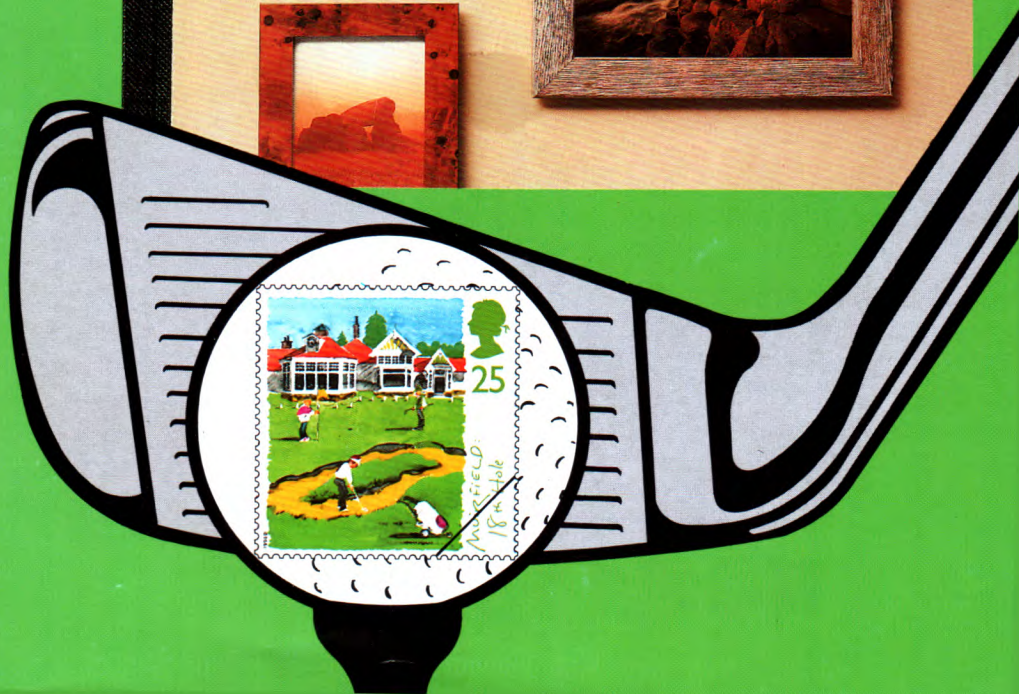


June 1994



British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 31. No: 10 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 75p



A new album you tailor yourself...

Royal Mail has relaunched its range of albums for collectors of stamps (singles and multiples), first day covers, presentation packs, postal stationery, postcards and stamp books.

A new "Universal" binder allows you to tailor make an album to suit your own needs, containing pages for single

stamps, blocks, covers, packs, even postal stationery. Details are given in "Royal Mail News" in this *Bulletin*. The "Universal" binder and slipcase costs £17.95.

Available from:
British Philatelic
Bureau,
FREEPOST,
EDINBURGH
EH3 0HN.



British Philatelic Bulletin

The British Philatelic Bulletin

is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL.
Editor: J R Holman

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Binders to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) and to callers only at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

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.

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Front Cover:

The Northern Ireland prestige book to be issued on the 26th July and one of the Golf stamps to be issued on the 5th July 1994.

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Main Feature

Addressing Postcodes – 289

Tony Gammons recalls early attempts at efficient addressing and sorting of mail. A new exhibition – “Addressing Postcodes” – is now on show at the National Postal Museum in London.



Correct Address: Stormont, BELFAST, BT4 3SY

(Always use the postcode, when applicable)

Correct Addressing Speeds Your Mail



Correct Addressing poster, 1967 (Stormont, Belfast)

Royal Mail News

Golf

Five stamps featuring Scottish golf courses go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters on 5 July 1994.

The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers promulgated golf's first set of rules, The Thirteen Articles, 250 years ago in 1744. Having moved from Leith Links to Musselburgh, they settled in 1891 at Muirfield in East Lothian where The Open Championship was first held there in 1892. It remains one of the world-famed Scottish links on the Open Championship rota. The Open has also been played at the Old Course, St Andrews, Carnoustie, Royal Troon, and the Ailsa, Turnberry, which is the venue for 1994.



The 19p stamp depicts the Old Course at St Andrews. The origins of golf over the Old Course are lost in the mists of antiquity. Archbishop John Hamilton in 1552 reserved for the townspeople the right to use the links for "golfe, futeball, shutting and all games". The course, which owes far more to nature than to man, is a narrow strip of classic links land shaped like a shepherd's crook. In 1764, the Royal and Ancient suggested that the first four holes, played both going out and coming home, be reduced to two holes. This cut a round at St Andrews from 22 holes to 18 which now constitutes a round of golf. Many of the features of the course, including the bunkers, have

acquired names of their own – "Hell", "Coffins" and "Grave".

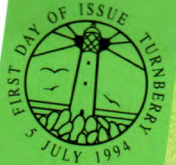
The 25p denomination shows the 18th Hole at Muirfield, described by Jack Nicklaus, as "probably the best hole on the best Open Championship course in Britain". In 1966, when Nicklaus won the Open he joined Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan and Gary Player as the only golfers to have captured all four of the modern majors. The billowing rough was so deep that



Doug Sanders, commented "Give me the lost ball and hay concession and you can keep the prize money! The winners of the Open at Muirfield have been:- 1892 Harold Hinton, 1896 Harry Vardon, 1901 and 1906 James Braid, 1912 Ted Ray, 1929 Walter Hagen, 1935 Alf Perry, 1948 Henry Cotton, 1959 Gary Player, 1966 Jack Nicklaus, 1972 Lee Trevino, 1980 Tom Watson, 1987 and 1992 Nick Faldo.

The Fifteenth at Carnoustie: is shown on the 30p value. This seemingly innocuous hole is where many have come to grief. Many a golfing missionary left the little grey town for the New World, including Stewart Maiden whose graceful Carnoustie swing was so faithfully





GOLF

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



The unique...
reserving for the town...
course, which owes far more to nature than the...
a shepherd's crook. In 1764, a suggestion from the Royal and Ancient...
played both going out and coming home, be reduced to two holes cut a round at St Andrew's...
holes to eighteen which is how eighteen holes came to constitute a round of golf. Many of the topographical features of the...
course, including the bunkers, have acquired names of their own. 'Hell', 'Coffins' and 'Grave' carry their own connotations...
while sundry blameless citizens, buried in the graveyard over which the eighteenth green was built, are doomed to lie for...
eternity beneath the 'Valley of Sin'.



The Eighteenth at Muirfield: Par Four 448 Yards. 'Probably', said Jack Nicklaus, 'the best hole on the best Open Championship course in Britain.' In 1966, when Jack Nicklaus won the Open to join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan and Gary Player as the only golfers to have captured all four of the modern majors, the billowing rough was so deep as to have induced from Doug Sanders, who was destined to finish joint second, one of the most memorable quips in all golf's storied lore: 'Give me the lost ball and lay concession and you can keep the prize money!' Nicklaus named a course after Muirfield: the 1959 Open champion, Gary Player, his home; and James Braid who, like Nick Faldo, won two of his Opens at the home of the Honourable Golfers, his son. No doubt in later life, the boy was suitably grateful that the Open that year had not been played at, say, Gog Magog.

Below right: Old and Young Tom Morris.
South Sea Times cartoon of the Open Championship.
Left: In the sand at St Andrews, 1972.

The Fifteenth at Carnoustie: Par Four 456 Yards. A seemingly innocuous hole where many have come to grief, often through dwelling on what has gone before or lies ahead. The famed finish, made by the serpent's coil of the Barry Burn, can prey on players' minds long before they get to it. It can, too, be difficult for golfers to put behind them what befell them at such great holes as the long sixth, where down the left is out of bounds and down the right are the stealthy reaches of Jock's Burn, or South America where the Barry Burn has to be carried with the shot to the green. South America, alas the tenth, was the destination of a son of Carnoustie who awoke on that hole after his farewell party and got no farther. But many a golfing missionary did leave the little grey town for the New World, including Stewary Maiden whose graceful Carnoustie swing was so faithfully assimilated by the Bobby Jones that even those who knew



The Eighth at Royal Troon: Par Three 126 Yards. Golf's philatelic nightmare, the Postage Stamp, is the shortest hole on the Open Championship rota. In the 1973 'Open, the septuagenarian Gene Sarazen, holed in one with a five-iron punched through the wind. He was to tell later of how, when the club head came into contact with the ball, he had, strangely, been unbothered by his four.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



assimilated by the immortal Bobby Jones that even those who knew them well could not tell which was which in the distance.

The **35p** stamp features The Eighth at Royal Troon. Known as the "Postage Stamp" this is the shortest hole on the Open Championship rota. Many golfers, as their tee shot slithered off the putting surface into sand have reflected that, when they laid the "Postage Stamp", they did not do so "gummy side up".

The spectacularly photogenic Ninth at Turnberry on Turnberry's Ailsa course features on the **41p** stamp. In the best traditions of seaside golf, the vagaries of the weather add to the challenge. With the sun dancing on the waves and spume, it can be a golfing heaven. On the other hand, the sea can be dark and foaming with the wind screaming across the great links.

The five stamps have been designed by Paul Hogarth, RDI, who designed the 1984 London Economic Summit stamp, the 1985 350 years of Royal Mail set and 1990 Europa/Glasgow City of Culture issue.

Technical details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 35 x 37 mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 14 x 14½

Phosphor: Phosphor Coated Paper

Paper: OBA free (OBA =
Optical Brightening Agent)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Presentation Pack: No. 249, price £1.85

Stamp Cards: Nos 163 a-e, price 25p each.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the

Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters around a week before 5 July, 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 Turnberry, price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 5 July.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Turnberry cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or



special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark".

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

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

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Golf stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of issue", sponsored and philatelic counter), in use on 5 July. The minimum 1st class rule is suspended on this day as the Golf set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 19p Golf stamp; covers bearing other than Golf stamps must bear at least 1st class postage.



Northern Ireland Prestige Stamp Book

The 1994 Prestige Stamp Book, to be issued on 26 July, is devoted to Northern Ireland, continuing the series which began with the "Scottish Connection" book in 1989, "London Life" in 1990, and the Welsh book in 1992.

All too often we only hear bad news about Northern Ireland but the Province has a wealth of beautiful scenery, interesting towns, cultural activities and friendly people. The prestige book highlights some of the best aspects of life in Northern Ireland. The book contains 12 pages of text and illustrations, four stamp panes and two postcards, one of which will be of particular interest to postal stationery collectors.

The text is arranged under five section headings covering history, the Ulster way of life, its industrious people, famous sons and daughters, and the capital city, Belfast.

