

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 34 Number 11

JULY 1996 • 75P

Women of Achievement
stamps • New Country issues



Margot Fonteyn in *Les Sylphides*, 1946

Forthcoming issues & withdrawals

Below are proposed issues from 1 September through October. Any changes or additions will be notified in this magazine.

3 September Children's TV stamps, pack, and souvenir pack

24 September Cars stamp cards

1 October Christmas aerogramme • Cars stamps and pack • NPM postcards: Postal Vehicles

21 October Christmas stamp cards

28 October Christmas stamps and pack • Christmas stamp books (3) • Christmas Philatelic Numismatic Cover • 1996 Year Book and Year Pack

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

1 July	Withdrawal 1991 Post Paid Envelopes (imprinted stamp of Queen's head within black octagonal frame)
2 July	Issue Scottish aerogramme – Edinburgh Festival • Olympic/Paralympic stamp cards
3 July	Withdrawal European Youth Olympics aerogramme
8 July	Issue Stamp Books: £1 (3 × 26p, 1 × 20p, 2 × 1p) and £2 (7 × 26p, 1 × 20p) machine-vended; £1.48 (4 × 37p), and £2.52 (4 × 63p) • Coils – 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps
9 July	Issue Olympic/Paralympic stamps & presentation pack
17 July	Withdrawal Scottish aerogramme – Prehistoric Scotland • Retail stamp books, issued 18 July 1995
23 July	Issue Country stamps (N Ireland/Scotland/Wales) 20p, 26p, 37p, 63p
30 July	Issue Women of Achievement stamp cards
31 July	Withdrawal Walsall 10 × 1st book, issued August 1995
6 August	Issue Women of Achievement stamps and presentation pack • Stamp books with printer identification on cover
7 August	Withdrawal Shakespeare's Globe stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards • National Postal Museum cards – Post Office Uniforms (ref 95/14-17) Note: To be withdrawn from British Philatelic Bureau; will remain on sale at NPM shop
27 August	Issue Children's TV Characters stamp cards
30 August	Withdrawal 5p, 6p, 20p, 30p, and 50p definitives, 25p N Ireland, and 41p Wales with yellow fluor (printings with blue fluor remain on sale) • £1.50 Caernarfon Castle high value with Dextrin gum (stamp with PVA gum remains on sale)

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 75p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum. • **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £8.50, rest of the world £12.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above). • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, rest of world £21.75. • **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. • **Design** by Robert Maude. • **Cover photograph** by Gordon Anthony, Theatre Museum, V&A. • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press. • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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Royal Mail news New Country stamps • Women of achievement • New definitives • New stamp books • Burns exhibition

Left to right 20p Northern Ireland, 26p and 37p Scotland and 63p Wales. Plate numbers Q1Q1 and Q2Q2 all stamps.



Country Stamps New 20p, 26p, 37p and 63p Country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales will go on sale at post offices in the respective countries, the British Philatelic Bureau, and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets on 23 July. The designs will be the same as previous issues since 1971. The colours are: 20p light green, 26p rust, 37p rhododendron, 63p emerald green. They cover new basic postal rates introduced on 8 July.

The stamps have been printed in sheets of 200 by The House of Queens in offset-lithography. The 20p stamp bears one phosphor band, the other values two bands. All stamps include blue fluor in the bands, have elliptical perforations on the vertical sides, and have PVA gum.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES First day cover envelopes, price 25p each, will be available from the Bureau, philatelic outlets, and main post offices in the respective countries. Pictorial 'first day of issue' postmarks will be available for the Bureau and the three country capitals: Belfast, Cardiff, and Edinburgh. First day covers will be provided in sets of three – one set with the Bureau postmark, the other with the cancels for the three capitals. Price £6.41 (UK, including VAT), £5.46 (overseas, no VAT) per set. Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 23 July.

Collectors preparing their own covers may send them for the pictorial postmarks to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark); Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (Belfast & Edinburgh postmarks), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (Cardiff postmark). Please quote reference numbers: Bureau FD9617; Belfast FD9618; Cardiff FD9619; Edinburgh FD9620.

First day posting boxes will be available at all offices which normally provide them in each of the three countries and Post Office Counters philatelic outlet offices in England. Covers posted in these boxes normally receive non-pictorial 'first day of issue' postmarks.

PRESENTATION PACK A new pack containing one of each of the 12 stamps will be available from the Bureau, philatelic outlets, and main post offices in the respective countries, price £4.75 •

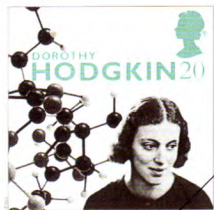


Twentieth Century Women of Achievement Five stamps commemorating women of noted achievement in the 20th century go on sale at post offices, and philatelic outlets on 6 August. The stamps are Royal Mail's contribution to the PostEurop theme for 1996. Similar stamps are being issued by most European postal administrations.

The 20p stamp (basic inland 2nd class rate) features DOROTHY HODGKIN (1910-94), an eminent scientist who is remembered for her pioneering work on the x-ray diffraction of crystals, and the structure of antibiotics, vitamin B12 and insulin. She was born in Cairo and educated at Oxford and Cambridge, becoming Research Fellow at Somerville from 1936 to 1977 and heading a team at the Department of Molecular Biophysics at Oxford. Hodgkin was Wolfson Research Professor at the Royal Society, 1960-77 and in 1964 became only the third woman to receive the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1964. The Order of Merit was awarded the following year. She also received the Royal Society's Royal and Copley Medals, and was Chancellor of the University of Bristol, 1970-88. She was married to Thomas Hodgkin, a distinguished Africanist. An impressive, if unusual, portrait of her hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

The 26p value (basic inland 1st class and EU rate) depicts DAME MARGOT FONTEYN (1919-91), probably the greatest ballerina of her age, noted for her performances in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Born Margaret Hookham in Reigate, she first became interested in dance while living in Shanghai, later studying under Nicholai Legat and Ninette de Valois. She performed her first solo role at 15 for the Vic-Wells Ballet. She is particularly well-remembered for her partnership with Rudolf Nureyev. She was awarded the CBE in 1951 and became a Dame five years later. Her achievements were recognised by the titles *Prima Ballerina Assoluta* (1959), and President of the Royal Academy of Dancing, 1954-91. For many years she cared for her sick husband, Signor Roberto de Arias, a Panamanian diplomat who died in 1989. Dame Margot was honoured by two stamps from Panama in 1992 (shown right, SG 1530/1).

The subject of the 31p denomination (Europe, non-EU countries, rate) is DAME ELISABETH FRINK (1930-93), a noted sculpturess whose first public show was in 1955. Her public works include the Eagle Lectern in Coventry Cathedral and the Kennedy Memorial, Dallas. In London examples of her works can be seen in Roman Road, E2 (Blind Beggar and his Dog, 1957); Paternoster Square, EC4 (Shepherd and Sheep, 1975); Dover Street, W1 (Horse and Rider, 1975); and at the Carlton Tower Hotel, Cadogan Place, SW1 (Four Seasons, 1961). She was awarded the CBE in 1968, DBE in 1982 and received the prestigious CH (Companion of Honour) the year before her death.





DAME DAPHNE DU MAURIER (1907-89) is portrayed on the 37p value (over-seas postcard rate). She came from a talented family, daughter of actor-manager Sir Gerald (1873-1934), and grandson of artist George. She is recognised as one of the most versatile and popular English novelists of the 20th century, creating a remarkable blend of the subtle and the sinister in her many highly-acclaimed works, including *Jamaica Inn* (1936), *Rebecca* (1938), *Frenchman's Creek* (1942), and *My Cousin Rachel* (1951). Her love of Cornwall is reflected in her book *Vanishing Cornwall*. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, she was created a Dame of the British Empire in 1969.

MAREA HARTMAN (1920-94), shown on the 43p denomination (basic air-mail letter rate), was eminent in sports administration. Born in south London, she began running as a schoolgirl, at first simply for fun, later competitively. She attended the international meeting against Germany in Cologne in 1939, shortly before war was declared. Her fiancé was killed in the war and she never married. Her life focused on athletics, but she had many other interests including reading, music and theatre. She is best-remembered as Team Manager for the Women's Amateur Athletic Association, 1956-78; Secretary 1960-94, and Manager of the British women team at seven Olympic Games. She received the MBE, CBE, and DBE in 1967, 1978 and 1994 respectively. Her tireless work raised the status of women's athletics in Britain, extending its scope and encouraging girls from all backgrounds to compete. Her personality was once described as 'a cross between a favourite great-aunt and the Queen Mother'.

