

Volume 20

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British Philatelic Bulletin



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Editorial

It has often been said that one of the signs that the first flush of youth is over is the quickening pace of the passage of time. It seems incredible that it is almost three years since I took over the editorship of the Bulletin from Archie Page, and that now my period of duty in the editor's chair has run its course. For I am off to fresh pastures and new 'hills' to climb. It is only left for me to say thank you dear readers for your forbearance during my period in the chair and for your many kind letters.

I shall not be leaving Post Office philately altogether as I shall be taking over from Charles Gowen as Assistant Curator at the National Postal Museum, where I hope that I shall have the pleasure of meeting Bulletin readers when they come to see the many philatelic treasures housed there.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Souvenir Covers

A 'Souvenir Cover', is the same as the Post Office first day cover, except for the wording and the fact that they go on sale the day after the first day of issue of the new stamps, and are kept on sale at philatelic counters for 12 months after that date.

At present these covers are only available from the philatelic counters at London Chief Office and Trafalgar Square, but from 7 July (the British Army stamps) we shall be extending the facility to all our philatelic counters.

New Royal Mail Stationery

Two new stamped envelopes for the First Class and Second Class postage streams, similar in design to that used on Postnotes, will go on sale at all post offices on 22 June 1983, to replace the present range.

The size of the envelope is 220mm x 110mm and the prices are 20p (16p postage) for the first class envelope, and 16½p (12½p postage) for the second class envelope. They will also be available at a discount in packets of 10 at the following prices: £1.89 (1st class) and £1.54 (2nd class).

The price indicator on the 1st class envelope is printed in silver and blue with two phosphor bars, while the indicator on the second class envelope is printed in blue with a single phosphor bar. The Queen's profile appears within both post paid designs.

'Defenders of the Mail'

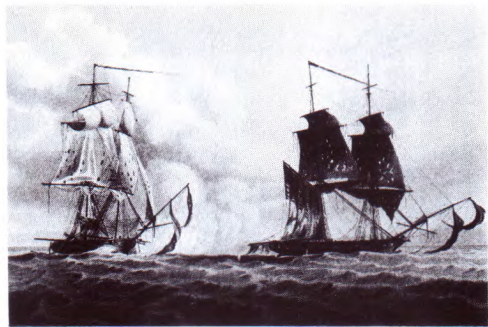
I was delighted to see the latest addition to the SWPR Postcard Series (SWPR 19, issued 10 May), one that recalls the gallant service given by the Falmouth Packets during the troubled times of the American and Napoleonic Wars of the early 19th century. The scene is Falmouth Harbour sometime in 1817, with the *Francis Freeling* unloading bullion for its conveyance to London by Russell's Wagon under military escort.

Commanding the *Francis Freeling* at this time was James Cunningham. A veteran of many a skirmish on the high seas in His Majesty's Navy, and still in his early forties, he had won his Command of the *Francis Freeling* in recognition of his outstandingly courageous defence of the Post Office's Packet *Morgiana* two years earlier on her maiden voyage to Demerara. Her attacker was the American privateer *Saratoga*, a heavily armed Brig with 136 men homeward-bound to New York after being chased by several British Frigates,

Brigs and Line of Battle Ships. Being closely pursued, lightly armed and with only 39 inexperienced men, the little *Morgiana* bravely opened fire and began a hard-fought engagement which was to last for two hours. It was not until one third of his men had been either killed or wounded, and he had sustained terrible injuries – including a musket ball in his left arm, another in his leg, sabre cuts to his body and a severe cutlass wound on his head – that Captain Cunningham reluctantly gave the signal to sink the Mail and to haul down the ensign. Further resistance impossible, and the two ships locked together and almost wrecked, more than 70 of the privateer's men then surged aboard the *Morgiana* and the fight was all but over. Several, with upraised cutlasses, then rushed at Captain Cunningham, lying prone on the deck, to finish him off, when one of the enemy to whom he had earlier given quarter, begged his fellows to 'spare the Captain's life for having given him his

A scene at Falmouth Harbour 1817. SWPR Postcard No 19.





The Hinchinbrook Packet beating off an American privateer 1813.

when he could easily have taken it'.

After pillaging the stricken *Morgiana*, the *Saratoga's* Commander had a few last words to say to Captain Cunningham as he robbed him of his personal possessions. Complimenting him on the strength of his men's resistance, he admitted that he could still scarcely believe that there had been so few. At death's door, and not expecting to live, Cunningham retorted that it was their proud duty to 'defend the Mail with obstinacy' – adding as a final shot that 'some of them were very young, and some were very weak, yet they were Englishmen!' One last compliment to the *Morgiana* was paid in the American Commander's subsequent report to his owners, given full publicity in the New York press. Here, her force was given as 50 men!