About 7000 BC nomadic boatmen from Scotland first colonised the province; the Celts settled in the 17th century BC. In AD 432 Patrick returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary, he is now the patron saint of all Ireland. In the 6th century St Colomba sailed from Ulster to Iona from where he and his monks evangelised Scotland. The Normans settled along the eastern seaboard, building castles such as that at Carrickfergus – well-known to collectors of British stamps.

In the early 17th century the colonisation of Ulster by English and Scottish started, thus began the Protestant majority in the north east.

The native Irish supported the Catholic King James II in his attempt to recover his throne – an attempt defeated at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Great Britain and Ireland were united by an Act of 1800. In 1922 the island of Ireland was divided with separate parliaments established in Belfast for Northern Ireland and in Dublin for the Irish Free State (later Republic of Ireland). Since 1972 the government of Northern Ireland has been administered by a Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with offices in both Belfast and London.

Belfast is a busy city not unlike Glasgow, Liverpool or Dublin. Outside the capital most people live in small market towns. Northern Ireland is noted for its low traffic density making driving on its roads a pleasure. Away from Belfast traffic jams are almost unknown – any delays are most likely caused by farm vehicles!

Sport plays a major part in the life of many Northern Ireland people. Boxing is a popular sport and the Province has produced many notable champions. Gaelic football teams in the north are now recognised as a match for any team south of the border. The Province has many rivers and lakes so angling is, not surprisingly, a popular pursuit. Music and dance play a significant part in peoples' lives – a wide range of musical instruments can be heard in pubs and village halls throughout Northern Ireland. Ulster people enjoy their food – the prestige book gives details of some of the

culinary delights such as soda and treacle tarts, wheaten bread, sweet bannocks and barnbracks.

The Ulster economy is based on a hard-working population rather than rich natural resources. Linen-making, an old Irish craft, developed from the 17th century; two centuries later Belfast was nicknamed "Linenopolis" (Linen City). Shipbuilding and ropemaking were also important – by 1900 Belfast was the world's leading centre for ships and ropes. Today's economic activities include aerospace, chemicals and electronics as well as more bespoke industries such as pottery, crystal, and the oldest industry of all – whiskey distilling. In the village of Bushmills is to be found the world's oldest distillery, said to date from 1276.

Ulster folk have placed important roles on the world stage. Several US presidents came from Ulster stock, as did frontiersman Davy Crockett. John Ballance and William Massey respectively became Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Australia. Numerous Ulstermen and women are noted in the arts – Seamus Heaney, Sir John Lavery, Siobhán MacKenna, Kenneth Branagh, Liam Neeson and Heather Harper to name just a few. Northern Ireland sportsmen include George Best, Pat Jennings and Willie John McBride.

Nearly a third of Northern Ireland's people live in Belfast which was granted city status in 1888. In the 1920s 10 per cent of the city's population were engaged in ship building. Amongst the ships constructed there was the ill-fated *Titanic*. The prestige book, containing many illustrations of Ulster life, costs £6.04 – the value of the stamps and stamped postcard contained within.

Northern Ireland has its own Postal Board based in Belfast, under the chairmanship of Mr Danny Carty. Postal services come under the control of Mr John Mackay, General Manager for Scotland & Northern Ireland. A new Returned Letter Centre for the whole of the UK has recently been opened in Belfast. In Royal Mail's London offices the Director Consumer Services, Mr Kevin Doherty and the Senior Product Manager – Stamp Books, Jane Ormrod, are both from Northern Ireland.

Stamp Panes

The book contains four panes of stamps, as follows:

1. 4 x 30p Prince of Wales Investiture stamps (as issued 1 March 1994) showing Mourne

Mountains. Standard (non-elliptical) perforations.

2. Pane of six containing 1 x 6p, 1 x 19p, 4 x 25p national definitives. 6p and 25p with two phosphor bands, 19p band left.

3. N. Ireland 2 x 19p phosphor band left, 4 x 25p 2 bands, 1 x 30p 2 bands, 1 x 41p 2 bands, and pictorial label.

4. N. Ireland 1 x 19p phosphor band left, 1 x 25p, 1 x 30p and 1 x 41p all with two bands.

All national and N. Ireland stamps and the book itself have been printed by the House of Questa Ltd (litho), the pane of HRH Investiture stamps has been printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd (photogravure). The national/N. Ireland stamps all have elliptical perforations on the vertical sides.

Stamp Variations

The book will yield three new individual stamp variations:

19p olive green litho with phosphor band left

25p salmon pink litho with 2 bands, printed Questa

6p lime green litho with 2 bands

A 25p with 2 bands, printed in litho by Walsall, was issued in £1 stamp books in November 1993 and January 1994. Existing 6p stamps with 2 bands (from sheets) are printed in photogravure by Enschedé; the current 19p sheet and coil stamps have centre phosphor band and are photogravure-printed by Harrisons.

Postcards

The book contains two tear-out postcards, both show the Giant's Causeway – 40,000 symmetrical columns, mostly hexagonal, formed 55 million years ago from molten lava. The first of the two cards bears an imprinted stamp – as the 22p adhesive stamp issued in 1981 (SG1158) but uprated to 35p to cover the current airmail rate for overseas postcards. This card also carries an imprinted airmail label (etiquette) and the reference "Royal Mail Air Card No PHQ52d(94A)". The 52d number refers to the 1981 card reproducing the 22p stamp.

The second card is without the imprinted stamp and airmail label and has the reference "Royal Mail Card No PHQ52d(94B)". The stamped card will be of particular interest to postal stationery collectors.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes will be available from main post



offices, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters around a week before 26 July, price 25p each. The cover shows an illustration of the Giant's Causeway.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail First Day Cover bearing the mixed pane with pictorial label cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Belfast, price £2.88 (incl VAT) to UK addresses, £2.45 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for serviced covers must reach the Bureau by 26 July.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or

Belfast cancels to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau cancel) or Scotland/N. Ireland Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA (Belfast cancel). The outer envelope should be endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark".

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

London Chief Office Closure

The London Chief Post Office in King Edward Street closed its doors for the last time on 22 April. The office opened in 1910 and was well-known to philatelists and postal historians. For many years it was possible to buy new issues of stamps at midnight on the day of issue. Hours of opening had been restricted in recent years – the proud boast that the office was open 24 hours a day every day of the year had long gone.

Following the move of the Philatelic Bureau to Edinburgh in 1966, a philatelic counter was opened in the Chief Office; this has now moved to the post office at Lombard Street, London, EC3. General counter services are now provided at a new office in Wood Street, London, EC2. The post office at 33 Cannon Street, EC4 also closed on 22 April; this was noteworthy as one of the first offices to have a coil machine vending 3 x 4d stamps in 1967.



King Edward Building.

The King Edward Building is still home to the National Postal Museum and Royal Mail administrative staff. The future use of the Chief Office counter area has not yet been decided.

The following notes on the history of the building and its site might be of interest to some readers. King Edward Building (KEB) stands on the site of Christ's Hospital, the famous "Blue Coat School", now located at Horsham in Sussex. This orphanage was founded in 1553 by the boy King Edward VI on the site of the Grey Friars Monastery. Grey Friars churchyard, now partly covered by KEB yard, is the legendary burial place of three Queens: Margaret (wife of Edward I), Isabel (wife of Edward II) and the

Queen of Scots, wife of David Bruce. Grey Friars once housed the library founded in 1421 by Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London.

KEB's foundation stone was laid on 16 October 1905 by Edward VII. Beneath this was placed a bronze "domesday" box containing postal items of 1905 such as postage stamps, impressions of London date stamps and a copy of the *Post Office Guide*. Completed in 1910, after the death of King Edward, it opened for business on 7 November.

The building was designed by Sir Henry Tanner, principal architect of the Office of Works, in the English Renaissance style. It is faced with Portland stone, and was a pioneer of the then new building technique of thin-walled construction using reinforced concrete. The Chief Office itself was lined with green Irish marble for the dado and door architraves, with a lighter Italian marble elsewhere, and with fittings in bronze.

In 1927, with the opening of the Post Office Railway, KEB became a station on this private underground line for speeding mail to and from London's main railway termini. In 1966 it also became the home of the embryo National Postal Museum; HM The Queen visited in 1969 to open the enlarged Museum.

KEB was where the men of the Post Office Rifles spent their last night before embarking for France to play their historic part in the First World War. A statue nearby commemorates them. A special remembrance ceremony has been here every November in memory of the many men and women of the postal service who gave their lives in times of war.

300th Anniversary of Bank of England

To mark the Bank's tercentenary a special book containing four 1st class NVI stamps and a commemorative label showing Britannia will be issued on 27 July. This will cost £1 and will be available initially from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters. The book will be available at some post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier books are used up. The commemorative label and stamps together are the same size as a pane of 10 stamps. Some collectors will want to prepare first day covers bearing the entire pane. A special 300th Anniversary of the Bank of England handstamp will be used at the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA on 27 July. Collectors may submit covers to receive this handstamp up to 6 August.

Please state clearly that Bank of England special handstamp is required.

The Royal Mint issued a special £2 coin on 1 March to commemorate the Bank's tercentenary. Royal Mail and the Mint are producing a special Philatelic Numismatic Cover bearing the pane from the Bank of England book and including one of the £2 coins. The pane will be cancelled with the special handstamp mentioned above. The cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, price £12.95. The PNCs will be individually numbered and the edition limited to 30,000 copies. Early ordering is advised.

For the benefit of collectors who like unfolded panes, the Bank of England pane will be available unfolded from the British Philatelic

Bureau. The panes in the book will of course be folded, as the panes in the existing books of 10 stamps. Please note that the unfolded panes are available only from the Bureau.

New Aerogrammes

As announced last month a special aerogramme commemorating the 75th anniversary of Alcock and Brown's trans-Atlantic flight will be available at all post offices, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters from 14 June 1994, price 45p.

A special Weybridge cancellation will be available on 14 June and collectors can send aerogrammes or covers (bearing 1st class postage) for this postmark to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5TT. Covers may be submitted



In 1881 the 7th and 92nd Regiments merged to form the Gordon Highlanders. Each respectively bore the banners India and Egypt.

TO OPEN, SLIT HERE / GUS A FOGGLACH: GEARR AN SGO



By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme
Air postcard
Lettre-aérien



Great Britain Postage

SECOND FOLD HERE / SGO AN DARA FILLÈADH



Above: Battle banners where the Regiment's colours.
Left: In 1794 the 4th Duke of Gordon helped his husband raise the 92nd Regiment. He later received a shilling and it is said a kilt.
Right: Officer of the 92nd in uniform of the period circa 1794.

Sender's name and address / Ainm is seachais an sgrìobhteiche
(Please show postcode / Cìodaid ris a' ghàst)

Postcode / Cìodaid ris a' ghàst



In 1881 the 7th and 92nd Regiments merged to form the Gordon Highlanders. Each respectively bore the banners India and Egypt.



