

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 28

Number 11

July 1991



Contents

Obituary - Barbara Last

It is with great sadness that we record the sudden death of Barbara Last on 3 June. Barbara was a great friend of the *Bulletin* and the National Postal Museum and was a popular and regular guest at stamp previews and NPM functions. For many years Barbara worked for stamp dealers Bridger and Kay and in "retirement" wrote many good articles for the philatelic press - this *Bulletin*, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, *Stamp Magazine*, *Stamps* and the former *Stamp Collecting* and *Philatelic Magazine*. She had much to write about, having built up many collections — Machins, polar mail and numerous thematic studies. It was for thematic articles that she was best known and will be long remembered. In recent years she had written good background articles relating to British stamp issues; her last contribution, "Scientific Exploits", appeared in March. She was working on articles on the Dinosaur and Maps stamps when she died.



Barbara in jovial mood, with Guy Averill, at a *Bulletin* reception in 1983

I first met Barbara 11 years ago when we were both writing for *Stamp Collecting*; later when I became Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* I invited her to write a regular feature for young collectors. When I transferred to the *Bulletin* I was pleased to continue to receive articles from Barbara as well as to see her more frequently when she visited the Museum. Barbara was always kind and cheerful, one of the most pleasant persons I have come across in the philatelic world. Her many friends, and those who knew her through her writings, will join in sending condolences to her husband Harold, their children and grandchildren.

John Holman

- 247 Dinosaurs
- 250 World Student Games
- 251 New NVI Stamp Books
New Stamped Stationery
Cylinder News
North East Souvenir Books
Bath Philatelic Counter
- 252 The Pursuit of Perfection: The Photographs of Dorothy Wilding
- 253 Posting Boxes
- 254 British Special Issues: Heraldry
- 255 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
- 256 New Scottish Aerogramme
- 257 Six Month Digest
Railway Letter Stamps
- 258 National Philatelic Organisations in Britain: British Philatelic Federation
- 260 The Pearson Hill Stamp Cancelling Machines: Part 2
- 262 Stamping the Mail Exhibition
Irish Post Office History
- 263 Postbag, Railway Postcard
Rarest GB Stamp Makes £52,900
- 264 Book Reviews
- 265 Competition
- 266 Commemorative Covers
- 268 July Digest, Events

Front Cover: *Tyrannosaurus* courtesy of the British Museum (Natural History)

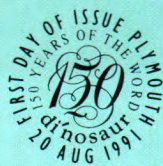
Presentation Pack Bonus

The Roses and Dinosaurs presentation packs will include promotional tickets. The Roses pack (issued 16 July) will contain a free ticket for admission (normally £2.50) to the Royal National Rose Society Gardens in St Albans. The 12-acre Gardens, open from mid-June to October, are the RNRS showgrounds with a collection of 30,000 roses.

The Dinosaurs pack (20 August) will include a free child's ticket (worth £1.75) to the Natural History Museum in London. An exhibition of the work of Bryan Kneale, designer of the Dinosaur stamps, is being staged in the Museum until 31 August.

Dinosaurs

20 August 1991



The Royal Mail will issue five stamps featuring Dinosaurs on 20 August; these stamps celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first use of the word dinosaur at a scientific meeting in July 1841. Brilliant detective work by Professor Richard Owen brought dinosaurs back to life in the public mind. Life-sized concrete models of Owen's dinosaurs went on display at Crystal Palace in 1854; people flocked to see them and they have been a major tourist attraction ever since.



The **22p** stamp (basic inland first class and EEC countries rate) featured *Iguanodon*; the **26p** value (basic non-EEC rate) *Stegosaurus*; **31p** (worldwide postcard rate) *Tyrannosaurus*; **33p** (inland first class, second weight stage) *Protoceratops*, and **37p** (Airmail Zones 1 and 2 basic rate) *Triceratops*.

Dinosaur remains were found in China in the 16th century BC; the remains were treated as "dragons' teeth" and ground up for medicinal purposes. The first scientific study of dinosaurs was undertaken in Britain 150 years ago. The word *dinosaur* was first used by Professor Robert Owen (1804-92) at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Plymouth in 1841. The word derives from the Greek, meaning "fearfully great or terrible reptile".

Owen, a medical anatomist, was Hunterian Professor at the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons at Lincoln's Inn Fields. Much of his work involved dissecting dead animals from London Zoo and he became a leading compara-

tive anatomist. In 1856 he moved to the British Museum and in 1881 he became the first Superintendent of Collections at the new Natural History Museum in South Kensington.

In the 1830s he researched British fossil reptiles; mostly basing his conclusions on large quantities of teeth and bone fragments in private collections. He deduced that the fossil reptiles were large and unlike any living creatures. Animals such as *Iguanodon* were estimated to be about 30 feet long; had massive pillar-like legs, short powerful toes and a backbone of great strength. Owen considered that dinosaurs represented the ultimate stage in reptilian design.

The concept of dinosaurs captured the public imagination. In 1852 the great glass exhibition hall of the Crystal Palace (Hyde Park) was dismantled and moved to a permanent site at Sydenham in south London. It is said that Prince Albert suggested that life-sized models of prehistoric animals should be placed around the grounds. Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who had helped with the glass palace, was commissioned to produce the models. Hawkins consulted Professor Owen and created four concrete dinosaur models - two of *Iguanodon*, and one each of *Megalosaurus* and *Hylaeosaurus*. A banquet, attended by scientists and local dignitaries was held inside the mould of an *Iguanodon*, staged by the Crystal Palace Company on New Year's Eve, 1853. This event was widely reported and dinosaurs became a major talking point in Victorian drawing rooms.

Since Owen's day, further research based on



the discovery of complete skeletons has led to a revised view of the appearance of dinosaurs. Owen's view of them as gigantic, scaly, rhinoceros-like creatures has been shown to be inaccurate but it is how many still envisage them. The models at Sydenham remain as a testimony to Owen's work and the new stamps will promote interest in dinosaurs and the person who gave them their name.



The British Association for the Advancement of Science will be holding its 1991 meeting in Plymouth on 25-30 August; returning to the city for the first time since 1841. The theme of the meeting will be "Quality of Life"; some 4,000 delegates will attend from around the world. Dr Beverley Halstead of the Geology Section of the British Association was a prime mover behind this issue of Dinosaur stamps. Sadly Dr Halstead was killed in a car accident earlier this year and fellow scientists will remember him when they use the stamps he so strongly promoted. In championing Dinosaur stamps, he asked the presidents of almost every learned society to write to the Royal Mail in support of the idea.

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Bryan Kneale and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of "almost square" format, 35 x 37mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 220) will cost £1.80. Each pack will contain a free child entry ticket to the Natural History Museum in London (worth £1.75).

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 137A-E.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections", philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 20 August, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service - one for the Bureau, the other for Plymouth.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 20 August.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks. These should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Wales & The West Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Cardiff, Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA (Plymouth postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (City of London handstamp); and Northern England SHC, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Durham). These handstamps were introduced on 17 January 1989 and 22 March 1988 respectively.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others will be used on 20 August - details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" and philatelic counters from 21 August, price 19p. This will be on sale for one year.

World Student Games

The Universiade is an international sporting and cultural festival which is staged every two years in a different city and which is second in size only to the Olympic Games. In each Universiade year there are Winter and Summer Games; each is accompanied by a full programme of sporting events. The name "World Student Games" is used only in Great Britain, in North America they are known as "World University Games" and in the rest of the world as "Universiade". The Summer Games were first held in Turin in 1959 with the Winter Games at Chamonix the following year. In 1987 Sheffield was named as host for the 1991 Summer Games, the Winter Games to be staged at Sapporo in Japan.