By 1817 the *Francis Freeling* had also proved herself to be an 'obstinate defender of the Mail'. Three times in 1814, when homeward bound from Lisbon and carrying bullion to the value of £30,000 as well as Army Mails and vital despatches, she was closely pursued by American privateers of greatly superior force, and each time she repelled the attempt to capture her. The third engagement came after a chase of seven hours, and lasted about an hour. Yet again, the greatly outnumbered men of the *Francis Freeling* 'fought like lions' at their guns, and the privateer could get no closer than a mile – eventually giving up the attempt and quietly slinking away while the Packet ran fast for home. In admiration and gratitude, her passengers later presented the Captain with a handsome sword and subscribed the sum of £20 'to enable the fine fellows to have a supper and dance on their arrival at Falmouth, and to drink the health of the Postmaster General'. She, too, must have been a ship Cunningham was proud to command.

Six years later, the *Francis Freeling* became one of the 28 Post Office Packet ships transferred to the Admiralty, when the latter assumed control of the Falmouth Station and its services. Within three years this little Falmouth-built ship of just 191 tons had passed into the much quieter service of the Weymouth Station, where she was finally lost on a passage to Guernsey in 1826.

Hers was a typical story of the gallant service given by the Falmouth Packets, 'Defenders of the Mail'. This has been immortalised not only in paintings such as those reproduced here, but also in several stamps devoted to the subject: British Virgin Isles 15c (1970); Cuba 13c (1971); Turks & Caicos 8c (1973); and Montserrat \$1.10c (1976) and 40c (1980).

But what of the man who lent his name to the *Francis Freeling* Packet? That – and the adventure that befell Russell's Wagon on its long journey to London – is another story.

JEAN FARRUGIA Archivist

Source: Post 40/reports 110B and 166B of 1814.



Captain Rogers of the Windsor Castle Packet boarding the French privateer La Genii 1807. Reproduced by courtesy of Bruce Castle Museum, London.

British Philatelic Trust

The new address of the British Philatelic Trust is, Alder House, Room 311, 1 Aldersgate Street, LONDON, EC1A 1AL.

Stamp not visible



The Gem from the Reginald M Phillips Collection this month looks at one of the early problems encountered by Rowland Hill in ensuring that cancelled postage stamps could not be re-used. From the very introduction of the Penny Black, the possibilities for fraud by re-using the stamps, were of great concern to the Post Office Authorities. A variety of the early trial cancellations are on display in the Reginald M Phillips Collection, illustrating the attempts made to cope with fraud.

The illustration shows an example of the delivery note sent to the postmaster of Hopeman (with the handstamp) which has an impression of the Maltese Cross, the town stamp and 'STAMP NOT VISIBLE' (struck in both red and black). While it is obvious to readers today, the cancelling of stamps to prevent their re-use on letters was a completely new concept in 1840 and had to be explained to postmasters. This particular item can be found in volume XII/1 of the Reginald M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. A Post Office Circular was also sent to all postmasters with an impression of the Maltese Cross handstamp using the specially prepared red ink prepared by Perkins & Co. Instructions were also included for postmasters to prepare ink to this specification as follows:-

'Directions for preparing the Red Stamping Composition:-

1lb Printer's red ink

1 pint Linseed Oil

Half-pint of the droppings of Sweet Oil to be well mixed'.

Because the ink was prepared locally, distinctive shades naturally occurred and a variety of these are also on display in the Museum. The eventual replacement of the Penny Black by the Penny Red and the change in cancelling inks from red to black, a complete reversal of colours, meant that ultimately no other satisfactory solution could be found to overcome the cancelling difficulties.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

A new philatelic sales counter will open at the Forster Square Branch Office, Forster House, BRADFORD, West Yorkshire, BD1 1AA on 14 June 1983, during the morning by Tom Jackson, former Chairman of UCW.

All mail posted in a special posting box situated in the office will receive a pictorial one-day commemorative cancellation. For customers

who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply: covers should be sent to, The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, Forster Square, BRADFORD, West Yorkshire, BD1 1AA.

Hours of business at the new counter are, Monday-Friday 0900-1700, Saturday 0900-12 noon.

Handstamps in use at Philatelic Counters

We have been asked by many readers to illustrate the new handstamps used for cancelling mail posted at philatelic counters from 23 September 1981. We are now happy to do so. Regrettably it

was not possible originally. For those customers wishing to obtain these cancellations, but who are unable to visit the offices, normal reposting facilities apply.



City Hall



The Rotunda



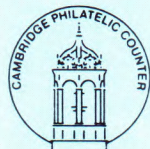
The Tower



Corfe Castle



The Pavilion



Trinity
Fountain



St John's Tower



St John's Abbey
Gateway



St Giles



City Chambers



Town Hall



Liver Building



Town Hall



Cathedral



Castle



Tom Tower,
Christchurch



Town Hall



Bottle Kiln
Gladstone



Bargate



Minster



St Paul's Cathedral



Nelson's Column

Posting Boxes



No. 48. Our attention has been drawn to the Edward VII posting box, illustrated here, by Ms Lorna Hooper, who discovered it while on holiday in Sidmouth, Devon. The flower box on top of the posting box is maintained with seasonal flowers by the local Council.