The designer The stamps were designed by Stephanie Nash of Michael Nash Associates, their first Royal Mail stamp issue. Stephanie is one of Britain's leading female designers. Michael Nash Associates have designed covers for pop CDs and award-winning packaging for Harvey Nichols Food Hall.

Each stamp features an item symbolic of the achievement of the subject. The Hodgkin stamp features her molecular model of Vitamin B12, the Fonteyn stamp her actual ballet shoes from the Royal Ballet. The Frink stamp depicts one of her sculptures, and the du Maurier stamp her typewriter from the museum at Jamaica Inn.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, British Philatelic Bureau, and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 6 August, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Fowey. Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 6 August 1996.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (for Fowey postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed 'FD9621' (Bureau), or 'FD9622' (Fowey). Fowey is connected with Daphne du Maurier, subject of the 37p value.

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

Details of other special handstamps will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau; £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 rest of world (airmail).

Collectors can affix just the 20p stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ('first day of issue', sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 6 August.

PRESENTATION PACK AND STAMP CARDS A presentation pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices. The pack has been written by eminent writer and biographer Jenny Uglow whose recent works include biographies on George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell.

Technical details

Printer Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process Photogravure

Size 35mm square

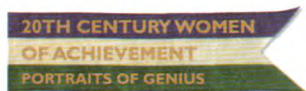
Sheets 100

Perforation 14

Phosphor 20p: one phosphor band ● 26p-43p: two phosphor bands ● Blue fluor in phosphor

Paper OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free

Gum PVA



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Hodgkin

We recognise the five women for specific achievements: du Maurier for her haunting novels, Frink for her powerful sculptures and Fonteyn as the first great British prima ballerina. We acknowledge Hartman as the formidable and ebullient organiser of British women's athletics and Hodgkin as a Nobel



20TH CENTURY WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT PORTRAITS OF GENIUS

ROYAL MAIL HINT STAMPS



Marea Hartman



OTHER WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT STAMPS Amongst eminent women featured on stamps from other European postal administrations are: writer Karen Blixen and silent movie star Asta Nielsen (Denmark), letter writer Madame de Sevigne (France), artists Paula Modersohn-Becker and Kathe Kollwitz (Germany), playwright Lady Augusta Gregory and suffragette Louise Bennett (Ireland), doctor Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst (Jersey), painter Ivana Kobilca (Slovenia), government minister Karin Kock and author Astrid Lindgren (Sweden), and authors S Corinna Bille and Iris von Roten-Meyer (Switzerland).

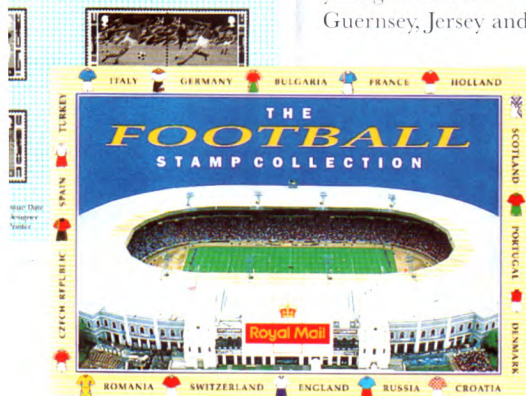
HM The Queen and HRH The Princess Royal featured on the issues of Guernsey and the Isle of Man, joined by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and HRH The Princess of Wales on stamps from Gibraltar •



New definitives Illustrated this month are the seven new definitives issued on 25 June in preparation for the postal rate increase from 8 July. The stamps are: 20p light green, 26p rust, 31p purple, 37p rhododendron, 39p shocking pink, 43p dark brown, and 63p emerald green. Details were given here last month. Cylinder numbers are: 20p 13 • 26p 6 • 31p 1 • 37p 1 • 39p 1 • 43p 1 • 63p 1 •

GUERNSEY

TO EUROPEAN FOOTBALL



Football collection album Royal Mail in conjunction with Complete Collections have produced an attractive album for soccer stamps, ideal for young collectors. The album contains illustrated pages for the British, Guernsey, Jersey and Gibraltar football stamps and blank pages on which to mount other soccer stamps. The centre-pages comprise a match planner for the European championships with details of the matches in each group. Useful information on stamp collecting is given on the inside covers. The album plus the British, Guernsey, Jersey and Gibraltar issues and 25 assorted football stamps is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £9.95. The album, assorted stamps and packet of 100 stamp hinges, is also available from Complete Collections Ltd, 8 Teasel Way, West Moors, Ferndown BH22 0PQ. Telephone 01202 872315 •

Burns exhibition The Royal Mail-sponsored exhibition on the Life of Robert Burns can be seen this month at Bearsden Library (until 10 July), Aberdeen Central Library (from 10 July), and Lomond Centre, Glenrothes (1-29 July) •

New stamp books A new book containing 10 1st class NV1 stamps and a WH Smith coupon will go on sale at WH Smith shops on 15 July. The book has been printed by Walsall. Price £2.60. The date for philatelic sale is to be announced later. Four new books go on philatelic sale on 6 August: 10 × 1st NV1 (printed by Harrison and Walsall) and 10 × 2nd NV1 (Harrison and Questa). These bear the printers' initial on the back cover, assisting identification of unopened books. Price £2.60 1st class and £2 2nd class. No new stamps are included in these books so no first day of issue facilities will be available •

Post Office retirements A number of well-known names and faces are taking their leave from postal service. PETER HOWARTH, CBE, Managing Director of Royal Mail and a member of the Post Office Board retired in May after 42 years service. His successor is Mr Richard Dykes, formerly Managing Director of Post Office Counters Ltd.

JEAN FARRUGIA retires this month as Chief Archivist of The Post Office. Jean joined the then GPO in 1952, and since 1961 has worked in Archives or at the National Postal Museum. Her name is well-known to numerous postal historians who have benefitted from her writings, advice and friendship. With her husband, Tony Gammons (who worked at the Museum until last year), she has given many talks to philatelic, postal history and other societies. Jean and Tony gave interesting talks on the Archives as part of the Stamp '95 and Stamp '96 exhibition seminars.

Jean has done much over the years to improve the services offered at PO Archives and was rightly proud when her new office was formally opened by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, four years ago (see *Bulletin* May 1992, p211). Her hard work was recognised by the award of the MBE in 1993.

Philatelic customers at the Lombard Street Postshop in the City of London will miss BRENDA LEWER who retired in April. Before the move to Lombard Street, Brenda worked for many years at the Philatelic Counter in the former London Chief Post Office. With her colleagues, Bernard and Malcolm, she built up considerable philatelic knowledge which was greatly appreciated by many regular customers, including the Editor of this *Bulletin*.

We wish them all a happy and healthy retirement •



Jean Farrugia MBE
at Buckingham Palace, 1993.
Jean is perhaps best-known as author of *The Letter Box*, published in 1969 and still the standard work on the subject. She serves on the National Postal Museum Board, and is President of the Letter Box Study Group.

£2 Definitive with PVA gum The £2 Edinburgh Castle stamp has recently been reprinted with PVA instead of PVA Dextrin gum. Supplies of the new printing are now available from the British Philatelic Bureau. The £1.50 Caernarfon Castle stamp is also available with PVA gum – see February *Bulletin*, page 168 •



30 years on... We recall England's victory in the 1966 World Cup. Matches were held in seven English cities, with the final, against West Germany, at Wembley on 30 July. It is fitting that our captain, the late Bobby Moore, should be commemorated on a Royal Mail stamp this year.