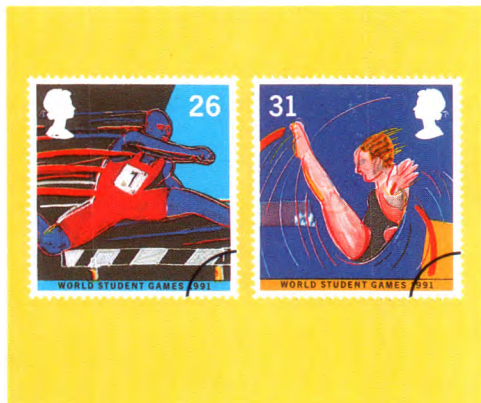
The VI Universiade will be opened in Sheffield on 14 July by HRH The Princess Royal (The Games' Patron) who will receive the Universiade flame which will have been carried from Sapporo to Sheffield via Fukuoka, Tokyo, Vancouver, Ottawa, Buffalo, New York, Bristol and then via 14 British towns and cities to Sheffield. The flame left Sapporo on 10 March and arrived in Bristol on 24 April. The Princess will also attend the closing ceremony on 25 July and will watch various competitions on 19 July.



The Pond's Forge Swimming Pool

Some 6000 competitors and officials from 130 countries will participate in the Games, in 11 exciting sports – athletics, gymnastics, basketball, diving, fencing, hockey, swimming, soccer, tennis, volleyball and waterpolo. The Sheffield facilities include one of the finest swimming and international sports complexes in Europe at Ponds Forge; the Don Valley

Athletics Stadium (the largest stadium constructed in England since Wembley), and waterpolo facilities and a sports hall at the new Hillsborough Leisure Centre. The Waltheforth Sports Centre offers the third new international standard volleyball venue in the city; an indoor Tennis Centre and new international hockey play areas are being provided at various locations. These excellent facilities will be complemented by 14 regional venues which will stage many of the basketball, volleyball and football matches.



The Royal Mail Stamp Issue

To promote the Games the Royal Mail issued a set of Sports stamps on 11 June, three of which show Student Games sports – fencing (22p stamp), hurdling (26p) and diving (31p); the fourth stamp (37p) promotes the Rugby World Cup to be held in Great Britain, Ireland and France in October/November. The stamps were "launched" at a preview held at the Ponds Forge Sports Centre in Sheffield on 10 April. The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield were present and the Lord Mayor spoke of his admiration for the designs and the skill involved in translating large pieces of artwork into stamps. The designers of the stamps, Sue Huntley and Donna Muir (Huntley Muir design partnership) were there to talk to the press about their work.

The stamps were previewed here in May. As well as the stamps there will be the usual presentation pack, Royal Mail stamp cards and first day and souvenir covers. One of the two Royal Mail "First Day of Issue" pictorial handstamps was used at Sheffield and various Sport handstamps were sponsored by cover producers – details published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

New NVI Stamp Books

To simplify the handling of NVI stamps, permanent colours are to be established shortly. The first class stamps will remain in the present flame colour, whilst the second class stamps will revert to the bright blue of the original NVIs of August 1989. The brightness and contrast of the two colours are intended to make them instantly distinguishable from value (denominated) stamps.

Three new books will go on philatelic sale on 6 August and will be available from post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier books are used up. The three new books will contain four 2nd class stamps (in bright blue) printed by Walsall Security Printers and ten 2nd class stamps printed both by Walsall and The House of Questa. There will be no Harrison book.

A new Freepost address, to which to write for postal rate information, will be included in these books and in reprints of four other books; these four books will contain the same 1st class flame stamps as in earlier issues. The books will contain 4 x 1st class stamps, printed by Walsall and 10 x 1st class stamps printed by Harrison, Questa and Walsall.

It should be noted that as none of these seven books contain new stamps, no first day of issue facilities will be available. All NVI stamps of whatever colour (bright or dark blue 2nd class or black or flame 1st class) are valid to pay the current rates for first or second class postage up to 60g. The stamps should not be used on overseas mail.

The books will sell at 68p (4 x 2nd class), 88p (4 x 1st), £1.70 (10 x 2nd) and £2.20 (10 x 1st).

New Stamped Stationery

Six new stamped envelopes will go on sale at philatelic outlets during July: DL (110 x 220mm), C5 (162 x 229mm) and C4 (229 x 324mm). Each envelope will be printed in a single colour and carry a printed postage symbol showing The Queen's head in a medallion with service indicator plus phosphor bar(s). The DL envelope will have a window measuring 35 x 89mm. The reverse of the envelopes will carry a return address panel with the inscription "for use within the UK only – postage paid up to 60g" (DL envelope) or "for use within the UK only – postage paid up to 100g" (C5 and C4). These envelopes, designed to meet the needs of small

businesses, will be available in both first and second class versions. Prices have not been finalised at time of going to press. No first day of issue facilities will be available.

Cylinder News

The cylinders and colours used for the Sport stamps were:

22p – 3A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (vermilion) 1D (bright orange) 1E (ultramarine) 1F (grey)

26p – 2A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (vermilion) 2D (bright orange) 2E (ultramarine)

31p – 2A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (vermilion) 1D (bright orange) 1E (ultramarine) 1F (grey)

37p – 1A (black) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (vermilion) 1D (bright orange) 1E (ultramarine) 1F (grey)

The Country stamps printed on paper manufactured by Coated Papers Ltd (put on philatelic sale on 14 May 1991) are from the following plates: *Scotland*: 22p Q7Q7 and Q8Q8; 26p Q1Q1 and Q2Q2; 37p Q1Q1 and Q2Q2; *Wales* 22p Q5Q5 and Q6Q6. The 17p stamps for Scotland and Wales have both recently been printed from plates Q3Q3 and Q4Q4.

Don Staddon reports new plate numbers in Walsall books – 4 x 2nd class W2W2W2; 4 x 1st class W3W4W3; 10 x 1st class W5W6W5 and W5W6W6.

North East Souvenir Books

Souvenir books were produced to commemorate the 15th North-East Philatelic Weekend held in Newcastle on 7-9 June 1991. The covers feature electricity and were printed by The House of Questa; the books contain the 22p Faraday stamps. The books, produced by the organisers of the Weekend and not by the Royal Mail, are available from: Mrs Dorothy M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 4RY. Price £2.95 per pair (stamps affixed left and right) plus stamped addressed envelope.

Bath Philatelic Counter

The opening hours for this counter are 10.00-12.30 and 1.30-4.00 Monday-Friday and not as published in the May *Bulletin*. The phone number is 0225-442459.

The Pursuit of Perfection: The Photographs of Dorothy Wilding

The National Portrait Gallery is holding the first major retrospective exhibition of the work of Dorothy Wilding (1893–1976) from 5 July to 29 September 1991. The exhibition pays tribute to her outstanding contribution as a leading studio photographer for 30 years.

During the 1920s and 1930s portrait photography in England enjoyed a golden era. Amongst the many photographers in London, Dorothy Wilding excelled as the most successful and fashionable woman practitioner. She created her own highly individual studio style in which important elements included high-key lighting, simple art deco props and plain white backgrounds to produce authoritative elegant and geometric compositions.

Wilding began as an apprentice specialising as a retoucher for three leading West End photographers; Walter Barnett, Richard Speaight and Marion Neilson. She opened her first studio in 1915, and following her early success moved to Regent Street and later to Old Bond Street. In 1937, the year she was invited, as the first woman, to take the official accession and coronation photographs of George VI and Queen Elizabeth, she opened another studio in New York.

Her memorable portraits of the 1920s included stage stars such as Tallulah Bankhead, Jessie Matthews and Noel Coward as well as writers George Bernard Shaw and Aldous Huxley. Amongst the 1930s sitters were Maurice Chevalier, Raymond Massey, Gladys Cooper, Douglas Fairbanks Jnr, Diana Wynyard and the large family of the American Ambassador in London – the Kennedys. Throughout the 1940s she continued her portraits of the Royal Family, which included the first official photographs of the present Queen, and three important sittings with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor in New York during the 1950s.

