

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Late News

The 20p Penny Black Anniversary Definitive has been printed in black and cream. Cylinders used for this issue: 15p 2 and 3, 20p 1A and 2A (black) 1B (cream), 29p, 34p and 37p each 1.

Editorial

1989 has been an eventful year for collectors of modern British stamps — with the first Greetings stamps, introduction of Non Value Indicator stamps and the first Country stamps issued in books. To help readers ensure their collections are complete, we are publishing in this issue a list of Definitives and Country stamps issued in 1989 (pages 82-5). We hope this will prove helpful. A similar list was published last December and resulted in a large number of letters asking that this listing should become an annual event.

Next month we will introduce a new "Six Month Digest" giving brief details of the issues of the past six months and the dates of issue for the next six months. This new feature results from a suggestion made by a member of staff of a philatelic counter; hopefully it will prove of use.

This month we preview the Penny Black Anniversary Definitives (10 January) and RSPCA special issue (23 January) — stamps of contrasting designs which should appeal to collectors of the classics and thematics.



Britain's first Christmas stamps, designed by school children, issued 1 December 1966.

The Staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately — in London and Edinburgh — wish all Bulletin readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Penny Black Anniversary Definitives

Wednesday 10 January 1990



Last May Royal Mail Stamps & Philately announced that a set of "Special Definitives" would be issued in January 1990 to mark the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the Penny Post and the subsequent issue of the first adhesive postage stamps, the famous Penny Black and Twopence Blue. These special definitives will be issued on 10 January, the exact anniversary of the introduction of the Penny Post.

The five stamps will be of normal definitive size (21 x 24mm) and will show the Machin portrait of HM The Queen with the Wyon head of Queen Victoria behind, thus symbolising the 150 years of uniform postage and postage stamps. The Wyon head was used on the Penny Black and all subsequent issues of Queen Victoria's long reign. The head was first used on a medal (produced in 1838) to commemorate the Queen's first visit to the City of London in November 1837 following her accession to the throne (June 1837). The medal head, by William Wyon, was based on a sketch of Victoria as Princess in 1834 when she was just 15 years of age. Wyon was born in Birmingham in 1795 (the same year as Rowland Hill) and was appointed chief engraver to the Royal Mint in 1828. He designed much of the British and Colonial coinage of the reigns of George III and IV and was the first medallist elected to the Royal Academy, in 1838. He died in 1851.

The Machin head of HM Queen Elizabeth II is well-known to stamp collectors, having been used on British low-value definitives since June 1967, and on the high value stamps from 1970 to 1988. Arnold Machin was born in Stoke on Trent in 1911 and educated at the Royal College of Art; he was a tutor at the College from 1951 to 1958 when he was appointed Master of Sculpture at the Royal Academy School (until 1967). His effigy of The Queen was used for the British decimal coinage of 1968-84 and for the 1972 and 1977 Silver Wedding and Silver Jubilee crown coins. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1956 and awarded the OBE in 1965.

Technical Details

The five values chosen for these special defin-



itives represent the most-used denominations in the current definitive range: 15p (basic inland second class rate), 20p (basic inland first class and EEC rate), 29p (postcards outside Europe), 34p (Airmail Zone B) and 37p (Airmail Zone C). The colours will be as for the standard definitives, viz 15p light blue, 20p black, 29p purple, 34p slate and 37p red. The stamps have been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, in sheets of 200, perf 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum. The 15p stamp is on fluorescent coated paper with one phosphor band, the other values are on Advanced Coated Paper.

Availability

The stamps will initially be available at all post offices; after the initial sales period it is intended they will replace the National definitives for the remainder of the year.

First Day Cover Facilities

A first day cover envelope will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and most main post offices approximately two weeks before 10 January, price 18p. First Day posting boxes will be provided, as usual, at most main post offices and standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps will be applied. In addition pictorial First Day handstamps will be available for the British Philatelic Bureau and Windsor, Berks. All First Day handstamps will be applied in red ink.

A FDC service will be provided by the Bureau for the Bureau and Windsor postmarks. Application forms, available from the Bureau and most main post offices, should be returned by 10 January. Collectors wishing to prepare their own covers for these postmarks should send them, stamped, on the day of issue to:

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
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Windsor	Special Postmark Duty Windsor Post Office Peascod Street WINDSOR Berks, SL4 1AA
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Presentation Pack

A new pack containing one of each of the special definitives will be available from the Bureau and philatelic counters, price £1.60. This will have a new design and text and, unlike most definitive packs, it will be sold from most post offices, and not just philatelic counters.

Stamp Card

There will be no Royal Mail Stamp Cards for this issue although the National Postal Museum will be producing a card reproducing one of the designs, suitable for use as a maximum card. See National Postal Museum News in this *Bulletin* for details.

Stamp Books

The 15p and 20p stamps will also be in stamp (window) books and machine-vended books. The first issue of these will be on 30 January and more details will be given in the January *Bulletin*. The Penny Black Anniversary Definitives will also be included in the next Prestige Stamp Book, to be issued in March.

Stamp World London 90

As all collectors should be aware, London will host one of the international stamp exhibitions next year. To be called "Stamp World London 90", it will be held at Alexandra Palace from 3-13 May. The Royal Mail will issue a Penny Black Miniature Sheet on 3 May and special postmarks will be available for each day of the exhibition.

The Royal Mail stand, covering 560 sq. metres and with 10 serving positions, will be a major and striking feature of the exhibition. It will be situated in the West Hall and will offer a wide range of Royal Mail philatelic products including a new "Philatelic Passport". This will contain pages giving details of the postal administrations represented at the exhibition; visitors can affix stamps in order to obtain a cachet. It is expected that the Passport will prove popular with casual collectors as souvenirs of the occasion.

Staff for the Royal Mail stand are being specially recruited from Post Office Counters Ltd and the British Philatelic Bureau. The Bureau will have an on-line computer link with Edinburgh.

The printers of British stamps — Harrison and Sons Ltd, The House of Questa and Walsall Security Printers Ltd will each have a stand in the West Hall.

For young visitors "Stampland" will be the main attraction. This will be housed in a candy-striped marquee of 1,000 sq. metres, decorated to create a carnival atmosphere. Upon entry, which will be free, visitors will be provided with a souvenir brochure to guide them around the various exhibits. Companies taking part will stage stimulating and educational activities for bright, young minds, demonstrating how stamps relate to the modern world. Children will be able to find pen friends from all over the world by keying in personal information about themselves into a Pen Pal terminal provided by Australia Post. Waddingtons Games will be providing many activities including a competition, involving fitting the missing piece into a stamp collage jigsaw projected onto a screen on their stand. The organisers anticipate about 8,000 children and adults visiting Stampland each day.

Further details of Stampland and other Stamp World activities will be given in the months ahead.

23 January 1990



The first set of special stamps for 1990 will be issued on 23 January to mark the 150th anniversary of the granting of the prefix "Royal" to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, one of the country's best-known charitable organisations. The four stamps feature popular animals and a bird.

The 20p stamp (basic inland first class and EEC rate) depicts a kitten, the 29p value (post-cards outside Europe) a rabbit, the 34p (Airmail Zone B) a duckling and the 37p stamp (Airmail Zone C) a puppy.