For the 1966 World Cup the then GPO issued three stamps (top, and above) on 1 June, and an amended 4d stamp was issued

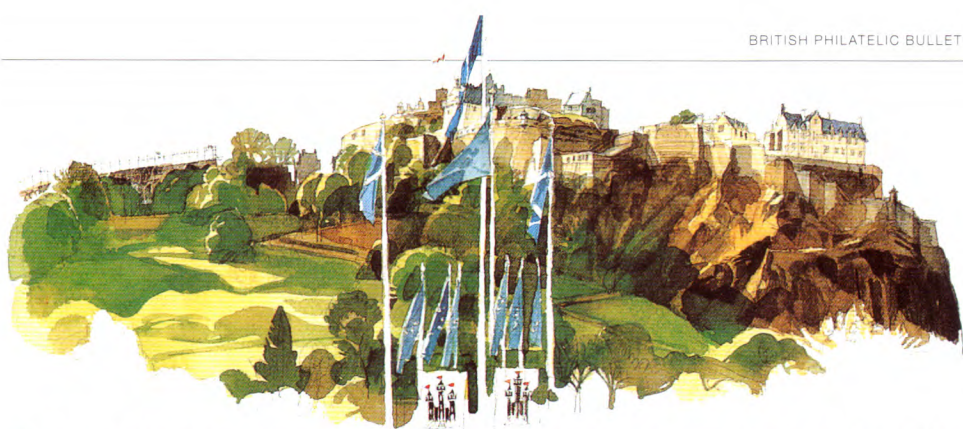
on 18 August to commemorate England's win. Only limited numbers of the Winners stamp were printed and quickly sold out at post offices.

Special postmark used at Bonn on the day of the 1966 Final. Special postmarks marking the 30th anniversary on 30 July 1996 will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



Above: The Hungarian stamp shows the towns where matches were played in 1966 and the championship logo. Right: issues from Albania (above), Tristan du Cunha (part of a Commonwealth 'omnibus' issue) and Mongolia.





Fifty years of the Edinburgh Festival by James Mackay

A flavour of this cosmopolitan extravaganza is given in the vignettes of John Raynes which decorate the Scottish aerogramme issued on 2 July to celebrate the 50th Festival. The back flap has a panorama that captures the brooding grandeur of the Castle above Princes Street Gardens, one of the finest natural backdrops imaginable.

Of all the great summer festivals in the UK, the Edinburgh Festival is undeniably the largest and most prestigious. Conceived in the dark days of the Second World War and brought to fruition in August 1947, it was from the very outset regarded as an international gathering of music, drama, art and literature. For three weeks, the douce Scottish capital remembers its 18th century tradition when it was hailed as the Athens of the North. In fact, its St. Cecilia Festival of Music was first staged as far back as 1695.

The first Festival, coming in the midst of post-war austerity, when there were still considerable restrictions on travel, was a relatively homespun affair. It was dominated by the premiere of *Ane Satire of the Thrie Estaitis* by Cedric Thorpe-Davis. Although in subsequent years the Festival infinitely broadened its horizons, drawing upon the best, the brightest and most innovative in the world's artistic talent, it has never quite lost sight of its Scottish roots and provided a useful showcase for the latest works of David Stephen, F G Scott, Erik Chisholm, Ian Whyte and, more recently, James MacMillan, among many others.

But it is as an international event that the Festival has excelled over the 50 summers. Operas and orchestral concerts have been the highlights, but each year there are thousands of other musical events, ranging from chamber music to solo performances, from choral masterpieces to fiddlers' rallies.

Alongside the major musical and dramatic works that pack the city's theatres and concert halls are the countless productions staged in all manner of makeshift venues. From the beginning, the official Festival was warmly supported by a vast number of fringe events which, in turn, became officially recognised as The Fringe. These events run from early morning till late at night and embrace every conceivable art form from every part of the world.

In addition to the multifarious entertainments, there has been a galaxy of supporting events. Who can ever forget the stunning exhibition of Monet paintings at the Festival in 1957? Many of these aspects have since hived off to form separate festivals within the Festival. In fact, the Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival, which likewise started in 1947, is now the world's longest running film festival. Then there is the International Jazz and Blues Festival, a galaxy of the world's leading jazz musicians which kicks off this year with Mardi Gras on 3 August, and the Edinburgh Book Festival, a bi-annual event which occupies a vast marquee in Charlotte Square Gardens. The most spectacular event is, of course, the Military Tattoo, a stunning display of military might from every part of the globe, with precision drill, dancers, bands and the massed pipes and drums.

Three weeks of such aural and visual excitement leaves the senses reeling ●

Stamp scene Philatelic Writers awards • Stampex • Space stamps • Lundy stamps

Philatelic Writers Society awards The Nugent Clougher Award was established by the Postal History Society in 1968 and reorganised by the pws in 1987. It is awarded every year for research work published as a book for the benefit of postal history. The Ronnie Spafford award was established in 1988 for philatelic writing of a general nature, excluding work qualifying for the Clougher. Entries are accepted from anywhere in the world and in any main language. Judging is by jury drawn from the ranks of the pws and takes place at the annual pws weekend each Autumn •

Further details from Philip Lindley, Paddock House, High Street, Yardley Hastings, Northampton NN7 1ER.

Stampex The Philatelic Traders' Society has announced the dates for Stampex next year – 22-26 January and 17-21 September. Both exhibitions will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1. Spring Stampex 1996, the first at the new venue, was one of the most successful exhibitions in recent years. Autumn Stampex 1996 will be held there 18-22 September •

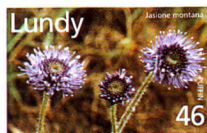
Enquiries Stampex, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Telephone 0171 490 1005.

Bulletin prize draw In our April *Bulletin* competition, Omniphil offered two Penny Blacks in a draw for new *Bulletin* clients. The lucky winners were Mr M Holloway of Dyfed, and Mr R Emmerson of Kent. Congratulations to both •

Most beautiful space stamp The Astro Space Stamp Society invites readers over the age of 11 to select the World's most beautiful space stamp. Prizes will be awarded in Adult (over 21 years) and Youngster (11-21) categories. For further information and details of the Society, write to: Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE, enclosing stamped addressed envelope or two international reply coupons •

New Lundy local stamps Local stamps (local carriage labels) have been issued for conveying the mail from Lundy in the Bristol Channel to Devon since 1929. The stamps have quite a following, particularly in the USA. A set of six stamps featuring Lundy Flora was issued on 22 May 1996.

Two further stamps were issued on 8 June to mark the 50th anniversary of the Lundy Field Society. These show: 24p Underwater photograph taken in Lundy's Marine Nature Reserve depicting a handwheel and its associated marine growth; 30p Razorbill. The stamps were designed by Norman Hunter and John Dyke, and printed by Questa. Price 54p mint/CTO or £1.20 on first day cover •



New Lundy stamps 24p Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), 30p Lundy Cabbage (*Coincya wrightii*), 35p Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), 46p Sheepsbit scabious (*Jasione montana*), 50p Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), and 60p Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*). The stamps were designed by Lars Liwendahl from photographs by Lorna Gibson and printed by the House of Questa. Stamps are available at face value, £2.45 per set mint or cancelled-to-order, £3.20 each presentation pack or first day cover.

Orders & enquiries Post Office, Lundy, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2LY. Telephone 01237 431831. Postage UK/EU 90p, Europe, non-EU £1.35, outside Europe £1.90. Payment may be made by Visa, Access, or Mastercard.



QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S
PHOTOGRAPHS

THE STADIUM AT ATHENS
(BUILT OF WHITE MARBLE)

Great Britain and the Olympics by Bob Wilcock

Royal Mail stamps, booklets and aerogramme are being issued to commemorate the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer, and the centenary of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. This article looks back to Britain's Olympic philatelic past.

Great Britain has participated from the beginning – Britons won in weightlifting and tennis in 1896 – but philatelically we start perhaps with the 10th Anniversary Games of 1906: Perkins Bacon printed the set of Greek stamps issued to mark the Games. Edward VII and Queen Alexandra attended the Games as part of their 'Grand Tour' of the Mediterranean. The Queen took photographs throughout the trip which were published in a very popular book, and as postcards. One of her photographs was taken inside the Olympic Stadium.

Royal opening King Edward opened the Olympic Games in London on 13 July 1908, and Queen Alexandra is best remembered for the Queen's Cup she awarded to the gallant Pietro Dorando in compensation for his disqualification as winner of the marathon on 25 August (see *Bulletin* November 1988, p47).

Tug of War featured from 1900 to 1920. In 1908, three British police teams took the first three positions. The Gold went to the City of London police. They were beaten by Sweden in 1912, but took Gold again in Antwerp in 1920. A stamp from the 1979 set for the 150th anniversary of the Metropolitan Police illustrates their feat thematically.