Wilding Stamps

The first British definitive series of HM Queen Elizabeth II had as its main feature a three-quarter profile of The Queen by Dorothy Wilding. The Queen acceded to the throne in February 1952, the first stamps – 1½d and 2½d values – were issued on 5 December. Further values followed, in batches, in July, August and November 1953, January and February 1954.

These stamps included the national floral emblems in five basic designs – ½d–2d by Enid Marx, 2½d–4d by M Farrar-Bell, 5d–7d by G Knipe, 8d–11d by Mary Adshead and 1s–1s6d by Edmund Dulac. A 4½d stamp in the second (Farrar-Bell) design was added to the series in 1959. The 2s6d–£1 High Value stamps, featuring Castles, also incorporated the Wilding portrait of The Queen; they were issued in September 1955.



The Wilding portrait was used for all (except one) commemorative (special) stamps from the Coronation set of June 1953 to the Westminster Abbey pair of February 1966. The one exception was the 1s3d Coronation stamp which featured a full face portrait of The Queen by Edmund Dulac who sadly died shortly before the stamp was issued. Wilding portraits of George VI and Queen Elizabeth were used as the basis of the 1½d and 2½d Coronation and Silver Wedding stamps of 1937 and 1948.



Numerous Empire/Commonwealth stamps have included Wilding portraits, for example the Royal Visit stamps of Canada, 1939 (S.G. 374), Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, 1947 (S.G. 32-5; 132-5; 42-5) and Australia, 1954 (S.G. 273); New Zealand Health and definitive stamps (S.G. 663-4; 731-3a) and Bahamas 1967 Diamond Jubilee of World Scouting (S.G. 310).

A feature entitled "The Wilding Designs" on the 1952-4 Low Value Definitives was published in the April 1986 *Bulletin*, with a similar article on the 1955 Castle High Values in October 1986.

The NPG Exhibition

The exhibition will be open to the public from 5 July to 29 September, admission free. The National Portrait Gallery is open Monday-Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday 2-6pm. An educational display and activity will be run in connection with the exhibition dealing with the practical skills and techniques used by Wilding in the production of her photographs.

To accompany the exhibition the NPG Publications Department is producing a monograph with an illustrated biographical essay and a complete catalogue of the Gallery's collection of Wilding photographs, by Terence Pepper, Research Assistant in the Photograph Collection. It will be published on 4 July, paperback, price about £14.95. Enquiries concerning the exhibition and the NPG to: National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, LONDON WC2H 0HE; Tel. 071-306 0055.

Posting Boxes

121. Oil Platform Box

Shown this month is a temporary posting box established on the Conoco Hutton oil platform on 14 January 1986 when the Industry Year stamps were issued. The 17p stamp in the set



featured a North Sea platform. The box was used mainly for posting first day covers bearing the 17p stamp to receive a special WORLD LEADING ENERGY TECHNOLOGY handstamp. The photo shows Aberdeen postman Bob Owen collecting the first day covers.

Heraldry

British Special Issues: No.166

FRANCIS KENNEDY

To most of us the subject of Heraldry has a mystique of its own probably engendered by the ancient titles of officials of the College of Arms, the authoritarian body which strictly controls the granting of arms to individuals.

The origins of coats-of-arms go back to medieval times when knights in armour made use of distinctive badges on their shields, horse-trappings, pennons and surcoats so that they could be identified in battle. Thus came about the term "coats-of-arms", now often referred to simply as "arms", usually set in a shield, itself a reminder of their origin.

These stamps, issued on 17 January 1984 to mark the quincentenary of the College of Arms, founded in 1484 when King Richard III granted the Kings of Arms, the Heralds and Pursuivants their first Charter of Incorporation. As now constituted, the College of Arms consists of the Kings of Arms – Garter, Clarenceux and Norry & Ulster; six Heralds – York, Windsor, Chester, Richmond, Lancaster and Somerset; and four Pursuivants – Rouge Dragon, Portcullis, Bluemantle and Rouge Croix. Technically, all of the officials are Heralds but of differing ranks, the Pursuivants (literally; followers or attendants) being the lowest grade. All thirteen are Officers of Arms and, thus, members of the Royal Household under the jurisdiction of the hereditary Earl Marshal of England, the Duke of Norfolk who, by a quirk of history, is not himself a member of the College of Arms.

These were Britain's first stamps in square format. The designer, Jeffery Matthews, was a natural choice in view of his earlier designs of royal and heraldic significance. Even so, the meticulous detail in colour proved a challenge which the artist handled superbly. A new perforation of 14½ (all round) was used because the square shape meant that the breaking strain was equalised in each direction.

The four values were: **16p** (basic inland first class rate) Arms of the College of Arms; **20½p** (basic European rate) Arms of Richard III, founder of the College; **28p** (airmail Zone B) Arms of the Earl Marshal; and **31p** (airmail Zone C) Arms of the City of London, home of



the College of Arms.

In view of the intricacy of the designs it is surprising that no prominent constant varieties are listed and very few minor flaws.

The Royal Mail first day cover features the common seal of The Post Office which incorporated the griffins of the City of London arms surmounted by the British Lion bearing the staff of Mercury, the messenger of the gods. The "First Day of Issue" postmark used at the British

Philatelic Bureau shows the Lion and Staff and the London EC first day postmark adapted the shield from The Post Office arms. There were a number of attractive sponsored handstamps with heraldic designs including one showing part of the College's arms and inscribed COLLEGE OF ARMS QUINCENTENARY 17 JAN 84 LONDON EC4.

Sales by the withdrawal date of 16 January 1985 were: 16p — 37,716,800; 20½p — 7,550,300; 28p — 6,895,500; 31p — 6,615,300.

The four customary PHQ postcards were numbered 72a-72d; some 190,000 sets were produced.

Scottish heraldry evolved from completely different circumstances which will be explained when the Scottish Heraldry issue of 1987 is discussed in this series.

Editor's Note: An article by Jeffery Matthews on his research for the Heraldry issue was published in the January 1984 *Bulletin*.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

187. Penny Red Ink Trials

When it was discovered that the red Maltese Cross cancellation could be removed from the Penny Black Rowland Hill instituted a series of trials to discover new printing inks for the stamps and new obliterating inks for the cancellation.

The best obliterating ink was black letterpress printer's ink but this posed a problem for the colour of the stamps — black on black was not very clear. As a result a large number of sheetlets of labels were produced in a wide variety of colours — the so-called "Rainbow Trials". These were then tested by chemists to see if cancellations could be removed from them.

In September 1840 Rowland Hill submitted his first *Report* to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He recommended that the cancellation be changed from red to black and the label from black to red. A series of labels which had been tested were attached to the report. One is shown here from volume VIII page 36 of the Phillips Collection. Two shades of red-brown had been essayed — No. 9 and No. 16 — in sheetlets of 12 with the corners voided. The stamps were cut from these, cancelled with a Maltese Cross in the new obliteration ink and washed with various agents, and then replaced in their original positions in the sheetlet.

Hill noted in pencil the agents used. On the stamps of No. 9 ink the agents used included: naphtha and oil of lime; ether and brush; bread and spirits of wine; bread and



ether; essential oil; fixed oil; ether; spirits (alum and stream of water); turpentine; soap and water; soap and brush and stream of water.

The printing ink finally chosen was No. 16G used on the other half of this page, and the Penny Red was issued to the public on 10 February 1841. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Penny Red and a special exhibition to mark this has been mounted in the National Postal Museum with items from the Phillips Collection.

Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately, NPM

The Museum, in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1, is open Monday-Thursday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm; Friday 9.30 am to 4 pm. Admission free.