FIRST FOLD HERE / SGO AN CÀD FILLÈADH






anytime up to and including 14 June, the aerogramme should be submitted on the day of issue.

A 5d stamp was issued by the then GPO in April 1969 to mark the 50th anniversary of Alcock and Brown's flight. The *Daily Mail* offered an award of £10,000 for the first crossing of the Atlantic by air. The aeroplane, a Vickers Vimy powered by Rolls Royce engines was built at Weybridge, Surrey. Captain Sir John Alcock, KBE, DSC and Sir Arthur Whitten Brown, KBE completed their flight on 14-15 June 1919, flying over a distance of 1890 miles in 15 hours 57 minutes at an average speed of 118.5 mph. The crossing was made from St John's, Newfoundland to Clifden, Co Galway, Ireland.

The 40th Scottish aerogramme, marking the 200th anniversary of the Gordon Highlanders will be available at all post offices in Scotland, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters from 19 July, price 45p.

A special handstamp will be used at Aberdeen on 19 July – this can be applied to the aerogramme or any covers bearing at least 1st class postage. Items should be submitted not later than 19 July to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA, requesting "Gordon Highlanders handstamp."

Scottish aerogrammes were introduced in 1974 and over the years have featured Scottish history, personalities, culture and wildlife. Two are issued each year. Still available, until 21 June, is the second of the 1993 issues, commemorating the 900th anniversary of the death of St Margaret, Queen of Scotland. Price 45p, this can be ordered from the Bureau or obtained from a Collections, Post Shop Plus or Philatelic Counter.

Pictorial Postcards Stamps – Plates & Colours

The plate numbers and colours are as follows (all values): 1A (new blue) 1A (greenish yellow) 1A (magenta) 1A (black).

Royal Mail Albums

Royal Mail albums, tailor-made for First Day Covers, Presentation Packs and Postcards, have always been the ideal way to display and protect your collection.

Now, so that you can look after your albums just as easily, Royal Mail has introduced an attractive range of slipcases to cover and encase them.

We have also introduced a new "Universal

Binder". Thus if you collect more than one item, you can house everything (special formats included), in the same album. For this new binder the leaves come separately – you simply order those you need.

First Day Cover Albums.

Holds up to 70 covers. Extra leaves available.

Presentation Pack Album.

Holds up to 70 covers. Extra leaves available.

Postcard Albums.

Hold up to 130 Royal Mail Postcards. Extra leaves available.

Slipcases.

In the same colour and material as albums.

New Universal Binder.

Comes with its own slipcase. Leaves available for single stamps, stamp formats, FDCs, Postal Stationery, Postcards, Prestige and other Stamp Books.

All are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The prices and order codes are given below.

ITEM	COST	CODE
FDC Album Large	£16.50	PA001
Presentation Pack Album	£16.50	PA008
Postcard Album	£16.50	PA005
FDC Album Leaves Large	£4.99	PA002
Pres Pack Album Leaves	£4.99	PA009
Postcard Album Leaves	£4.99	PA006
FDC Album Leaves – small	£3.95	PA004
FDC slipcase	£8.50	PA161
Presentation Pack slipcase	£8.50	PA162
Postcard slipcase	£8.50	PA163
Stamp Book Leaves	£4.99	PA165
Stamp Stock Leaves (eight pages with 6 strips and two pages with 3 strips)	£4.99	PA166
Postal Stationery Leaves	£4.99	PA167
Universal Binder and slipcase	£17.95	PA160
FDC Album Large with slipcase	£24.50	PA168
Pres Pack Album with slipcase	£24.50	PA169
Postcard Album with slipcase	£24.50	PA170



New Definitive Stamp

A new 60p value, printed in slate blue, will be available in books of four, price £2.40, from 9 August. This denomination covers the cost of sending airmail letters at the second weight step. (The basic rate, up to 10 grammes, is 41p.) The stamp will have two phosphor bands and elliptical perforations on the vertical sides.

The book will be on trial sale for three months at selected outlets. Collectors will be able to buy the book from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service using the standard definitive first day cover. Pictorial First Day postmarks will be available for the Bureau and Windsor, price £1.12 to UK addresses (including VAT); 96p to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 9 August.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Windsor cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, SLOUGH SL1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue" postmark.

First Day posting Boxes will be provided at selected post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamp.

NPM Review of 1993

The National Postal Museum's *Review of 1993* is about to be published – the sixth in a now well-established series, edited by the Museum's Curator Philately Douglas N Muir. In his foreword, Post Office Chief Executive Mr Bill Cockburn, expresses the hope that "...through the Museum, we can explain not only the interesting stories of our past, but, of course, as much as possible of our activities today". In his introduction, Museum Manager Stan Goron writes of changes in the staff (increased in number), and of much-needed improvement in the working conditions. The refurbishment of the main gallery's pull-out frames was completed and a start made on remounting and reorganising the extensive Stamps of the World collection.

Under "Work in Progress" we read of the work of the research team at PO Archives – searching production files for information regarding the origins of each issue and the process by which the eventual designs were selected and produced. As a result some of the NPM material is being remounted, re-written and catalogued on computer. Registration sheets are being remounted – over 1250 have so far been dealt with. During the year 63 researchers used NPM material not on general view, about half examined the De La Rue records, now on microfilm. The record of "New Acquisitions" is impressive – ranging from artwork of new special issues to a 1935 postal van.

The Britannia Depicta display and other exhibitions are recorded, with many fine illustrations. Don Staddon reports on his work on researching Machins – this section alone will make any Machin collector drool! The Museum now has a full-time paper conservator, Krystyna Koscia who provides details of her new studio and work.

Alan Griffiths supplies interesting accounts of the 1965 Lister issue (with illustrations of unadopted designs), and of "Stamp Reform 1964-67" – the background to the "Gentleman Albums" of designs produced by David Gentleman for the Postmaster General, Tony Benn. Kevin Squelch and Ray Pottle provide concise reports of the activities of PO Archives and the Friends of the Museum.

28 pages, card covers, profusely illustrated. Included is an 8-page supplement, listing artwork and registration sheets, and a cumulative index to the six reports since 1988. Available from NPM shop, or British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. Price £5.

Decimal Stamp Books—15

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

Cover card change

Since last December, a new type of cover card has been gradually introduced for window books printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd. The former card was very glossy on the inside. This can best be seen by turning it so that the light from a window or a lamp is reflected in it. The new card has a matt inside. As is usual when a gradual change of this kind takes place, some issues appear with both kinds of card.

With this report is a table of new booklet plate numbers (from all printers) seen since the one published here in February. In it, the type of cover card used on the Walsall books is indicated. Not listed, because there have been no new plates used, are the 4 x 35p and 4 x 41p books but both exist with both types of cover card. The Walsall 10 x 2nd, listed in February, has not been reported with any other plate numbers and exists only with matt covers.

Issue dates and FDCs

The original purpose of first day covers (FDCs) was to establish the date when a stamp was first issued, in the absence of any official record. Today, most changes are announced well in advance and a considerable FDC industry exists to cater for collectors who do not have the means or the time to make their own. Some issues are released a few days prematurely but these are usually accidental. A few originate from stocks issued to dealers in advance of the official release date precisely in order to enable them to prepare their FDCs. Yet there are many other instances where an issue is either not announced at all or is released so far in advance of the official date that the latter is not relied upon. In these cases, FDCs bearing the earlier date are likely to be scarce and are much sought after by cover collectors. However, there is a danger here. Covers claiming to be "first day of issue" may subsequently be made obsolete by an earlier find which, if validated by a dated cover, make the former 'FDCs' obsolete.

Just such a fate seems to have overtaken some covers offered for sale bearing a pane of the current Walsall book of 10 x 2nd-class NVI stamps. These are dated 25 November, which is

the date I gave in my February column. No doubt these were prepared in good faith, but I have since been told by Pete Daniels, the well-known specialist Machin dealer, that he has seen a cover bearing this pane with plate numbers W1 W1 and dated 1 November.

It is worth repeating my warning given here in February, that the dates of issue I give are those when the books were first seen on sale as reported to me. As I said then: "since distribution to retailers is random, some may have been sold earlier". My copy has to be submitted to the Editor several weeks before publication date and sometimes new information comes to light in the interim.

Free postcards

The two window books containing stamps for overseas postcards and letters proved that it was perfectly feasible to include a separate pane of labels. Now the idea has been carried further in Walsall's latest version of their book of 10 x 1st-class NVIs. Underneath the pane of stamps is an 'interleaf' with a flash message offering the set of ten postcards featuring the characters on the stamps in the Greetings book issued 1 February. All you need are three empty covers from books of ten 1st-class stamps, one of which must be the Greetings book, plus one 1st-class stamp of any kind (25p, NVI, or Greetings). Interestingly, this interleaf is gummed on the back and the rules of the offer are printed over it. The offer ends on 30 June so you still have time to get your set.



Three colour plates are used for the stamps in these books and the standard layout of the numbers has them reading upwards with the first two opposite the bottom row of stamps and the third number opposite the top row. The first issues of the free postcards book contained panes printed by the same combination as one of the plain design books: W29 W17 W22. Reader



Alec Withell reports a spectacular miscut in which the W29 W17 pair is opposite the top row while there is no number opposite the bottom row at all. Presumably, the missing number is W22 and there must be a book somewhere with this opposite the bottom row. Intriguingly, there might also be a book with only one row of stamps and a row of blanks. Let me know if you find one!

Machine-vend books

The £1 book has been printed by Walsall since February 1993 but the April 1994 issue was printed by Harrisons. The cover design is the second in the Prime Ministers series, Lloyd George. The stamps in the former Walsall books were on OBA-free non-phosphorised paper (OFNP) with PVA gum and had two phosphor bars. Those in the new book are on OBA-free phosphorised paper (OFPP) with Dextrin gum which makes them the same as those in the other two machine books. The change means that the two £1 books are now printed by different printers, Walsall continuing to be responsible for the window book. The new pane was printed by cylinder B4 and the margin is imperforate.

A new cylinder, B5, has been used to print the panes in the 50p book issued in April.

Cylinder/plate update

There is no letup in the growing number of lithographic plate numbers appearing in window books. Indeed, as mentioned above, some appear with two different covers. Here is a list of the additional numbers issued since the February table was compiled. Remember, the dates quoted are the earliest known to me at the time of writing.

In the tables, the numbers of the plates used to print the phosphor are separated from those used to print the colour by a solidus. Thus, Q6 Q6/Q1 means that two plates numbered Q6 printed the colour ink while Q1 printed the phosphor ink. The rates notices on the inside covers of window books either refer to the validity of NVIs to European countries (EC rates) or mention only their validity on mail within the UK (UK rates). Where Walsall books exist with both glossy and matt covers only the earliest seen is dated. There are no cylinder numbers in the books of 20 self-adhesive stamps.