British achievements at the Paris Olympics of 1924 are remembered in the film *Chariots of Fire*. Eric Liddell of Scotland won the 400 metres in world record time, took bronze in the 200 metres, but withdrew from the 100 metres because, as a



Left Eric Liddell winning the 400 metres in Paris in 1924 and, from the top: Dominican Republic stamps featuring British medal winners – Chris Brasher and Gillian Sheen; Queen Alexandra's photograph of Olympic Stadium, Athens.

Above special handstamp honouring Eric Liddell.

religious man, he would not race on a Sunday. Sixty years on he was honoured by a postmark for the 1984 Scottish Philatelic Congress.

While the Olympic Games of 1924 were in Paris, in London Britain was staging the British Empire Exhibition. Wembley Stadium was built for the Exhibition, and in 1948 it formed the centre-piece of the Olympic Games in London. A series of articles in the *Bulletin* November 1988 to April 1989 tell the philatelic story of those Games, British stamps and aerogramme.

Royal participation In 1956 Prince Philip opened the Olympic Games in Melbourne, and in 1976 HM The Queen opened the Games in Montreal. At those Games their daughter, HRH Princess Anne, now The Princess Royal, competed in the equestrian events but a fall and slight concussion ended her chances of a medal.



BRITAIN - HOST TO THE 1948 OLYMPICS.
The Silver Wedding year of George VI and Queen Elizabeth.



COMMEMORATIVE COVER
CoverCraft PO Box 713 London SE19 2HH England



DALEY THOMPSON
LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS 1984
The Beagles co



Top Manchester 1996 souvenir cover and bid slogan

Top right Daley Thompson commemorative cover and handstamp

Above NPM Freddie Mercury 'Barcelona' handstamp

In 1973 the Princess married Captain Mark Phillips who was the fourth member of Britain's Gold medal winning team in the three-day event in Munich in 1972. In 1988 she became a member of the International Olympic Committee, and flew to the Seoul Olympics in that capacity.

Until the 1970s the Post Office authorised private postal stationery with postage imprints. A number were issued with Olympic connections. There was a set of three for Montreal, one in 1971 relating to the Munich Games of 1972 and, perhaps the easiest to find, in 1968 to commemorate the flight of the British team to Mexico.

Medal winners British medal winners have not been recognised by way of a stamp issue in this country, nor, surprisingly, on many postmarks. In addition to Eric Liddell, previously mentioned, only Daley Thompson, Britain's champion decathlete has been honoured by a postmark in 1984 and, indirectly, Sally Gunnell. The postmark of 12 August 1994 refers to the European Championships being held then, and not to her Gold medal performance in the Games in Barcelona two years previously.

British medal winners have, however, appeared on stamps from other countries, including Michael Meade and Mary Peters (Upper Volta) and Chris Brasher and Gillian Sheen (Dominican Republic).

Posting boxes 163



e Daley Thompson Olympic decathlon champion

Source: M. Miller, *Stamping*, May 1995, p. 11



Not obviously Olympic is the National Postal Museum handstamp of 5 May 1995 commemorating Freddie Mercury. His song 'Barcelona' with Monserrat Caballé was the unofficial song of the Games. I have an unforgettable memory of leaving the Olympic Stadium having just seen Sally Gunnell take a Gold in the 200 metres hurdles, walking down the Monjuic hill watching the Magic Fountains dancing in a riot of colours to the strains of 'Barcelona'! Magic.

Fuller details of British contributions to Olympic philately for 1992 are reported in the *Bulletin* of August 1992. Now, as the Atlanta Games are upon us, we must remember that Manchester was a candidate for these Games. There was a slogan postmark in 1990 for the period leading up to the decision by the International Olympic Committee. It exists from the four machines numbered C1-C4. From 14 May to 16 September, impressions were in red and on just two days, 17 and 18 September, in black.

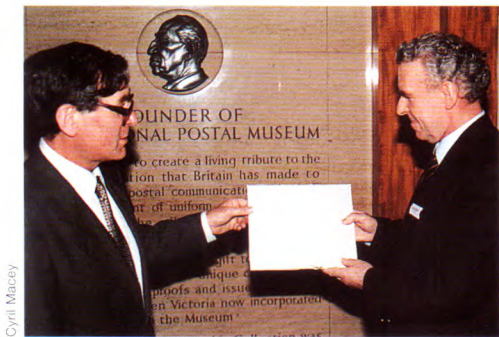
On 13 September 1990 there was a handstamp from Manchester marking the first day of the 100 Session that was to make the crucial decision. Copies, on a cover reproducing the British stamps for 1948, are still available from the Society of Olympic Collectors, price £2 post paid. They may be obtained, together with full information about the Society, from: Mrs E Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU •

Posting both sides Our photographs this month, sent in by Gerald Davis, FRPSL, show the box at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3. Mr Davis writes: "This is the only pillar box (that I know) that has a "reception slit" on both sides, and, I dare say it was made especially for this location. It stands midway on the boundary fence of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea and must be passed by thousands of visitors each year to the Chelsea Flower Show. When the gates are closed, presumably the residents within can still post their letters. In taking the pictures I tried (not always successfully) to see right through both slots. The royal cipher of Queen Victoria is on one side of the box only." •



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

NPM news Robert Burns—Man of Letters exhibition • Review of 1995



Cyril Macey

Stan Goron, NPM Manager left, presents James Mackay with replica Burns stamps artwork at the opening of Robert Burns – Man of Letters exhibition Dr Mackay

spoke of Burns's influence on English and European poets as well as his importance in his own country. 'Any country which has a poet as one of its national heroes', said Dr Mackay, 'cannot be all bad'. He quoted the one reference to stamps in Burns's 600 poems – 'The rank is but the guinea stamp – the man's a gowd, for a' that!', and recalled numerous references to the postal service in Burns's 700 surviving letters.

Burns's words winging their way around the world on envelopes. Robert Young, a tenor at the Covent Garden Opera House then gave a powerful rendition of three of Burns's songs to the delight of the journalists and guests present. The exhibition is the work of the Museum's Curator Philately, Douglas Muir, who sported a Gordon tartan tie at the press preview.

SEVEN YEARS LATE The exhibition centres on the two stamp issues with numerous essays and artworks for the 1966 stamps. This set resulted from a long and vociferous campaign in Scotland for stamps to mark the bicentenary of Burns's birth in 1959. No issue was forthcoming but the campaign continued, particularly after the Shakespeare issue of 1964. The go-ahead for the stamps came under Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Postmaster General who revolutionised British stamp policy. Eight Scottish artists were invited to submit designs which, most unusually, could be 'non-traditional' bearing a royal motif instead of 'The Queen's head! In the event Her Majesty appeared on the issued stamps. Equally unusually a large number of designs reached essay stage, several with 'UK Postage' in place of the sovereign's head. Not all the designs met with the approval of the Stamp Advisory Committee and it was at this time that its Chairman Sir Kenneth Clark (later Lord Clark of *Civilisation* fame) resigned in disgust. After this flurry of activity, and seven years after the bicentenary, two stamps, featuring portraits of the poet, went on sale on 25 January 1966.

Over 30 pieces of artwork and about 40 essays are shown, including essays of the issued 4d with different colours of the blue and widths of white lines in the flag. Some of the many designs on display are most attractive and unusual, including some by Stewart Black upon swatches of Burns check produced in 1959 for the bicentenary of his birth. One of these is depicted in the Robert Burns publication (given free with the January 1996 *Bulletin*), and other unaccepted designs were shown in the May 1966 *Bulletin*. Four designs are reproduced on new NPM exhibition postcards.

Also shown are three designs for the GPO first day cover which was serviced at a temporary Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh; the Bureau moved from London to Edinburgh later in the year. Artwork by Fraser Haston, and proofs, in blue, green, and red are displayed of the 1975 aerogramme which featured Burns on the front panel with Tam o' Shanter on the central, and a fieldmouse ('Wee, sleekit, cowrin tim'rous beastie') on the back.

1996 BICENTENARY ISSUE On show are presentation visuals and the final artworks by the selected designers, Tayburn McLloy Coates. The illustrations on one set of visuals relating to the mouse and the 'Scots Wha Hae' stamps differed markedly from those finally issued. Tayburn also submitted a set of designs using a photographic approach. Alan Kitching's designs involved pairs of stamps bearing illustrations and extracts from the poems *To A Mouse*, *To a Mountain Daisy*, and *Tam o' Shanter*. Wilson McLean's submissions featured Burns and Brig o' Doon, Tam o' Shanter, a Highland scene, and the playing of old Scots ballads. Also shown are the first and second essays of the issued stamps (September and October 1995), and examples of the stamps on covers/postcards with some of the many special handstamps used on the day of issue.

