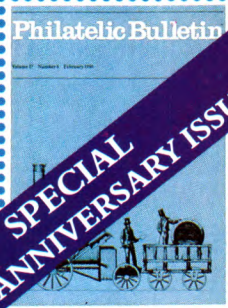


September 1983



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Editorial

The Bulletin is twenty years young this month and this is an appropriate moment to pause and reflect upon its progress. We continually scrutinize the content of our magazine and try to produce a mix which is acceptable to the majority of our readers. The first prerequisite is to cater for most levels of philatelic study, and this we strive to do. In the early days when the current format was introduced, the Bulletin was printed in monochrome, but in September 1968 colour reproductions were introduced for the first time on a small scale. Since then it has gone from strength-to-strength and today almost all illustrations are reproduced in colour. A necessary innovation where postage stamps are concerned.

Over the years the Editorial Staff have made many friends — designers, writers, printers and correspondents who have combined to help produce the Bulletin. Thank you all. May we look forward to your continuing help in the future. To our readers who encourage and support us, a very special thank you. May you long continue to use the Bulletin in the pursuance of your hobby.

In this edition our good friend Len Newbery provides the first instalment of a new series of articles on the technical details of Decimal Booklet Pane Printings. Len has devoted much time and research to this subject which promises to be most interesting: a topic which many readers we know are keen to study.

We would like to remind readers that BPE has changed its venue this year and will no longer take place at the Wembley Conference Centre. Instead it will be held at the Cunard International Hotel, Hammersmith from 27-30 October 1983.

FRANK BRENCH

Although I have proof-read virtually every issue since I became Philatelic Marketing Manager, this is my first contribution to the Bulletin. And what better occasion! My thanks are to the readers of the Bulletin and to its editorial staff; in particular I want to mention Frank Brench who in 1984 completes 10 years as assistant editor. Everybody who knows Frank's enthusiasm, knowledge and dedication will realise how indebted we all are to him.

BART BARTON-JONES

A Personal Message from the Board Member for Postal Marketing



I am pleased to have been invited to contribute to this special edition which marks the twentieth anniversary of the British Philatelic Bulletin.

I am much impressed by the high standards set by the Bulletin. From its humble origins as a series of stencilled sheets in September 1963 it has grown over the years, becoming the comprehensive quality publication it is today. It has a dual role in bringing details of our new stamp issues to collectors, as well as extending knowledge and interest in the wider aspects of philately. It does, I think, successfully combine these roles and is also an eminently readable publication for the layman who would like to know more about stamp collecting.

All of us in Postal Marketing are proud of the standards that have been achieved by the Bulletin, and we look forward with confidence to the next twenty years. I would like to thank all who have contributed to its success, but most of all I would like to thank you, the reader, for your continued support – without you, of course, there would be nothing to celebrate.

A D GARRETT

20th Anniversary Messages

It is with great pleasure that in this anniversary edition of the British Philatelic Bulletin we include a selection of congratulatory messages from our many friends. Thank you for your good wishes.

While I cannot claim to have attended the birth of the Philatelic Bulletin in September 1963 I did share the responsibility of its early upbringing.

In June 1964 I was asked to assist in the production of the Bulletin by researching and contributing some articles on Great Britain stamps and other philatelic material. This was of course quite new to we Post Office veterans, who had been accustomed to treating postage stamps as receipts for the payment of postage!

At that time the Bulletin was no more than a few sheets of foolscap paper giving details of the forthcoming issues of stamps with the occasional illustration in monochrome as an added attraction, to stimulate interest in the British Post Office's entry

into the philatelic field. No attempt was made to compete with the very fine philatelic publications already available, but we sought to bring the Post Office closer to its customers and to tell them more of the details of the new material being issued, which had been sadly lacking in the past.

While the quality of the Bulletin both in terms of content and production has greatly improved since those early days, the original concept has been maintained, and I think that most regular readers will agree that interest in their hobby has been helped by its continued publication. My old and respected friend, the late Archie Page, was chiefly responsible for the many innovations introduced over the years and it is a tribute to his wisdom that readership grew to what it is today.

May I offer my congratulations to the Philatelic Bulletin on its 20th birthday and my best wishes for its continued success in the years to come.

CYRIL SHARWOOD

It is quite a surprise to realise that the Philatelic Bulletin is really twenty years old, and to reflect that the Post Office's more adventurous stamp policy is already into its third decade. During these years, the Bulletin must have done a lot to awaken or expand a philatelic interest in many different kinds of people, collectors and others as well, by its carefully researched and well illustrated articles on such diverse subjects as early postal history at one extreme and the designs of new issues at the other. And it has always done so in a way that would not only deepen the knowledge of the experts but also catch the eye of many with only a casual knowledge of these wide-ranging subjects.

Though I don't have a stamp collection, it's easy to see why so many people do: stamps are small enough to need little space, yet they are packed with concentrated visual interest, thought, and delight, and a very slight interest in them can develop into an absorbing study. But as a designer I am interested in how things look and the ways they developed; and the Bulletin has offered plenty about both: ancient and rusty Victorian pillar-boxes as well as the delicate flourishes of Victorian handwriting on yellowed envelopes and the vigorous, almost brutal designs of the early cancelling devices, all of them things that would probably have vanished completely but for their postal associations. And of course I have always been especially interested in the new stamps, their content, arrangement, and treatment, and in the Bulletin's features on how other designers arrived at their solutions and the ideas they rejected en route.

The Bulletin is quite small, but it is mercifully free of advertising so that what it contains is all concentrated good value. I have enjoyed it not only as a reader but for the occasional meetings with the people working in it; especially with the late Archie Page who was its editor for many years. I hope that it, and they, will go on flourishing in the years to come.

DAVID GENTLEMAN

They were exciting days. The birth of a new era for British stamp collectors. There emerged a world where new stamps were more frequent, more colourful and no longer purely symbolic in design. Along came first day cancellations and presentation packs – even Post Office first day covers.

In the summer of '63 collectors (at least those who could reach London) were treated to the advantages of a Philatelic Bureau, staffed by those who were genuinely delighted to be serving the collector.

A new age of communications was born, suddenly the Post Office was willing to tell the collecting public just what was happening. With the advent of the Philatelic Bulletin no longer were new stamp issues cloaked in secrecy, as had so often hitherto been the case. Admittedly, those early issues of the Bulletin were merely duplicated sheets, but right from the outset contained a wealth of information – and for early subscribers there was the bonus of the 1s 6d COMPAC stamp and Shakespeare airmailer overprinted 'CANCELLED' provided with compliments.

Over the years interest in British stamps has increased considerably. Fortunately in the main this has been genuine collector interest, fuelled by the greater publicity, service, quality – and quantity – of modern British issues.