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1 – Machine-vend books

Value & content	Printer	Cover design	Numbers	Date	Notes
50p (2 x 25p)	Harrison	Postal History No. 4; To Pay markings	B1	1.11.93	
		Coaching Inn Signs No. 1; Swan with two necks	B1	25.1.94	1
		Coaching Inn Signs No. 2; Bull and Mouth	B5	26.4.94	1
£1 (4 x 25p 2B)	Walsall	Educational Institutions No. 4; Edinburgh	W1 W1	1.11.93	2
			W2 W2	25.11.93	
			W2 W3	21.12.93	
		Prime Ministers No. 1; Asquith	W2 W2	25.1.94	
			W2 W3	25.1.94	
			W3 W4	4.3.94	
£1 (4 x 25p)	Harrison	Prime Ministers No. 2; Lloyd George	B4	26.4.94	3
£2 (8 x 25p)	Harrison	Postal Vehicles No. 1; Motorised Cycle Carrier	B3	1.11.93	
		Postal Vehicles No. 2; Motor Mail Van	B3	26.4.94	

1 It is possible that both numbers appear in each of these two editions

2 lithographic printing; the stamps have two phosphor bars

3 photogravure printing; the stamps are on phosphorised paper

2 – Window books

Printer	Content	Barcode	EC rates notice		UK rates notice		Notes
			Numbers	Date	Numbers	Date	
Harrison	4 x 2nd CB	100272	—	—	B6 / B95	14.3.94	
Questa	10 x 2nd CB	100265	—	—	Q6 Q6 / Q1	30.12.93	
					Q7 Q7 / Q1	13.1.94	
					Q8 Q8 / Q1	21.2.94	1
					Q10 Q10 / Q1	9.4.94	
Walsall	10 x 1st (Rupert design)	100197	W28 W16 W21	5. 1. 94	—	—	2, 3
			W28 W16 W22	27. 1. 94			
			W29 W17 W22	5. 2. 94			3
			W30 W18 W23	15. 3. 94			
	10 x 1st (Free postcards)		—	—	W29 W17 W22	22.2.94	3
					W30 W18 W23	31.3.94	
					W30 W19 W23	2.4.94	
					W31 W19 W23	2.4.94	
	4 x 1st 2B	100180	—	—	W13 W23 W19	22.12.93	2, 3
					W13 W23 W20	30.1.94	
					W14 W24 W21	26.3.94	3

1 combination Q9 Q9 / Q1 also exists but appears to be a re-issue of the book first seen 3.11.93; see the table published in February

2 glossy inside covers

3 matt inside covers

Walsall 10 x 1st books, plates W29 W17 W22 – first recorded 5 February 1994 (Rupert design on back cover) and 22 February 1994 (Free Postcards).

April 1994 5p, £1 and £2 books – cylinders B5, B4, B3, respectively.

Addressing Postcodes: NPM Exhibition

TONY GAMMONS

Exhibitions Officer, National Postal Museum

1994 sees the 20th anniversary of the completion of the allocation of postcodes in the UK. To celebrate the event the National Postal Museum's major exhibition for 1994/5 looks at the addressing, mechanical sorting and "coding" of mail. Much of the material featured in this exhibition (including three dimensional pieces) has never before been on public display.

The ground floor gallery will show early methods of addressing, and the Post Office's later attempts to persuade the public to address letters "correctly". Today we take for granted that our home has a unique address but this was not always the case, for example accurate numbering of houses did not universally come into effect until the latter part of the 1880s. Early letters could be addressed as vaguely as "Mr Jones, Bedford" or Mr Smith at the end of Cheapside, in the shadow of St Pauls, London". A trade card of c.1750 in the Guildhall Library has the following splendid address, "Ann Coleman, Linen Draper at the sign of the Porter and Dwarf, Hand and Shears and Queens Head upon the common shore in Houndsditch". Pity the London sorter in the early 1850s who was faced with the task of deciding which of the 62 "George" streets Mr Smith lived in! In fact 571 streets in London were designated by only 17 names.

Irrational numbering of houses also caused problems, the PO found that in Oxford Street (London) the house which should have been number 245 was 253 and 249 was next to 257. Many people took "their" number with them when they moved so a street could have, for example, more than one number "6". In the early 1850s the "Committee of the Board of Works on Street Nomenclature" was set up to look into the problem. The Committee's Secretary, Thomas D'Iffanger, worked in close conjunction with Rowland Hill and many parts of the final report bear the mark of Hill's fertile mind. The scale of the Committee's problem can be seen by reading the letter from a Mr Robotham of 29 Cavendish Street in which he gives details of a location known as "Shepherds" or "Shepherds Walk" which ran from the City

Road to the Britannia Bridge over Regents Canal. In this one stretch of road, only 400 yards long, the "name" changed eleven times! In fact the only building whose address could officially be linked to "Shepherds Walk" was the Eagle Tavern on the corner of City Road.

Many roads consisted of "Terraces, Places and Walks" and many of these disappeared during the reorganisation. For example Clarence Terrace, Thurlow Place, Shroton Place, Chertsey Place East and Surrey Place became the West side of Manor Street, Clapham. The PO suggested that when renumbering a street the lowest numbers should be nearest St Pauls with the odd numbers on the right and evens to the left. Another proposal was that the names of streets running east-west should be painted in black on white ground while those running north-south should be white on black.

The idea of renaming streets did not meet with universal approval. Many of the wealthier families lived in streets named after their ancestors and the idea that the family connection would disappear caused considerable anger. However not everyone was against the change in November 1856 Mr William Henry Hewitt was pressing for "the Board to exercise its powers for remedying the duplicate and irregular numbering of houses in Bloomsbury Square". In the end the Committee decided that while a certain amount of renaming could be achieved the situation, unsatisfactory though it was, would in the main have to be accepted. By the end of 1871 some 100,000 houses had been renumbered and 4800 "areas" renamed.

Postal Districts

The exhibition continues with the splitting of London, and other towns, into "Postal Districts". Rowland Hill had suggested dividing London into sorting districts in his evidence to the PO Commissioners in 1837 but it was not until he was made Secretary to the PO in 1864 that he was able to set up a committee to devise an acceptable scheme. The result of the Committee's deliberations was that in 1857/58 London was divided into 10 parts, two inner and eight outer. The central districts were the Eastern Central and Western Central with the outer ring of Northern, North Eastern, Eastern, South Eastern, Southern, South Western, Western and North Western. The outer limit was a 12 mile radius circle measured from central London.

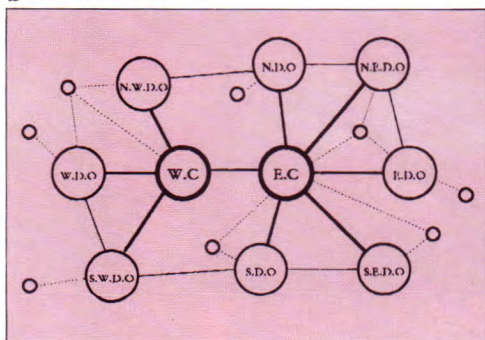
The area which benefited most from the

changes was the outer "suburban ring". Local letters which previously had to be taken up to the Chief Office in the centre of London for sorting could now be dealt with in local offices so speeding the delivery. The reform came not a moment too soon. London was growing at an alarming rate, between 1854 and 1863 the number of occupied houses increased by 16%. In the year 1863/64 the number of houses increased by some 10,000, almost half the national growth. Offices out in the country were now required to sort letters to the individual districts instead of just to "London". The Western Surveyor, Creswell, estimated the cost of this extra work in his area to be £5 per year, per office.

In March 1857 the enterprising owner of the Norbiton Pottery, Benjamin Looker jnr., sent the Postmaster General examples of earthenware tiles bearing the new District initials which he suggested should be placed under the names of the streets throughout London. Rowland Hill and the PMG enthusiastically supported the idea and passed the material on to the Board of Metropolitan Works. The Clerk of the Board, while realising the benefit of the idea, felt that he did not have the powers under the new Metropolis Local Management Act to carry out the scheme. Hill decided to let the matter rest for a while but was determined to raise the matter again.

In May 1866 Anthony Trollope submitted a report to the Secretary of the Post Office, John Tilley, (Hill had retired in 1864) showing that the North Eastern district was not viable and despite considerable opposition from residents it was assimilated into the Eastern district. Two years later the Southern district was abolished and divided between the South Western and South Eastern districts.

Simple map showing links between the various district offices and stations, 1857.

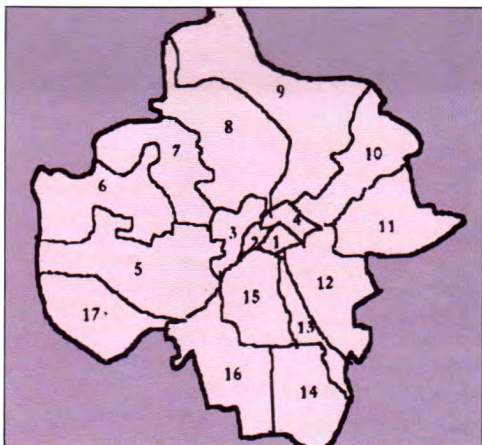


The next major change came during the First World War. In June 1916 Percy Holland of 57 Cadogan Gardens, London SW wrote to his MP suggesting that each sub district should be allocated a number. It was the right idea for the time, with so many experienced sorters in uniform the PO was receiving complaints of late delivery due to missorting by inexperienced staff. The numbers formed a suffix to the District's initial and were allocated on an alphabetical sequence, e.g. under the EDO (E1) Bethnal Green became E2 and Bow E3. This system later formed the basis for the London postcodes, for example the Museum's address would have had E.C.1 as its "code", now, it bears the postcode EC1A 1LP.

The first provincial town to be divided into districts was Liverpool. Four districts were created, Western, Eastern, Northern and Southern, with new offices being built in 1864/65. Manchester followed in 1867/68 (eight districts) and by the early 1930s Dublin, Sheffield, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds and Sheffield had also been divided. In 1932 Glasgow became the first city to follow London's example and adopt district numbering. The PO put a considerable amount of effort into publicising the new districts for example in 1932/33 Bristol tried stencilling the district numbers on pillar boxes but the roughness of the casting meant that results were poor and transfers were used instead. Small adhesive advertising labels, to be attached to correspondence, were tried out in Manchester and leaflets were delivered to all households affected by the change advising them of their "new" address.