New Scottish Aerogramme



Illustrated by Brent Linley
Printed by McConquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

TO OPEN SLIT HERE (GU RIGOLACH GRAIR AN SEI)

By air mail
Par avion

Aerogramme

Scritim air postachd air a' h-àr



Great Britain
Postage
Postes

SECOND FOLD HERE (AN DARA FILL EACH AN SEI)

Postcard

An aerogramme should not contain any
enclaves (No card must seem both tucked
in right with the seal)

One hundred years of An Comunn Gaidhealach
in the centry of the Empire the An Comunn Gaidhealach
The words of the Gaelic name 'Our language our heart'
The Scottish Gaelic community has been many times
specially made for many years of living
The first words from the Gaelic language being used at the
beginning of the An Comunn Gaidhealach's history
The words of the Gaelic language are the words of
the Gaelic language, the words of the Gaelic language
The words of the Gaelic language are the words of
the Gaelic language, the words of the Gaelic language
The words of the Gaelic language are the words of
the Gaelic language, the words of the Gaelic language



Illustrated by Brent Linley
Printed by McConquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

FIRST FOLD HERE (AN CÉUD FILL EACH AN SEI)

Shown here is the new Scottish aerogramme to be issued on 23 July; it marks the centenary of An Comunn Gaidhealach (Gaelic society). The aerogramme, illustrated by Brent Linley, will be available from post offices in Scotland, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters, price 42p (includes 32p postage). Scottish aerogrammes were introduced in 1974; this is the 34th in the series.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until December 1991. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

8 Jan	Dogs stamps (AS441)
8 Jan	Dogs pack (AP093)
14 Jan	NPM Edwardian PO cards (NQ907)
5 Feb	Greetings (Good Luck) stamps (JB002)
19 Feb	Science stamp cards (AQ152)
26 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card (EQ028)
5 Mar	Science stamps (AS447)
5 Mar	Science pack (AP034)
12 Mar	Scot Aerogramme (Rugby) (QS027)
19 Mar	Prestige stamp book (YB002)
26 Mar	Greetings (Smiles) stamps (JB003)
9 Apr	CEPT/Space stamp cards (AQ157)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space stamps (AS452)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space pack (AP095)
14 May	Definitives Pack No. 24 (DR001)
14 May	NPM Stamping Mail cards (NQ908)
14 May	Scotland 22p CPL paper (SS224)
14 May	Scotland 26p CPL paper (SS263)
14 May	Scotland 37p CPL paper (SS371)
14 May	Wales 22p CPL paper (WS223)
28 May	Sport stamp cards (AQ162)
11 Jun	Sport stamps (AS457)
11 Jun	Sport pack (AP096)
25 Jun	50p book (Aero 4) (TB007)
25 Jun	£1 book (Mills 4) (TB008)

Forthcoming

2 Jul	Roses stamp cards
16 Jul	Roses stamps & pack
23 Jul	Scot Aerogramme (Gaidhealach)
6 Aug	Dinosaur stamp cards
20 Aug	Dinosaur stamps & pack
3 Sep	Map stamp cards
17 Sep	Map stamps & pack
17 Sep	NPM Map cards (4)
8 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
12 Nov	Christmas stamps & pack
12 Nov	1991 Year Pack
12 Nov	1991 Yearbook
12 Nov	NPM "Old Christmas" cards

New stamped stationery will go on sale during July and seven new window books on 6 August - all will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters. See page 251 for details.

Railway Letter Stamps

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway will issue two 25p railway letter stamps, printed horizontally se-tenant in sheets of eight, on 16 July. The stamps commemorate the arrival on the NYMR of two Bulleid Pacific class locomotives - "257 Squadron" and "Taw Valley". The locomotives have been loaned to the Railway by a private collector of steam locos. Stamps are available at face value plus postage from: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA. Details of first day covers available from Mrs Atkins.



To mark the centenary of the railway letter service and the 25th anniversary of the Railway Philatelic Group a souvenir sheet showing four designs for railway letter stamps was produced for the Group's Convention in York on 20 April. The four "stamps" within this souvenir sheet feature locomotives of 1845, 1849 and 1869 and a Midland TPO carriage of 1879. The designs were by Michael Seymour who has designed stamps for the Festiniog and Llanberis Lake railways. The sheet is available, price £1 plus 50p postage per order, from: Peter Johnson, Railway Philatelic Group, 12 Maplewell Drive, LEICESTER LE4 1BD. A commemorative cover was produced for the RPG by Benham and features the North Eastern TPO and a special Convention handstamp. Price £2.50, available from Mr Johnson or from Benham. Details of membership of the RPG can be obtained from Mr Johnson.

1966



1991

National Philatelic Organisations in Britain

4: The British Philatelic Federation

JAMES NEGUS, FRPSL

In 1976 the British Philatelic Association (BPA) and the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain merged to form the British Philatelic Federation.

Congress was noted in the previous instalment (May 1991). Space precludes a full history of the former BPA from the time it began work in 1927, but some of its achievements are worth recollecting. It is probable, for example, that unenlightened government regulations would effectively have killed the British stamp trade during the Second World War had not the BPA urged (and then operated) a Stamp Import and Export Control. The Association also pioneered a Diploma scheme in the 1950s to improve the philatelic knowledge of young people entering the trade and others. It is remembered too for the respected Expert Committee founded in October 1927 (inherited by BPA Expertising Ltd, now organisationally independent).

Following the merger the new British Philatelic Federation (BPF) continues to support numerous areas of organised philately. It is an administrative centre, governed by an elected Council of 12 Collector Members and 8 Business Members setting policy. Each of 15 areas of activity has its own committee or sub-committee under appointed Chairmen; further Honorary Officers (President, Vice-President, Chairman of Council, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Editor) are backed by a full-time Secretary handling administration. The Federation holds its Annual General Meeting during the session of Congress. Since July 1990, administration of the British Philatelic Centre at Charterhouse Street, including room bookings and building maintenance, has also rested with the BPF.

Protection and Help

The BPF exists "for the protection and help of all interested in philately" and it brings together various categories of membership. Collectors and dealers may join as individuals, but affiliation is also open to county philatelic federations, local and specialised stamp societies, exchange clubs and businesses. The current membership is 1418 individuals (of whom 16% are overseas) plus 662 of the affiliated bodies (7% overseas).

BPF is the UK member of the *Fédération Internationale de Philatélie* (FIP), appointing British Commissioners for overseas International Exhibitions and ensuring national exhibitions conform to FIP regulations. It is the current administrative centre of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations formed in May 1989.

Accrediting judges for exhibitions at local, federation and national level is part of BPF's work and since 1989 it has run the national competitions at Autumn Stampex, adding this to its long involvement in organising the Melville National Youth Stamp Competition. In the BPF 130 individual members of specialist societies publish their names as available for displays to local stamp clubs, a well-used facility. Another vital service is loan of exhibition frames for local use, free except for transport and insurance.

Business Members of BPF undertake to deal with collectors at high standards of professional integrity. Their valued presence on appropriate BPF committees ensures the trade viewpoint is properly represented. The Federation also fulfils a wider role by membership of the International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Associations.

The BPF has always been concerned that collectors should not be exploited by stamp issues of disputed origin. The Philatelic Status Committee is maintained jointly with the Philatelic Traders' Society and work has begun on one area that has become prominent in the last 30 years. Issues from British offshore islands are being classified and obligatory trade descriptions promulgated so that collectors are better informed.

Promoting Thematic Collecting

Since March 1984 BPF members, by simple registration of their interests, have had free membership of the British Thematic Association should they wish. Lectures and advice on thematic techniques and competitive requirements are thus now available, together with auctions and a specialist library. Members also receive quite free of charge a high-quality



1991 YEARBOOK

AND

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES' DIRECTORY

quarterly journal, *Thamescene*.

As part of their subscription Federation members receive the key reference book to organised philately, the *BPF Yearbook and Philatelic Societies' Directory*. This contains a great deal of helpful matter apart from routine information. They are also sent the *Congress Handbook* each year as publicity for, and record of, the BPF Congress. In addition, the Federation's own magazine, *Stamp Mail*, comes every month, full of general-interest features and news of UK philatelic activities.

Amateur and professional BPF members collaborate in the Stamp Publicity Board, a largely autonomous committee employing a Publicity Manager. Supported through the British Philatelic Trust by the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man Post Offices, its most notable recent work has been to stage "Stampway to the World", a major exhibition touring provincial centres.