Even in the early 19th century bull-baiting and cock-fighting were popular sports in Britain and horses were flogged to death in the streets. In 1822 Richard Martin, MP for Galway (dubbed "Humanity Dick" by George IV) promoted the first law in Britain to limit cruelty to cattle. Two years later, Arthur Broome, a London clergyman appalled by cruelty to animals, convened a meeting of people of similar persuasion including Martin and another MP, William Wilberforce, famous for his work in abolishing slavery. The outcome of this meeting (held at the inappropriately named "Old Slaughter's" coffee house) was the establishment of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Initially the Society was short of money but support grew with the patronage of Princess Victoria and in 1840 the Society was granted the coveted Royal prefix. Inspectors were appointed



in the late 1830s to report on cruelty and to prosecute where necessary. Similar bodies were established in other countries and the RSPCA was instrumental in the setting up of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in 1884.

The RSPCA has played an important role in promoting legislation including the 1911 Animal Protection Act. Today the Society is active on the European scene, being a founder member of Eurogroup for Animal Welfare.



The Society's inspectors investigate some 80,000 complaints annually and each year about 2,000 people are convicted of cruelty to animals. Animal homes and hospitals are other important

aspects of the Society's many activities as are RSPCA campaigns against animal experiments and the abuse of animals kept as pets.

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Tony Evans, who was responsible for the Studio Pottery stamps of 1987, and printed in lithography by The House of Questa in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 15 and have PVA Dextrin gum.



Tony Evans describes himself as "a self-taught photographer" who began his career in 1963 taking a series of portraits of young painters about to leave the Royal College of Art; one of these was David Hockney. He sold Hockney portraits to *Vogue* and *The Sunday Telegraph* and over the next few years did many portraits of painters, sculptors and potters including the famous Bernard Leach, one of whose pots featured in the 1987 Pottery set. Mr Evans has worked for both *The Sunday Times Magazine* and *Radio Times*.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards featuring enlargements of each of the four stamps will be available from 8 January, price 18p each. They are numbered 123A-D.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 204) will cost £1.45. It has been designed by Feldman, Epps with text by Mike Barden and illustrations by Paul Leith. The pack illustrates some of the work of the RSPCA, Richard Martin MP and the commemorative plaque on the site of the coffee house where the Society held its inaugural meeting.

First Day Cover and Postmarks

The Royal Mail first day cover envelope will be

available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices approximately two weeks before 23 January, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau and one for Horsham, West Sussex — where the RSPCA headquarters is now sited.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and most main post offices, should be returned not later than 23 January.

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

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
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Horsham	Special Postmark Duty Windsor Post Office Peascod Street WINDSOR Berks SL4 1AA
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First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 23 January — full details of these will be published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards may be given any of the First Day of Issue and sponsored special handstamps. Collectors wishing to have their first day covers/cards returned under cover should enclose a large self-addressed envelope when sending covers/cards in to the relevant Special Postmark Duty for handstamping.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 24 January, price 18p. It will remain on sale for one year.



1840-1990
PENNY BLACK
ANNIVERSARY STAMPS
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

1840-1990
PENNY BLACK
ANNIVERSARY STAMPS
ROYAL MAIL DEFINITIVE STAMPS



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



R S P C A



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Sir Henry Cole - Victorian Workaholic

TONY GAMMONS

Exhibitions Officer, National Postal Museum

Henry Cole is probably best known to philatelists for his work as Secretary to the Mercantile Committee (1838) and later, (1839-42) as Rowland Hill's assistant at the Treasury, where he played a major part in implementing Hill's scheme for Uniform Penny Postage and in overseeing the design and production of the Mulready stationery. Although "postally" important this work formed only a very small part of this extraordinary man's achievements.

Henry Cole was born in Bath on 15 July 1808, the son of Captain Henry Robert Cole. In 1817 he was sent to school at Christ's Hospital in London on the site of which London's Chief Post Office, and the National Postal Museum, now stand. On leaving school he became clerk to Francis Palgrave, then a sub-commissioner under the Record Commission. Cole was employed in transcribing records and for relaxation found time to study water-colour painting under David Cox and exhibited sketches at the Royal Academy. A new Record Commission was issued in 1831 and in 1833 Cole was appointed a sub-commissioner. After a few turbulent years, when Cole was often at odds with the Secretary of the Commission, Charles Purton Cooper, a House of Commons committee reported against the existing system and the commission lapsed on the death of William IV on 20 June 1837.

Record Keeper

Cole was then appointed, by Lord Langdale, the Master of the Rolls, to take charge of the records of the Exchequer of Pleas. In 1838 the Record Office (now the Public Record Office) was founded and Cole became one of the four senior assistant keepers. He was housed, with a "large mass of records" in the Carlton House Riding School.

It was at this time that, with the permission of his superiors, he became Secretary to the Mercantile Committee. This group of London bankers and merchants was running an outstanding publicity campaign in support of Rowland Hill's proposals for postal reform. It was Cole who proposed and edited the Com-

mittee's pamphlet the *Post Circular*, the first of which appeared on 14 March 1838. His energy and enthusiasm was brought to the notice of Richard Cobden who, in August 1839, offered him the secretaryship of the Anti-Corn Law League.



Treasury Competition

Meanwhile the Treasury had sponsored a national competition asking for ideas from artists, scientists and the general public to find a suitable method of prepaying postage which had to be secure and economical to produce and operate. The response was overwhelming with some 2,600 entries being received. Although none of the ideas were thought suitable, Cole was one of four entrants awarded a prize by the Treasury. Cole seems to have been a "workaholic"; his diary shows him working seven days a week and during the time he spent as Hill's assistant at the Treasury he studied engraving eventually exhibiting at the Royal Academy. In 1841 he began the issue of *Felix Summerly's Home Treasury*, a series of illustrated children's books. William Mulready was one of the artists who co-operated with Cole on this project. In 1845 he competed successfully for a prize offered by the Society of Arts for a tea service. The *Summerly* tea set was subsequently manufactured by Minton, it proving one of their most popular lines.

Great Exhibitions

Cole became a member of the Society of Arts in 1846 and was chairman of its council in 1851-2.

The "Art Manufactures", held by the Society in 1847-9 led the way to the Great Exhibition of 1851. Cole was granted leave of absence to serve on the exhibition committee and was made a Companion of the Bath in recognition of his services. He was afterwards "general adviser" to the exhibition of 1862 as well as being involved in the unsuccessful exhibitions of 1871/4.

The 1851 Exhibition had been a great success and produced a surplus which, with an advance from government, had been invested in the purchase of an estate in South Kensington. Material from the Exhibition had been bought with a grant from the Treasury and shown at Marlborough House. This material was later transferred to the South Kensington site. Cole meanwhile had been appointed joint secretary to the Department of Practical Art in January 1852, taking over sole responsibility in 1858. In the same year the land in South Kensington became the property of the Government. The erection of buildings, the formation of various collections and the development of the Department of Science and Art were Cole's greatest occupations until his "retirement" in April 1873. The Royal Albert Hall and the Royal College of Music owe much to his genius.

Retirement did not mean the end of his efforts and he continued to throw himself, with enthusiasm, into many projects until his death in April 1882. Cole had been nominated to the Legion of Honour in 1855 and knighted in 1875. His great ability, enthusiasm and determination mark him out as a giant in an age of remarkable men.

Cole is featured on one of three new National Postal Museum cards to be issued on 10 January; the others portray Robert Wallace and Sir Rowland Hill. See "National Postal Museum News" for further details.