Mail Mechanisation

The display in the Museum's mezzanine gallery deals with the mechanical handling, sorting and coding of mail. The section begins with the trials of a mechanical "mail conveyor" at Liverpool in 1913/14 and continues with the Dutch "Transorma" sorting machine at Brighton in the mid-1930s. This huge machine took some five months to build and could accommodate 10 sorters. As each man could process at least 40 letters per minute the machine had a total output of 24,000 letters an hour. A major benefit of the machine was that with manual sorting the sorting frame only consisted of 48 "boxes" which meant that letters often had to be sorted more than once to achieve the desired breakdown. As each Transorma, (there were two



Map of Manchester & Salford Postal District with numbers, 1930s.

at Brighton), had 325 "boxes" a full breakdown could be achieved in a single operation.

On Monday 7 October 1935 the Mayors of Brighton and Hove attended the inauguration of the "Robot Sorting Machine" at the North Road sorting office. Each town or area of importance had its own "code", for example Eastbourne could be 23, Liverpool 260 or Norfolk 333. The operator dropped the envelope through an aperture with his right hand while tapping the code number on the keyboard with his left. The letter fell into a moving box-shaped metal carrier which carried it to the sorting box corresponding to the particular code.

After the Second World War the PO looked into the possibility of producing a machine where an operator would apply code marks to letters and then the machine would use these marks to automatically sort the mail. As an interim measure an experimental, six position manually operated, sorting machine was developed. This was along the lines of the Transorma but incorporated a number of new features. Trials began at Mount Pleasant on 8 November 1948. The codes for this machine were based on the letter circulation system in use at the Inland Section. This enabled existing knowledge to be used by the operators. The development was the Single Position Letter Sorting Machine (SPLSM) popularly known as "Elsie" (Electronic Letter Sorting Indicating Equipment). In effect this was one sixth of the earlier machine. After sorting trials at Mount Pleasant "Elsie" was transferred to Bath Sorting Office and began field trials in October 1955.

There were 144 possible code combinations which, as before, had to be memorised by the operator. The first system not to rely on the operator's memory was tested at Luton in 1959/60. At the same time coding by means of phosphor dots was introduced. For the outward sorting the code consisted of the first two and last two letters of the Post Town, e.g. Birmingham's code would be BIRAM. For inward (town) sorting the first two and last two letters of the name of the street were used together with the first letter of the "street type" i.e. Parsonage Lane = PAGEL, Rowsham Court = ROAMC. After an appearance at the Radio Show at Earls Court in 1956 "Elsie" was moved to Southampton. This experimental machine was withdrawn in July 1959 and was replaced by a production model manufactured by Thrissell Engineering Co. Ltd of Bristol.

The exhibition continues with the introduction of postcodes as we know them today. The development of the "First Generation" and later "Easy View" coding desks will also be shown. An Ultra-Violet light box that will enable the visitor to see different phosphors used to code mail.

The first bank in the Main Gallery will bring the story up to date with OCR (Optical Character Reader) trials and the use of ink-jet printing in today's machines. The rest of the display in the Main Gallery will be presented by our colleagues at the National Postcode Centre at Portsmouth and will deal not only with the importance of postcodes to modern mail handling but also other uses to which Postcodes can be put. The exhibition ends with a look into the future with the use of "4 state bar codes" that will, eventually, enable mail to be sorted down to an individual address.

Two sets of postcards will be associated with the exhibition. The subject of the set first, issued on 6 May 1994, will be the Post Office's "Correct Addressing" publicity posters of the 1960s. The areas featured will be - Stanton in Worcestershire, Bassenthwaite in Cumberland, Tye Green in Essex, Capel Curig in Caernarvonshire and Stormont, Belfast. The second set, to be issued in January 1995, will feature the journey of a letter from posting to delivery, passing through Royal Mail's latest mail handling equipment. Both sets will be of five cards. A pictorial one-day handstamp will be available on the respective issue dates for both sets.

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Out of the Arc ...

Curiosities from the Post Office Archives

2. The Eisenhower Letter

As with most aspects of British life, The Post Office played a part in the allied invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944.

As the 50th anniversary of "Operation Overlord" is celebrated this year, readers may be interested to learn of the existence of a letter of thanks sent to the Postmaster General by General Eisenhower.

The Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force wrote on 22 June 1944, in recognition of the contribution made by the "Engineers and staff of the General Post Office" towards the success of the invasion.

Simon Bates, Information Manager

Post Office Archives, open to the public Monday-Friday, is located at Freeling House, Mount Pleasant Complex, Phoenix Place Entrance, LONDON EC1A 1BB, Tél. 071-239 2570.



Post Office Home Guard units "in action".



Supreme Headquarters
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Office of the Supreme Commander

22 June, 1944

Dear Captain Crookshank.

The build up of the necessary forces for the current operations has involved the construction of a vast network of communications radiating from key centers of vital importance in the United Kingdom. The greater part of this work has been undertaken by the Engineers and Staff of the General Post Office.

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Allied Expeditionary Force, to ask you to pass on to them my sincere appreciation for their contribution and for the long hours they have worked and for the excellent cooperation they have given toward our success.

Sincerely
Dwight D. Eisenhower

Captain Rt. Hon. H.F.C. Crookshank, P.C., M.P.,
The Postmaster General,
House of Commons,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

The letter from General Eisenhower to the PMG.

Stamp Scene

Philatelic Congress

The 76th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at Writtle College near Chelmsford from 9-11 September 1994. Additional accommodation has been arranged at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. The prospectus and application form will shortly be sent out to all who have attended Congress in recent years, to subscribers to *Stamp Lover* (journal of the National Philatelic Society) and to societies affiliated to the new Association of British Philatelic Societies. Anyone else wishing to be included on the mailing list should write to: Allan Boyce, 22 Longfield Road, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD CM2 8DD.

New RDPs

The Board of Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists has invited three philatelists to sign the Roll at the 1994 Philatelic Congress to be held at Chelmsford in September. The three are Dr Wolfgang C Hellrigl (Italy), Señor Juan Santa Maria (Colombia), and Brigadier Börje C-G Wallberg (Sweden).

The Board of Election comprised A Ronald Butler (Chairman), Dr Enzo Diena (Italy), Bernard Hennig (USA), Chuan Koh (Singapore), John Marriott, CVO, Patrick Pearson, and Gary Ryan, with Professor John West, CBE as Honorary Secretary.

Wolfgang Hellrigl is acknowledged as an authority and expert on all aspects of the Post in Nepal. His fine collections have been awarded International Large Gold Medals and the Tilleard Medal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. He has made many contributions to the philatelic literature of Nepal and Tibet. His book *Nepal Postal History – The British-Indian Post Office*, published in 1991, has received International Gold Medals. Dr Hellrigl is a member of the FIP Commission for Literature and serves as a judge for literature.

Juan Santa Maria was for many years President of the Philatelic Club of Medellin and organised the Columbian National Exhibitions of 1972 and 1978. He is now Vice-President of the Columbian Philatelic Federation. Señor Santa Maria has studied all aspects of the stamps of his own country. His separate collections of classic stamps, postal history, airmails and of the Antioquia State of Columbia have between them been awarded some 20 Large Gold Medals

at International Exhibitions. He has published many articles concerning the postal history of Columbia and Antioquia. He is a member of the FIP Commission for Postal History and an accredited judge in this discipline.

Brigadier Wallberg has formed collections of Mongolia, classic Korea and North Korea, Cambodia and Laos to International Gold Medal standard. Over the last 25 years he has written many studies on these countries; these have been reproduced in Swedish, German and Japanese. He is a long serving officer of the Swedish Philatelic Federation and, since 1987, been Advisor Consultant to the Swedish Post Office. For promoting philately he has been awarded the Strandell Medal of the Philatelic Society of Sweden and the Personal Medal of King Carl-XVI-Gustaf. He is a Board Member of the FIP Commission for Traditional Philately.

Our congratulations to all three on this recognition of their services to philately.

Prince of Wales Water Colours Exhibition

An exhibition of 50 of his water colour paintings was opened by HRH The Prince of Wales at the Cardiff Arena on St David's Day, 1 March. The exhibition subsequently moved on to Belfast and Chester and is on show at the York Minister Visitor Centre, St William's College York until 8 June. It will then go on to Sotheby's in London (24 June-24 July) and finish the tour at the Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvin Grove, Glasgow (5 August-4 September). The exhibition has been sponsored by Royal Mail.

The exhibition is in three parts – the Royal paintings, display panels relating to the stamp issue, and panels explaining the work of the Prince's Trusts. The 50 paintings on show include the five reproduced on the 25th Anniversary of the Investiture stamps (1 March) as well as others showing views in the UK, France, Italy and further afield. A useful catalogue has been produced giving details of the paintings; this is on sale at the exhibition, price £2.50.

The Stamp Issue display includes panels on Stamp Design and Collecting and shows stamps relating to Wales from the 8d value in the 1964 Geographical Congress set to the 1992 Christmas issue. Royal issues from the 1935 George V Silver Jubilee set to the 1992 Happy and Glorious issue are displayed. There is an interesting display relating to stamp printing which includes seven "progressive sheets", one in each colour, showing how the 25p value was

built up. A printing cylinder of this stamp is on show. The final artwork of the Investiture stamps, together with essays will be of interest to specialist collectors. Sheets of the final stamps are displayed, also the presentation pack, stamp cards, first day covers and "First Day of Issue" postmarks. A video of the Prince at work on his paintings is shown as part of the exhibition.

Since the 1970s the Prince has created a network of charitable Trusts which help over 10,000 young people each year, often assisting youngsters who might otherwise turn to crime, homelessness, drugs and despair.

Various souvenirs are on sale at the exhibition (stock permitting):

Sweat Shirt	£15
T-Shirt	£10
Souvenir Cover (with cachet)	£4
Exhibition Catalogue	£2.50
Key Ring (with stamps)	£1.50
Stamp Cards (each)	25p
Philatelic Medal Cover	£20
Watercolours book	£25
Stamp Pyramids (each)	£35

The Watercolours book was reviewed here in March (page 188).

Limited edition lithographs of four of the Prince's paintings showing Windsor Castle, Wensleydale, Balmoral and Wensleydale from Moorcock have been produced. Details are available from Anna Hunter, Stonecroft House, Barnet Lane, ELSTREE, Herts, WD6 3RQ, Tel: 081-953 1307.

New Association of British Philatelic Societies

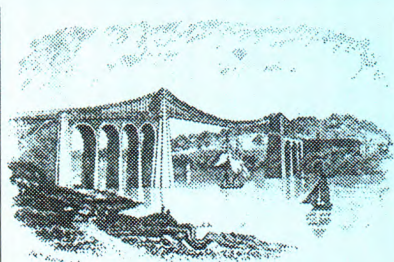
Following the collapse of the British Philatelic Federation at the end of 1992 a lot of soul searching went into the formation of a new organisation to co-ordinate philatelic activity in the UK and to represent British organised philately internationally. A new body – the Association of British Philatelic Societies – came into being on 1 January 1994. The first meeting of the Committee of the ABPS was held at the Midland Federation Spring Convention at Sutton Coldfield on 7 May. Chairman of the new Association is Michael Elliot, Secretary John Hammonds and Treasurer Michael J Elliot.