This improvement has been reflected in the 'Bulletin': despite its vigorous start this has grown in stature. Immediately apparent were the changes to magazine format and the introduction of colour.

But the Bulletin has also been alive to collector demand, reflecting changing interests, maybe even stimulating such interest.

Those just interested in the current releases have been well served, but it has also been appreciated that collecting does not end there. Growing enthusiasm for covers, postcards and postal history, analysing modern stamps, seeking background information have all been reflected on the pages of the 'Bulletin'. Nor has the emphasis been just on the moderns – notable has been the series highlighting the treasures of the National Postal Museum.

The Philatelic Bulletin, by reaching stamp collectors in a way that many other forms of publicity cannot reach, has increased this growth, improving the stature of British stamps at home and abroad.

RICHARD WEST

Who would have thought that just after the news of the Glasgow to London Great Train Robbery, we would be receiving through our letter boxes, The Philatelic Bulletin, Number One. A sentence for life it seems.

Number Three was the Great Innovation. In connection with the COMPAC one and sixpence commemorative stamp, which was to be put on sale on December 3, the anonymous editor thought that, "...subscribers would like to have a preview in colour. Technical problems and costs of colour reproduction have led us to use a "cancelled" copy of the stamp itself." It was stuck down upon the first of eleven typewritten pages.

The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH EH1 1AA and Philatelic Duty EC/FS, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

If you are interested in collecting postmark slogans, the Postmark Bulletin is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. It is issued fortnightly and contains advance information about forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. The cost is £6.50 for one year's subscription.

The cancellations cannot be back-dated, so please ensure that your cover is sent in time to reach the office before 1 October.

New Stamp Books

Rare Breeds Series

The fourth in the Post Office's current series of stamp booklets with illustrated covers will be introduced on 26 October 1983 with contents in line with the April issues. The new 50p booklet in the 'Rare breeds' series, with a cover design by Harry Titcombe features the Orkney Sheep and will contain 3 x 12½p, 3 x 3½p and 2 x 1p stamps.

The £1.25 booklet containing 10 x 12½p stamps, illustrated by Stanley Paine, shows the SR/BR Clan Line, in the series on Railways.

The £1.46 'Postal History' book, again illustrated by John Gibbs, is devoted to the Silver Jubilee of first Regional stamps and will contain 6 x 16p stamps and 4 x 12½p stamps. The design shows a 1/3d stamp of each of the three countries.

All 3 booklets will be on sale at philatelic counters and, by post, from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The £1.25 and £1.46 booklets will be available from post offices, and the 50p booklets from vending machines as stocks of the current books run out.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

The stamps are printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd - the stamps on the Chambon press and the covers on the Libra book-making machine.

The stamps in the 50p book will be printed in one format only with one 1p stamp above 3 x 12½p stamps on the right hand side and one 1p stamp above 3 x 3½p stamps on the left hand side of the pane. Each stamp in the 50p book will be printed with a single central phosphor bar.

The 12½p stamps in the second class book will bear a single central phosphor bar.

The 16p stamps in the 'Postal History' book will bear two phosphor bars and the 12½p stamps will have a single side phosphor bar. The lay-out will be 5 x 16p stamps above 1 x 16p and 4 x 12½p stamps. The books will be produced in both left and right hand formats. In each case a 16p stamp above a 12½p stamp will be adjacent to the selvage.

Some previous issues were produced with two first class stamps adjacent to the selvage. This meant that once all the first class stamps had been used, any remaining second class stamps were left detached from the cover. The revised format overcomes this problem.

Britain's Countryside Series

On 21 September 1983 a new first class stamp book, the second in the 'Britain's Countryside' series, will go on sale, price £1.60, containing 10 x 16p definitive stamps.

The cover subject, designed by Ronald Maddox, is of a row of 17th century weavers' cottages at BIBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The books will be available from all post offices and philatelic sales counters as well as the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

The stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd the stamps on the Chambon press, and the covers on the Libra book-making machine. The paper is phosphor coated, unwatermarked.

The pane of stamps will consist of two rows of five, one above the other.

International Film Festival

The stamp promotion film on the 'Textile' stamps issue, 'Post Impressions' was awarded the Bronze Award at the June Industrial Film Festival in Brighton.

We have now been advised by the selectors of award winning films for the International Festival that 'Post Impressions' has been nominated to represent the UK in its category.

The CEIF International Film Festival moves around European capitals each year. In 1983 London is the host nation and The Post Office has agreed to act as a sponsor with other leading organisations. This year also happens to be the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the GPO Film Unit under John Grierson.

W Adam's Scheme

Following the 1881 Customs and Inland Revenue Act, the Unified Series of stamps (for both postal and fiscal use) was finally issued on 1 April 1884 (except for the 9d value issued in 1883). The series was designed primarily to meet the requirements of the Board of Inland Revenue, but met with a hostile reception from both the general public and Post Office employees. This was a direct result of the uninspired design of the stamps and also because of the confusion arising from the similarity of colours. The result of all the criticisms was that a stamp committee was formed on 29 October 1884 to consider proposals for a revised 'Unified Series'.

The gem from the Reginald M Phillips collection this month features one of the schemes submitted to the 1884 Committee. This is the scheme prepared by W Adams, a clerk in the office of the Controller of Stamps, and can be found in volume XXXVIII/17 of the Reginald M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. These essays, as illustrated, were all of original designs (except for the

1d and 1/- values), the main feature being a shape to indicate the value (a square for the 4d value, a pentagon for the 5d value, and a hexagon for the 6d). While the design was certainly innovative, Adams suggested retaining the purple and green colours already in use for the much-criticised Unified Series. All the essays are in purple on blue, with the exception of the 1/- value which was in green. Another interesting feature was the placing of the numeral outside the rest of the design.

While the essays of W Adams were not accepted in themselves as a replacement for the unified series, along with other schemes produced, they would have helped the 1884 Committee in reaching its conclusions. Very briefly, the recommendations included that the stamps should be surface printed in doubly or singly fugitive inks, be bicoloured or printed on coloured papers, include the words 'Postage and Revenue' and corner lettering should be abolished. The issue of the 'Jubilee' set in 1887 of classical Victorian design was the eventual outcome.



Decimal Booklet Pane Printings – Technical Details

by L. Newbery

Len Newbery

The printing dates given are the initial dates of the original printings and those of any subsequent changes only. Often a print run of a particular pane extends intermittently over a period, sometimes of several years.

Section I – Printings of single value panes for Stitched Stamp Booklets.

The stamps were reel fed printed.

Printings on the Halley III press were perforated in the web on the Swedish rotary perforator before being sheeted whilst those on the Thrissell and Halley II presses were sheeted before being hand fed in lifts on a Grover perforator.

In mid 1971 the perforators used for the panes with labels were modified to leave side of label adjoining margin imperforate in order to prevent a blind user from confusing a label with a stamp.