First "Collections" Counter Opens

The first of the new-style philatelic counters, known as "Collections" was officially opened at the King's Square Post Office in Gloucester on 2 October. This is a joint move by Royal Mail Stamps & Philately and Post Office Counters Ltd to make philatelic products more widely available to customers. As well as selling RMS&P philatelic products, the new counter also sells coins (British and some overseas), postcards (Stamp Cards, National Postal Museum and South Western Postal Region), Telephone Cards and a variety of philatelic accessories - albums, books for beginners,

stamp hinges, UV lamps, etc. Most of these products have been supplied by Stanley Gibbons Publications. Many of the products are on display in serve yourself racks so they can be examined before purchase. An attractive 12-page booklet has been produced outlining the types of products available.



The Gloucester Collections counter is situated immediately inside the refurbished King's Square Post Office which has been redecorated in the new Counters' colour scheme of grey and gardenia, new carpets and a specially adapted desk for disabled customers. The office is manned by 22 staff, headed by branch manager Gerry Osborn.

The official opening of the Collections counter was performed by the Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor Eric Ede, who is himself a stamp collector. The Mayor and Mayoress rode from the Council offices in a Royal Mail Coach of the type used in Scotland in the early 1870s. Accompanying them were Keith Fisher, General Manager of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately and Brian Strange, the District Counters Manager. Also on board was a presenter from the local radio station, Severn Sound, who interviewed the Mayor, Mr Fisher and Mr Strange. The mail coach trip and the opening ceremony were broadcast live and, with earlier announcements on local news programmes, clearly attracted a lot of people along to King's Square. The counter opened to the public after the official ceremonies and did brisk business, not least in selling the new 50p and £1 machine-vended and £1.16 stamp (window) books issued on 2 October.

Other philatelic counters are being refurbished as "Collections" counters, details of openings will be given in the *Bulletin* as they become available.

1989 Definitives & Country Stamps

Last December we published a listing of definitives and country stamps issued during 1988. A considerable number of letters were received asking for such a listing to be continued. We hope this 1989 list will prove helpful to collectors in completing their collections. Please read the introductory notes carefully.

Notes

Definitive stamps - unless otherwise stated, all stamps printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, perf. 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum. Certain stamps from books were printed in litho by the House of Questa and Walsall Security Printers, indicated in the listing by Q and W respectively. Perf 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum unless otherwise stated.

Country stamps - all printed by the House of Questa in litho; perf. 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum unless otherwise stated.

Books - Issues are described as Counter, Machine-Vended, Greetings, Prestige, Window and Stamp books. Please note that window books issued from 22 August are referred to as Stamp Books. The Counter books exist with binding margin at left or right, indicated †.

Some of the single stamps are issued only in books and can only be bought from the Post Office in complete books. To help collectors we quote the relevant Philatelic Bureau order number (prefixed DB, DC, IS, etc). These numbers are given on the Bureau stock list.

ACP = Advanced Coated Paper

PCP = Phosphor Coated Paper

Q = House of Questa

W = Walsall Security Printers

24 January

14p dp blue, centre band, straight edge top and right (ex 56p window book) (DW044)

14p dp blue, centre band, straight edge bottom and right (ex 56p window book) (DW044)

19p flame, ACP, straight edge top and right (ex 76p window book) (DW045)

19p flame, ACP, straight edge bottom and right (ex 76p window book) (DW045)

14p centre band, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex 56p window book) (DW044)

19p ACP, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex 76p window book) (DW045)

50p machine-vended book: Gilbert and Sullivan 2 (Pirates of Penzance) (DB214)

£1 machine-vended book: Charles Dickens 3 (David Copperfield) (DB215)

£1.40 counter book - Fox Talbot (DB216/7)†

£1.90 counter book - Fox Talbot (DB218/9)†

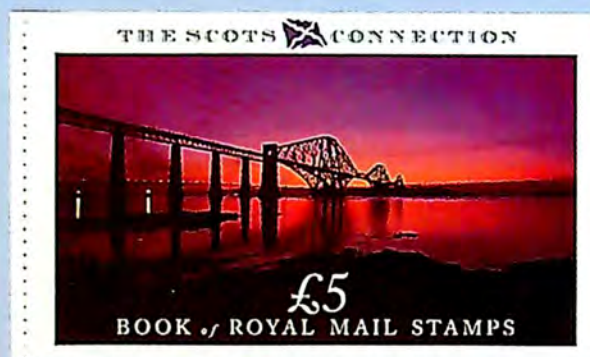
56p Mark III window book, stamps Harrison, covers Walsall (DW044)

76p Mark III window book, stamps Harrison, covers Walsall (DW045)

31 January

5 x 19p Greetings stamps, ACP (ex £1.90 Greetings book) (DB213)

£1.90 Greetings book (DB213)



21 March

Scotland 14p dp blue, left band, PVA gum (ex £5 Scots Connection prestige book) (DB220)

Scotland 19p flame, 2 bands, PVA gum (ex £5 prestige book) (DB220)

- Scotland 23p light green, 2 bands, PVA gum (ex £5 prestige book) (DB220)
- Scotland 14p right band, pane of 6 with surrounding selvedge (ex £5 prestige book) (DB220)
- Scotland 14p left band, 19p 2 bands and 23p 2 bands, mixed pane of 9 (ex £5 prestige book) (DB220)
- Scotland 19p ACP, pane of 6 with surrounding selvedge (ex £5 prestige book) (DB220)
- Scotland 19p ACP, pane of 9 with surrounding selvedge (ex £5 prestige books) (DB220)
- £5 Scots Connection prestige book (DB220)

25 April

- 14p dp blue, litho-W, right band, PVA gum, Perf 14½, straight edge left (ex £1 book) (DB222)
- 19p flame, litho-W, 2 bands, PVA gum, Perf 14½, straight edge left (ex £1 book) (DB222)
- 19p flame, litho-W, 2 bands, narrow band at right, PVA gum, Perf 14½, straight edge right (ex £1 book) (DB222)
- 2 x 14p/4 x 19p mixed pane of 6 (ex £1 Charles Dickens 4 book) (DB222)
- Scotland 19p flame, PCP, printed on paper supplied by Coated Papers Ltd, PVA gum (SS191)
- 50p machine-vended book: Gilbert and Sullivan 3 (The Mikado) (DB221)
- £1 machine-vended book: Charles Dickens 4 (Great Expectations) (DB222)



May

- £1.40 Mark III window book, printed Harrison (Chambon Press), revised bar code 100104 (previously 200101) (DW047)
- £1.90 Mark III window book, printed Harrison (Chambon Press), revised bar code 100081 (previously 200088) (DW048)

20 June

- Wales 19p flame, PCP printed on paper supplied by Coated Papers Ltd, PVA gum (WS191)

26 June

- £1.90 Mark III window book, printed Harrison (Jumelle Press), revised bar code 100081 (previously 200088) (DW049)

10 July

- £1.40 Mark III window book, printed Harrison (Jumelle Press), revised bar code 100104 (previously 200101) (DW050)

18 July

- 50p machine-vended book: Marine Life 2 (Common Hermit Crab, etc), stamps perforated by rotary perforator (DB223)
- £1 machine-vended book: Marine Life 3 (Edible Sea Urchin, etc) (DB224)