Peter Chantry is Editor of the Association's journal *ABPS News* the latest issue of which was published in March. This contains news of progress within the new Association and short biographies of members of the ABPS Executive Committee, one of whom, Frank Jones provides

ABPS NEWS



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES



MENAI BRIDGE

In this issue:

PROGRESS

OBJECTIVES –
WHITHER THE
ABPS?



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an interesting article on the Tay Bridge Disaster of 1879 and the rescue of mail from the ill-fated train. There are numerous reports of the activities of philatelic federations and societies. Primarily the membership of the new ABPS will be the local and specialist societies of the UK, of which there are over 500. Individuals can become "Friends" and "Patrons" of the Association for minimum contributions of £15 or £50 respectively. Details from the Hon Treasurer: M J Elliot, 15 Darian Way, Keymer, HASSECKS, W Sussex, BN6 8BH. Other enquiries about ABPS should be addressed to the Hon Secretary: John Hammonds, 31 Wheatsheaf Close, HORSHAM, W Sussex, RH12 5TH.

New Lundy Locals

To commemorate the 750th anniversary of the island's Marisco Castle a new set of Lundy local stamps ("local carriage labels") was issued on 17 May 1994. The Castle, constructed in local granite, commands a fine view of the east coast of Lundy and the Bristol Channel. The new stamps show: 24p Marisco Castle from the front; 30p the Castle from Castle Hill; 45p engraving of the Castle from Boswell's *The Antiquities of England and Wales* (1785); and 72p engraving from Grose's *Antiquities* (1775). The stamp values cover the cost of sending 2nd and

1st class letters from Lundy, also overseas postcard and letter rates. British postage is included in these amounts, i.e. 19p 2nd class plus 5p Lundy rate = 24p.

The stamps have been designed by Lars Liwendahl and printed in sheets of 20 by the House of Questa Ltd. Mint or cancelled-to-order (CTO) sets are available at £1.71, first day covers at £2.20. A selection pack of Lundy stamps (from 1970s) is available at £2.75. Postage 80p UK, £1 EC, £1.25 non-EC Europe, £1.75 rest of world. Orders/enquiries: Wendy Puddy, Lundy, via BIDEFORD, Devon EX39 2LY. Lundy local stamps have been issued since 1929 to cover the cost of sending letters from the island to the mainland. There is no British post office on Lundy.

Errare est humanum

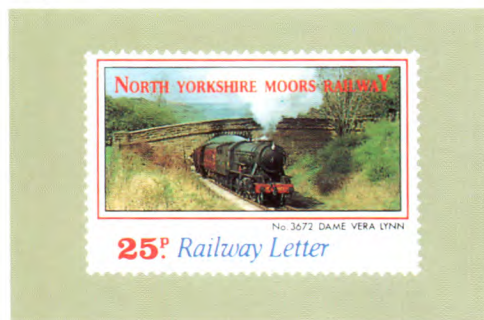
We wish to correct an error in the text of James Mackay's article on "Stamps of the Four Kings" in the March *Bulletin* (page 191). It was in October 1950 *not* October 1940 that an attempt was made to resume the Universal Postal Union colour scheme when the 4d stamp was issued in blue.

The illustration, captioned "Paler colours, 1941" at the top of page 191 shows a 2d stamp in brown. This was not issued until 1951, the 2d paler colour stamp of 1941 was pale orange. The caption to the illustration at the bottom of the page is also misleading. The 4d stamp was issued in 1950, the other five values in 1951. We are

pleased to set the record straight and apologise for any confusion caused.

Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here is the new North Yorkshire Moors Railway letter stamp, issued 6 June. It features locomotive "Dame Vera Lynn". Details of this stamp, and other NYMR issues, were given in the *Bulletins* of April (page 235) and May (p. 267).



PO Picture Postcard

The North of Ireland Philatelic Society has produced its ninth postcard, reproducing an old photograph of Randalstown Post Office, circa 1905. The photograph shows the staff – nine men, two boys and one woman standing outside the office. The card is available, price 20p unused, 45p used with first day postmark, from: Norman Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, BELFAST BT5 7BZ. Please add 30p for post and packing.



Competition



Win £100 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £100 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: June Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL to arrive by 29 July.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £100 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Summertime stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the September *Bulletin*.

1. Who won the Open golf championship at Muirfield in 1896?
2. Who wrote to the Postmaster General on 22 June 1944?
3. Where will the Philatelic Congress of GB be held in September?
4. In what year did the London-Paris airmail service start?
5. What do the initials ABPS stand for?

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

The winners of the March competition were: S Heath, London (1st prize); J Potter, Lancs; J King, Surrey; G Cloutman, London; Mrs J Plane, Canada; N Collins, Sussex; Q Jiging, Singapore; H Drew, Sussex; P Cook, Berks; R Gibson, Sussex; and N Leigh, Cheshire (2nd prizes); and J Harvey, Derby; Miss M McIlwraith, Scotland; and E Sawyer, Wilts (3rd prizes).

The answers were: 1. 1875; 2. T Humphrey Paget; 3. Freddie Mercury; 4. John Paston; 5. Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Posting Boxes

148. British Box in Portugal

Featured this month are two boxes, one a standard British type, photographed recently in Lisbon, Portugal by Mr Stan Goron, Manager of the National Postal Museum, London. Stan reminds readers that the Museum has large collections of real and miniature ("toy") letter boxes. Some of the most interesting real boxes can be seen in the main hall of King Edward Building; a selection of the miniature boxes can be seen in the Museum's main gallery. The Museum in King Edward Building, King Edward Street, London EC1, is open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm. Admission is free. The Museum is just a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station.



J Ben Arie of Jerusalem writes to inform us that there is an old British telephone booth in the Postal Museum in Haifa and that "many old British boxes are still in use all over Israel. Even the new ones are painted red."

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

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

Book

Reviews

To coincide with the Channel Tunnel stamps, Royal Mail and the French Post Office, *La Poste*, published a souvenir book **The Channel Conquest – La Conquête De La Manche**. Written by Mike Barden, this gives a fascinating and well-illustrated account of the history of Channel crossings. The destinies of Britain and France have been intertwined since William of Normandy crossed the Channel in 1066. Amongst the many fine illustrations is a reproduction of a section of the Bayeux Tapestry and of Henry VIII's warships leaving Dover in 1520 taking the King of England to meet the King of France, Francis I, at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, near Calais.

Cross-channel traffic has increased markedly since the early 19th century. A regular steam packet service was inaugurated by the British Post Office in the 1820s. The coming of the railways increased the traffic between the channel ports and across the Channel. A car-ferry service from Dover was introduced in 1929 and cross-channel hovercraft services in 1968.

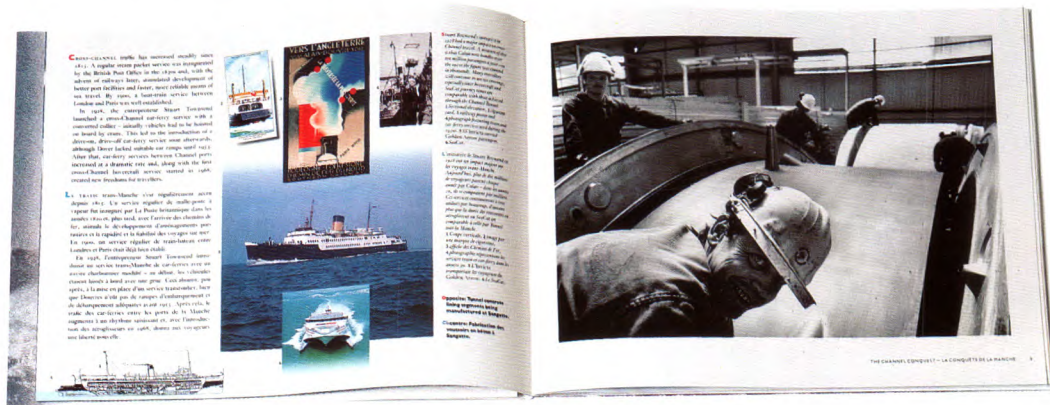
Flights across the Channel began with Jean-Pierre Blanchard and John Jeffries who crossed in a balloon in 1785. Their cargo included letters addressed to VIPs such as Louis XVI and Benjamin Franklin. A century after Blanchard's death in 1809, Louis Blériot made the first crossing by plane – he landed near Dover Castle

37 minutes after taking off from Les Baraques near Calais.

The first man to swim the Channel is normally recorded as Captain Matthew Webb in 1875, although a young soldier captured after the Battle of Waterloo may actually have been the first-escaping from a British prison hulk off Dover.

Perhaps the most bizarre crossing of the Channel was by a group of students in a four-poster bed in 1966. Mail has crossed the Channel since Medieval times. A regular packet boat route was opened between Dover and Calais in 1635, and a London-Paris airmail service started in 1919.

The French engineer Nicolas Desmarests submitted the idea of a channel tunnel to the Academy of Amiens in 1751 – the idea being to improve trade links between France and Britain. Albert Mathieu proposed a tunnel conveying horse-drawn vehicles in 1802, Mr Barden records the details of these early proposals before telling the story of the pioneer tunnelling by the English Channel Tunnel Company in the 1870s. The project was halted in 1883. Further schemes were drawn up in the 1960s and 1970s but it was not until 1981 that a firm agreement was made and another five years elapsed before the Eurotunnel Group's scheme received the go-ahead. Construction of the tunnel began in 1987 and the historic "breakthrough" by British and French teams of engineers took place in 1990. This book contains numerous photos of construction work on the tunnel, including several of the monster tunnel boring machines, and one of the British tunnelling crew celebrating the breakthrough of one of the rail



tunnels. Although we talk of "the Tunnel", it actually comprises two rail tunnels and a central service tunnel.

The British and French Channel Tunnel stamps are included in a carrier in the inside back cover of the book. At £9.95 it makes an excellent souvenir of this major engineering undertaking. The book is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters and from the post shops at the Folkestone, Ashford (Kent), Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 and King's Cross, London NW1 post offices.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London and British Philatelic Trust have recently published **Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks** by Derek Worboys. In March 1993 Mr Worboys became aware of an appalling "treasure trove" of over 460 devices used to fake postmarks on Empire stamps. To prevent these falling into the wrong hands, Mr Worboys purchased these devices and has now presented them, for safe-keeping, to the Royal Philatelic Society. In the mid-1930s a "Madame Joseph", probably a *nom-de-plume*, produced in Paris counterfeit postmarking devices for a shady London stamp dealer, Gordon Rhodes, who used the implements to "improve" heavily mounted and no-gum stamps, mainly of the British Empire, by making them "fine used". It was said at the time that one could take him a heavily - mounted or unused stamp and return later to collect a superb used copy! If a collector asked for a scarce fine used stamp, he would say "Call back tomorrow, I will have one by then". Cancellers were produced for certain countries for the 1935 Silver Jubilee and (to a lesser extent), the 1937 Coronation issues. The forged cancels are illustrated alphabetically by country from Aden to Zanzibar with reference to the nature of the device - wood, rubber, copper, etc. Various cork cancels and surcharges and overprints are also shown.