LABELS, POSTMARKS AND MEDALS Burns first featured on a Russian stamp in 1956 – this is displayed along with two later Russian stamps and one from Rumania. Prior to the issue of the 1966 stamps, several Burns labels had been produced in Scotland. These are shown, together with some subsequent issues – many still produced by Peter Westwood of the Burns Federation. Some were illustrated in the Robert Burns *Bulletin* publication. Various postmarks and special covers have commemorated Burns's life and works. On show is a cover posted at Alloway, Ayr on 25 January 1959 (bicentenary of his birth) and one produced by a leading whisky company with a special 1988 postmark marking the bicentenary of Burns's occupation of Ellisland Farm.

Dr Mackay has loaned three attractive Burns medals, commemorating the centenary of his death (1896); bicentenary of occupancy of Ellisland Farm (1988) and bicentenary of death (1996). Also on display are reproductions of the main authenticated portraits of Burns – one enlargement greets visitors as they enter the Museum's main gallery. This exhibition will be of interest not only to Burns devotees, but to all serious collectors of British special stamps of the mid-1960s, perhaps the most exciting period in the history of British commemorative issues.

ADMISSION AND EXHIBITION POSTCARDS The National Postal Museum is located in King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, a short walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station. Open Monday-Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free. Four NPM Burns postcards, reproducing unused designs for the 1966 issue, are on sale at the Museum shop (25p each), or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (£1 per set) •



Unused design for 1966 issue by Jack Fleming, designer of 6d & 9d Scottish Regional stamps.



The Review is available from the shop at the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP (open Monday-Friday 09.30-16.30), or by post from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.

1995 Review The Museum has recently published its Review of 1995 – the eighth in a series that contain much useful information and some wonderful illustrations. As before, the Review has been skilfully edited by Douglas Muir, a former editor of *Stamp Collecting*, *Philatelic Magazine*, and of this *Bulletin*. The foreword is written by Mr John Roberts, the new Chief Executive of The Post Office and an introduction by James Foley of the Post Office Services Group in which the Museum is now based. In the introduction to the 1994 Review, the Museum's Manager, Stan Goron, commented on the undecided future of his Museum. This year Mr Foley states that although 'much has happened in relation to the Museum's position within the Post Office, and its possible future... the uncertainty is, if anything, greater than ever.' In hoping matters will be quickly resolved, we are encouraged to note that both Mr Roberts and Mr Foley write of their interest in history and will thus support the Museum.

Under 'Work in Progress' we learn that the Special Stamp Research Project has resulted in written histories of all issues up to the end of 1974; these are regularly updated as fresh data turns up, often in unexpected places. For example, an important section was added to the 1964 Shakespeare history, (published in the 1994 Review), concerning the pictorial air letters. The history of the 1974 UPU Centenary issue, by Giles Allen, is published in this Review. Work is progressing on definitive stamp histories.

Lionel Jones has been busy sorting and mounting several hundred reply coupons of the 1930s to 1950s, studying the different layouts and texts resulting from UPU agreements. Lionel feels that this is an area worthy of greater attention by collectors. Don Staddon continues mounting the collection of decimal machine-vended books, and Cyril Macey has mounted a collection of GB presentation material owned by the late Lord Reilly, a member of the Stamp Advisory Committee.

A collection entitled 'Trials & Tribulations' has been compiled of proof stamps related to technical developments in postal automation, the need for security, and colour standardisation. Part of this collection was displayed at Stampex in January with accompanying talk by Dr Tim Lane who has recently retired from the Royal Mail Research Centre. Machin collectors will welcome the report and illustrations in the Review.

The Museum is noted for its fine temporary exhibitions as well as the permanent displays of stamps from the R M Phillips and Post Office collections. The magnificent 'Victorian Posts' exhibition is recorded for posterity, along with details of the Museum's new temporary exhibition gallery (on the site of the former Philatelic Counter), and its displays at the Stamp '95 and Rare Stamps of the World exhibitions.

The Museum is rightly proud of its Paper Conservation studio headed by Krystyna Koscia who writes about conservation work on Victorian registration sheets in preparation for the 'Victorian Posts' exhibition. This will be of interest to all collectors of valuable Victorian stamps.

Jean Farrugia, soon to retire as Post Office Chief Archivist, writes of progress in her department during 1995 despite a temporary reduction in staff. One of several goals achieved was a new catalogue of Stamp Depot records – listing of over 1000 records from c1914 when stamp production work passed from the Inland Revenue to the Post Office. This covers postal orders and stamped stationery as well as postage stamps, and includes records relating to items overprinted for use overseas. Jean has been busy researching the history of the Archives which recently celebrated its centenary.

Ray Pottle, Secretary of the Association of Friends of the NPM, provides a succinct account of its many and varied activities, including talks on George VI issues, letter boxes, and The House of Questa, and visits to the RAF Museum, stamp printers Enschedé, and a trip on the Derby-Birmingham TPO. The Association has over 600 members.

As usual there is a useful illustrated record of the year's NPM postcards and special postmarks, including numbers of cards produced and postmarks applied. The Review is a delight to read cover to cover, or simply to browse through at leisure, and given the high quality design and printing is good value at just £5 •



Christine Jones (no relation to Lionell!) reports on the NPM's growing collection of artefacts, some of which are shown in the 'Post Hastel' display in the area formerly occupied by the London Chief Post Office. Christine provides a detailed account, with photographs of the display areas and of some individual items.

Grey Heron



WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST

The lengthy 'Recent Acquisitions' section includes colour illustrations of some of the stamp artworks for the National Trust, Peace & Freedom, Shakespeare's Globe, Communications, and Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust issues. These illustrations will be welcomed by collectors who like to see the stamps 'that might have been'. A supplement to the Review provides an extensive listing of some of the acquisitions, philatelic and artefacts, which came to the Museum during 1995.

Out of the Arc 19 1938 Boy Messenger by Kevin Squelch The Post Office Archives celebrated its centenary in May. To commemorate this milestone, it released the latest addition to its historic miniatures collection. This, the eighth in the series, depicts a 1938 boy messenger. Details were given in the May *Bulletin*.



This new figurine is available at £25 plus a handling charge of 60p per order. Please state Philatelic Bulletin with your order. Cheques payable to 'The Post Office' in £ sterling should be sent to: Post Office Archives & Records Services, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant Complex, Phoenix Place entrance, London EC1A 1BB.

Right A messenger with high 'stand' collar c1930.

Left The new jacket on trial in 1935.



The grade, Boy Messenger, appeared in 1908, it was altered from Telegraph Messenger on the recommendation of the Hobhouse Committee. The title lasted until 1947 when it was restyled Young Postman.

When the Telegraph Companies were taken over by the Post Office in 1870, the PO recognised the need to supply uniforms to the new grade. Part of the reason for this was that some of the Telegraph Companies had supplied the boys with uniforms, and it had become the practice to regard this provision as being a supplement to the wages paid.

At the start of the 1930s a change of uniform was being looked at. The tunics which had high 'stand' collars that fastened closely to the neck, received complaints because the boys often became very hot and uncomfortable in them. A

concession was given, and under Rule 4 of Instructions for Outdoor Messengers, they were allowed to wear their tunics open at the neck in warm weather. It was thought that the relaxation permitted by this rule gave a 'general air of untidiness which the practice imparts to a messenger's appearance'. By 1933 the suggestions for the jacket were; to modify the collar to give more room at the neck, this was to be achieved by rounding off the corners of the collar and abolishing the leather tap and hook-and-eye. The other idea was that it should be a 'lounge' type jacket with roll collar, similar to that worn by the postmen. The Stores Department ordered specimen jackets with the modified collar, and the roll collar. Soon after the arrival of these specimen jackets, three Surveyors had an opportunity of examining them. They were unanimous in

regarding 'the present 'stand' collar as detrimental to smartness since it impels boys to unfasten not only the collar-fastening but one or more of the lower buttons. They regard it as particularly unsuitable for boys approaching adult size, who feel and look 'gawky' in it, especially when employed temporarily on Postmen's duties. The modified 'stand' collar they regard as having no merit for wear by any boy, large or small. They strongly favour the roll collar as much smarter...'