The stamp booklets are made from these sheets and after gathering and sewing the mass is cut into 40 booklets.

Registration sheets are taken from the initial printing only and not for each subsequent cylinder. Further they are often imperforate and



usually of single pane width.

The booklet numbers used are by courtesy of the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle. For further details of the panes and stamp booklets containing them the reader is referred to the Bookmark Catalogue – published by the GBDSBSC – and Stanley Gibbons Specialised Great Britain Catalogue part 4.

Section I – Printings of single value panes for Stitched Stamp Books

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
DP3	5 x 1/2p + label	B8 B2 Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary	OCP/PVA1	17.12.70	27 Jan 1971	—
DP3A	B. Alan					25.6.71	3 Sep 1971	Blind Perforations
DP7	5 x 1/2p + label	B3 B2 Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary	OCP/PVA1	25.11.70	14 Dec 1970	4130 Discontinued
DP7A	LICK		Thrissell	Grover	FCP/PVA1	3.9.71	15 Oct 1971	Blind Perforations
DP13	5 x 1/2p + label	B17 B2 Two	Thrissell	Grover	FCP/PVA1	10.12.71	Not taken	—
	Rushstamps 3	B18 B2 Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary		20.1.72		
		B17 B2 Two				28.6.72		
		B18 B2 Two				9.7.73		
DP4	4 x 2 1/2p + 2 labels	B4 B4 1 CB	Halley 3	Swedish rotary	OCP/PVA1	11.12.70	7 Jan 1971	4139, 4132 Discontinued
DP4A	Uniflo/Stick					23.6.71	3 Sep 1971	Blind Perforations

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Printing Press	Per- forator	Coating/ Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and NPM Photo Number	
DP15	4 x 2 1/2p + 2 labels Rushstamps 2/3	B15 B4	1 CB	Thrissell Halley 3	Grover Swedish rotary	FCP/ PVA1 28.6.72	9.12.71 Not taken	—	
DP5	5 x 2 1/2p + label	B6 B4	1 CB	Halley 3	Swedish rotary	OCP/ PVA1	23.12.70	7 Jan 1971	4134
DP5A	Stick						24.6.71	3 Sep 1971	Discontinued Blind Perforations
DP8	5 x 2 1/2p + label	B1 B4	1 CB	Halley 3	Swedish rotary	OCP/ PVA1	26.11.70	14 Dec 1970	4136
DP8A	Tear					FCP/ PVA1	3.8.71		Discontinued
				Thrissell	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	6.9.71	15 Oct 1971	Blind Perforations
DP14	5 x 2 1/2p + label Rushstamps 4	B19 B4	1 CB	Thrissell	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	4.1.72	None taken	
DP16	5 x 2 1/2p + label	B17 B4	1 CB	Thrissell	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	3.12.71	None taken	
	B. Alan	B29					9.7.73		No other details recorded
DP6	5 x 3p + label	B1 B2	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary	OCP/ PVA1	17.11.70	26 Nov 1970	4131
DP6A	£4,315						3.6.71	3 Sep 1971	Discontinued Blind Perforations
				Thrissell Halley 3	Grover Swedish rotary	FCP/ PVA1	8.10.71 30.6.72		
		B18 B2 B27 B2	Two Two	Thrissell Halley 2 Thrissell Halley 3	Grover Grover Grover Swedish rotary		22.1.73 30.3.73 4.4.73 4.7.73		
DP10	6 x 3p	B6 B2	Two	Halley 3	Swedish rotary	OCP/ PVA1	21.12.70	27 Jan 1971	4135
				Thrissell	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	6.9.71		Discontinued
				Halley 3	Swedish rotary		30.6.72		
		B14 B2	Two	Thrissell Halley 3	Grover Swedish rotary		6.3.73 4.7.73		
DP21	5 x 3p + blank	B28 B4	1 CB	Halley 2	Grover	FCP/ PVA	6.9.73	12 Oct 1973	FCP/PVA1 and FCP/ PVADex Both used but records do not differentiate
		B35 B4	1 CB	Halley II	Grover	FCP/ PVADex	4.2.74		

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars			Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/ Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
DP22 DP22A	5 x 3½p + blank	B1	B2	Two	Halley 2	Grover	FCP/ PVA FCP/ PVADex	17.9.73	12 Oct 1973	FCP/PVA1 and FCP/PVADex Both used but records do not differentiate
					Thrissell Jumelle 1	Grover Kampf rotary	FCP/ PVADex	13.12.73 9.9.74	13 Sep 1974	
DP23	5 x 4½p + blank	B7	P25	Two	Jumelle 1	Kampf rotary	FCP/ PVADex	16.8.74	13 Sep 1974	

British Special Stamps

102. Sailing, 1975

Bright colours predominate on the four stamps issued on 11 June 1975 to mark the centenary of the Royal Yachting Association, the bicentenary of the Royal Thames Yacht Club and other club anniversaries. The designs span the wide range of sailing from dinghies and racing keel boats to cruising yachts and modern multihulls, interpreted by the designer, Andrew Restall, MSIA. They were also the first stamps produced in Britain by the combined photogravure and recess-printing processes, though not, as we shall see, without difficulties on the part of the printers.

Sailing dinghies (7p) are the waterborne equivalent of Mr Everyman's family car – the slow and safe craft for beginners and ambitious enthusiasts for racing alike. The word 'dinghy' comes from the Hindustani, *dingi*, meaning 'a small boat', and dinghies range from the small single-handed craft to the slightly larger racer manned by a crew of two or more. Racing keel boats (8p) require a more specialised knowledge of off-shore navigation and weather conditions, of predictable tides and unpredictable winds, while cruising yachts (10p) are in the 'Rolls-Royce' class, luxury craft yet purpose-built for competitive racing like the challengers for this year's America Cup.

Multihulls (12p) have links with both dinghies and keel boats, and have scored notable successes as racing craft in the past 25 years. The catamaran (the word comes from the Tamil, *katta-maram*, tied wood) has a projecting spar or outrigger in the style of the native fishing canoes of Fiji and other Pacific islands, providing greater stability and speed than most single-hull craft, while the trimaran has an additional 'hull'. Eric Taberly, the French yachts-



man, made a record crossing of the Atlantic in just over 10 days, 5 hours, in his trimaran, *Paul Ricard*, in July 1980.