8 August

- 50p machine-vended book: Marine Life 2 (Common Hermit Crab, etc), stamps perforated by comb perforator (DB225)



22 August

- Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, light blue, centre band, straight edge top (ex £1.40 stamp book) (DW053)
- Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, lt blue, centre band, straight edge bottom (ex £1.40 stamp book) (DW053)
- Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, lt blue, litho-W, centre band, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge top (ex 56p stamp book) (DW051)
- Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, lt blue, litho-W, centre band, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge top and right (ex 56p stamp book) (DW051)
- Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, lt blue, litho-W, centre band, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge bottom (ex 56p stamp book) (DW051)

Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, lt blue, litho-W, centre band, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge bottom and right (ex 56p stamp book) (DW051)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, black, ACP, straight edge top (ex £1.90 stamp book) (DW054)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, black, ACP, straight edge bottom (ex £1.90 stamp book) (DW054)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, black, litho-W, 2 bands, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge top (ex 76p stamp book) (DW052)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, black, litho-W, 2 bands, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge top and right (ex 76p stamp book) (DW052)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, black, litho-W, 2 bands, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge bottom (ex 76p stamp book) (DW052)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, black, litho-W, 2 bands, PVA gum, Perf 14½ straight edge bottom and right (ex 76p stamp book) (DW052)

Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, pane of 10 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £1.40 stamp book) (DW053)

Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, litho, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex 56p stamp book) (DW051)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, pane of 10 with straight edges top and bottom (ex £1.90 stamp book) (DW054)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, litho, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex 76p stamp book) (DW052)

NVI Stamp Book (4 x Second Class - 56p) (DW051)

NVI Stamp Book (10 x Second Class - £1.40) (DW053)

NVI Stamp Book (4 x First Class - 76p) (DW052)

NVI Stamp Book (10 x First Class - £1.90) (DW054)

19 September

Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, lt blue, litho-Q, centre band, PVA gum (ex £1.40 stamp book) (DW056)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, black, litho-Q, ACP, PVA gum (ex £1.90 stamp book) (DW057)

Second Class (14p) NVI stamp, litho, pane of 10 (ex £1.40 stamp book) (DW056)

First Class (19p) NVI stamp, litho, pane of 10 (ex £1.90 stamp book) (DW057)

NVI Stamp Book (10 x Second Class - £1.40) (DW056)

NVI Stamp Book (10 x First Class - £1.90) (DW057)

Note: The selling prices quoted for NVI books were those at the time of issue, prices were increased when new tariffs were introduced on 2 October.

26 September

15p light blue, centre band (ex sheets) (DS150)

20p black, ACP (ex sheets) (DS205)

24p terracotta, ACP (DS241)

29p purple, ACP (DS290)

30p sage, ACP (DS300)

34p slate, ACP (DS342)

37p red, ACP (DS370)

Definitive New Issue Pack (No. 19) (£1.25) (DP011)



2 October

15p lt blue, left band (ex 50p book) (DB226)

20p black, ACP, straight edge left (ex £1 book) (DB227)

20p black, ACP, straight edge right (ex £1 book) (DB227)

20p black, 2 bands (ex 50p book) (DB226)

29p purple, 2 bands, litho-W, Perf 14½ straight edge top (ex £1.16 stamp book) (DW055)

29p purple, 2 bands, litho-W, Perf 14½ straight edge top and right (ex £1.16 stamp book) (DW055)

29p purple, 2 bands, litho-W, Perf 14½ straight edge bottom (ex £1.16 stamp book) (DW055)

29p purple, 2 bands, litho-W, Perf 14½ straight edge bottom and right (ex £1.16 stamp book) (DW055)

2 x 15p/1 x 20p pane of 4 (ex 50p machine-vended book) (DB226)

20p pane of 5 plus label (ex £1 machine-vended book) (DB227)

29p 2 bands, litho, pane of 4 with straight edges top, bottom and right (ex £1.16 stamp book) (DW055)

50p machine-vended book: Aeroplanes 1 (HP42, etc) (DB226)

£1 machine-vended book: Mills 1 (Wicken Fen) (DB227)

£1.16 Stamp Book (4 x 29p) (DW055)

10 October

3p dark pink, redrawn value ACP (ex Mixed Value Roll) (DC041/DC841)

15p (1 x 3p, 3 x 4p) Mixed Value Roll (code MV) (DC041/DC841)

16 October

15p vertical roll (Code RL) (DC037/DC837)

15p horizontal roll (Code SF) (DC039/DC839)

20p vertical roll (Code TL) (DC038/DC838)

20p horizontal roll (Code SG) (DC040/DC840)

28 November

N. Ireland 15p lt blue, single band (IS150)

N. Ireland 20p black, ACP (IS200)

N. Ireland 24p terracotta, ACP (IS240)

N. Ireland 34p slate, ACP (IS340)

Scotland 15p lt blue, single band (SS150)

Scotland 20p black, ACP (SS200)

Scotland 24p terracotta, ACP (SS240)

Scotland 34p slate, ACP (SS340)

Wales 15p lt blue, single band (WS150)

Wales 20p black, ACP (WS200)

Wales 24p terracotta, ACP (WS240)

Wales 34p slate, ACP (WS340)

Country Stamp Pack (No. 20) (£3.05) (CP008)

This listing includes all items issued or notified to the Editor by the end of October. Any subsequent issues will be listed later.

We regret we cannot engage in correspondence about the contents of this listing.

Postmarks, Postmarks, Everywhere...

On 17 October, day of issue of the Lord Mayor's Show stamps, the Special Postmark Duty of the City of London Letter District Office had no fewer than 11 special postmarks in use. The LDO was the alternative first day office using a "First Day of Issue" postmark showing the City griffin inscribed London EC4 — the postal district in which the Mansion House is situated. In addition the plain and pictorial (Coat of Arms) First Day postmarks were available as were four sponsored special handstamps, the National Postal Museum's Maltese Cross, a NPM Mail Coach special, the Philatelic Counter handstamp (St Paul's Cathedral) and the Tower Hill, London EC3 tourist handstamp.



Pictured here is Ron Reed of the Special Postmark Duty busy at work cancelling covers. Over many years, Ron has applied hundreds of thousands of handstamp impressions; he recalls the 1981 Royal Wedding issue when over 1¼ million covers were processed at the LDO (then the East Central District Office) with the First Day and sponsored handstamps.

Ron obviously enjoys his job and takes great pride in providing clear impressions. He has many friends in the philatelic world — collectors and dealers alike. Ron's "boss" Jim Eldridge, responsible for the special postmarks used at the City LDO, says he is lucky to have Ron on the staff, describing him as an "experienced and dedicated worker".

National Postal Museum News

Postcards

Three new cards in the Stamp World London 90 series will be issued on 10 January (not 9 January as originally announced). The cards feature Robert Wallace (ref. SWL90/7), Sir Henry Cole (8) and Sir Rowland Hill (9). The cards will cost 20p each and will be available from the Museum's Sales Counter and by post from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order by post, 60p plus handling charge — 20p on orders up to £22; £1.75 over £22.

Robert Wallace (1773-1855) was the first Member of Parliament for the new Greenock constituency following the Reform Act of 1832. His name is most intimately associated with the reform of the postal service, being chairman of the committee charged with examining Rowland Hill's scheme for uniform penny postage. His portrait on the postcard is by Clive Abbott, based on a bust in Greenock.