This book should be acquired by anyone interested in forgeries, used examples of stamps from British Commonwealth territories, or who wishes to safeguard themselves in the course of buying such items. 128 pages, hardback. Available from: Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, LONDON WIN 1PE or British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT. Price £25 postpaid UK.

In the February *Bulletin* (page 153) we mentioned a new book **The Real Picture**

giving the history of the Post Office Film Unit over the past 60 years. This attractive, limited edition, book written by Forsyth Hardy, includes many "stills" from memorable PO films. The Film Unit developed within the PO's Public Relations Dept which was set up by the Postmaster General Sir Kingsley Wood in the 1930s. Public relations was then a new concept for a government department and The Post Office was making a pioneering departure. He recruited (Sir) Stephen Tallents who worked with pioneer documentary film maker John Grierson. Mr Hardy writes: "The coming together of three men of vision and energy of mind - Kingsley Wood, Tallents and Grierson - was to be fruitful for The Post Office - and for Britain. There was no pattern for the Film Unit to follow in its earliest days. Grierson's eccentric recruitment methods were in contrast to today's appointment boards and C.V.s. Excitement and challenge were the key notes of employment in the GPO Film Unit. A poet like W H Auden and a composer like Benjamin Britten joined the unit to make important contributions to its output. Pioneers in animated films were attracted to the opportunities the Unit provided."

One of the best-known films was *The King's Stamp* (1935), on the designing and printing of the George V Jubilee stamps. This was apparently "a runaway, unexpected success, whose reception flabbergasted Grierson who thought it might have a modest interest for philatelists". 1936 was the Unit's *annus mirabilis* with the filming of the famous *Night Mail* about the sorting of mail on the travelling post office. This involved the removal of a door from the side of a low flying aircraft, so a precariously balanced cameraman could follow the progress of the train. *The Islanders* (1939) showed the importance of communications to the inhabitants of Eriskay, Guernsey and the Inner Farnes. *Thirty Million Letters* (1963) demonstrated the dovetailing of the mail with various transportation networks. *Picture to Post* (1968) interpreted the diverse and individual skills of three of Britain's foremost stamp designers - it won 10 international awards and was seen by a world-wide audience of 50 million! Amongst more recent productions have been *Michaela's Stamp Channel* for young collectors and films connected with the 1982 Textile stamps and the 1983 British Fairs issue. A delightful book. 48 pages card covers. Available whilst stocks last from: PO Video & Film

Library, PO Box 145, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent, ME10 1NH, Tel: 0795-426465. Price £15.

The British Postmark Society has recently published **Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom: Volume 3 1984-1993**, compiled by Alan Finch and Colin Peachey, and continuing the earlier volumes covering 1851-1962 and 1963-83. Collectors of modern postmarks will welcome the new volume, a clear and concise listing of special handstamps including philatelic counter and tourist postmarks. The introductory notes are particularly useful, giving details of the machines used to apply the impressions. Each handstamp is allocated a number, following on from the earlier volumes and such numbers should be used as permanent reference. Details are included of "First Day of Issue" postmarks, continuing from *Twenty Years of First Day Postmarks*, published 1983. In addition to postmarks applied by the British Post Office, those for Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man are included.

Naturally not all of the 3500 plus postmarks can be illustrated but a representative selection is shown. The descriptions of each handstamp are adequate for thematic collectors to compile lists of postmarks relating to their chosen theme(s). Information is given of Post Office cachets, commemorative covers and exhibition cards produced in association with special handstamps.

In their foreword Finch and Peachey pay tribute to the late George Pearson who started this series of publications: "...we dedicate this work to George, who sadly died in 1989 at the age of 52. George loved the earlier Special Event marks, used at a variety of Exhibitions and Philatelic Congresses. He made no secret of his disapproval of the direction modern special event postmarks had taken, as the task of fulfilling a postal purpose gave way to the production of philatelic souvenirs. By the 1980s this was certainly the case, and the transition was complete. However, we hope George would be proud of the quality and accuracy of our production, let alone the work involved in producing it."

Some collectors, including this reviewer, will have sympathy with these comments – relatively few postmarks are now used to mark a specific event or are used at locations with a special posting box, let alone a postal counter. None-the-less special handstamps remain popular with many collectors, especially when used on the

first day of stamp issues. This useful book is available from British Postmark Society, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts HP1 1NH. Price £9.50, postage £1 UK, £1.50 overseas. Volumes 1 and 2 are available price £6 (postage £1) and £8 (postage £1.30) respectively. The *Twenty Years of First Day Postmarks* book costs £3.50 (postage 75p).

The 1994 (9th) edition of Stanley Gibbons **Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue** is now available, listing all definitive and Country issues to the end of 1993 and special issues to the Prince of Wales Investiture Anniversary set of March 1994. The new To Pay labels (February) are also listed. This catalogue is ideal for the collector who wishes to collect GB stamps at a more advanced level than the standard SG Catalogue (Part 1) but below the level of the *GB Specialised Catalogue*.

There have been a number of upward price changes since the 1993 *Collect British Stamps* checklist was published last November, for example the 1955-58 St Edward Crown definitives (SG 540/56), the 1989 Walsall 1st class NV1 (1450), 1990 Walsall 20p Penny Black definitive (1476) and the 1991 Greetings (1536/45). Some of the 1992/93 special issues, now obsolete, are increased. The unused 1970/75 Postage Dues (D77/89) are up, the 1968 8d red (D76) down. Comparing prices with the 1993 *Concise*, in the Country stamps listings, there are spectacular increases in the prices of the Type II Northern Ireland 17p (NI43Ea) and Scottish 31p (S51Ea). A number of other Country stamps are up, for example the NI 16p p.15 x 14 (NI 42a), but the Welsh 20½p (W53) is marked down unused. There are increased prices for the 1972, 1984 and 1992 (Wales) prestige books. The used prices for the 1992 £1-£5 High Values (1611/14) seem rather high as there must be plenty now available. 288 pages, card cover. Available from SG Strand shop or SG Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Mail order hotline (free) 0800-611622. Price £9.95, UK postage £3 overseas £6.

Forthcoming Catalogues

Stanley Gibbons announce publication of the 7th edition of the *GB Specialised Catalogue* Vol. 4 (QEII Decimal Definitives) on 24 June.

The 1994 Part 1 (British Commonwealth) catalogue follows on 26 August. This is in two volumes, GB listed in Vol. 1. Enquiries: Stanley Gibbons, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH, Tel. 0425-472363.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until November 1994. Any change in these dates will be notified in the *Bulletin*. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

7 Dec	N. Ireland 19p (IS191)
7 Dec	N. Ireland 25p (IS250)
7 Dec	N. Ireland 30p (IS300)
7 Dec	N. Ireland 41p (IS410)
7 Dec	Scotland 19p (SS192)
7 Dec	Scotland 25p (SS250)
7 Dec	Scotland 30p (SS300)
7 Dec	Scotland 41p (SS410)
7 Dec	Wales 19p (WS192)
7 Dec	Wales 25p (WS250)
7 Dec	Wales 30p (WS300)
7 Dec	Wales 41p (WS410)
7 Dec	Country stamps pack (CP011)
14 Dec	4p Definitive, E (DS044)
14 Dec	20p Definitive, E (DS207)
14 Dec	50p Definitive, E (DS504)

1994

11 Jan	NPM Valentines postcards (NQ921)
11 Jan	Age of Steam stamp cards (AQ286)
18 Jan	Age of Steam stamps (AS578)
18 Jan	Age of Steam pack (AP119)
25 Jan	1994 Greetings stamp cards (JQ012)
25 Jan	50p book – Coaching Inns 1 (TB030)
25 Jan	£1 book – Prime Ministers 1 (TB031)
1 Feb	1994 Greetings stamps book (JB009)
1 Feb	1994 Greetings stamps pack (JP003)
15 Feb	To Pay labels 1p-25p (KS002)
15 Feb	To Pay labels £1-£5 (LS002)
15 Feb	To Pay labels pack (LP002)
15 Feb	C5 size envelope 1st class (RY007)
15 Feb	C5 size envelope 2nd class (RY008)
22 Feb	Prince of Wales stamp cards (AQ292)
22 Feb	10 x 1st class book/W (UB087)
22 Feb	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB086)
1 Mar	Prince of Wales stamps (AS584)
1 Mar	Prince of Wales pack (AP120)
22 Mar	Scot Aerogramme – Stevenson (QS033)
5 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamp cards (AQ298)
12 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamps (AS590)
12 Apr	Pictorial Postcards pack (AP121)
26 Apr	50p book – Coaching Inns 2, H (TB032)
26 Apr	£1 book – Prime Ministers 2, H (TB033)
26 Apr	£2 book – Postal Vehicles 2, H (TB034)
26 Apr	Channel Tunnel stamp cards (AQ304)
3 May	Channel Tunnel stamps (AS596)
3 May	Channel Tunnel park (AP122)

3 May	Channel Tunnel Souvenir book (AW055)
6 May	NPM postcards-Postcodes (NQ922)
31 May	D-Day stamp cards (AQ309)

Forthcoming

6 Jun	D-Day stamps and pack
6 Jun	50p, £1 books
14 Jun	Alcock & Brown aerogramme
28 Jun	Golf stamp cards
5 Jul	Golf stamps and pack
19 Jul	Scot aerogramme – Gordon Highlanders
19 Jul	19p Def gum change
19 Jul	Birds aerogrammes
26 Jul	N Ireland prestige book
26 Jul	Summertime stamp cards
27 Jul	Bank of England stamp book
2 Aug	Summer stamps and pack
2 Aug	Summertime – souvenir book
2 Aug	NPM postcards-Uniforms
9 Aug	4 x 60p stamp book
6 Sep	50p, £1, £2 books
20 Sep	Medical Discoveries stamp cards
27 Sep	Medical Discoveries stamps and pack
Oct	Christmas aerogramme
25 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
1 Nov	Christmas stamps and pack
1 Nov	Collectors Pack 1994
1 Nov	Year Book 1994

“Kite” Stamp Book Promotion

A 10 x 1st class stamp book promotion will run in W H Smith shops nationwide from July to September. This will involve two different versions of the book – (1) a “Lucky” book which can be exchanged at W H Smith for a free kite; (2) a “Better Luck Next Time” book. There are no changes to the stamps, the change is to the wording on the yellow panel and inside back cover of the book. Collectors wishing to purchase the two versions may participate in the Smith’s promotion. The books will be available from the Bureau and Post Office philatelic outlets from 4 October, when the promotion has finished.