The Royal Yachting Association was founded as the Yacht Racing Association in 1875 when its

activities were confined to the establishment of a standard measurement and rating rule and a handicapped system, and the development of the racing rules. It has since become one of the largest of the voluntary sports associations, responsible for a wide range of sailing operations, from the training of young people, the general overall control of yacht-racing rules and the organisation of boating events throughout the country to the active help to sailing clubs in difficulties and the protection of boat owners against retrograde harbour and marina developments, etc. The Royal Thames Yacht Club was founded in 1775 by Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland (1745-90), Admiral of the White and brother of George III. The late Earl Mountbatten of Burma was a former Admiral of the 'Cumberland Fleet', the name given to members' yachts. The Club's first regatta was held on the Thames in the same year (1775) and it is thus the United Kingdom's longest established yacht club.

The stamps were printed by photogravure for the main designs, supplemented by recess-printing in black for the outlines, rigging and waves, by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor, on the 'Jumelle' printing press. Manning disputes resulted in a loss of a substantial part of the printing and also affected the quality of the stamps. Some of the black outlines failed to register and those that did could be removed just using a thumbnail, making it impossible to relate such flaws to the original printing. Listed varieties include a 'grey moon' flaw and a black 'knot' (in the margin) on the 7p stamps, and broken 'ribs' on the sails of the yachts on the 10p stamp. The 12p was in short supply and it is believed that only 2,470,000 of this denomination were printed.

JAMES WATSON

MANPEX '85

The date for the proposed 1985 National Exhibition, organised by the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies has now been set for October 24-27th 1985, and will take place at the International Conference and Exhibition Centre, Lancashire County Cricket Club, Old Trafford, Manchester.

The exhibition is to be called 'MANPEX '85'

It is intended to hold competitive exhibitions on the lines of Stampex and BPE and Mr R A G Lee, a doyen of the philatelic world, has kindly agreed to

be the chairman of the judging panel. This will mean that the awards made at the exhibition will be equal in status to similar awards made at other major national exhibitions. A detailed prospectus will be issued in due course.

As well as having a large Post Office stand and a National Postal Museum display, it is hoped that dealers and other overseas postal administrations will be present, and the response to a circular letter sent out by the federation has been most encouraging in this respect. It may well be that the request for space will exceed the availability.

Other attractions will include a cinema which will show philatelic films throughout the exhibition, organised trips from the exhibition to Newton Street sorting office, guest speakers, both from the philatelic world, and from the world of showbusiness, seminars, national society meetings, and an open forum where members of the public will be able to ask experts questions relating to specific aspects of their hobby.

Further information may be obtained from the Chairman of the Federation, Mr Michael Sanig, c/o Verger Limited, 154/6 Broadfield Road, Moss Side, MANCHESTER M14 7JE.

New South West Postal Region Postcard

On 19 October 1983 Gloucester Head Post Office will issue its second picture postcard (number 21) in the SWPR series.

The illustration, taken from an original painting by John Norriss, shows a GWK van, one of a fleet of twenty, used in Cheltenham in the 1920's. Also depicted is Cheltenham post office and a scene from the Promenade during the same period.

There will be a pictorial handstamp for the first day of sale.

The card will cost 13p and by post there will be a postage and handling charge of 17p for orders up to £18.00, or £1.17 for orders over £18.00.

For collectors requiring serviced cards bearing a 16p stamp cancelled with the special handstamp, the charge will be 44p.

Orders should be sent to: Mr D F Webb, Philatelic Officer, Kings Square Branch Office, GLOUCESTER GL1 1AD to arrive no later than October 19 1983. Remittances should be sent by direct Giro transfer to account number 2167018 or by Postal Order.

The British Philatelic Bureau – Twenty Years On

It is now 20 years since the BPO set up a Philatelic Bureau – housed in the old Central Telegraph Office beside PHQ in St Martin's-le-Grand.

The facilities were limited but all new issues were available plus definitives, regional stamps and postage due labels.

On 16 May 1963 a first day cover service was introduced for the 'National Nature Week' issue. Collectors had to supply their own covers and it was not until the following year that official Post Office produced covers went on sale. Early cancellations were provided by an envelope design slogan postmark which was replaced in July 1964 by the Bureau's first handstamp. 1964 also saw the introduction of the presentation pack.

There have been many changes since those early days. The regular collector will have witnessed the changes in products and services but will be less familiar with the changes behind the scenes.

From its original home in the blitz-damaged CTO buildings, the Bureau moved its mail order operation to the Head Post Office in Edinburgh in the Autumn of 1966, and counter sales were catered for by a new philatelic sales point in London Chief Office.

Within a few years the Bureau started to outgrow its new accommodation and had to outhouse part of its operation in other buildings. In 1974 new premises were found in Lothian Road where the Bureau remained until October 1981 when it moved to its current home at 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh.

Not only has the Bureau kept moving physically but has also kept on the move in terms of the technology to improve its services and keep operating costs to a minimum.

Like every large business the Bureau has felt the impact of computers. The Deposit Account Service was first computerised in 1971 but the computer used



was in a remote PO computer centre in Leeds with no on-line file interrogation or up-dating facilities. This meant considerable delays in answering even the most routine of enquiries.

In 1981 the Bureau switched over to its own in-house computer and has recently installed a more powerful machine. This will permit the introduction of improved systems in about two years time which will give customers more information about their accounts and the effects of forthcoming stamp issues.

Apart from computerisation of Deposit Account services, new technology has probably had most impact on the First Day Cover. Only a few years ago servicing of FDCs was entirely manual — stamp affixing, cancelling, addressing and insertion of the filler card. Now it is almost entirely automated. Stamps are affixed to covers by machine before being delivered to the Bureau. In May of this year we were able to introduce IBM ink jet machines to address the covers instead of employing 30 or 40 temporary typists. Cancellation can still be done by the traditional self-inking handstamp but is more often done by a machine developed by the Swiss PTT which ensures consistent high quality and gunsight accuracy. The latest development in cancellation is an automated belt-feed for this 'Swiss machine' which enables up to 3 cancellations to be applied automatically to each cover trebling the throughput.

Post Office engineers are currently working to develop other machines — to insert filler cards into first day covers, to insert stamps into presentation packs and another to tear sheets of stamps into singles.

So what is the British Philatelic Bureau today?

The Bureau:— has 165,000 regular subscribers — satisfies around 50,000 casual customers every year — processes over 2 million orders per year — despatches around 900,000 copies of the philatelic Bulletin per year — has a revenue of several million pounds (if it were a private company it would rank in the top 4% of UK firms) — exports to over 100 countries world-wide and gets 35% of its income from abroad — employs 260 permanent staff — has the most sophisticated computing installation in the Postal Business.

Most of the Bureau's product range consists of stamps and associated goods which it sells for up to one year after their withdrawal from operational use. In addition it offers a highly popular personalised official First Day Cover service and normal reposting facilities.

All the products are available to all customers who are of two basic types: those who send money with their order and those who subscribe to a

Bureau Deposit Account.

The main advantages of the standing order service are that it is cheaper for customers, it is automatic so they do not need to remember issue dates and it ensures completeness of collection.

