate revenue stamps for a variety of purposes – hence the introduction of new stamps bearing the revised inscription. The first of these, the 1d lilac, was inscribed 'Postage and Inland Revenue', a distinction which was adapted to 'Postage and Revenue' in 1883-84 and continued with the definitives of successive reigns, except on the high values, to about 1968.

John Easton, in *British Postage Stamp Design* (published by Faber & Faber), described the new 1d lilac as a 'utilitarian stamp *par excellence*, a thing of beauty compared with the horrors to come'. The ugly corner letters had been abandoned, temporarily at least, and the familiar 'Wyon' head of the Queen was enclosed within an oval band of just the right balance and symmetry. The first lilac stamps were printed from plates manufactured from Die I, distinguished by having 14 dots or 'pearls' in each corner. After a few months the original die was replaced by Die II (with 16 corner dots) and these stamps remained in use for more than twenty years – well into the new century.

The introduction of picture postcards in the 1890s brought the 1d lilac into extensive use for cards posted abroad in addition to its normal use, and the stamps sold in enormous quantities. Some were experimentally printed with advertisements for 'Pear's Soap' on the back.

The horrors referred to by Mr Easton were the ten 'Postage and Revenue' stamps of 1883-84

which, apart from the 1/2d in an earlier design, are known as the 'lilacs and greens' – a reference to their monotonous monochrome colours. With these stamps, he said, designing reached its nadir. 'To circle, oblong, square and oval, a shield has been added: someone has taken a chisel and gouged away from the design any space that might have been treated with imagination, and left it empty and staring, as ruthlessly as Cromwell's troops defaced the churches.' The ubiquitous corner letters helped to fill the gaps, and the figures of value appeared in duplicate on all stamps except the shield types – 1 1/2d and 5d – and inscribed in words as well – the 1/2d in words only. These frugal designs remained in use until the splendid so-called 'Jubilee' stamps were issued in 1887.

JAMES WATSON

Errata. Mischievous sprites have been at work on previous articles in this series. In No. 2 The Penny Reds (January), the correct dates for paragraph 'C' are 1858-1879; and in No. 4 The Surface-Printed Issues (April), the colours of the 2s stamp were transposed – the blue stamp was issued in 1867, the brown version in 1880, as explained more fully in the May article.

JW

New Scottish Pictorial Air Letter

A new Scottish pictorial air letter will be issued on 13 August 1980 price 16p (14p of which is postage). The air letter will be on sale from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters, and post offices throughout Scotland.

It illustrates some of the beautiful Scottish objects to be seen in Edinburgh, at the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, during the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Society of Antiquaries.

Designed by Ruari McLean Associates Ltd with drawings by Sheila A. Mackay, the air letter is printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd.

The Four Corners of the Penny Black

The creation of the classic and functional design of the 1840 adhesive postage stamps involved Rowland Hill and his collaborators, Henry Cole (his assistant) and J B Bacon (the printer) in some three months of careful and painstaking experimentation.

Hill had – as early as 6 December 1839 – specified in a report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the main elements of the design for the adhesive stamp ‘labels’ or ‘appliques’. These should be:

a portrait of the Queen as the central element, the use of an engine-turned security background, wording to indicate the price of the ‘label’ and the weight it was intended to frank, and finally a ‘distinctive mark’ which Hill proposed should be a pair of check letters, differing for each and every stamp in the complete sheet.

By mid-January 1840 a (second) engine-turned background had been selected as suitable and the wording finalised as ‘POSTAGE’ and ‘ONE PENNY’. While Charles and Frederick Heath were engaged in the process of engraving the Queen’s head into the blank space left for the purpose on the incomplete new die, J B Bacon took several proofs off a duplicate of this die (probably in late January) for Hill and Cole to try out alternative positions for the inscriptions and the check letters.

This month’s ‘Gem’ shows one of these basic proofs which has been completed by hand by the addition of the approved wording and the placing of letters (inside a ‘star’ design) in each corner. This essay thus carries out Rowland Hill’s original intention of putting letters in all four corners:–

‘V R’ (Victoria Regina) in the lower corners and the variable check letters in the upper. The ‘impossible’ check letters ‘B R’ (Brittannarum Regina) are used in this essay.