Further educational work by another BPF committee provides a dozen workshops each year around the country. Committee members will there give advice and guidance on whatever philatelic topics local collectors require, inclusive of exhibiting and judging. An imaginative initiative in 1990 was the launch of "Stamp Active" to help people run youth stamp clubs.

Rewarding Unsung Heroes

The grass-roots of philately are the local societies, where many dedicated people work hard for the enjoyment of their fellow-collectors without personal reward. They might never be known nationally, but each year the BPF tries to show appreciation by an Award of Merit to about a dozen of these people. This takes the form of inscription in a special book and presentation of a framed certificate at an appropriate ceremony. Worthy recipients can be nominated by individuals or societies within the Federation.

These appreciated awards for philatelic service began in 1978. Since 1959 there has also been a high honour for outstanding service to philately at national level: this is the BPF Congress Medal, awarded to one individual each year.

The invaluable *Yearbook*, mentioned earlier, has precise figures to show just how widespread is organised philately in Britain. Through its many services the British Philatelic Federation provides essential support to all this admirable local effort.

STAMP MAIL

May 1991

NEW DISTINGUISHED
PHILATELISTS

BPF CONGRESS
19-22 September 1991

Postal Reform and the Birth
of the Postage Stamp

Wish I wasn't here —
Postcards from Siberia

Transported & Transformed

Bermuda, Modern Postal
Markings (Part 1)

A Relic of the Grand Tour

Stamp Fair Diary Dates

Focus on Auctions

Bookshelf



The Park Hotel, Cardiff



Volume 4

Number 5

80p

Address for information: The Secretary, British Philatelic Federation, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT. Tel: 071-251 5040.

The Pearson Hill Stamp Cancelling Machines

Part 2: The Postmarks

JACK PEACH

The first part of this article contained brief descriptions of three machine patented in 1857 and concluded with a list of a number of marks which may have been made by machines developed by Pearson Hill.

From considerations of the patent drawings, correspondence and reports in Post Office Archives files and not least the results of the researches of others (especially those mentioned in Ref. 6 below), the following commentary has been compiled.

1. The mark shown as fig. 1 is known used on one day only. It is reasonable to assume that the cancellation was made by the original "model" machine. Pearson Hill used the term "model" and it would explain the code letter M. It was possibly actuated by hand rather than by treadle to prolong its life. The die was likely to have been made in three sections as described in Patent 832. There was no place name, doubtless because Pearson Hill would not have known where it would be tested.

2. Both the marks shown as figs. 2 and 8 have the letter A in their border designs. For most of the time the mark as fig. 2 also had the letter A in the centre "dater" portion and in the fig. 8 mark this was changed to B. (Fig. 8 includes a clarifying sketch). Many examples of envelopes bearing the fig. 2 mark have an offset on their backs consistent with automatic operation of the die – in this case by foot treadle in conjunction with hand feeding.

The known examples of envelopes with marks as in fig. 8 do not, it is understood, exhibit such offsets. In fig. 8 arrows indicate where the die was split into three parts, showing that it came from a machine to Patent No 832. In the case of fig. 2 it is not so easy to identify splits but it has been stated (Ref. 6) that in some examples splits are apparent. There is a period of about four weeks between the last known examples of fig. 2 and the first of fig. 8.

In a letter to his father (12 November 1857) Pearson Hill enclosed a sample letter with an impression made through an inked ribbon (see earlier note concerning the Complete Specifica-

tion Patent No 832). It is suggested that the machine making the fig. 8 mark was not a third machine as some have surmised but the second machine (the "robust" prototype) modified during the above mentioned four weeks period. Judging from letters in Ref. 4 it is possible that modifications included, improving the feed; incorporating the inked band arrangement; changes to cams to improve removing and stacking; connecting an engine drive. To support this theory both marks have the letter "A" in their border designs suggesting the same machine. The change of centre code from "A" to "B" was likely made to identify the subsidiary changes just mentioned.

3. Applied to letters during this four week "gap" were the marks shown in figs. 5, 6 and 7. Fig. 5 was of the "double design" type as figs. 1 and 2 but is also known used as a backstamp (Fig. 6 – illustrated by courtesy of Mr M C Goodman) with only one half. As with the back-stamp (Fig. 4) the mark is lower down the envelope and at an angle to the envelope sides, not likely with the "Patent No 832" machine, in which envelopes were brought to a stop prior to stamping. Furthermore dies for those machines ("M" and "A") were in three sections so could not have been used in halves. Marks 5 and 6 are likely, then, to have been made by a different machine and most likely hand operated. It is also suggested that it incorporated a "parallel motion" linkage. If attributable to Pearson Hill it would have been this third trial machine, so what more natural than to call it the "C" machine? With it, sequential day codes were introduced – Monday A, Tuesday B, Wednesday C, Thursday A, Friday B, and Saturday C and so on. Sunday was omitted. The earliest known date (10 March) was a Wednesday, Code CC, the back stamped example (Fig. 6) dated 30 March was also coded CB that being a Tuesday. In his report dated 12 November 1859 (Ref. 4) Mr Boucher (Deputy Controller Circulation Department) refers to a Pearson Hill "C machine" so it is interesting to conjecture that this was the machine on test in March 1858.



Fig. 1

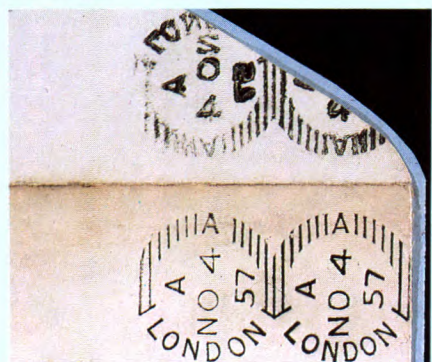


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

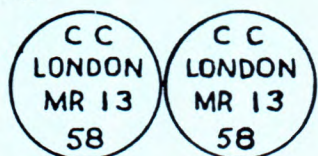


Fig. 5

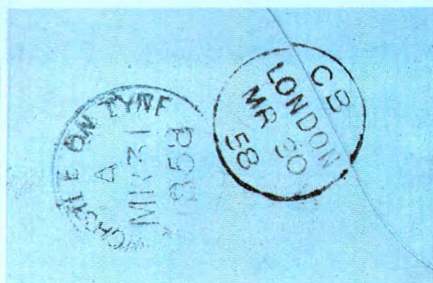


Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Note: Figs 1-4 are repeated from Part 1 (June 1991)

4. By around this time (March 1858) it is likely that the “general duplex” style of mark would have been chosen as standard, which would explain why the mark in fig. 5 was changed to fig. 7. This is supported by the “CB” code in the dater portion following the sequence (23 March was a Tuesday – B) and the machine code remaining the same (C). The number 3 in the diamond is also logical because this was the third Pearson Hill machine. It is possible and likely that this third machine was an early model of the Parallel Motion machine introduced officially on 13 May 1858 (Fig. 9). A similar day code sequence A,B,C,A,B,C was adopted for that machine.

5. The modified “robust” machine using an inked band and probably the third machine (C) did not provide the obliterator die with a double ink supply. The parallel motion machine introduced on 13 May 1858 *did* include the double roller inking feature according to Mr Hill’s introductory letter (Ref. 4). This was one of the reasons given later for the final adoption of Pearson Hill’s parallel motion machine for general use throughout the country. It would be reasonable to assume that in course of development, Pearson Hill first incorporated a satisfactory “parallel motion” linkage and later added the double inking roller.

To conclude it must be emphasised that some of what has been written is necessarily conjecture in the absence of documentary evidence. All that can be done today is to consider the known facts and assemble them into a pattern to form a likely sequence of events. This account then, is what the writer thinks probably happened during that important 12 months.