The suggestion for a roll collar jacket for messengers had been put forward in 1931 by the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW). It was at the time assumed that the change to a roll collar jacket would involve the addition of a waistcoat to the uniform, and was rejected because of the considerable increase in cost. It was decided to trial the new jacket 'on the clear understanding that the jacket buttons must always be fastened and that the boys must wear either a stiff white linen collar or a soft collar of the same colour and material as the shirt, and a black tie of a sailor's knot pattern, in good condition'.

The new jackets were put on trial in June 1934 in a few offices which included, Glasgow, Margate and Swansea. The boys at the centres of experiment were allowed the option of the roll collar tunic or the stand collar tunic. Of the 645 boys concerned, 421 chose the roll collar. It was found that a 'reasonable standard of cleanliness of the collar' was maintained. The experiment was a success, but before the first general issue in September 1936, there were a couple of alterations. The Chief Medical Officer thought the roll collar preferable because it gave a 'greater degree of comfort, muscular freedom and ventilation'. However, he was concerned about the hard shoulder cord and suggested its removal on

the grounds that if bags or straps bearing weights were carried over the shoulder, the hard cord and button were a source of 'discomfort and possible dangerous pressure'. The UPW asked for a second inside pocket, the cost was not too prohibitive, but the concern of the Stores Department was 'we can be fairly certain it will be packed to capacity and spoil the set of the tunic'.

The new miniature (pictured in *May Bulletin*), is modelled on a 1938 boy messenger, he is wearing the new style jacket as well as shoes, which were issued generally in May 1938, replacing boots. Boots, however, along with leggings, were retained in Hull & Grimsby because of the fish docks. The armlet he is wearing did not have a long life, it was first worn on 31 May 1935 in connection with the inauguration of the sixpenny telegram. It was intended as a duty badge to be worn when the messenger was engaged on the delivery of telegrams or on express services. It was discontinued in October 1939 for use with the uniform, although it was still used a while longer for boys in mufti and casual messengers. The reasons for dropping the use of the armlet were problems in keeping it looking smart on the arm; also, it was



Boy messenger's armlet, cap showing chipped enamel badge, and shoulder cord.

felt to have no general significance to the public.

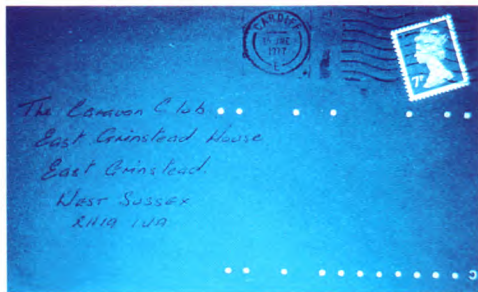
The figurine can be seen wearing a cap and breast badges. These badges had been replaced on postmen's uniforms and were now being looked at on messengers. They were thought unsatisfactory because the blue enamel chipped easily when the badge was cleaned, and the identification figures and letters could only be read on close scrutiny. Experiments were carried out in London in 1937, the new badge, which was to be worn on the hat only, had most of the body cut away to allow the identification figures and letters to show up clearly against the blue back-

ground of the hat. With the outbreak of war, it became difficult to obtain enamelled badges, further experimentation was abandoned and the 'London' badge was used throughout the country in early 1941.

The conditions of employment in the 1930s meant that boys must be under 14 ½ years of age; have reached an educational standard of good average ability on leaving school; and be legally exempt from further full-time attendance at school, normally at the end of the term in which they reached 14 years old. They must not be less than 4ft 8ins in height without boots and be able to satisfy the P.O. Medical Staff as to their physical fitness. Their working week was 48 hours with 12 days' annual holiday. Wages in the London area were 8/- (40p) a week under 15 years of age; rising to 19/- at 19 years of age. They attended educational classes at least four hours a week. At 16 the boys were selected for permanent retention by means of a general competitive examination. Other conditions had changed, for example, official drill and daily physical exercise. This was abolished in 1921 partly as a measure of economy and partly because it was considered that the standard of recruits was better. ●

Recent developments in postal mechanisation

Patrick Awcock reports on local initiatives for coding deskidents



A series of numbers have recently started to appear on some mail from Slough. This is the latest local initiative aimed at improving the legibility of coding desk idents applied to mail coded at the manual coding desks which have been in operational use since the 1970s and are due to be phased out completely by the end of 1998 (see May 1993 *Bulletin*, p216). The problem arises from the fact that some offices in particular have found great difficulty in printing clear idents on the mail. As a result, over the years there have been local attempts to find an alternative method of printing these idents.

The first such attempt was at Cardiff in 1977. In this case, instead of the usual square start dot at the right-hand end of the row of code dots, a letter was printed in phosphor. Pins with the identis A, B and C were fitted to these three desks (although A has never been reported used operationally, whilst a single example of a T has been recorded). Unfortunately, this was not too successful as the signal received by the sorting machine from this 'code-dot' was much weaker and led to many more rejects by the system.

CITY DAY CONTINUATION SCHOOL, 1931
GOLDEN LANE, E.C.1.

Report for _____ Term 1931

Name of Pupil _____

Class _____ No. in Class _____ Position in Class _____

SUBJECT	MARKS GAINED (100 is possible for each subject)
Mathematics or Arithmetic	50
English	55
Literature	35
History	43
Geography	36
Drawing	70
Handwriting	
Orthography	
Manuscript	
Practic Writing	
TOTAL	299

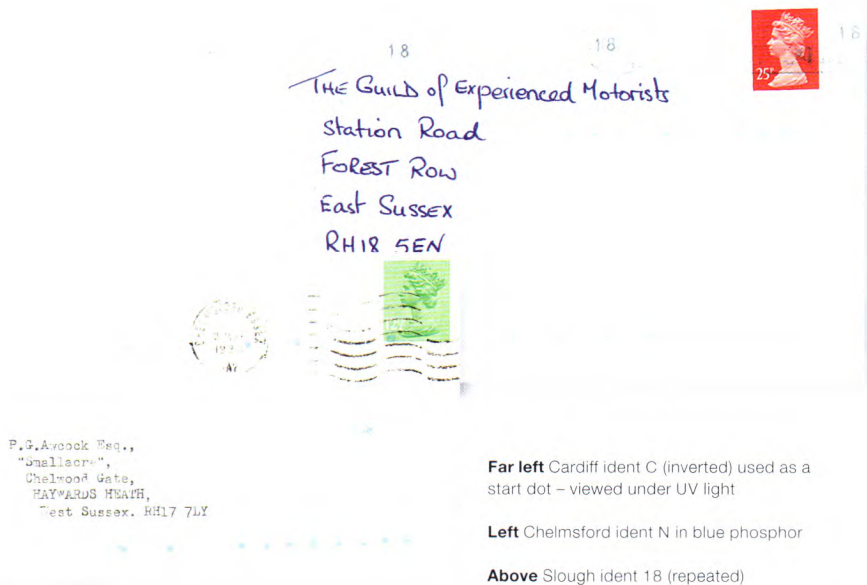
General Remarks:—

Although his examination results are only fairly good, Bright has worked well and he has made progress.

Principal

Dorchester, 1931. Date.

End of term report, December 1931



P.G. Awcock Esq.,
"Smallscore",
Chelwood Gate,
HAYWARD HEATH,
West Sussex. RH17 7LY

Far left Cardiff ident C (inverted) used as a start dot – viewed under UV light

Left Chelmsford ident N in blue phosphor

Above Slough ident 18 (repeated)

Whilst it was possible to get over this problem at Cardiff, by making adjustments to the readers on their own sorting machines, it remained a problem for other sorting offices when the mail was again sorted later on its journey and consequently the experiment was short-lived. Examples are not easy for collectors to spot as the phosphor dot codes at that time were still in plain phosphor and only readily seen under ultra-violet light.

A second attempt was made by engineers at Chelmsford in 1983-4. By this time, coding dots were printed from blue-coloured phosphor tape and the idea of printing an ident using this phosphor tape was attempted. An ident x was fitted to that desk in April 1983, resulting in a blue x being printed between the two rows of dots, near to the right-hand side. This proved very successful and the idea was extended to the whole of one suite of desks (A to M) in July 1983, but these idents failed to match earlier expectations and only appeared erratically for just over a month. The use of the trial x continued until March 1984 before the idea was abandoned.