There is a very similar essay in the collection of H M The Queen and two other somewhat different essays, all made from the proofs of the



incomplete die, in the Cole collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Each essay, being hand-finished, is virtually unique and all are of the greatest importance in tracing the evolution of the Penny Black design.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

New Scottish Postcards

Five new picture postcards featuring Land-Rovers used for delivering mail over rough terrain of sparsely populated areas of Scotland, as well as carrying passengers, will be available from 16 July. The set of cards depicting service 21 Bettyhill to Kinbrace, service 53 Grotait to Drumnadrochit, service 59 Arnisdale to Kyle of Lochalsh, service 78 Colonsay PO to Kiloran and service 113 Ballater to Linn of Dee, are enclosed in a folder and inserted in a polythene sleeve, price 42½p per set. For orders of 20-199 sets there is a discount of 10% and a discount of 20% on orders for 200 or more sets. A handling charge of 13p for orders under £10 and 88p for orders over £10 should be added.

Orders for mint sets should be addressed to:– The Manager (Postcards), British PO Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB.

Serviced cards costing 30½p each or £1.52½ per set will have a 12p ‘Famous People’ stamp affixed, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp. Services other than the above will not be provided.

Orders for serviced cards should be sent to:– The Head Postmaster (Postcards), Head Post Office, 1-9 George Square, GLASGOW, G2 1AA.

Remittances should be made payable to The Post Office and crossed A/C payee.

HM The Queen Mother's 80th Birthday Special Stamp Issue

August 4 marks the 80th birthday of a most gracious lady, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and the Post Office will issue on that day a 12p stamp together with a specially designed cover.

Printing Details

Designer: Jeffery Matthews FSIAD

Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Format: Vertical

Perforation: 15 x 14

Sheet size: 100

Paper: Coated, Un-watermarked

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Phosphor: In the coating

Size: 30mm x 41mm

Colours:

Magenta, cyan, yellow, black and silver.

Postcard

A postcard size reproduction of the stamp will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 8½p.

First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services are offered

by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, including a choice of two handstamps; Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and Glamis Castle, Forfar.

Service A

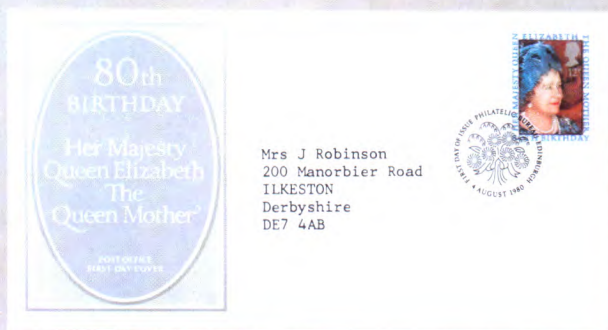
This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing the stamp. The cover will be cancelled as required, and despatched.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers, bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamp, cancelled and despatched.

CHARGES	INLAND	OVERSEAS
Service A	34½p	30p
Deposit account customers	30p	26p
Service B	24p	21p

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with Philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 24 July 1980.



British Special Stamps

66. Christmas, 1969

For this, the fourth Christmas issue in successive years, the Post Office reverted to the traditional Nativity subjects for the festive season, and selected the biblical 'illuminated manuscript' designs submitted by Austrian-born Fritz Wegner, his first stamp essays.

The 4d stamp showed a Herald Angel and the Christmas Star, the 5d, the three Shepherds, a sheep and the Star, and the 1s 6d the three Kings, bearing their gifts. The colours were bright and cheerful – eight colours for each stamp including the Queen's head, stars and scrollwork (1s 6d) embossed in gold. Fritz Wegner was born in Vienna in 1924, and came to England in 1938 – he studied at the St Martin's School of Art in London, and became a visiting lecturer in graphic design there. A freelance designer, he has illustrated numerous books, magazines and periodicals, and he has also designed several GB stamps since his first success, his most recent being the 'Cycling' issue of 1978.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons, in sheets of 72 (6 x 12 – 4d) or 120 (6 x 20 – 5d and 1s 6d) on unwatermarked paper with one centre phosphor band on the 4d and two bands on the other denominations. All values



are known with the gold and some other colours omitted, while the 1s 6d had a constant flaw – a broken arch above the King on the right. Quantities sold were: 4d 271,244,808; 5d 139,845,600; 1s 6d 19,136,520; presentation packs, 121,454.