References & Bibliography

1. Patent No. 832 – 25 March 1857 Pearson Hill.
2. Patent No. 2607 – 12 October 1857 George Beard.
3. Patent No. 2814 – 5 November 1857 Henry Robinson Palmer.
4. Post Office Archives File E13769/1897 Post 33 – 783.
5. *London’s Postal History* Section 1, Part 1 “Early Experimental Machine Cancellations”. Published by the London Postal History Group.
6. Various notes in *Notebook* published by the London Postal History Group. Particularly those by Messrs G H R Homer-Woof and F M Johnson. *Notebook* 46, 51 and 72.
7. Jack Peach: “U.K. Machine Marks”, *Stamp*

Magazine, October, November & December 1985, April 1986.

8. Howard Robinson: *Britain’s Post Office*, Oxford University Press, 1953.

Stamping the Mail Exhibition



Rotary handstamp by Kirkwoods of Edinburgh, 1850s

The National Postal Museum’s main exhibition for 1991/2 opened on 14 May and will run until April next year. It features postmarks from the 17th century to the Second World War, including the Pearson Hill cancellations described above in Mr Peach’s article.

The NPM is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm; Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission is free.

Irish Post Office History

A comprehensive guide for anyone researching the history of the Post Office in Ireland and its importance of its role in social and economic history was launched by the Northern Ireland Post Office Board on 24 April. Entitled *Sources for the History of the Post Office in Ireland*, the book is the result of a project by the NIPOB and the Ulster Museum to jointly develop interest in the history of the posts in Ireland. A gallery devoted to this topic was opened at the Museum in 1987 (see July 1987 *Bulletin*, page 260).

The *Sources* book forms a guide to archival sources relating to the Post Office in all Ireland up to 1921 and in Northern Ireland after that date. Over 3,500 entries, many of which cover more than one item, are indexed for personal names, places and subjects. It was compiled by Cormac Murphy, during a two year period as Research Fellow at Queen’s University, Belfast, and edited by Robert Heslip and Janet McConaughy of the Ulster Museum. Speaking at the launch ceremony at Hillsborough, Mr Danny Carty, Chairman of the NIPOB, expressed his “hope that the wealth of relevant sources in this publication will prove an invaluable asset to social historians”. The 700 page book is being sold for the cost of production alone and is available from the Ulster Museum or from Post Office Archives, 23 Glasshill Street, LONDON SE1 0BQ.

Postbag

JOHN HOLMAN

4d Postage Due

In April we reported the discovery of the first 4d Postage Due stamp (S.G. D6) clearly postmarked 23 December 1920; catalogues normally give the date of issue as 1921. The report prompted Graham Mark of Somerset to look at the covers in his collection. He writes: "It was 4d due and Thornton Heath that were significant to me. I have a cover posted at Croydon on 24 December 1920 addressed to the Controller of Taxes. It was unpaid and marked OHMS. The official status was not accepted and the item surcharged 4D TO PAY 938 (Croydon) and given a Received mark at Thornton Heath the same day (untimed – presumably because of the Christmas rush). The 4d Postage Due was cancelled by the Thornton Heath datestamp 6am 28 December 1920. I speculate that the envelope did not contain a Christmas card! It is a little later than your visitor's cover but confirms the 1920 usage. I have seen other surcharged items addressed to the Taxman at Thornton Heath but have not looked at the dates very closely..."

Long Lost Friend

Also in April, the Venerable T. Barfett of Truro reported a new cylinder number on the 33p Dog stamp. The report, he tells us "had an interesting sequel. An incumbent of a parish in Birmingham saw it and wrote to me. (He is incidentally an expert on the early posts of Staffordshire). 44 years ago he was a boy in my Scout troop in North London and I have not seen him since! Thank you." Mr Barfett concludes his letter with another report: "Just to be awkward you may be interested to know that I also have a cylinder number 1A on the 20p Victoria Cross stamp which does not appear in your list."

Definitive Withdrawal Dates

A number of readers wrote in to say how useful they found the list of withdrawal dates published in April. Philip M de Paris of Dorset sought clarification about the 37p stamp. A footnote stated "The dates also apply to 15p, 29p, 34p and 37p Penny Black Anniversary Definitives" yet no date was given for any 37p stamps. To clear up the confusion, the 37p definitive remains on general sale at post offices

but the Penny Black version was withdrawn from general sale on 15 September 1990. It remains on philatelic sale, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters.

Scientific Achievements

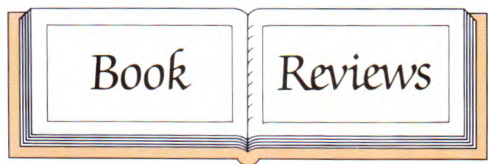
Mr C Selwood of Rochester, Kent has written concerning the 31p Radar, stamp in this set: "The 'beam' starts at the location of the radar station at Bawdsey near Felixstowe where much of the early work on 'radio location' was done. After the 'CH chain' the 'CHL' ('chain home low') stations were built – dozens of them in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Islands. Dr Watson-Watt and his team installed the CHL station at Foreness Point near Margate which was probably the first to become fully operational. The rotatable antennae on searchlight platforms were turned by means of cut-down bicycle frames and bicycle chains, but improvements were quickly made, first with the 'Austin gearbox' and then 'power turning'. From Foreness Point our fighter aircraft were vectored on to enemy aircraft, thus starting 'ground controlled interception'. Much later came the large and sophisticated BMEWS (Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station) at Fylingdales." Mr Selwood, referring to Mrs Last's article in March, comments "Barbara Last is a few miles out on the location of the radar station – it would have been at Swingate and not St Margaret's Bay."

Railway Postcard

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Railway Philatelic Group, the Hemel Hempstead Area Group has produced a postcard showing eleven postmarks used on Travelling Post Offices serving the City of York where the RPG's 25th anniversary convention was held in April. Unused cards cost 25p, cards with TPO and "First Day of Issue" handstamps are also available. Orders/enquiries: R Dymond, 120 Chaulden Lane, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts. Postage 22p. Remittances payable to "R Dymond".

Rarest GB Stamp Makes £52,900

A used copy of Britain's rarest stamp – the Edward VII 6d with L.R. OFFICIAL overprint was sold for £52,900 at a Stanley Gibbons auction on 24 May. Only six copies of this stamp are known; the stamp was issued in March 1904 just two months before Official stamps were taken out of use.



Collectors whose research involves searching in philatelic journals will welcome **Stamps, Coins, Postcards & Related Materials: A Directory of Periodicals** compiled by Professor Doris Robinson. This work lists some 710 current periodicals published in the English language. Over 500 stamp magazines are listed, giving the full title of the publication, address and name of editor, date of first publication, subscription details, brief description of contents, states whether advertising is accepted and, in some instances, quotes a circulation figure. The book will be of particular use to thematic collectors in the UK, many of whom may not know of some of the specialist journals published in the USA, for example *Aeronautica and Air Label Collector*, *Journal of Sports Philately*, *Judica Philatelic Journal*, *SOS Signal* (SOS = Stamps on Stamps), *Tee Time* (Golf), etc. The main listing is alphabetical, there are also helpful alphabetically-arranged Publisher & Organization and Subject indexes. A useful book for society reference libraries. 172 pages, card covers. Available from: The Peri Press, Hemlock Ridge, PO Box 348, Voorheesville, NY 12186-0348, USA, price US\$29.

Travelling Post Office (TPO) postmarks have long been popular with collectors and will no doubt become even more so now there is a well-produced catalogue: **Great Britain & Ireland Travelling Post Office Postmarks: A Guide and Catalogue** compiled by Frank J Wilson and published by the Railway Philatelic Group which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. The book is clearly laid-out and arranged in nine main sections dealing with the TPO postmarks of England & Wales; Scotland; and Ireland followed by listings of "Tax Markings" (by country), Mail guard handstamps; Bag tender datestamps; and Cachets & other TPO markings. The TPO The postmark listings are arranged, alphabetically, by route (e.g. Peterborough-Crewe TPO), giving details of the postmark inscriptions, year of first recorded use, type (double or single ring), diameter and a

value code, A to N. Covers coded A are valued at up to 50p; N relates to covers valued at over £250; those coded R exist in such small numbers that "value difficult to assess accurately", NK signifies "not known used". The "Tax Markings" refer to handstamps applied to mail posted without the late fee – double the deficiency being collected from the recipient. This late fee has now been abolished; many covers were deliberately despatched by collectors without the additional fee in order to obtain these markings and Postage Due/To Pay labels. The book includes a number of illustrations of covers but it is to be hoped that more illustrations of the postmarks will be included in future editions. 84 pages, card covers. Available from: Railway Philatelic Group, 16 Caves Lane, BEDFORD, MK40 3RD, price £7 plus 50p postage.