Sir Henry Cole (1808-82) assisted Hill in the production of the Penny Black and the Mulready postal stationery. An article about him, by Tony Gammons, appears in this *Bulletin*. His likeness on the card is from a portrait specially commissioned by the National Postal Museum from Clive Abbott.

Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879) is perhaps the best known figure in the history of the Post Office, popularly credited with the introduction of the penny post and the first adhesive stamps. He was appointed Secretary to the Post Office in 1854 which enabled him to carry through further postal reforms. The portrait on the card is from a painting owned by The Post Office.

These Stamp World cards will be issued on 10 January, day of issue of the five "special definitive" stamps marking the 150th anniversary of the Uniform Penny Post. In addition the NPM will issue a card reproducing one of the stamps; this has been designed specifically for use as a maximum card bearing one or more of the five special stamps. Price 20p. Orders to the address above

Postmarks

A new design NPM Maltese Cross handstamp will be introduced on 10 January and remain in use until further notice. This replaces the current Maltese Cross handstamp introduced on 1 July 1980. In addition to the Maltese Cross handstamp, a special handstamp will be available on



National Postal Museum "Special Definitives" card and SWL90 special handstamp for 10 January

10 January showing Sir Rowland Hill's signature and a "1" marking representing the 150th anniversary of the Penny Post. Collectors should state clearly which handstamp(s) they require. All items for reposting should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

Please note that the three SWL cards cannot be accepted for postmarking on the picture side, i.e. as maximum cards; the inks currently available for use for special handstamps have proved unsuitable for use on the high gloss finish of these Museum cards. Collectors requiring the "Special Definitive" card used as a maximum card are reminded that the card should bear an address on the address side and should be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope for its return. This need not bear additional stamps, the postage being paid by the stamp(s) on the maximum card.

1990 Special Exhibitions

A new exhibition "Sir Rowland Hill and his Family" will go on display in the Museum's Main Gallery during January and will run until at least May. This replaces the Uniforms exhibition which opened last May.

The main special exhibition for 1990 will be entitled "Penny Black and Postal Reform" and will run from May for one year. This replaces the Atlantic exhibition which opened in February 1989. Details of these new exhibitions will be published in the *Bulletin* nearer the time.

Christmas Stamps

The cylinders and colours used for these stamps were:

15p 1A (blue) 2B (silver) 2C (gold) P91 (phosphor)

15p + 1p 1A (blue) 1B (silver) 1C (gold) P92 (phosphor)

20p + 1p 1A (rosine) 1B (silver) 1C (gold)

34p + 1p 1A (emerald) 2B (silver) 1C (gold)

37p + 1p 1A (yellow-ochre) 1B (silver) 1C (gold)

Further details can now be given of the designs of these stamps: the 15p features four medieval peasants, framed by a row of Gothic arches with decorative foliage; 15p + 1p — late Romanesque arches on the west front of Ely Cathedral, seen from high up on one of the Cathedral's towers; 20p + 1p — unique lead-covered wooden Lantern and the top of the stone octagon which together form the Cathedral's central tower; 34p + 1p — interlocking arches of one of the Romanesque arcades in the Cathedral's western transept and 37p + 1p — a late Romanesque/early English triple arch from the Cathedral's west front, featuring a stained glass window with a single medieval peasant.

New Telecom Card

Telecom Technology Showcase issued card number 20 in their "Ephemera Series" on 14 November; the card reproduces the 1889 Christmas Card of the British Post Office's main London telegraph office, widely known as the Central Telegraph Office. Unused cards cost 20p, cards with first day of sale cachet and special handstamp are available at £1.20. Postage 40p extra. Orders/enquiries to: Telecom Technology Showcase, 135 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AT.

Student Stamp Designs

Shown here are four designs by Louise Bull of Middlesex Polytechnic, submitted as part of the 1989 Royal Society of Arts Design Bursaries Competition. The designs, representing the British Museum, were on the theme of Museums' Year. It should be noted that these designs are not being used for postage stamps. Details of the Competition and the awards made were given in the August *Bulletin*, pages 292-3.



Readers are reminded that a touring exhibition featuring entries in the RSA Competition can be seen at the Newcastle College, Newcastle upon Tyne from 1-14 December. The exhibition then moves on to the Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston (15-20 January), South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Cardiff (20 February - 7 March), and the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth (12-24 March).

150 Years Ago This Month

This month we feature Gems from another collection in the National Postal Museum. Pictured here are two covers from the Frank Staff Postal History Collections; both show markings used during the short-lived "Uniform Fourpenny Post" of December 1839/January 1840.

On 5 December 1839 the first part of Rowland Hill's plan for uniform penny postage was implemented. Charging by weight was introduced and the maximum rate for a letter of up to half an ounce became 4d (prepaid or not) irrespective of distance. In London the rate was reduced to 1d if prepaid.



Handstruck "4" of Cullompton (top) and Edinburgh (below)

To indicate the charge marking a number a post offices throughout Great Britain and Ireland used a handstruck "4". These vary considerably in appearance but are nearly all struck in black which showed that the postage had not been paid. These markings are rarest from England, but are rather more common in Scotland where a standard type was manufactured for a number of post offices by Alexander Kirkwood of Edinburgh.

Illustrated is an example from Cullompton of 21 December 1839 and one of the standard

Scottish types from Edinburgh of 25 December. Both are to be seen in the Frank Staff collection of the Penny Post.

The interim measure of reducing the basic charge to 4d did not last long and was superseded by the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage on 10 January 1840.

Douglas N Muir

Curator Philately, National Postal Museum

Cylinder News

The cylinders used for the new coil stamps issued in October were: 3p/4p Mixed Value — R21 (3p) R5 (4p); 15p Sideways — R1 phosphor R14; 15p Longways — R2 phosphor B62; 20p Sideways — R3 and 20p Longways — R2.

The 4 x first class NVI books printed by Walsall have been reported with plate numbers W2W1; plates W1W1 previously recorded.

Postal Stationery News

John Bradnock of Birmingham wrote following the note in the September *Bulletin* (page 4) concerning the revised wording "For use within the UK only ..." on the first and second class stamped envelopes. He has the second class envelope postmarked 20 October 1986 (nearly two years earlier than the first example seen by the Editor), and just two months later than the earliest recorded use of the first class envelope with revised wording. Any reports of usage prior to this October 1986 date would still be welcome.

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

Secretaries of societies and federations affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation are reminded that nominations to be considered for election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1990 should be sent to the Secretary of the Board of Election by 31 December 1989. Nominations must be made on the appropriate form available from: L V Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, PINNER, Middx, HA5 4AL. Nominations which were made in the past three years remain valid for consideration and need not be renewed.

The 1989 signatories to the Roll at the BPF Congress at Brighton in June were: E M de Bustamente (Spain), P Indhusophon (Thailand), R Loeuillet (France), C C Sundman (Finland) and R M Willcocks (UK). The Roll was initiated in 1921, the first signatory being George V.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £50 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice - stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin* and send with your name and address on a postcard to: December Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 January.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £50 worth of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Penny Black Anniversary Definitives to be issued in January. Answers and winners' names will be published in the March *Bulletin*.