JAMES WATSON

Book Reviews

2nd Edition of British Stamp Values

The second edition of 'British Stamp Values' was published on 2 May 1980, price £1.50.

The first edition launched last September was an immediate success. Thousands of collectors found that this handy sized market priced guide which included Great Britain, Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey in one volume was indispensable.

Many commented on how useful they found the listing which was not too simplified in its approach, therefore providing the collectors with just the right amount of information. This new edition offers even more however, it includes a useful directory of stamp terms plus a listing of philatelic societies in the UK.

Stamp booklets and booklet panes will now be

listed throughout, whilst improvements have been made in the listing of the definitive issues of the UK to make these even clearer for the user.

The listing of presentation packs for the Channel Islands and Isle of Man has also been improved. PHQ postcards are now priced, used on the first day of issue as well as mint. Another added feature is a fully illustrated guide to 'plating', the 1978 and 1979 Great Britain miniature sheets.

As with the first edition, the second will be fully up-dated with its listings and prices. However, the price will remain at £1.50 offering even better value. Obtainable from most stamp dealers and newsagents.

26th Edition of 'Collect British Stamps'

The 26th edition of Stanley Gibbons' best-selling check list 'Collect British Stamps' is currently available price £1.30.

The new edition lists all British stamps from the world famous 1840 1d Black to the recent 1980 Birds issue, with thorough price revisions in all sections.

A notable editorial improvement in this edition is a new clearer system of listing the decimal definitives issued since 1971. These are now sub-divided into two main groups: the first for 'phosphor bands' including 'all-over' phosphor stamps; and the second for the 'phosphorised paper' issues. A third group now caters for the totally new lithographed stamps, issued in February.

Collect British Stamps was first published in 1967 and continues to be the leading publication of its kind – total sales now exceed two million copies.

Aerophilately – 1980 London Congress

Published by Brian L. Asquith,
The Aerophilatelic Co-ordination Committee,
FISA

338 City Road,
LONDON
EC1V 2PX

Price £2.50 (post free in UK)

£3.15 worldwide (surface mail)

To mark the 1980 London Congress the International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies has produced a very attractive little 88 page book outlining the work of its co-ordinating committee. It also contains a number of interesting articles on the origins and development of airmail services in many countries from Australia to Yugoslavia.

The contributors are collectors writing for collectors and much of the detailed information about pioneering flights will come as an eye-opener to 'outsiders'. The articles can be read with interest even by those whose knowledge of air travel is limited to long waits in airport lounges.

One of the book's strongest points is the fascinating way it caters for the collector and layman alike. A nicely produced little book full of interest and plentifully illustrated. Aerophilatelists will certainly not want to miss it.

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Volume 2

The new 5th edition of 'Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 2, The Four Kings' is now available price £8.50.

This catalogue details all the stamps issued from King Edward VII to King George VI and has proved essential reading for serious collectors

since its introduction in 1963. Prices have been thoroughly revised and improvements have been made to allow for clearer and easier reference.

Much new information is also included with the die proofs and essays from the De La Rue archives for the King Edward VII issues and additional information on the bromides and Printex trials of the King George V Profile Head issue.

Booklet panes containing advertisement labels now have prices quoted for each item and are listed under the relevant stamps in the main catalogue. The section on Stamp Booklets now constitutes an appendix (as in Volumes 3 and 4), and the composite booklets containing both King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II stamps are listed and priced for the first time.

Postmarks of the Date Impression Books

Post Office Records: Section I

by W. Raife & Hilary Wellsted

Price £8.00 (plus 30p post & packing)

Available from:

W. R. Wellsted,
12 Greenwood Way,
Shipdham,
THETFORD,
Norfolk
IP25 7NR

This is the first of a series of volumes intended to provide a complete and detailed index of marks in the impression books of the GPO. All are being prepared for Proud Bailey's 'Postal History International' by W. R. and H. A. Wellsted.

The authors do not confine themselves to reproducing postal marks. They identify and date them, locate their whereabouts in the various record books and furnish an effective system of cross reference when a mark appears in more than one place.