The latest idea appeared at Slough in July

1995, when a self-inking ident was tested at Slough. This printed a series of 14s across any envelope coded at that desk, about 90mm from the base. This proved very successful and similar printers were fitted to all the desks in suite 2 (idents 13 to 22) in October 1995. At the beginning of January, I was told that further printers had been received and would be fitted to the desks in suite 1 (idents 01 to 10) shortly, although these have yet to appear. Whilst early examples were very clear, more recent examples have been much less so and only time will tell whether this will be a success story or whether it will become another abandoned attempt.

There are, in fact, four idents fitted on the surface of a cylinder or wheel, itself rotating at the end of a levered arm enabling the cylinder to roll over each letter. The device is fitted at the rear of the coding desk and is driven by friction as the letter stream leaves the destacker. The four idents are fitted at roughly 60mm intervals around the cylinder and the actual distance apart of any two adjacent idents varies within the general range of 55 to 65mm ●

Look before you lick! 11 Constant positional varieties by



Varieties are not new. Some of the very first stamps exhibited them, although less imaginative designs seem to inspire less interesting varieties. Possibly the most fascinating of these Victorian variations are the 1840 1d Intense Black (corner letters H and E) from plate 5 with a double 'H' and the 1841 1d Red-brown (corner letters L and A) from plate 27 with a dash below the 'A'.

In more recent years, many stamps have been produced, each bearing an identical flaw as a result of them appearing in the same position on each sheet produced from a particular printing cylinder. Unfortunately the position always seems to be an incredibly obscure one and I find myself asking my friendly postmistress for 'the one three stamps in from the left of the row, four up from the bottom'! The varieties are often of great interest and, because they are so ridiculously cheap, constant positional varieties (CPVs) are officially the most popular area of philately...in my collection!

One of the first varieties which can truly be called positional turned up in 1946 on the Victory 3d stamp. Examples from the 12th row down and 5th column in from the left (position R12/5) can be seen with seven berries in the olive branch in the dove's beak.

Missing date Rather more recent are two major examples of CPVs – both were grossly over-hyped

and over-valued but they are worth looking out for, particularly the 1993 Orchids 33p value from position R10/6 (dot cylinder) with the copyright logo and date omitted. This sells for about £10 as part of a block of four. The other – the 1992 Green issue 24p with a white blob alongside the value – fetches around six times its face value for a gutter pair.

Out of all of the hundreds of amusing varieties which have surfaced over the years, my favourite is the 1959 2s6d Castle with the shoulder hatching omitted in various degrees. I am also fond of the 1963 Red Cross 3d with a vertical retouch scratch through the cross.

Traffic (light) hazards Some varieties appear such that they alter the meaning of the design. Some of my favourite examples include the 1978 Cycling 9p (R10/9) which bears two dots of 'mud', appropriately on the bicycle's mudguard! For no more than a few pounds this can be collected as part of an attractive traffic light gutter block of six. The same stamp, this time from R6/2, shows a nut falling amongst the spokes of the bike. At less than £1 for a traffic light gutter pair, this variety represents incredible value.

Birds experienced a dearth of fortune on the 1981 Folklore 14p (R8/2) with the tip of the upper wing sliced, although they compensate for it on the 1979 Police 10p (R6/7) where a flock appear

Matt Hinton



B Alan Ltd, Sevenoaks



from nowhere, no doubt about to give PC Plod's shiny helmet a good seeing to! Each of these two varieties, in a pair, should cost less than £1!

We remain airborne for the 1979 Christmas 8p R6/10 where an extra star is present to confuse the poor kings some more! (A case of gold, frankincense and err, perhaps!)

Lease-Majesty The Queen suffers greatly at the hands of the positional variety, receiving scars and scratches! One example is the 1975 Charity stamp (R2/4) showing a spot on Her head.

Other visually interesting varieties include: 1970 Literary 5d (R5/17) with an extra button on the coat • 1988 Armada strip of five (R4/4) with the 'r' missing in the date, giving a year of '988' (slightly more expensive at about £10) • 1979 Spring Flowers 10½p (R3/1) with an extra long stalk on the daffodil • 1972 Silver Wedding 3p & 20p (R6/9) with a cold sore visible on the Duke's lower lip • 1973 Cricket 7½p (R9/1) with a spot on the shirt – obviously not using Ariel Future Colour Excell Advanced Plus! • 1967 EFTA 9d (R1/5) with a small blue dot in the base of the 'E' • 1970 Cottages 5d (R9/6) with a pale patch visible on the wall above the top of the left hand side first floor window of the right hand building!

All of these are extremely affordable – usually less than £1 for a pair or block. There are, of course, some much more expensive examples

such as the well-known 1980 Famous Authoress-ess 12p value with the 'p' of '12p' omitted on R4/6. This retails for around £30 for a block of four, and is actually listed in Stanley Gibbons GB Concise Catalogue.

That great philosopher of our time, Sod, has a law which dictates that if something can go wrong, you can be sure that it will. Constant flaws illustrate this beautifully. Virtually every stamp issued displays a flaw of some kind, be it a Machin or commemorative. Indeed, Machins with flaws are very popular items and it is often assumed, wrongly, that they are not collected in the same quantities as commemoratives because the same varieties can be repeated over and over again. This is due to the fact that the same multi-positives are sometimes used for different printings. Try collecting each basic Machin with a flaw of some kind. Give it a go and let me know of your success! Illustrated here are two nice positional varieties – a dot between the 'L' and 'r' on a £1.50 definitive; and a partially filled in 'p' on an 18p Machin.

Non-constant flaws and varieties include lithographic 'dust dots' – a small hollow doughnut-like blobs. These are quite common. One of my favourites is a one-off variety – a 2nd class Machin with an inflamed Queen's eye! It was caused by the phosphor dot applied at the sorting office. You certainly won't find it catalogued! ●

Eminent early collectors 1

The Earl of Crawford by Ron Negus FRPSL



'Spy' cartoon of the Earl of Crawford

As a schoolboy at Eton in the 1860s, James Ludovic Lindsay collected stamps. When he moved to Trinity College, Cambridge to study astronomy, this interest waned and he was 52 years old before he collected again. By then, he had succeeded his father, in 1880, to become the 26th Earl of Crawford.

He returned to philately accidentally. At a Sotheby's book sale in 1899, he saw a 'fat' album amongst the lots. The Earl was fascinated by the wide range of stamps issued since his schoolboy collecting days. Having already produced detailed scientific studies in the varied fields of astronomy, photography, engineering and ornithology, he decided to take up the hobby seriously.

He joined the Philatelic Society, London in June 1900. A month later, he asked C J Phillips of Stanley Gibbons to obtain some stamps which he could study in depth. Phillips provided collections of Transvaal and Orange River Colony for £1,250 and Lord Crawford had begun his philatelic career. Later he formed notable collections of Great Britain, the West Indies, various other British Colonies, Egypt, Italian States and USA.

The Earl had been a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron from 1874. He combined his

love of yachting with his stamps, and worked on his collections during his long trips. He would buy stamps before he sailed to form the nucleus of a country of interest and upon his return had made notes about each specimen to be transferred to his albums.

Historical method All his material was mounted personally and he annotated every page. He introduced the so-called 'historical method' of collecting. This meant recording information on how each set of stamps was produced, including their watermarks and perforation, the reasons for issue and why they were superseded. To complete this history, the Earl's collections included original drawings, essays, proofs, reprints and forgeries, with large blocks and full sheets, if obtainable.

Two years after he joined, Lord Crawford became Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London, and in December 1906, the Earl's influence at Court led to King Edward VII advising the Society that he was pleased to allow it to be designated the Royal Philatelic Society. At this time, the Prince of Wales was President of the Society but when he became King (George V), he was unable to continue in this office. On 14 May 1910, the Society received a letter from Buckingham Palace saying '(the King) desires that Lord Crawford should become President.' The Earl occupied this position until his death in 1913. In his memory, the Society instituted the Crawford Medal in 1914 to be awarded annually for the 'most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately'.

The Earl often opened each season's programme by inviting members to his own home to view his collections. At the initial meeting of 1904, he showed them 'his magnificent collection of Great Britain', which later won him the Championship Cup at the 1906 London International Philatelic Exhibition. This GB Collection included amongst its many gems a sheet of 219, out of 240, Penny Blacks with the 'VR' upper corner letters, and a part sheet of 168 stamps of the Twopenny Blue without white lines.