The 'Gift Service' which is available only to Bureau Account holders gives the subscriber the opportunity to nominate up to 99 recipients of standing orders for which the account holder pays. This is a particularly attractive service for people who need not collect stamps themselves but wish to use stamps or first day covers as an inexpensive gift, which arrives regularly, for family, friends or business acquaintances.

Philatelists are articulate, fastidious and demanding customers. They know precisely what they want and the Bureau aims to provide it even if it is a particularly esoteric stamp format — there are 180 possible formats available from a sheet of 100 commemorative stamps! Meeting customers' needs demands a great deal of care and attention to detail by well trained staff, and very considerable technological back-up in order to keep costs down.

The combination of people, information technology and mailing machinery has helped maintain the Bureau's sales despite the world-wide recession which has hit the stamp trade particularly hard. It has done so mainly because it provides a comprehensive service to existing customers who tell their friends about it.

Readers requiring further information about Bureau services should write to:— The British Philatelic Bureau, FREEPOST, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 0HN or telephone 031-556 8661. LES STUBBS

National Postal Museum and PO Archives — Annual Closing

The National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives will close for the week 3-8 October 1983 to permit essential refurbishment work to take place. Both will re-open on 10 October 1983 at 10.00am.

During this period the Sales Counter will remain open for the sale of cards etc and for the receipt of postal items requiring the Museum handstamp.

Philatelic Counter Handstamps

On 19 September 1983, Coventry, Portsmouth, Harrogate, Swindon and Croydon join the growing number of offices with special pictorial handstamps cancelling mail posted at their philatelic counters.

These will bring the number of philatelic counters with their own postmark to 54.

Items for reposting should bear 3p in addition to the normal postage and should be sent to the offices shown below. The outer cover must be endorsed 'special philatelic counter handstamp' and must bear normal postage. Items will not be back-dated with a postmark prior to that which appears on the outer cover.

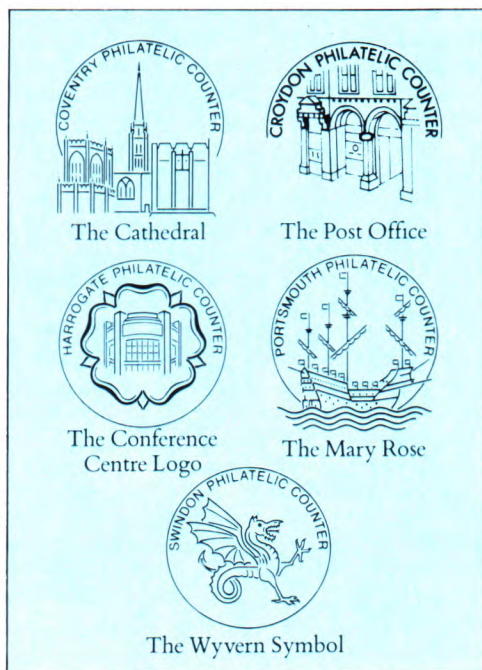
Coventry — Philatelic Services, Corporation Street Branch Office, COVENTRY, CV1 1AB

Croydon — The Officer-in-Charge, Branch Office, 10 High Street, CROYDON, CR9 1HT

Harrogate — Philatelic Duty, Head Post Office, Cambridge Road, HARROGATE, North Yorkshire HG1 1AA

Portsmouth — The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, Slindon Street, PORTSMOUTH, PO1 1AA

Swindon — The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, Fleming Way, SWINDON, SW1 1AA



New Philatelic Sales Counters

A new philatelic sales counter will open at the Head Post Office, Fleet Street, TORQUAY, TQ1 1AA on Tuesday 27 September 1983.

Hours of business at the new counter are 9.15am to 12.15pm and 1.30pm to 4.15pm Monday to Friday. To coincide with the opening, a special pictorial handstamp will be introduced to cancel mail posted in the office. The postmark shown depicts the Torquay Tourist Board's palm tree logo, and will be available on each day that the philatelic counter is open. For customers who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply; covers should be sent in an outer envelope addressed to, The Head Postmaster, at the above address.



A new philatelic sales counter will open at Carlisle Head Post Office, 20/34 Warwick Road, CARLISLE, Cumbria CA1 1AA on Monday 12 September 1983.

All mail posted in a special posting box situated in the office will receive a one-day commemorative cancellation. For customers who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply; covers should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster at the above address.

Hours of business are Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am to 12.30pm.

British Fairs Stamps

Issue 5 October 1983

As far back as Roman times the fair has been a feature of life in Great Britain, the very word 'fair' coming from the Latin for holiday, 'feria'. The travelling fairs of today are the direct descendants of the medieval fairs of which amusements were always an integral part and the fairs of today trace a tradition over a thousand years old.

Early fairs were principally markets where livestock, slaves or inanimate objects were sold or bartered. Travelling itinerants would also attend, showing off their juggling, acrobatic skills or dancing animals. The early Christian church was frequently involved in arranging events of this nature, either to celebrate a Christian festival or to convert a pagan festival into a Christian one.

To remind us of this aspect of the British way of life, the Post Office will issue on 5 October four special stamps illustrating fairs, designed by Andrew Restall DA MSIA MSTD.

The subjects and denominations are as follows:

16p Merry-go-round; 20½p Menageries and rides; 28p Side shows; 31p Early trade and produce fairs.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'Nottingham' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover - price 14p - addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Nottingham' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', as requested, and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched.

The following charges will apply:—

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.38	£1.20
Deposit Account		
Customers	£1.33	£1.16
Service 'B'	£1.24	£1.08

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes.



Application forms, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 26 September 1983.

Printing Details

The stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd in sheets of 100. The format is horizontal and the stamp size is 41mm x 30mm with 15 x 14 perforations. The paper used is unwatermarked, phosphor coated with PVA dextrin adhesive.

Values and Colours

16p - greenish yellow, orange-red, ochre, turquoise-blue, black.

20½ - orange-yellow, yellow-ochre, magenta, dull violet, olive-grey, black.

28p - lemon, orange-red, bluish violet, black, yellow-brown.

31p - greenish yellow, rose, deep bluish green, slate violet, deep brown, black.

Cylinders used

16p - 1a 1b 1c 1d 1e

20½p - 1a 1b 1c 1d 1e 1f

28p - 1a 1b 1c 1d 1e

31p - 1a 1b 1c 1d 1e 1f

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 21 September 1983, price 13p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 147, designed by Sutherland Hawes Design Ltd, containing all four stamps will be available from 5 October 1983, price £1.15.

Souvenir Covers

Souvenir Covers - price 14p each - designed by Sutherland Hawes Design Ltd, will be available at philatelic counters only on the day after the stamp issue, 6 October 1983.