As a bonus they have carefully re-drawn any imperfect strikes and substituted legible and accurate copies of the originals. This may cause a few raised eyebrows among the purists but most readers will prefer a good reconstructed copy to a poor but exact reproduction. Those who don't can easily locate the original from the book's excellent reference system.

When this series is complete it will provide a cumulative index of marks listed by county and town, thus presenting its lucky owner with what amounts to a set of PO records for his own use. It is a work of great interest and importance to all enthusiasts and a wonderful time-saver for research students.

English & Welsh Postmarks since 1840

by James A. Mackay

Price £9.95 postpaid UK; £11.15 overseas.

Published by the author at

11 Newall Terrace,

DUMFRIES

DG1 1LN.

The author, already well known for his multi-volume series on Scottish Islands postal history and a number of textbooks on the development of the postal system throughout the mainland of Scotland, has now turned his attention to England and Wales.

He has done so in the grand manner, for this book with its 4,660 illustrations is the most comprehensive work on postmarking to have reached the market for longer than most of us care to remember. It has been well worth waiting for.

For the postmark devotee it is an invaluable vade-mecum and it is difficult to see how any serious student can manage along without a copy. Beginners and experts alike will be delighted to discover how this subject, often presented as 'dry-as-dust', can be made a pleasure to read when written by an acknowledged authority who is also an enthusiast.

Mr. Mackay invites his readers to submit tracings of any marks not recorded in this volume for inclusion in subsequent issues of his *Postal History Annual*. If they oblige we shall soon have an outstandingly complete reference work to delight the hearts of all postmark 'buffs'.

Clearly laid out and copiously illustrated this book is excellent value for money and thoroughly recommended.

History of British Army Postal Service

Volume II – 1905 to 1927

by E B Proud

Published by Proud-Bailey Co Ltd

Price £17.50 (plus £1.00 postage)

Available from:

W R Wellsted,

12 Greenwood Way,

Shipdham,

THETFORD,

Norfolk,

IP25 7NR

It is usually difficult to review one volume of a trilogy without sight of the other two. In this case the task has been complicated by the fact that the middle book has been published first. However, even a casual glance at Vol. II reveals the work to be as thorough and detailed a piece of research as

anyone could ask for. Careful reading confirms that view.

Napoleon's army may well have marched on its stomach but a century later great armies of literate Britons were much more likely to be found marching on their mailbags. This book is a well deserved tribute to the British Army Postal Service. Inevitably 1914-18 figures prominently in its pages and some of the place names still send shivers down the spines of old soldiers.

Its opening chapters contain a lucid description of the development and organisation of the APS at home and abroad with special emphasis on World War I. All the campaign theatres are covered as is the 'Home Front'. The remaining chapters list, illustrate, date and evaluate a multitude of cancels used in battle zones from Salonika to the Somme. It is all done in fine style and great detail, the line illustrations being particularly well reproduced.

Perhaps it is still possible to assemble and classify APS material without the aid of a book like this but no collector will want to do so once he has handled Mr Proud's catalogue. Between its covers an acknowledged expert's lifetime of experience is condensed into 300 or so pages of solid scholarship. It is exactly what enthusiasts have been looking for and will leave them impatiently awaiting the publication of Vols. I and III.

A Postal History of Durham City

by H M Oxley & D R Williams

Price: £1.50 (plus 35p post & packing)

Published by Durham County Library,

PO Box, County Hall,

DURHAM

DH1 5TY

Postal historians are indebted to Durham County Council for this informative survey of the postal life of Durham City. Its 63 pages along with a bibliography and four appendices make interesting reading.

Commencing with a brief but adequate survey of mail arrangements under the Tudors and Stuarts it carries on right through to the Duplex cancel marking the North of England Philatelic Convention of April 1980.

As one would expect from No. 15 of a scholarly series of local historical studies, it has been thoroughly researched by authors who are well acquainted with every inch of the ground they cover.

Well worth the money and particularly useful to anyone enterprising enough to contemplate a similar project for his own area.

Slogan Postmarks of the Seventies

by C R H Parsons, C G Peachey & G R Pearson

Price £6.00 (p & p included)

Available from:

Colin G Peachey,
19 Moorland Road,
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
Herts.
HP1 1NH

Collectors of slogan postmarks will be very pleased to learn that the authors, already well known for their earlier publications covering the period 1917 to 1969, have now produced a bumper catalogue for the Nineteen Seventies.