1995 Special Issues

Incomplete copy was inadvertently published in the March *Bulletin* (page 183): reference was omitted to Rugby League stamps. The wording “(Centenary and World Cup)” refers to Rugby League, not to the Science Fiction issue. We apologise for any confusion. Further details of the 1995 issues will be published in due course.



Prepaid Postage

J Rawlins of Essex writes concerning the historical notes published in the presentation pack for the new To Pay Labels and in the December *Bulletin*:

"The basic tenet of Rowland Hill's scheme for penny post was that postage should be prepaid, and from the start, 10 January 1840, even before the use of adhesive stamps, unpaid mail was charged double postage on delivery. The writer of the pack has probably confused underpayment, with the abolition of prepayment in cash in the 1850s. Is it possible to set the record right?"

The prepayment in cash on all letters continued after the introduction of postage stamps in 1840. It was still possible to prepay postage in this way in the provinces until 1853 and in London until 1855. Thereafter prepayment in cash was restricted to "bulk mail", the minimum number permitted has varied over the years. An example of a modern-day "paid" postmarks is illustrated here. These are normally applied in red ink to distinguish them from the black postmarks used to cancel adhesive postage stamps.



Postal historian James Mackay reminds us that on 10 February 1859 Rowland Hill instituted compulsory prepayment of postage. Any letters posted unpaid after that date were to be opened to ascertain the sender, and then returned undelivered. This produced an immediate outcry in the press and Parliament. The measure was opposed so vehemently that

Hill was forced to revoke his decision two weeks later. Unpaid covers returned to sender under this short-lived scheme are understandably of the greatest rarity.

Seeking a good home...

Mr G B Stevens writes:

I have the following unwanted items and wonder if any reader might be interested, viz: (1) Large quantity of Royal Mail stamp booklets, (Pictorial, Retail, Prestige etc), all of which are in good condition but with the *stamps removed*. These may be of use to a booklet collector.

(2) A quantity of postal labels, i.e. Airmail, Express, Registration etc.

All of the above are free to the first person who wants them, provided my postage is refunded. Write to Mr Stevens at: 34 Firs Drive, Cranford, HOUNSLOW, Middlesex, TW5 9TD.

Self Adhesive Forerunners

D A H Byatt of West Sussex adds some interesting information to the feature on the 1974 self-adhesive stamps (produced under the former Stamped to Order service) in the March *Bulletin*. Mr Byatt writes: "There was also available with the Worboys' issue a rectangular label, approximately 3¼" x 2½", bearing ½p + 2½p. The 3p of the second series can also be found rubber-stamped with the additional wording."

We should point out a typesetting error in the March feature – the first series was issued on 10 February 1974, *not* 1964 as stated half-way down the second column on page 196.

Mail By Rail

The Rev C M Beaver comments on Kenneth F Chapman's article on travelling Post Offices (Philatelic Terms series) in the April *Bulletin*:

"The last two sentences of Mr Chapman's fifth paragraph are at odds with the facts. He suggests that the Post Office signed the 'First contract for mail carrying by mail' in 1838. An excellent article in the *Bulletin* of February 1980 by Peter Semmens begins with the date 11 November 1830 the day the PO 'utilised the new form of transport for the first time', and ends by relating the strip of 12p stamps (March 1980) to the 'well known Ackermann prints of 1831' and reminding us that 'the mail coach always had its own privileged place at the back of the train with its own guard riding at the rear' on those prints.

"Less well – known is the fact that the Grand Junction Railway which linked Birmingham with the Liverpool and Manchester Railway

carried important mails for nearly a year before the opened parts of the London and Birmingham Railway began to do the same.

"The Superintendent of Mail Coaches reported in detail a first trial run on the first passenger-carrying train north from Birmingham on 4 July 1837. That train of eight carriages, all named, included both 'Liverpool, Birmingham Mail' and 'Birmingham, Manchester Mail'. (The same morning the first southbound train also included a 'Birmingham & Manchester Mail' carriage.) From 6 July separate (horse) mail coaches from London were diverted from their previous routes to Birmingham's temporary station and their mail was transferred to the GJR. Later in 1837 a new Irish Day Mail bound for Holyhead did the same between Birmingham and Hartford in Cheshire. A fresh contract more favourable to the GJR was concluded in February 1838. There was no provision yet for sorting on 'railway mail coaches', but they were specially built for the purpose.

"As for the London and Birmingham Railway, when mail coaches were put on trucks, as reported by the *Railway Times* in May 1838, they were carried then as far as Denbigh Hall near Bletchley before being horsed again. The mail on the Manchester, Liverpool and Carlisle coaches was destined to be transferred separately to GJR carriages at Birmingham, while the Holyhead coach (the night one from London, that is) continued on its accustomed route through Shrewsbury and Llangollen.

"An article on 'Handstruck numbering on mail between Liverpool and Manchester in *Postal History* No. 269 (March 1994) begins by mentioning one of the terms of the first contract between a railway and the Post Office, the authors differ from Mr Semmens concerning the date it began to operate, by just one day: 'Mails were carried from 10 November 1830 on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway – a contract charge of ½d a mile on each mail stood until 1844'. This article makes reference also to Donaghy's *Liverpool and Manchester Railway Operations* (David & Charles 1972), where full details of the contract can no doubt be found."

I am obliged to the Rev Beaver for clarifying the situation. Mail was first carried on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1830 and a special Post Office Commemorative cover was produced for the 150th anniversary. A mail carriage was shown on the final stamp in the Railway strip of 12 March 1980. The first TPO was introduced some years later. Ed.

Late News

19p Definitive variety

A new definitive variety will be made available from 19 July 1994. Produced by Harrison & Sons in photogravure, the stamp will have a PVA gum without Dextrin, similar to that trialled on the 35p Age of Steam stamps in January. The second trial is to establish the performance of the gum on a longer print run and in definitive sheet format. The stamps will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets.

New pictorial aerogrammes

A new set of pictorial aerogrammes is scheduled for release on 19 July 1994, price £2.50. Designed in collaboration with the RSPB and printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited, the aerogrammes will be available in packs, each having six different designs. The aerogrammes will be available from the Bureau, philatelic outlets and post offices.

Enschedé perforation change

As part of an exercise to establish uniformity between sheet stamps, Enschedé have adapted their perforation layout by removing one of the two extension holes in the left and right sheet margins to match the Harrison sheets. The first value to be produced is the 41p which should be available from June. This modification will be of interest to specialist Machin collectors.

New High Value printing

Harrisons have re-engraved the £5 Windsor Castle stamp as part of an improvement to their production process, giving a much sharper image. In addition the engraving of The Queen's head has changed from a cross hatched to a cellular style, giving a much improved result. Plate numbers will follow on from the current series. Other values will follow on as stock demands require. News on availability of the revised £5 stamp will be published shortly.

Famous Trains reissued

One of Royal Mail's most popular ever stamp issues, Terence Cunco's five Famous Trains, are to be launched on 4 July as 10" limited edition collector plates, each priced £19.95 to UK/EC or £29.95 Rest of the World customers. These colourful coupé plates are made by Wedgwood in Stoke on Trent. They are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

June/July Digest

Issued in June/July

6 June: D-Day stamps – 5 x 25p se-tenant, presentation pack.

6 June: 50p and £1 machine books – 50p “Golden Cross” coaching inn, London; £1 Sir Winston Churchill.

14 June: Alcock and Brown commemorative aerogramme.

28 June: Golf stamp cards.

5 July: Golf stamps – 19p, 25p, 30p, 35p, 41p, presentation pack.

19 July: Scottish Aerogramme — Gordon Highlanders.

26 July: Northern Ireland prestige stamp book.

26 July: Summertime stamp cards.

27 July: Bank of England stamp book – 4 x 1st class NVI and commemorative label.

Withdrawn in June/July

7 June: 1p, 5p and 10p definitives, issued 7 January 1986, 26 July 1988 and 4 September 1990 respectively.

14 June: Roman Britain stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

21 June: Scottish aerogramme – St Margaret.

5 July: 50p and £1 stamp books (issued 6 July 93).

19 July: Inland waterways stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

26 July: 30p definitive, issued 26 September 1989.

Events

Until 17 Jul 94. Windsor & Slough PS Diamond Jubilee display at Slough Museum. Open Wed-Fri Noon-1600, Sat & Sun 14.00-1700. Admission free. History of Society, stamps, postal history, models of postal vans and figures, pillar boxes, etc.

Until April 95. “Addressing Postcodes” exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Open Mon-Fri 9.30-16.30. Admission free. Enquiries: 071-239 5420.

11 June 94. North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies Convention and Lytham St Annes Phil Soc Fair at Drive Methodist Church Hall, St Annes on Sea. 10.00-16.30. Dealers, Displays, Refreshments. Admission 30p adults, 10p children. Enquiries: Mrs N Barrowclough, 26 Berwick Road, ST ANNES ON SEA, Lancs FY8 1JT. Tel. 0253-727056.

11-12 June 94. Phil Essex 94 at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, 10.00-18.00 (Sat), 10.00-17.00 (Sun). Organised by Association of Essex Philatelic Societies. Dealers, displays, competition. Refreshments, car parking. Souvenir cover and postmark. Enquiries: L C Stanway, 25 Clay Hill Road, BASILDON, Essex SS16 5DD, Tel. 0268-522305.

2 Jul 94. Convention of Yorkshire Phil Assn (hosted by Sheffield Phil Soc) at Ecclesfield School, Chapeltown, Sheffield, 10.00-16.30. Stamp Fair. Enquiries: B Wilkinson, 11 Canterbury Crescent, SHEFFIELD S10 3RW, Tel. 0742-301745.

2-3 Jul 94. Thematica 94 exhibition at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Enquiries: B Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, ESHER, Surrey, KT10 0QG, Tel. 0372-467652 (evenings).

5 Jul-31 Aug 94. Tercentenary Exhibition of Stamp Duties and The Stamp Office at Courtauld Institute, Somerset House (Strand Entrance), London WC2. Mon-Sat, 10.00-17.00. Admission free.

9 Jul 94. Bodmin Stamp Club Stamp Fair at Shire House Suite, Bodmin, Cornwall, 10.00-16.00. Admission 20p, accompanied children free. Free stamps for children. Enquiries: John Booth, Treetops, Ambrose Hill, St Keyne, LISKEARD, Cornwall PL14 4RL, Tel. 0579-340079.

16 Jul 94. Telford Phil Soc stamp & postcard fair at Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, 190 Holyhead Road, Wellington, TELFORD TF1 2DW.