1. Which eminent novelist and poet is being commemorated by stamps next July?
2. What is the colour of the current 29p definitive (issued 26 September 1989)?
3. How many stamps are listed in the three-volume 1990 "Stamps of the World" catalogue?
4. In which year was the RSPCA granted the "Royal" prefix?
5. In which city was Henry Cole born?
6. Where was the first "Collections" counter opened on 2 October?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, the National Postal Museum, their agents and their families. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the September competition were:

M Wilson of Merseyside (first prize), B Hope of Leicestershire, D Wood of Surrey, J Willard of France and P Kearsley of West Yorkshire.

The answers were: 1. Paul Cox, 2. London Museum (Lancaster House), 3. Joseph Lister, 4. Swindon, 5. Trakback labels, 6. 17 October 1989.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Book

Reviews

A new (sixth) edition of **Great Britain & Ireland Railway Letter Stamps: A Handbook and Catalogue** has recently been published by the Railway Philatelic Group. This new edition has been compiled by Neill Oakley, continuing the good work done for many years by David Potter. The catalogue lists the issues of the railways which are members of the Association of Independent Railways Ltd from 1957 (when the Talyllyn Rly introduced railway letter stamps) to early 1989. In addition commemorative railway stamps issued by British Rail are listed and the "For the Record" section mentions various labels "purporting to be railway letter stamps". Prices have been revised to reflect current market values; some of these stamps have been issued in very small numbers and have long disappeared from dealers' stocks. The 12 original Talyllyn stamps are priced at £500 in complete sheets and one 1982 provisional surcharge of the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Rly now commands £25 a single (only 350 issued). The book is handsomely produced on good art paper, 56 pages, well illustrated. Price £4.95, postage 35p, from: RPG Publications Officer, 6b Richmond Parade, TWICKENHAM TW1 2ET. The catalogue is updated by Mr Oakley in his articles in *Railway Philately*, journal of the RPG; brief details of new railway letter stamps are given in this *Bulletin*.

The 1990 edition of the Stanley Gibbons **Stamps of the World** catalogue is now available, published in three volumes: 1. Foreign Countries A-J, 2. Foreign Countries K-Z and 3. Commonwealth Countries. The two Foreign volumes each contain 1,008 pages and cost £14.50 per volume; the Commonwealth volume has 640 pages, price £12.50. The three volumes together list 276,650 stamps with over 64,850 illustrations. Some 6,475 stamps have been added since the 1989 edition! This catalogue is ideal for thematic collectors and those who want simple listings of basic stamps. Available from booksellers, stamp dealers and from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Postage £2 UK, £3.50 overseas surface mail.

Information Technology

British Special Issues: No.156

FRANCIS KENNEDY

With 1982 designated as Information Technology Year, someone had to alert the British public that it was happening and The Post Office's contribution towards public enlightenment was a set of two issued on 8 September 1982 in a hitherto unused format and designed to cover the story of communications over the ages. Each of the two stamps contained three separate cameos thus providing the artists (Brian Delaney and Darrell Ireland who worked together on the project) with six opportunities to progress the story.



The 15½p stamp cameos were: Egyptian hieroglyphics (one of the early forms of recording information) illustrating a hunting scene discovered in the tomb of Amenemhet of Thebes dating from the 15th century BC and reading *Crossing the valleys, treading the hills, taking pleasure, shooting the game of the desert by the one beloved of his Lord, steward of the Vizier scribe accountant of Amun, Amenemhet justified*; a scene in the British Museum (now the British Library) Reading Room in Victorian times — an unparalleled information source; and, finally, a video display unit in office use, one of the early benefits of electronic technology.

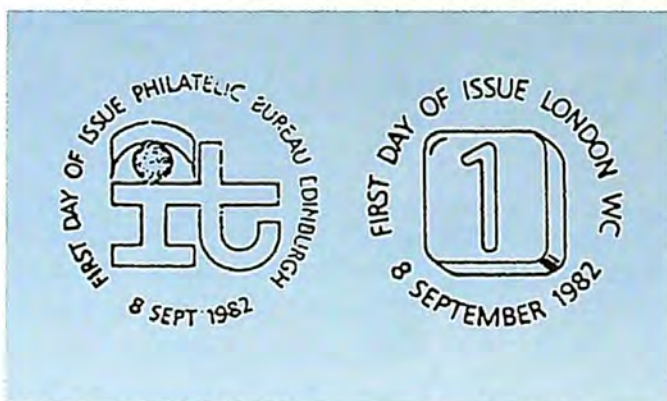
The 26p stamp shows first a "plug" for Prestel, the television information system operated by British Telecom; a communications satellite in orbit, adding an international element to instant information availability; and, more down to earth, a bar-coded can of baked beans, being electronically accounted for at a supermarket check-out.

These two horizontal stamps were the width of three normal definitive stamps and in depth were equal to the width of a normal definitive giving the exceptional overall measurements of 72.3 x 20.3mm. This unusual format necessitated sheets of 60 stamps (2 panes of 30, each 3 x 10) with the accompanying sheet marginal markings amended accordingly.

Officially styled "IT82", the year was the occasion of a conference, sponsored by government and industry, to lessen public anxiety being engendered by the supposed "Big Brother" possibilities of the information revolution which advancing electronic technology pre-saged — and the approach of 1984!

The Post Office summed it up in the presentation pack for the issue like this: "Information technology today is all about the use of computers, microelectronics and telecommunications to help us produce, store, obtain and send information in the form of pictures words or numbers, more reliably, quickly and efficiently. It is a development that is influencing activities in every sphere of life, making it easier to carry out traditional tasks and opening up new opportunities in many fields".

Sales up to the date of withdrawal (8 September 1983) were: 15½p 33,174,960 and 26p 7,985,520. Pictorial First Day of Issue cancellations were provided at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and London WC and numerous special handstamps were sponsored by cover producers. One such, used at



Croydon, featured a bar code; Intelpost and Prestel handstamps were used at London E1 and Ipswich. Two PHQ cards (numbered 62a and 62b) were issued; printing was 248,000 pairs.

An exhibition relating to Information Technology was held at the National Postal Museum; opened by Lord Glenarthur, a government minister in the Department of Trade & Industry. The Museum produced a postcard (SS12) reproducing part of the design of the 26p stamp.



Proliferation of Issues

Sir,
I am writing concerning the recent proliferation of stamps I believe have been issued largely to take advantage of the philatelic market. In particular I refer to the Greetings and, more recently, the Non Value Indicator stamps. As well as the actual concept being of dubious advantage to the average customer the stamps have been issued only in booklets, necessitating the purchase of more stamps than many collectors would otherwise buy. Although these can obviously be used on ordinary mail I wonder how many people normally get through so many first class stamps. Do figures exist to show what proportion of Greetings stamps have been bought from philatelic counters or the Bureau (and, therefore, presumably by philatelists)?

In addition to the very existence of the NVI stamps, we already have four different varieties with another two in the pipeline. Why have three different printers been necessary? I would also be interested to hear why the new definitive issue contains three values that simply replace current stamps but show a change of colour.

DAVID OVINGTON, Worcester

David Dale, Manager Definitive Stamps, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, replies:

Each of the examples Mr Ovington mentions — Greetings stamps, Non Value Indicator stamps and new tariff definitives — illustrates the difficulties for collectors when we mount initiatives for genuine postal reasons. I can assure collectors very strongly that each of them does have a genuine postal or operational purpose and is not issued to “take advantage” of the philatelic market.