To a beginner the world of slogan postmarking must appear something of a jungle. He is likely to find himself overwhelmed by the sheer weight of numbers for no less than 1892 cancels are listed

between 1970 and 1974. Although the output has fallen dramatically in the last few years (the increased cost of sponsoring?) it still remains dauntingly high.

Happily many specimens are still modestly priced and even major rarities can sometimes be had for a pound or so. Nevertheless the would-be collector should not try to proceed without a reliable guide. He need look no further than Parsons, Peachey & Pearson.

Armed with this informative and well illustrated catalogue he can weave his way through a veritable forest of slogans with the confident hope of emerging unscathed at the far end. Certainly this reviewer would not attempt to establish a collection without its assistance.

Clearly printed, generously illustrated and very handsomely turned out, the book is assuredly a first class buy for the slogan addict.

Installation of the 'Liverpool Special' pillar box at the Head Post Office, Copperas Hill, Liverpool

The Liverpool 'Special' pillar box which stood sentinel on the corner of Breck Road and Everton Road for many years until it had to be replaced in September 1978 has been found a new home near the main entrance to the new Head Post Office in Copperas Hill.

Unfortunately it had to be withdrawn because a fault had developed in the hinge mechanism that opens the front door. This meant that it could no longer be used as a posting box. The aperture which accepted letters posted by the parents, grandparents and great grandparents of many Liverpool citizens has now, sadly, been sealed off.

Mr Keith Webb, Head Postmaster, decided to re-install the box in an area accessible to the general public because it is a fine example of early Victorian street furniture and an interesting memento of the postal history of Liverpool.

It has now been renovated and repainted and looks as good as ever. Instead of a plate giving details of the collections to be made an engraved plaque containing an outline of the origins of the box has been fitted. Everton residents will be pleased to know that the plaque refers to the box being in use in their area for 115 years.

Although a National Standard posting box was introduced for general use in 1859, the then Postmaster of Liverpool considered the national design was too small to accommodate the quantity of mail posted at certain sites in the city. Unlike London, Liverpool in those days permitted the



posting of newspapers as well as letters in street boxes. The case for special facilities was supported by the Chief Constable who said he had to detail policemen to guard against theft from over-full boxes. Eventually, early in 1862 the District Surveyor of the Posts was allowed to prepare his own design for a box which would meet Liverpool's particular requirements. Hence the official designation of Liverpool 'Special'.

Six boxes were made to the District Surveyor's design in 1863 by Messrs Cochrane and Company of Dudley and these were then installed in various parts of the city. There is now only one of these boxes still in daily operational use. This is situated in Sheil Road near Newsham Park. It can be readily identified by the large crown on the roof of the box.

Commemorative Covers

International Society Manchester

To coincide with the issue on 9 July 1980 of four new stamps commemorating famous 19th century lady novelists, the International Society will produce a special philatelic cover.

On the front it will illustrate 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester – once the home of Mrs Gaskell, one of the four novelists – and now the home of the International Society. A cachet will be applied, 'Posted in the house where Mrs Gaskell lived'.

The cost of the cover, bearing a 17½p (Mrs Gaskell) stamp is 75p. Alternatively the cover with all four stamps affixed and cancelled will be available for £1.50.

Orders should be sent to:-

Mrs C M Hayes
International Society
84 Plymouth Grove
MANCHESTER
M13 9NL *

Remittances to be made payable to:-
International Society

*Accompanied by a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Scottish Scout Postmark

During the 17th Scottish International Scout Camp, a special handstamp will be applied on mail posted at the Jamborette at Blair Atholl, Perthshire, Scotland, from 22 July to 31 (excluding Sunday) and is designed by Scottish artist, George Kay. The Camp will be held in the grounds of Blair Castle in the Scottish Highlands attended by 500 Scouts – many from overseas.

A special Camp Post Office will operate at the Jamborette and mail handled there will bear a special Scout cachet each day. Much of the mail will be collected by Scottish PO Postbus on 26 July, mail will be carried on a specially chartered helicopter and on 27 July by Hot-air Balloon (weather permitting).

The Camp PO is providing an official souvenir cover available at 35p each, serviced (state dates required), with special postmark.