During his lifetime, the Earl disposed of many

important collections. In 1904 he sold H L Ewen his GB Railway Stamps, acknowledged to be the finest accumulation then in existence. In 1912, he sold all his collections, except for GB and USA to the dealer W H Peckitt. After his death, Mr R B Sparrow bought the GB material outright, in December 1913, for an undisclosed sum, but said to be the highest price ever paid for a single country collection up to that time.

Ardent bibliophile Lord Crawford was an ardent bibliophile, and his philatelic library also included the only surviving copy of many early works. In 1901, he bought the collection of philatelic literature formed by the late John K Tiffany in New York. This purchase, made for £2000, formed a sound basis for his own library. He continued to buy regularly and in 1908 added the extensive library of the prominent German collector, Heinrich Fraenkel, upon the latter's death. After removing a few volumes for his own collection, he donated the balance to the Royal.

The Earl employed Mr E D (later Sir Edward) Bacon to list his library holdings and the resultant index, always referred to now as the Crawford Catalogue, has become a primary reference source to early philatelic literature. In his will, the Earl bequeathed his whole philatelic library to the British Museum where it resides today, part of the British Library Philatelic Collections.

The Earl married in 1869 and his wife, Emily, bore him five sons and a daughter. As the illustrations show, he was a man of immense physical presence. The cartoon by 'Spy' is displayed at the Royal Philatelic Society, while the picture of the Earl, seated, was taken in 1909 by an unknown photographer. By virtue of his ancestry, he was entitled to keep his hat on in the presence of royalty – a right he always exercised in the company of King George V, who was a great personal friend.

He was an approachable man and his unfailing courtesy and kindness to others were remarked upon by all. His private notepaper bore the inscription 'To call me personally use no 5506 Mayfair. If not answered directly, call 4100 Mayfair, and the message will reach me on

my return home.' One can imagine that, had the Earl been alive today, he would have been amongst the first to use a mobile phone!

Lord Crawford died after a heart attack at his London home on 31 January 1913, at the age of 66. Despite continued poor health, he carried on his busy life style to the end. On the day before his death, he had presided at a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society. He was buried in the family tomb at Balcarres Chapel, his ancestral seat in Fife, Scotland. By permission of the King, a memorial service was held in the Chapel Royal, St James Palace, London simultaneously with the funeral •



*Yours sincerely
(Crawford)*

Competition Win Cinema stamps first day cover signed by Barbara Windsor



1st prize of the official Scott First Day Cover No 1 featuring the full set of 100 Years of British Cinema stamps signed by Barbara Windsor (only 100 produced).

Three 2nd prizes of the above cover, unsigned (only 400 produced).

Three prizes of the official Scott Cover no 2 featuring the full set of Olympic stamps (only 500 produced).

The winners of the March competition were G Denton of Wiltshire (PUC £1 stamp); R Jenkins of New Jersey (Penny Black); R Lockwood of Buckinghamshire and F Longbottom of W Yorkshire (Canada 3d 'Beavers' stamp).

The answers 1 Siobhan Keaney; 2 1866; 3 Robson Lowe; 4 R J Mitchell; 5 Intaglio. Our thanks to all who entered.

This month's competition is sponsored by Steven Scott, stamp dealers of The Strand, who readers may recall sponsored our very first *Bulletin* competition. The prizes supplied by Steven Scott comprise limited edition first day covers.

Re-introducing Steven Scott There are few names which spring so readily to mind as that of Steven Scott when contemplating 20th century British stamps. In the space of 10 years Steven has gone from part-time dealer to become a

major force in British philately with an organisation that now employs 10 people in the heart of stamp land.

The latest copy of the Steven Scott list is now out. It covers all aspects of GB & CI from 1912 to date catering for the beginner just setting out, to the specialist hunting out the unusual and obscure. Whether it's window booklets, errors and varieties, special handstamp first day covers, missing phosphors, this list has it all.

The latest diversification for Steven is the production of a high quality limited edition first day cover. His first venture in to this field is featured as our prize this month. Limited to just 500 copies, this official cover launches a new series. All covers are individually numbered, and standing orders will be available on a first come first served basis. Steven is also well-known for his first day cover auctions and buy/bid sales featuring older and rarer material, special handstamps, slogans and the like. All lists are free on request (SAE appreciated) from: Steven Scott, 77 The Strand, London WC2R 0DE. Telephone 0171-836 2341 Fax 0171-240 5419.

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: July Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 23 August. You may submit as many entries as you like but each must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

- 1 Who opened the 1908 Olympic Games?
- 2 Dorothy Hodgkin was Chancellor of which University?
- 3 Who designed the Women of Achievement stamps?
- 4 Who is Secretary of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum?
- 5 What event is commemorated by a new aerogramme on 2 July 1996?

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

Postbag

Cinema Centenary About the excellent article 'A Celebration of British Cinema' (April *Bulletin*), I want to add two additional samples of Cinema links with British people.

One is Sir Ralph Vaughan Williams who appeared on a stamp in 1972. His music for the film *Scott of the Antarctic* (Charles Frend 1947) was transformed by the composer on his 7th Symphony *Antarctic* composed between 1949 and 1952 and then first performed under the direction of Sir John Barbiroli at Manchester on 14 January 1952. (*Sir John featured on a stamp in 1980* Ed)

The other is Sir Laurence Olivier, theatre and film actor, who was celebrated with one set from San Marino issued in May 1990. This set includes three scene moments from the films *Hamlet*, *Richard III* and *Marathon Man*. GERMAN DE TORO RODRIGUEZ, CORDOBA, SPAIN •

Philatelic society meetings In April you asked if any local philatelic societies met at the weekend. Leytonstone, Wanstead & District Philatelic Society (founded in 1936) has met regularly since then on the second Saturday afternoon and fourth Monday evening; we still do. Most active members attend both, but there are some who prefer not to come out in the evenings (especially in winter). O J SIMPSON, FRPSL, ILFORD •

Bulletin back issues offered Two readers have back issues for disposal.

J H Wilson, Cartref, Point Green, Devoran, Truro TR3 6NJ offers vols 11-14, 19-24 and 27-30 (contained in seven binders) as a gift, in return for the refund of postage.

J Baines of 'Twiga', 1C Chantry Close, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2SN wishes to sell at a reasonable price a complete run (minus six copies) from May 1968 to date in 15 binders •

The Editor is always pleased to receive contributions for 'Postbag', especially letters adding information to that already published, so benefiting fellow philatelists. All letters to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in 'Postbag'. The Editor regrets that he is unable to reply personally to letters.

Events

Until 31 December Robert Burns – Man of Letters exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30

6 July Weston-super-Mare Phil Soc Annual Exhibition & Stamp Fair at St Paul's Church Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare, 10.00-16.00. Dealers, refreshments, car parking. Enquiries: J Williams, 10 Brockley Crescent, Bleadon Hill, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 9LL

13 July Telford Phil Soc Stamp Fair at Civic offices, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Auction at 15.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, 01952-223926

13 July British Aerophilatelic Federation South Coast group meeting at Worthing. Enquiries: John Hammonds, 01403-265072

14 July British Aerophilatelic Federation North West group meeting. Enquiries: 01925-824240

19 July-3 August Olympihex '96–World Olympic & Sports Stamp Exhibition, Atlanta, USA. Enquiries: Organising Committee, Olympihex '96, PO Box 1996, Lexington GA 30648, USA, or UK Commissioner Mrs F Rapkin, Eaglewood, Sheethanger Lane, Felden, Hemel Hempstead HP3 0BG

27 July Plymouth Phil Soc Stamp Exhibition & Fair at Main Hall, Plymouth University, North Hill, 10.00-16.00. Dealers, young collector section. Enquiries: Muriel Griffiths, 17 Berry Park Road, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 9AG

12-18 August Hungaria 1100-Budapest '96 international stamp exhibition, organised by National Federation of Hungarian Philatelists (MABEOSZ) and Hungarian Post Ltd. Enquiries: MABEOSZ, H-1387 Budapest, Pf4, Hungary

28-31 August The Postcard Show '96 (BIPEX) at Royal Horticultural Hall, London SW1

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Also available: Football Legends stamps £1.80; presentation pack £2.15; stamp card set £1.25; prestige stamp book £6.48; Stamp Album with Royal Mail, Guernsey, Jersey & Gibraltar stamps £9.95.

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