Greetings stamps fill a demand for attractive stamps to use with cards and letters. Many people send relatively large amounts of social mail and can easily use several books in a year. However it is in selling 10 stamps at a time in place of the more typical three or four that we make our “profit” in terms of lower selling costs and better cash flow. I also believe that if people

have stamps on hand they are more likely to use the post.

Stamp books are, therefore, commercially viable products that can be actively “sold”. In that sense they are produced to “take advantage” of customers (in the nicest possible way) by persuading them to buy more stamps at each purchase. This, it seems to me, is a valid aim for The Post Office to pursue, bearing in mind that these products are in addition to the sheet stamps which are still on sale for anyone wishing to buy just one stamp.

We have three printers for stamp books because volumes are so large. This year we will produce up to 100 million books and it makes strategic and economic sense to divide the work between different suppliers.

NVI stamp books offer a very clear advantage to our customers — by smoothing over the tariff increase they make it unnecessary to make a special trip to the post office to buy 1p stamps. Nevertheless this issue is to an extent experimental and we are very interested to hear what people think of it.

On Mr Ovington's final point concerning the new definitive issue on 26 September, I am afraid that I do not agree that three values simply replace current stamps with a change of colour. Only one — the 20p — does this in order to introduce black as part of the build up to the anniversary of the Penny Black in 1990. Other values have appeared previously but have since been withdrawn and this is quite common in the history of the Machin. We review the current range with each tariff change and have to ensure each of the colours is distinct.

Only a small proportion of each of these items is bought by collectors. Of course we are conscious that they represent an extra cost to those who collect them, but I would hope that would be outweighed by the satisfaction of buying a well designed and produced item with a genuine postal purpose behind it.

Country Stamps & New Books

Plate numbers so far reported for the new Country stamps (28 November) are as follows: *N Ireland*: 20p, 24p and 34p; *Scotland*: 15p, 20p, 24p and 34p and *Wales*: 24p and 34p — all Q1Q1 and Q2Q2.

Revised Harrison NVI books with details of current postal rates on the inside of the cover (previously address for postal leaflets) are now available from the Bureau: codes UB001 £2 First Class, UB006 £1.50 Second Class.

Swedish Post Office Visit

Last year senior staff from Royal Mail Stamps & Philately and members of the British Stamp Advisory Committee visited Stockholm to see the work of *Postens Frimärksavdelning* (PFA), the department of the Swedish Post Office responsible for the designing, production and marketing of stamps.

In September staff from PFA and members of the Swedish Stamp Advisory Committee paid a "return visit" to London as guests of RMS&P. The two postal administrations have a good deal in common, not least in terms of the long history of their postal services. The British Post Office celebrated the 350th anniversary of public postal service in 1985, the Swedish PO marked its 350th anniversary the following year. Both administrations operate successful philatelic bureaux although the Swedish bureau predates the British one by a good few years, having been set up in 1928 with just two clerks, a typewriter, a telephone and a letter balance. The Swedish PO also runs a much-praised postal museum, set up in 1906. Swedish stamps are noted for their fine designs and quality recess (intaglio) printing. Best known of the stamp

administrations including the British Post Office — 1982 Maritime Heritage, 1984 Mail Coach and 1987 Victorian Britain stamps. Barry Robinson, Head of Design at RMS&P, has, in his "Design Matters" articles in this *Bulletin*, praised the PFA for preserving the skills of stamp engraving and hopes that the British PO can issue recess stamps from time to time.

Our Swedish visitors ended their visit to London at a RMS&P reception at the Telecom Tower; each was presented with a specially commissioned print of Postman's Park (opposite the London Chief Office and National Postal Museum) by stamp designer David Gentleman. We hope the print will remind them of the postal service and philatelic aspects of the work of our two administrations.



Our photograph shows (left to right) Keith Fisher, General Manager of RMS&P; Ulf Dahlsten, Director-General of the Swedish PO and Bill Cockburn, Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters at the Telecom Tower reception.

Withdrawal Dates

In the September *Bulletin* details were given of the withdrawal of certain definitive stamps prior to the increase in postal rates on 2 October. It should be noted that the 22p and 23p stamps were also withdrawn from general sale on 30 September; they remain on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. There was a typesetting error in the October Digest — the Mark II window books issued on 11 October 1988 were withdrawn from sale on 10 October 1989, not the Mark III books which remain on philatelic sale. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



British stamps engraved by Czeslaw Slania — 1984 Mail Coaches and 1987 Victorian Britain

engravers is Czeslaw Slania who has over 700 stamp designs to his credit. Although most of his work has been for the Swedish PO he has engraved stamps for a number of other postal

Royal Mail Stamp Album — 1989

Continuation Pages

Pages to hold the 1989 issues are now available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, price £8.95. Spaces are provided for all the special issues, the Industrial Archaeology miniature sheet, Greetings stamps and the following definitives and Country stamps:

21 March Scotland 14p side band, 19p 2 band and 23p 2 band ex £5 "Scots Connection" prestige book.

25 April 14p side band and 19p 2 band Walsall printing ex £1 book.

22 August Non Value Indicator stamps - 1st and 2nd class photogravure (Harrison) printing ex books of 10 and 1st and 2nd class litho (Walsall) printing ex books of 4.

19 September NVI stamps — 1st and 2nd class litho (Questa) ex books of 10.

26 September 15p lt blue centre band, 20p black ACP, 24p terracotta ACP, 29p purple ACP, 30p sage ACP, 34p slate ACP and 37p red ACP, all photogravure, ex sheets.

2 October 15p side band, 20p 2 band and 29p litho 2 band, all ex books.

28 November N Ireland, Scotland and Wales Country Stamps — 15p, 20p, 24p and 34p for each country.

Christmas/New Year Closures

The British Philatelic Bureau will be closed on 25-26 December and 1-2 January; the National Postal Museum will close 25-26 December and 1 January and the Post Office Archives from 25 December to 1 January inclusive.

Fourpenny Post Handstamp

Shown here is the special handstamp, mentioned last month, being used at the National Postal Museum on 5 December to mark the 150th anniversary of the introduction of Uniform Fourpenny Post.



Postal Uniforms

Shown here is a photograph recently sent in by Roy Hynd of Pitlochry. It shows a Mr Walker who was a postman in the Moulin area of Pitlochry for some 40 years; the photograph was taken in the early years of this century. Of particular interest is the straw hat he is wearing and the six good-conduct stripes on his jacket. Post Office Archives are currently engaged in research into postal uniforms and would welcome examples of old photographs showing postal staff in uniform. Any readers having such items are invited to write to the Post Office Archivist, Mrs Jean Farrugia, Post Office Archives, 23 Glasshill Street, LONDON SE1 0BQ.



TPO Book Offer

Since mid-November the book *The British Travelling Post Office* by Peter Johnson has been available from bookshops price £4.50 instead of £8.95 as part of the publishers' Christmas promotion. Autographed copies of the book are available from the author, price £4.50 if collected from his home or £6 if sent by post. Orders/enquiries to: Peter Johnson, 12 Maplewell Drive, LEICESTER LE4 1BD.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin Editor.