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
BRITISH FAIRS

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



BRITISH FAIRS



Preliminary Designs

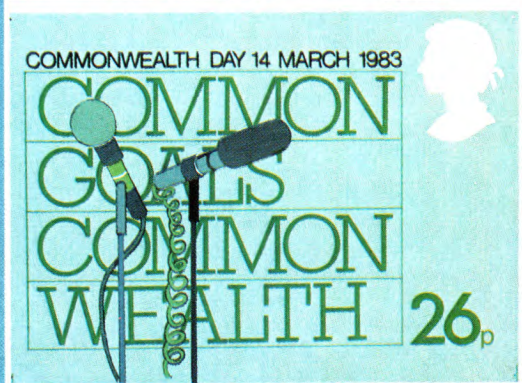
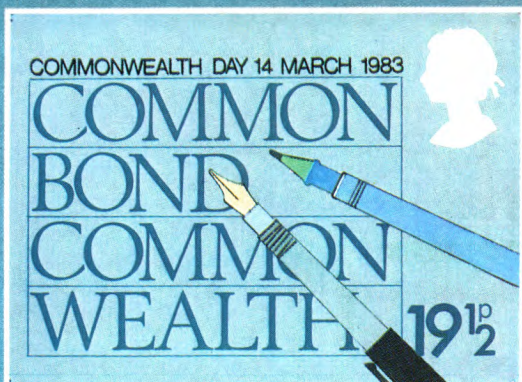
We are again taking the opportunity to reproduce a selection of the many excellent stamp designs submitted for the 1983 programme.



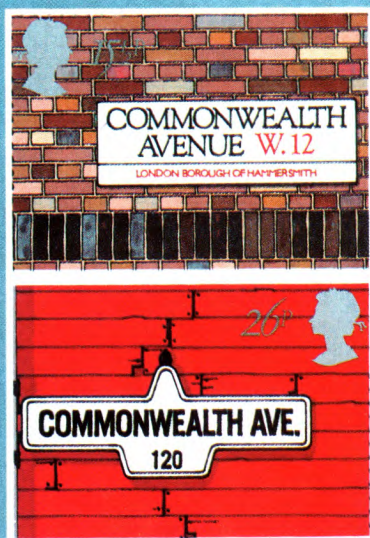
Paul Hogarth



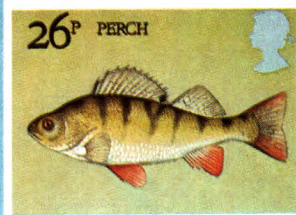
Norman Weaver



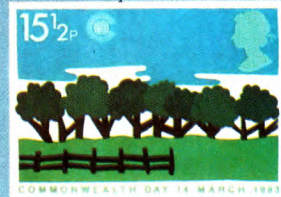
Stafford Cliff



Keith Bassford



Sir Peter Shephard



Ivan Chermayeff

Posting Boxes

Forthcoming Events



No. 51. Our photograph this month shows a wall posting box mounted in a stone pillar situated at Martindale, high above the east side of Ullswater in the lake district. Our thanks for the picture to Mr R W Harrison of Rugby.

High Value Definitive Stamp

On the British Philatelic Bureau order form for the new HV £1.30 stamp issued on 3 August 1983, the alternative postmark was given as ECDO. This should have read EDO. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Hinckley & District Philatelic Society

The H & DPS will hold its annual Stamp and Coin fair at St. Johns' Ambulance Hall (rear of Bus Station) Brunel Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire on Saturday 8 October 1983 from 10am to 5pm. The programme will include an exhibition and dealers stands, and light refreshments all day. Admission: 20p (children 10p).

Portishead Philatelic Society

The PPS will hold a stamp fair and auction on Saturday 17 September in the Somerset Hall, Portishead, Woodspring, Avon, from 10am to 4.30pm, admission is free. Ample car parking facilities are nearby and refreshments will be available all day.

The Postal History Society 39th Annual Conference

The Conference will be held between 30 September to 2 October 1983 at La Belle Epoque Restaurant, 60 King Street, Knutsford, Cheshire. Conference booking form and further information may be obtained from, The Secretary, Lower Street Farmhouse, Hildenborough, TONBRIDGE, Kent TN11 8PT.

Amersham & District Philatelic Society

The 25th Anniversary Exhibition and Stamp Fair of the A & DPS will be held at the Amersham Community Centre, Chilton Avenue, Amersham, Bucks on 1 October 1983 from 10.30am to 5pm. There will be dealers' stalls and The Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter.

Hemel Hempstead Philatelic Society

To celebrate their 20th birthday exhibition the Hemel Hempstead Philatelic Society will hold a Stamp Fair on 29 October 1983 at the Heath Park Hotel (near the Kodak Building) Hemel Hempstead from 10am to 5pm. Particular attractions include Post Office displays, special postcards, illustrating Hemel Hempstead postmarks. Further information may be obtained from the Society, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH.

The Methodist Philatelic Society

The annual general meeting of The Society will be held at The New Room, Broadmead, Bristol on Saturday 1 October 1983 from 10am. A warm

welcome is extended to all philatelists to view the exhibitions which will be on display.

Basingstoke & District Philatelic Society

Basingstoke PS will be holding a Fair and Exhibition and hosting the Hampshire Federation Convention on Saturday 17th September 1983, at the Carnival Hall and Leisure Centre, Basingstoke, where there will be 30 dealers, refreshments and displays. The Fair will be open from 10.00am to 4.30pm, with free admission and will be well signposted from the outskirts of the town.

The Pride of the Clyde Celebrations

1983 is a special year for the City of Glasgow. During this period, the city hopes to welcome home exiled Scots from all over the world and to entertain new visitors.

Philately has not been forgotten and the societies of Glasgow and the West of Scotland are combining to mount a major exhibition to take place from 12-24 September in the James Moir Hall, Mitchell Complex near Charing Cross, Glasgow. Exhibits will feature aspects of the Clyde area in philately. Further information from, Stanley Hunter, 34 Gray Street, GLASGOW, G3 7TY. Tel: 041 248 2933.

Forces Covers

Freedom of Dulmen

The Forward Ordnance Depot, Dulmen will be granted the Freedom of Dulmen by the Stadt on 10 September 1983. To mark the event a commemorative cover will be issued depicting in colour the Coat of Arms of Dulmen and the logo of the Depot. The cover will have a 16p 'Army' stamp affixed, unless others of this issue are specially requested, cancelled with a special handstamp including the words, 'Freedom of Dulmen 10 September 1983.' The cost is £1.25 or DM5. Signed by the Director General of Ordnance the cover will cost £2 or DM8. In addition the cover will be signed by both Burgermeister and Director General for a charge of £2.50 or DM10.

Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Central Bank FOD Dulmen BFPO 44' should be addressed to Philatelic Officer, FOD Dulmen, BFPO 44.