The Channel Islands Specialists' Society has recently published the fourth edition of **The Revenue Stamps of the Channel Islands** by John Simpson. This is both catalogue and handbook, telling the story of the issues of Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney – Revenues, Other Fiscals (Entertainments Tax, Income Tax and Insurance stamps), and Sales Tax Stamps. Many of the Jersey stamps are highly attractive, beautifully printed by leading postage stamp printers such as Bradbury, Wilkinson; Waterlow & Sons; and The House of Questa. Prices are given for mint and used examples, also stamps with SPECIMEN overprints. 88 pages, card covers. Available from: CISS Publishing, 63 Ravensbourne Gardens, Clayhall, ILFORD, Essex, IG5 0XH, price £6.50. Details of other CISS publications from same address.

Paper Ambassadors: The Politics of Stamps by Dennis Altman (Reader in Politics at La Trobe University, Melbourne) is an interesting account of how stamps have been used to make both political statements and profits. It explains, for example, how have maps on stamps helped start wars, and why North Korea issued stamps to commemorate Prince Charles' wedding? The introduction (entitled Why Look at Stamps?), tells us that "in 1990 almost 10,000 stamps will be issued, many of them large, garish and multicoloured". Despite this large output and a considerable number of collectors "Stamps have rarely been analysed, despite contemporary interest in popular cultures as reflected in the growth of semiotics. Perhaps because we all possess, use and receive stamps they are so

common they are hardly noticed." Chapter 1 (Who Issued What and When?) tells the familiar stories of early stamps and why the sovereign's head serves as the country name on British stamps. Altman quotes from Tony Benn's account of his efforts to get The Queen's portrait removed from British stamps when he was Postmaster General. The chapter deals with stamps for empires, the rise of new states, regional issues and conflicts over sovereignty. Chapter 2 (The Varieties of Stamps) looks at early commemoratives, airmails, overprints and surcharges, private and local stamps, etc before moving on in the next chapter (A Certain Picture of the World) to consider the role played by stamps in "State Rivalries". Mr Altman writes: "As long as there have been nation states there have been disputes over territory, and stamps become one area where governments can assert their control over disputed areas. Stamps showing maps of disputed territory are easy ways to state nationalist claims..." The stamp issued by Argentina at the time of the Falklands War is cited as an example. This lengthy chapter (66 out of 158 pages) is the most thought-provoking part of the book, discussing defining national identity, internationalism and stamps as propaganda. The fourth and fifth chapters deal with "Issues of Style and Aesthetics" and "Collectors and Money" with a conclusion on "The Future of Stamps". There are many illustrations, colour and black & white, but some of the stamps are rather poor specimens. Hardback. Price £16.95. Available from book shops, published by Angus & Robertson (UK), 16 Golden Square, LONDON W1R 4BN.

The 1991 edition of the popular Stanley Gibbons **Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue** is now available; listing all issues from 1840 to the NVI Smiles Greetings stamps of March 1991. The listing of Machin decimal definitives, complete to the stamps from the Agatha Christie prestige book of March 1991, now amounts to some 174 basic stamps! There have been some significant price revisions since the 1990 edition — the 1989 Greetings book jumps from £7 to £28 and the scarce Scottish 31p stamp, perf 14 with redrawn design (S.G. S51Ea) is increased by £10 to £45 unused. 256 pages; attractive laminated cover features 1841 2d blue. Available from Gibbons Strand shop, stamp dealers or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Price £7.25, postage £2.75 UK, £5 overseas.

Competition



Win £50 worth of British stamps

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 questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: July Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 August.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £50 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Dinosaurs stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the October *Bulletin*.

1. Who first used the word *dinosaur* in 1841?
2. What is the title of the British Philatelic Federation's magazine?
3. A gallery devoted to Irish postal history can be seen in which museum?
4. In which year was Dorothy Wilding born?
5. In which city are the World Student Games being held?

The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail Stamps and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the March competition were: C Burrow of Essex (£50); F Battelli, Italy; I Stuart, Guernsey; J Downham, Surrey; M Hogarty, New Zealand and D Mackay, Netherlands. Answers: 1. Jean Michel Folon, 2. Rugby, 3. Post Office Tower (all answers accepted owing to typesetting error in question), 4. James Grimwood Taylor, 5. Sierra Leone, 6. Queen Victoria.

The winners of the April competition were: Brother Camillus, SC of USA (£50); N Smith, Kent; A Sabatini, West Midlands; F Stewart, East Sussex; N Foley-Fisher, Ireland and A Hansen, Denmark. Answers: 1. Queen Mother's 90th birthday, 2. Tony Meeuwissen, 3. West Norwood, 4. Maurice Sheppard, 5. 4d and 1s3d, 6. F J Melville.

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 office.

Roses. To coincide with the Roses stamps (16 July), A G Bradbury is producing a cover which will bear the five new stamps and the four Roses stamps of 1976 all postmarked with a special "Roses on Stamps" handstamp at Rose, Truro, Cornwall. Price £9.75 (overseas add 50p postage). Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Royal National Rose Society. The Society has commissioned A G Bradbury to produce its official first day cover. The cover features the rose "Just Joey", the UK's nomination for the world's favourite rose of 1991. The stamps will be cancelled by a special Royal National Rose Society handstamp at St Albans. Price £5 or £9.75 signed by the Society's President (overseas add £1). Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Jetstream. To commemorate the issue of the Scientific Achievements stamps, and in particular Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the Jet Engine, the Cambridge Stamp Centre has produced six first day covers, each with a special Jet Engine pictorial postmark. Arrangements are in hand to get the covers autographed by Test Pilots, hopefully including Sir Frank Whittle, Brian Trubshaw (Concorde Test Pilot), Captain John Cunningham (Test Pilot on the Comet Group), etc. Details of this collection available from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA, Tel. 0223-63980 or 0223 321853 (answerphone).

Star Trek. After lengthy negotiations with Paramount Pictures in America, A G Bradbury was given permission to produce a Star Trek first day cover. Star Trek, the most popular of all Science Fiction TV programmes, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The cover bears the four Europe in Space stamps cancelled by a special "Space – The Final Frontier" handstamp of 23 April. The covers depict the starship "Enterprise" together with the official 25th anniversary logo. Price £9.75 (overseas add £1). Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Roses at Kew. To coincide with the issue of Roses stamps, the Royal Botanic Gardens at

Kew have appointed A G Bradbury to publish its official first day cover. This is the second in the series of covers to be produced at Kew; the first being last year to celebrate its 150th anniversary. The cover features *Rosa centiflora* 'Muscosa' reproduced from the Library and Archives at Kew. A special pictorial handstamp will be applied. Price £5.75 or £9.75 signed by the Director of Kew. Overseas please add £1. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Robert Burns/Roses. "O, my luve's like a red red rose" – for the first time these immortal words from the pen of Robert Burns, together with his portrait, will appear on a Royal Mail postmark. Sponsored to coincide with the new Roses stamps, the handstamp bears the place name Alloway, birthplace of Burns. A limited edition cover is being prepared. Price £9.75, overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Roses. Benham's main BLCS cover for the Roses issue will feature a "silk" illustration of the Queen Mother holding the new Queen Mother Rose introduced to mark her 90th birthday. Price £4.99. The alternative cover will feature the "Scotlands Trust" rose and will be the official cover for the National Trust for Scotland, commemorating the opening of the new Rose Garden at Drum Castle. Price £4.99. A special gold cover will mark the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's Tudor Rose with a Tudor Rose Hampton Court postmark. Price £7.99. The small "silks" will show illustrations of attractive rose arrangements, price £12.50 per set of five. Luxury "silk" postcards will feature illustrations of the Redoute "Les Roses" – old hand-coloured drawings of Roses; price £12.50 per set. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Wyre Piddle PO. The Post Office at Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire closed on 31 May. A commemorative cover with special handstamp has been produced and is available (with 29p Penny Black Anniversary stamp) for £2.75. A limited number registered on the last day with the Wyre Piddle operational datestamp and £2 definitive are available at £4.50. Profits to the church "Bell Appeal". Orders, with large SAE, to: Bredon Covers, Bredon View, Chapel Lane, Wyre Piddle, PERSHORE, Wores, WR10 2JA. Remittances payable to "Bredon Covers".