Ely Cathedral. This year's Christmas stamps feature Ely Cathedral and to coincide with the issue, A G Bradbury sponsored a special handstamp at Ely on 14 November for use on a specially designed first day cover featuring an old engraving of the Cathedral surrounded by angels. The covers with full set of Christmas stamps cost £4.75 or with single stamp £2.50. Covers with full set signed by Sir Harry Secombe are available, price £9.75. Overseas customers should add 50p for postage. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Richard Whittington. A special limited edition (100) cover was produced by A G Bradbury showing a "true portrait" of Richard Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London who was born at Pauntley, Gloucestershire. The covers bear the Lord Mayor's Show stamps cancelled by a special handstamp sponsored for use at Pauntley on 17 October. Price £9.75. Orders/enquiries to Mr Bradbury, address above.

Uniform Penny Post. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post a full-colour cover is being produced by G K Eldridge for use with a special National Postal Museum handstamp on 10 January. The cover is supplied with informative and historic notes. Price £1.80 (overseas customers add 60p). Orders/enquiries to: G K Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

Penny Black Anniversary. To mark the 150th anniversary of the first adhesive stamps, The Post Office will issue a set of special definitive stamps on 10 January. G K Eldridge will produce a special cover which will be available with the set of five stamps cancelled with a pictorial Windsor "First Day of Issue" handstamp, applied in red ink. Price £3.90 (overseas 60p extra). Orders/enquiries to G K Eldridge, address above.

RSPCA. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has appointed CoverCraft to design and produce an exclusive first day cover for the RSPCA stamps to be issued on 23

January. This full-colour cover highlights the caring role of the RSPCA and shows inspectors with cat, dog and swan. The widely recognised PSPCA logo is included, printed in blue. A special handstamp will be used. Price, with full set of RSPCA stamps, £4.95 or £6.95 signed by Ernie Wise, a well-known supporter of the Society. Other signed covers may be available, details on request. Payments to "RSPCA Stamps Offer"; all orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft (RSPCA Stamps Offer), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Rowland Hill. A special first day cover to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the Uniform Penny Postage is being produced by CoverCraft for the Penny Black Anniversary definitives of 10 January. The cover features a portrait of Rowland Hill and the Wyon City Medal, (the "Wyon" head of Queen Victoria was used for all the stamps of her reign) on a backdrop of a Uniform Penny Postage petition. A special handstamp will be applied at Kidderminster, birthplace of Rowland Hill. Covers with 15p and 20p stamps cost £1.99, covers with all five stamps £3.99. Orders/enquiries to CoverCraft, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH. Alternative handstamps and "Stamps 150" editions will be available — details on request.

Clifton Suspension Bridge. To mark the 125th anniversary of Bristol's famous landmark, a special cover has been produced. The bridge, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, linking the City of Bristol to Somerset, was opened to the public on 8 December 1864. The cover will bear the Bristol Philatelic Counter handstamp which features the Bridge. Price £1.70 (3 for £4.80) including UK postage (overseas add 60p). Orders/enquiries to: G K Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

RSPCA. A special first day cover is being produced on behalf of the Teeside Branch of the Cats Protection League in conjunction with the RSPCA issue on 23 January. The cover depicts a kitten and the CPL logo and the logo (showing a cat and its kitten) will also be featured on the special handstamp to be used. The CPL is a registered charity and has been in existence for some 60 years; it has some 126 branches throughout the country. The cover with the four RSPCA stamps will cost £4.75, signed by actress Beryl Reid £6.75; covers with kitten stamp only £2.50. Orders/enquiries to: Stan Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 8JJ.

Posting Boxes

106. Two features this month — a VR wall box and further details of the replica Penfold boxes which are being produced for use in historic and conservation areas.

Mr F J Cockeram of Staffordshire has sent us this photograph of a Victorian wall box at Tolverne, near the River Fal, on the Roseland Peninsular in Cornwall. The box is no longer in use and has alongside it an attractive pictorial plate bearing the royal cipher of George IV (1820-30). Enquiries to the Post Office at Truro and the owner of the box have failed to yield details of the purpose of this plate. Does any *Bulletin* reader have the answer?



In the September and October issues we featured the replica Victorian posting boxes in use at Nairn, Gloucester and Blists Hill (Ironbridge). Further details of the boxes and of the location in Nairn have been received and will be of interest to letter box enthusiasts.

The hexagonal "Penfold" pillar boxes were made between 1866 and 1879. The new Penfold box is an exact copy of the original; The Post Office has been given permission by the Lord Chamberlain's Department to install these boxes bearing Queen Victoria's coat of arms and cipher. Some of the early Penfold boxes were

originally painted green, but were repainted in red in the 1870s. The new boxes, painted red, can be distinguished from the originals by the manufacturer's name which will be cast into the base of the box. The technical details of the new boxes are: *Material* — impact resistant cast iron; *Height (installed)* — 1,700mm; *Width Across Flats* — 380mm; *Width Across Corners* — 400mm; *Capacity* — 3.5 cu ft; *Aperature Size* — 160 x 57mm; *Weight (Approx)* — 350kg; *Collection Plate* — 187 x 157mm (non standard size)

The town of Nairn has long been a fashionable watering place and since 1855, with the arrival of the Inverness and Nairn Railway, a popular holiday destination. Much of the town retains a strong Victorian identity and the redevelopment of the town centre, by the Highland Regional Council, has taken into account the town's heritage. The new look High Street, where the replica Penfold box has been installed, is a fine example of the blending of past and



present. Our illustration shows the Provost of Nairn District Council, Mr S McArthur, with Post Office staff in period costume and the town's "new" Penfold box.

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

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

December Digest

No items are being issued or withdrawn during December.

1990 Royal Mail Stamps & Products

The dates of issue of the main stamp issues for 1990 are given below (any additions and changes will be announced in the *Bulletin*):

10 January	Penny Black Definitives
23 January	RSPCA
6 March	Europa (Buildings/Glasgow)
20 March	Prestige book
10 April	Queen's Award
3 May	Penny Black Miniature Sheet
5 June	Kew Gardens
10 July	Thomas Hardy
11 September	Gallantry
16 October	Astronomy
13 November	Christmas

The Penny Black Anniversary definitives and RSPCA stamps are previewed in this *Bulletin*. Some preliminary information can be given of some of the forthcoming products.

A new Greetings stamp pack will be issued early in the year (date to be announced); this will contain 10 first class (20p) Greetings stamps.

The 1990 Prestige Book, entitled "London Life" will go on sale on 20 March and will contain Penny Black Anniversary definitive stamps and the Alexandra Palace stamps from the Europa issue of 6 March.

The "Penny Black Miniature Sheet" containing one of the Penny Black Anniversary definitives will be issued on 3 May, opening day of the international exhibition, and will be the third sheet issued in support of the exhibition.

Also in May, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately will be publishing a souvenir book relating to the 150th anniversary of the Penny Post and the Penny Black. It is planned that this book will contain the five Penny Black Anniversary definitives, the Penny Black Miniature Sheet and a replica Mulready envelope in black.

A new (fourth) Royal Mail Exhibition Card will be released, also a "Philatelic Passport" for use at the Stamp World London 90 exhibition.

During May the National Postal Museum will publish an important book *Postal Reform & The Penny Black: A New Appreciation* by Doug-

las N Muir, the Museum's Curator-Philately.

Further information on these interesting products will be published in the months ahead.

Machin Notes

The mixed value coil issued on 10 October yields a new Machin stamp for the specialist collector, containing a 3p stamp with redrawn numerals as devised by Jeffery Matthews in 1982



and now used on most definitive stamps. Comparison with the 3p stamp from sheets will show a much narrower "3" and sleeker "p". The coil is available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters.



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