British Berlin Tattoo 1983 cover

A special philatelic cover is to be issued to celebrate the British Berlin Tattoo 1983 which will take place between 27 September and 2 October. The Tattoo, a

biennial event, is one of the largest British Military displays, attracting many people and giving much pleasure by its colourful and rousing performances.

The cover is illustrated with a colour photograph of Pipe Major Moore of the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Iniskilling) 83rd and 87th) set against a background of Windsor Castle.

For this cover, the 'British Army' special stamps issue is being used cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, BFPS No 5105, depicting a lion and the famous Berlin Bear.

The following prices apply:-

- | | |
|--|--------|
| a. Tattoo Commemorative cover bearing full stamp issue | £1.80p |
| Signed by the General Officer Commanding Berlin (British Sector) | £2.50p |
| Signed by the Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade | £2.25p |
| b. Tattoo Commemorative cover bearing the 16p stamp | 65p |
| c. Tattoo Commemorative cover bearing the 20½p stamp | 70p |
| d. Tattoo Commemorative cover bearing the 26p stamp | 80p |
| e. Tattoo Commemorative cover bearing the 28p stamp | 85p |
| f. Tattoo Commemorative cover bearing the 31p stamp | 90p |

Order forms are available on request from: Philatelic Officer, Berlin PC Troop RE, BFPO 45

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Berlin Garrison Welfare Fund' should be accompanied by a 23 x 14cms stamped, addressed envelope and forwarded to the above address.

British Gardens

To commemorate the 'British Gardens' stamps issued on 24 August 1983 a special Commemorative Cover (RFDC 21) is available in the Forces First Day Cover Series on behalf of the Bomber Command Museum Appeal.

The cover will feature the Royal Air Force Memorial and Gardens at Runnymede and bears the four 'British Gardens' stamps cancelled on First Day of Issue by BFPS 1814 handstamp — '30th Anniversary of the Opening of the Royal Air Force Memorial and Gardens at Runnymede.' It was flown from HQ BFPS to Runnymede and signed by the Keeper of the RAF Memorial and the Curator of the Bomber Command Museum.

The cost is £3.00 which includes postage and packing. Orders should be sent to the Director of Appeals, RAF Museums, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL.

Royal Navy: HMS 'Britannia'

To commemorate the 120th anniversary of the arrival of HMS 'Britannia' at Dartmouth on 30 September 1863, a cover will be available, illustrating 'Britannia,' the ship's bell and the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Bearing a 16p 'Gardens' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPS 1863, the cost of the cover is 80p.

In addition, the cover bearing a 28p 'Gardens' stamp, cancelled as above, but signed by Admiral Sir Frank Hopkins KCB DSO DSC, Captain, BRNC Dartmouth, 1958-1960 and Captain T M Bateman RN, In Command, BRNC Dartmouth, 1983, will cost £2.

Signed by Captain Bateman only, the cover with a 20½p stamp affixed will cost £1.30.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'FAA Museum' should be sent to RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL, accompanied by 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

British Fairs

To coincide with the issue of the 'British Fairs' stamps on 5 October a Forces First Day Cover (RFDC 22) will be issued to mark the institution of British Air Fairs. It will feature the world-famous Red Arrows and the four 'British Fairs' stamps will be cancelled by BFPS 1815 handstamp — '80th Anniversary of the World's First Air Fairs.' All covers will be flown by the Red Arrows and signed by the Officer Commanding RAF Scampton, the present home of the RAF's Aerobatic Team, and the Leader of the Red Arrows.

The cost is £3.00 per cover which includes postage and packing. Orders should be sent to the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL.

No 1 Radio School — Royal Air Force 40th Anniversary

On 20 May 1983, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshall Sir Keith Williamson, the Air Officer Commanding in Chief RAF Support Command; Air Marshall Sir Michael Beavis and 21 past Station Commanders and Senior Training Officers of No 1 Radio School assembled to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the School.

To mark the occasion commemorative covers were issued bearing 12½p definitive stamps, cancelled with a special handstamp used for one day only, and bearing a cachet, 'Locking Camp Weston-Super-Mare.'

The covers were flown from RAF Shawbury to Bristol, Lulsgate airport after a flight time 1 hour and 55 minutes. The following are available bearing the signatures of the Officer Commanding RAF Locking and that of the last Senior Training Officer at No 1 Radio School, price £2.50 each, covers bearing the signature of the pilot of the aircraft are available at £1.50 each, while those signed by the Air Officer Commanding in Chief, RAF Support Command are £2 each. Unsigned covers are £1 each. A set of four are available price £7.

The Middlesex Regiment (DCO).

Korea 1950-1951

Two further issues in the series of six covers commemorating the Battle Honours awarded to the Middlesex Regiment during the first year of the Korean War are to be issued on 22 September ("NAKTONG BRIDGEHEAD") and 5 November ("CHONGJU" and "CHONGCHON II").

Each cover will include a scene and 'insert account' relevant to the event.

Bearing a 16p and 20½p 'Military' Stamp respectively, the British Forces Postal Service cancellation will incorporate the 27 British Commonwealth Brigade Formation sign and serialised registration numbers 9992 and 9993.

Each copy is numbered and priced as follows:-

1-250 (signed copies) £3.50p

251-1000 (unsigned) £1.25p

Copies 1 to 250 will be signed by the Commanding Officer of the day (Colonel Andrew Man DSO OBE).

Orders with remittance (payable to "The Middlesex Regiment Korean Club") together with SAE size 9ins x 4½ins (for each issue) should be sent to the secretary:-

Mr S Webb, 38 Yarmouth Road, Symonds Green, STEVENAGE, Herts, SG12 1LW, UK.

Some copies of the previous two issues in the series are also available, priced as above. i.e. Issue No 1. The arrival in Korea 29 August 1950, Issue No 2. Battle Honour "CHAUMNI" 15 February 1951.

Commemorative Covers

Rowell Lions Club

On 5 October the RLC will offer a special cover to coincide with the issue of the 'British Fairs' stamps. The Club is resident in the town of Rothwell which has had a Charter since 1204 for a market and fair.

The cover bearing all four 'British Fairs' stamps cancelled with a special handstamp will cost £2.25, and bearing a single 16p 'Fairs' stamp the cover is £1.25. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Rowell Lions Club,' should be sent to, Mr B R Jones, Hon. Treasurer, Rowell Lions Club, 25 Moorfield Road, Rothwell, KETTERING, Northants NN14 2AT. The charges include return postage and packing.

The Boys' Brigade North West District

The Boys' Brigade in the North West are producing a commemorative cover to coincide with the Centenary Celebrations on 1 October 1983.