In connection with the Jamborette, there will be three meter franking slogans – Edinburgh, Glasgow and a special Glasgow one marking the visit of a Scottish exchange Scout Patrol's to

Massachusetts during the Jamborette.

A special offer is available: a set of matching covers with the nine postmarks available (including helicopter cachet), plus balloon cachet cover and the three meter covers – all for £4. Covers will be mailed direct unless extra postage is enclosed for return envelope.

Orders to:-

Stanley K Hunter
Scottish Scout Headquarters
18 Hanover Street
EDINBURGH EH2 2QN

A limited number of earlier covers may still be available. Details on request.

English Schools Trophy Final

A limited number of these covers, produced by the Reading Schools Football Association to commemorate the first-ever appearance of 'Middlesbrough' and the first appearance since 1924 of 'Reading' in the final of the English Schools FA trophy on 9 May 1980, are currently available. Price 75p, the covers are obtainable from:-

Mr David Downs
16 Kirton Close
READING
Berks
RG3 2NS

The National Trust of Scotland

To mark the birthday on 4 August of HM The Queen Mother, The National Trust of Scotland, in association with The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, will produce a special cover illustrating Glamis Castle. The cover bearing the 12p stamp to be issued by the Post Office commemorating Her Majesty's birthday, will be cancelled with a one-day pictorial handstamp. The cost is £1.00 each.

A limited quantity of numbered covers signed by The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne will also be available, price £3.00 each. For overseas orders 25p should be added for return airmail postage.

On 29 August 1930 the residents of St Kilda, a group of islands to the west of the Outer Hebrides, were evacuated to the mainland of Scotland. On 29 August 1980 a special visit to the islands has been arranged when the Kirk – restored by Trust Volunteer work parties will be rededicated.

To commemorate the occasion, covers will be available bearing the 12p Queen Mother Birthday stamp, and for the first time in more than 50 years, a St Kilda postmark will be used to cancel them. A postman will be taken out to the islands especially for this purpose. The cost £1.00 each.

Two limited issues of the covers will be available – one signed by St Kilda islanders returning for the occasion, at £3.50 each, and one signed by the Commanding Officer of the Army Garrison on St Kilda, with a special cachet, at £2.50 each. All limited issue covers will be numbered.

Tin Can Mail

To commemorate the traditional method of despatching mail from the Islands to the Mainland, a special Tin Can Mail, by drums cast into the sea, is to be undertaken on this occasion. Full details will be sent, when available, to all collectors ordering covers, or on request if a stamped addressed envelope is supplied.

Orders with remittances should be sent to:-

The Philatelic Officer
National Trust of Scotland
5 Charlotte Square
EDINBURGH
EH2 4DU

Rainhill Trials Commemorative Covers

Commemorative covers were carried behind replicas of three early steam locomotives, Rocket, Novelty and Sans Pareil during the recent Spring Bank Holiday weekend to mark the famous Rainhill Trials. Each cover will have its own appropriate cancel as well as the 55p Railway Stamp and British Rail postmark. They are available with a single 12p 'Liverpool to Manchester Railway' stamp for £1.50 each or £4.50 for a set of three (one for each engine); or for a full set of five 'Liverpool to Manchester Railway' stamps at £2.50 (any engine); or £7.50 for a set of three bearing all five stamps (p and p 20p extra per order). For orders and further details please write to British Rail official philatelic agents:-

Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd
24-28 High Street
HYTHE
Kent
CT21 5AT

Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd have recently started producing covers, with illustrations printed on silk, to coincide with special stamp issues. A quantity of such covers depicting the 'Novelty' was carried behind the three engines at the Rainhill Trials. The covers bear a 12p 'Liverpool and Manchester Railway' stamp, appropriately cancelled, and are available at 75p each (plus 20p extra per order for p and p) from Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 24-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

George Eliot Fellowship

The George Eliot Fellowship will provide a commemorative cover to coincide with the 'Famous People' stamp issue of 9 July. The cover will bear the 13½p George Eliot stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp.

100 covers signed by Tenniel Evans, President of the George Eliot Fellowship, will be available, price £4.00 each. Unsigned covers are £1.60. An extra 20p per order should be included for postage and packing.