Pwllheli Lifeboat. A new Mersey Class lifeboat was named at Pwllheli on 18 May. The philatelic cover produced to mark the occasion bears a real colour photograph set within a raised silver border as part of the design. 1991 marks the centenary of this lifeboat station, this is recorded on the cover in the form of a cachet. Price £2, carried on lifeboat £2.30, carried on lifeboat and signed by coxswain £3. Orders/enquiries: RNLI Agents, PO Box 20, CANTERBURY CT1 2XX. Several other covers are planned for new lifeboat naming ceremonies; details from above address.

Second World War Anniversaries. On 11 May 1941, London suffered the heaviest ever attack from the German Luftwaffe with 1,436 people killed and 1,792 injured. A special anniversary cover was produced by Benham and a special handstamp showing air-raids over London sponsored. Price £2.50 plus 40p postage.

Rudolf Hess, deputy Fuhrer flew to Britain and landed at Eaglesham (appropriately as the German emblem was an eagle) on 11 May 1941. He landed by parachute and was said to be hoping to make contact with the Duke of Hamilton to try to make peace. He was taken prisoner. A commemorative cover with special Eaglesham, Glasgow handstamp is now available. Price £2.50 plus 40p postage. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

West Indies Cricket Tour. Six special handstamps have been sponsored to mark the West Indies 1991 cricket tour - the first was used to commemorate their first match at Arundel on 12 May. Others are being used for the five test matches on 8 June (Headingley, Leeds), 22 June (Lord's), 6 July (Trent Bridge, Nottingham), 27 July (Edgbaston, Birmingham) and 10 August (The Oval). Special covers are available at £2.50 each or £15 for the complete set in presentation folder. Postage £1.50. Orders/enquiries: TCCB West Indies Tour Cover, 28 Windlesham Road, SHOREHAM BY SEA, W Sussex, BN43 5AE.

Henry VIII. The 500th anniversary of the birth of Henry VIII will be commemorated by a "luxurious 22ct gold cover" with a superb picture of Henry VIII and Tudor Rose special handstamp for Hampton Court. The cover will be issued on 16 July, day of issue of the Roses stamps. This cover forms part of Benham's special gold series. Price £8.40 postpaid. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

Europe in Space. Kettering Boys's School made the headlines in 1966 by tracking a new satellite, Cosmos 112. Geoff Perry, a teacher at the school, was the first to announce in the western world a third Soviet launch site at Plesetsk - one of many such observations made by the school. A limited edition (500) special cover was produced for the Europe in Space stamps showing a map of southern England with a tracking beam emerging from Kettering and bouncing off the School's shield over to the special handstamp cancelling the Space stamps. Price £4.95 or £7 signed by either the School Governor or one of the original "Trackers". Postage 35p UK, £1 overseas. Orders/enquiries: P Withers, Meadowcroft, Meadow Drive, BLURTON, STOKE ON TRENT ST3 3DT.

Football Covers. A special cover was produced to mark the Rumblelows League Cup Final between Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday on 21 April; it shows the Cup and Wembley Stadium and has a Greetings stamp cancelled by a special Wembley handstamp. The cover also bears a Match Result cachet. Similar covers are available for the 100th Cup Final (Nottingham Forest v Tottenham Hotspurs, 18 May), play-off matches in the Football League and the European Cup Winners Cup Final (Manchester United v Barcelona, 15 May). Price £2.50 per cover, postpaid. Orders/enquiries: Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT, Cheshire, SK3 8UD.

Wimbledon Tennis 1991. The official Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum cover with special handstamp dated 24 June 1991 (opening day of the championships), is available from: The Lawn Tennis Museum Philatelic Agents, 95 Calbourne Road, Balham, LONDON SW12 8LS, price £1.30 (sent under cover).

Royal Sea Bathing Hospital. A special commemorative cover has been produced to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital at Margate. It bears a definitive stamp cancelled with a special handstamp showing a Victorian bathing machine, dated 2 July 1991. Price £2, overseas add 50p. Please enclose 9 x 5" stamped addressed envelope. Orders/enquiries: P Burgess, Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Canterbury Road, MARGATE, Kent, CT9 5BQ.

GWR. A special cover is available to mark the 150th anniversary of the Bristol & Exeter Railway, in the "GWR 150" series. Price £2.90 from: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

July Digest

Issued in July

2 July: Roses stamp cards (Nos.136A-E), price 19p each.

16 July: Roses stamps – 22p, 26p, 31p, 33p and 37p.

Designer: Yvonne Skargon.

Printing: The House of Questa, offset-lithography, 35 x 37mm, perf 14 x 14½, phosphor-coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Belfast.

Presentation Pack: No.219, price £1.80.

17 July: Roses souvenir cover, price 19p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters.

23 July: Scottish Aerogramme – centenary of An Comunn Gaidhealach (Gaelic society whose annual Mod is the Highland literary and musical festival, the equivalent of the Welsh Eisteddfod). Price 42p (includes 32p postage).

July: Stamped Envelopes – DL (110 x 220mm); C5 (162 x 229mm) and C4 (229 x 324mm). Each bears a printed postage symbol showing The Queen's head in a medallion with service indicator plus phosphor bar(s). First and second class version of each size. Date of issue and prices not finalised at time of going to press.

Withdrawn in July/early August

9 July: Thomas Hardy stamp, stamp card, presentation pack and souvenir cover.

1 August: Queen Mother stamps, stamp cards, presentation pack and souvenir cover.

Events

until 30 August 1991. "Post Office at Work in Edwardian Times" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Thu 9.30am-4.30pm; Fri 9.30am-4pm. Admission free.

until April 1992. "Stamping the Mail" exhibition at National Postal Museum. Opening times above.

5 July-29 September 1991. "The Pursuit of Perfection: The Photographs of Dorothy Wild-

ing" exhibition at National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2. Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Admission free.

8-24 July 1991. Exhibition of Music Stamps by Irene Lawford, President of the Philatelic Music Circle. The Bishops Gate Hall, 230 Bishops Gate, London EC2. Open Monday-Friday 10am-6pm. Mrs Lawford will give a talk on Music Philately at 1pm on 16 July – Boardroom, Bishops Gate Hall.

17 September-31 December 1991. "Maps and the Post Office" exhibition at National Postal Museum. Details above.

15-20 October 1991. Autumn Stampex/BPE. National stamp exhibition at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, London SW1. Open 15 Oct Noon-7pm, 16-19 Oct 10.30am-7pm, 20 Oct 10.30am-6pm, admission charge.

A display of old letter boxes and other postal artefacts will be provided by enthusiast David Harrop at the Hollowell Steam Show, Hollowell, Northants on 6-7 July.

British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN — 0953-8119

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by The Post Office.

Compiled and typeset by John Holman at:
National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £6
Rest of World (Airmail) £9.25

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Single copies from "Collections" and philatelic counters: 55p

Binders, to hold 24 issues, are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £6. Also available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum sales counter.

Printed in Great Britain by Moore and Matthes (Printers) Ltd for The Post Office.