The cover will depict major landmarks throughout the North West overlooked by the figure of Sir William A Smith, the Founder of The Boys' Brigade. The 15½p 'Boys' Brigade' stamp will be cancelled with a special handstamp showing the twin pillars of the organisation referred to by King George VI as Religion and Discipline. 1000 only will be produced available at £1 each, plus 20p postage and packing from:- The Boys' Brigade, North West District, Arkwright House, Stoneygate, PRESTON, Lancs PR1 3XT.

The Centenary of University College Cardiff Foundation Day 21 October 1983

A commemorative cover illustrating the College Coat of Arms and Motto in colour, together with the title of the College in Welsh and English, has been commissioned to mark the occasion. The cover will bear a 16p Welsh 'Country' definitive stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp incorporating the Centenary logo.

The cost per cover is £1.00, and orders with remittance payable to 'University College Cardiff' should be sent to the Centenary Office, University College, PO Box 78, CARDIFF CF1 1XL. A stamped addressed envelope measuring not less than 9" x 4½" should accompany orders. Profits will be devoted to the Centenary Appeal through which it is hoped to build an indoor physical recreation centre.

Boys' Brigade Centenary

The Boys' Brigade in Wales is marking the event with the issue of a commemorative cover bearing the 15½p 'Youth Organisations' Stamp depicting Brigade boys. The cover design includes two Welsh castles, and the Wales Festival of Castles (Cestyll '83) logo, and will be cancelled with a special handstamp on 4 October 1983 which is the Centenary day.

Orders for serviced covers at £1 (plus 20p if sent under separate cover) to A.D. Hambly, 645 Newport Road, Rumney, CARDIFF CF3 8DB. Remittances payable to 'The Boys' Brigade in Wales.'

The special handstamp (with interchangeable date) has been designed to complement the issue of 'British Fairs' stamps on 5 October 1983. Please send stamped addressed envelope for details of this cover service.

Milk Marketing Board 1933-1983 50th Anniversary

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Milk Marketing Board two serviced commemorative covers are being issued on the 5 October 1983 which coincides with the first day of issue of the 'British Fairs' stamps.

The first cover will carry a 16p 'British Fairs' stamp and will feature a full colour reproduction of one of the Thames 4D Flatbed Churn Collection Lorries. The cost of this cover including postage will be £1.25.

The second cover will feature a full colour reproduction of the 'Coat of Arms' of the Milk Marketing Board and will carry all four of the 'British Fairs' stamps. The cost of this cover will be £2.25 including postage and packing. The covers will be cancelled with a special handstamp designed in the shape of a milk churn.

Sets of covers are available at £3.25 including postage and packing. Proceeds from sales will be donated between the Newcastle Staffs Volleyball Club and well known charities.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Newcastle Volleyball Commemoratives' should be sent to:- N.V.C., 59 Sneyd Avenue, NEWCASTLE, Staffs ST5 2PZ.

Syon Park

A commemorative cover, with all four 'Gardens' stamps affixed, and an illustration in colour of Syon Park together with an inset portrait of Capability Brown, is now available, price £3.25 including return postage and packing. Remittances made payable to 'Hawkwood Stamps' together with orders should be sent to Hawkwood Stamps, Freepost, LONDON, E4 7BR.

Nottinghamshire Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd

A number of special covers are still available, produced for the Nottinghamshire Trust, coinciding with the issue of the 'British Butterflies' stamps. All four stamps are affixed cancelled with a commemorative handstamp dated 13 May 1983. The cost is £2.50. Remittances with orders to, Mr M Birkinshaw, Nottinghamshire Trust for Nature Conservation Ltd., 33 Stanstead Avenue, Tollerton, NOTTINGHAM, NG12 4EA.

City of Nottingham Goose Fair

The Post Office will issue a set of four postage stamps on Wednesday, October 5, featuring British Fairs. Nottingham Goose Fair opens the following day (October 6) and to mark the event an attractive commemorative cover featuring the famous fair has been commissioned by Nottingham City Council.

The covers, bearing the full set of stamps, will be limited to 1,000 plus 250 signed by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham. The covers cost £3.25 each or £5 for the signed version — both prices fully inclusive of postage and packing in a stiffened outer envelope.

Remittances should be made payable to A G Bradbury and should be sent to him at 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ.

More details and order forms are also available from the City Information Bureau, Milton Street, Nottingham.

Colchester & District Philatelic Society

The C & DPS has issued a postcard illustrating Colchester Duplex Postmarks from 1850-1900. The cards bearing a 16p definitive stamp are cancelled with a Colchester handstamp price 40p each. Orders with remittances to Mr P J Nason, 3 Van Dyck Road, COLCHESTER, CO3 4QD should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The National Trust for Scotland

Pitmedden Garden in Aberdeenshire, a property of the National Trust for Scotland, is one of four 'British Gardens' featured in a set of stamps issued by the Post Office on 24 August.

The Trust will issue special commemorative covers and a limited number of these will be signed at the garden by Mr George Barron, former head gardener at Pitmedden and now co-presenter of the popular BBC Scotland television series 'The Beechgrove Garden.'

For further information, please contact Peter Reekie, Head of Publicity, 5 Charlotte Square, EDINBURGH EH2 4DU 031-226 5922 Home 0383 823817.

Maritime Convention at Preston Docks

The Annual Convention of the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies is being hosted this year by the Preston and District Philatelic Society on Saturday 24 September (10am to 4pm).

The venue is the TSS Manxman at Preston Docks. It is believed to be the first time a convention has been held on a boat in Britain. The TSS Manxman was the last operating steam turbine ferry in Britain, working between Liverpool and the Isle

of Man. It is now an entertainments and convention centre.

Attractions include a large competitive exhibition; displays of Preston Postal History; Displays from the twin towns in Germany of Flensburg and Recklinghausen; opening by Kenneth Chapman; talk on stamp designing by David Gentleman; a stamp designing competition for local schools; a railway TPO coach (and hopefully a rural postbus and vintage mail van); British Post Office and Isle of Man sales points; about 30 dealers including an unusually large number of postal history specialists.

A commemorative card and special postmark featuring TSS Manxman will be available at £1.00 each. A limited number will also be flown on the first official post carrying flight by Spacegrand Aviation from Blackpool to Douglas and will receive a special Spacegrand cachet. The cost of these will be £1.50. All cards and further information can be obtained from Paul Gaywood, Hoyles Farm, Hoyles Lane, Cottam, PRESTON, Lancs PR4 0LD.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

The Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by:

British Post Office
Postal Headquarters
Philatelic Marketing Section
Room 321
22/25 Finsbury Square
LONDON
EC2A 1PH

to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscriptions (*Inland, Europe and overseas*)

Surface mail £3.50

Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:

British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters price 30p.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £3.75

Printed in Great Britain by
Cripplegate Printing Company Limited
for The Post Office