Full details of this and other commemorative covers may be obtained from:-

David Fletcher Ltd
3 Station Square
COVENTRY
West Midlands
CV1 2GT

Forces Covers

King's Own Royal Border Regiment Tercentenary

HRH Princess Alexandra, the Colonel in Chief, will present new colours to the King's Own Royal Border Regiment on 11 July 1980 on the occasion of the Regiment's Tercentenary.

The covers will bear a 12p stamp and will be cancelled with a BFPS 1680 handstamp and will cost 60p each. A limited number signed by the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir William Scotter, KCB, OBE, MC will be available price £2.

Orders, accompanied by an 8" x 6" envelope should be sent to The Philatelic Officer, 1st Bn King's Own Royal Border Regt, Weeton Camp, PRESTON, Lancs PR4 3JQ.

Forces Participation in London 1980

To mark the LONDON 1980 Exhibition at Earls Court, the Services produced, with the full approval of the Post Office, a series of 12 Covers showing how mail has been delivered since 1840. Tony Theobald designed the 12 Covers and each has been cancelled by a special handstamp. The subjects are:

Foot

Run from John O'Groats and Catterick to London by Army and RAF personnel.

Horse

Ridden from St John's Wood by the Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery to Earls Court.

Coach

Driven from Hyde Park Barracks by the Household Cavalry to Earls Court.

Train

Carried on the original Liverpool to Manchester railway on 12 March on the Flying Scotsman.

Ship

Sailed from Portsmouth to the Pool of London aboard HMS Tartar.

Motor Cycle

Carried from Hounslow by Despatch Riders of 10 Signal Regiment to Earls Court.

Balloon

Flown from Old Warden in a hot air balloon on a 1½ hour flight.

Helicopter

Flown from RAF Hendon to Earls Court in a Wessex Helicopter of 72 Sqn RAF.

Motor Vehicle

Driven in a 1917 Model T Ford from the RAF Museum, Hendon to Earls Court.

Hovercraft

Carried aboard the Seaspeed Hovercraft on a double crossing of the Channel.

Parachute

Dropped by the RAF Falcons Parachute Display team.

Aeroplane

Flown on a double crossing of the Atlantic in one day aboard Concorde.

Each Cover has been overprinted with the journey details, which included a Helicopter delivery Flight in all cases, and each has an insert card giving a brief history of the Forces Postal Service.

This fine series of Covers is available, singly or in sets, in both standard and operator signed variations, from:

The Royal Air Force Museum
LONDON 1980 Project
Aerodrome Road
Hendon
LONDON NW9 5LL

Each standard Cover costs 60p and the Operator signed Cover 85p. Remittances made payable to The RAF Museum Appeal should include 10p for single orders or 22p for each full set, UK and BFPO only. Overseas orders should include 21p for single orders and 65p for full sets. Orders will be despatched by second class or surface mail as appropriate.

HMS Invincible Commissioning

A cover commemorating the commissioning of HMS INVINCIBLE in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen at HM Naval Base Portsmouth will be issued on 11 July 1980. The cover will bear the 10½p commemorative stamp of Buckingham

Palace and will be franked with a special handstamp.

The cover will depict the ship's silhouette, with Battle Honours surmounting the Royal Standard and White Ensign. The handstamp will depict the Ship's crest, with date and place of commissioning bearing BFPS 1692. The cost per cover is 80p.

Orders accompanied by an 8" x 5" stamped addressed envelope should be addressed to the Commemorative Cover Office, HMS INVINCIBLE, BFPO Ships. Remittances also made payable to the Commemorative Cover Office.

Edinburgh Castle

The installation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle on 18 July 1980 will be commemorated by the introduction of a special cover. It will depict the ceremony of the Keys of Edinburgh Castle being handed to the Governor in front of the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

The 16½p stamp featuring Buckingham Palace will be affixed, cancelled by a special handstamp incorporating the Regimental Badge of The Royal Scots, and BFPS 1709.

250 covers will be signed by Colonel B A Fergus OBE, the Regimental Secretary, at £2.00 each. Unsigned covers are £1.00 each.

Orders with remittances should be accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope size 7" x 5", and sent to:- The Philatelic Officer, Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), The Castle, EDINBURGH, EH1 2YT.

Remittances made payable to:- Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Scots.

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