Researching at the National Postal Museum

We would like to apologise for the confusing caption which appeared on p108 above an illustration of a post office counter. It should have read, 'Philatelic Sales Counter'.

Book Review

New Stanley Gibbons Stamp Collecting Series

Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd have recently introduced a new series of books entitled *Stamp Collecting*. These are aimed at the beginner and intermediate stamp collector. The first three in the

series are now on sale.

Stamp Collecting – How to Start

Stamp Collecting – How to Identify Stamps

Stamp Collecting – Collecting by Theme

Each has been prepared by James Watson, former Deputy Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, well-known philatelic and postcard journalist, and the author of several books including the highly-acclaimed *Stanley Gibbons Book of Stamps and Stamp Collecting*.

Stamp Collecting – How to Start has been written specifically for the new collector and provides an outline of the basic essentials of the world's most popular hobby. Here is the key to many hours of enjoyment and relaxation. Included is a brief history of stamps, advice on albums and catalogues, arranging your collection and a helpful glossary of basic philatelic terms.

Identification of country of issue is the key to finding where stamps are listed in the catalogue and *Stamp Collecting – How to Identify Stamps* has been prepared with this in mind. It instructs the reader how to study stamp inscriptions with helpful information on unfamiliar scripts. New collectors will find it an indispensable companion especially used with the *Stamps of the World* catalogue and even more experienced collectors will refer to it when puzzling specimens come their way.

As an alternative to conventional philately – collecting stamps by country – many collectors now prefer to collect stamps issued by many countries depicting a chosen theme. *Stamp Collecting – Collecting by Theme* gives practical advice on how to form and develop a thematic collection, including an A-Z to collecting subjects. A fascinating description of a particular theme – the mutiny on the *Bounty* – is given.

The first three *Stamp Collecting* books are all profusely illustrated and have been carefully designed so as to be easy to follow – for even the most inexperienced collector. Each has 323 pages and retail price is £1.25 each.

Two further books in the series – *Stamp Collecting – how to Arrange and Write-Up a Stamp Collection* and *Stamp Collecting – A Guide to Modern Philately* will be published later.

The British Army Stamps

Issue 6 July 1983



Five regiments of The British Army are suitably honoured in this year of military anniversaries with the issue of five new commemorative stamps. Designed by Eric Stemp, the stamps illustrate soldiers in early and present day uniforms. The subjects and denominations are: The Royal Scots (16p), The Royal Welch Fusiliers (20½p), The Royal Green Jackets (26p), Irish Guards (28p), The Parachute Regiment (31p).

Printing details

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

A first day cover, price 14p, and presentation pack, number 145, are designed by Keith Bassford.

Values and colours

16p – buff, brown, grey, rose-red, new blue, black, gold.

20½p – buff, greenish-yellow, grey-black, rose-red, new blue, black, gold.

26p – buff, slate purple, bright green, bistre, black, gold.

28p – buff, ocre, grey, rose, new blue, black, gold.

31p – buff, olive-yellow, grey, reddish-purple, new blue, black, gold.

Cylinders used

16p – 1a 1b 1c 1d 1e 1f 1g

20½p – 1a 1b 1c 1d 2e 1f 1g

26p – 1a 1b 1c 1d 2e 1f –

28p – 1a 1b 2c 1d 3e 1f 1g

31p – 1a 1b 1c 1d 1e 1f 1g

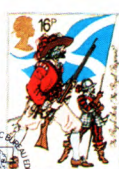
Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 13p each.

Presentation pack

A presentation pack, number 145, designed by Keith Bassford and containing all five stamps will be available from 6 July 1983, price £1.41.





The British Army

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

The British Army

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



145 6783

100. Birth Bicentenary of J. M. W. Turner, 1975

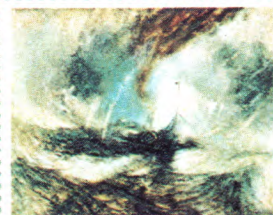
Continuing the 'British Painters' theme which began in 1967, the Post Office issued four stamps commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851), the barber's son who became one of Britain's greatest painters, on 19 February 1975. Two of his paintings – 'Peace: Burial at Sea' and 'The Fighting Téméraire' – were recommended for the 1967 issue, but neither was used. The former picture, however, takes precedence in this Turner series – it is the 4½p stamp. The others were: 5½p 'Snowstorm – Steamer off a Harbour's Mouth' (when Turner was reputedly lashed to the mast to record the scene around him); 8p 'The Arsenal, Venice' (showing the influence of his Venetian visits in 1835 and 1840); and 10p 'St. Laurent'. The first two are oils, the latter two, watercolours – Turner was skilled in both media.

'Peace: Burial at Sea' was Turner's tribute to his old friend and rival, Sir David Wilkie, who visited Syria, Palestine and Egypt for his health in 1840, but died on the voyage home. Turner's imaginative composition pictures the maritime burial, an example of his adopted use of pale brilliance of colour in oils, which Constable once described as 'tinted steam'. Landscapes were his forte and his output was prolific, his talent precocious. He was born in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, had little formal education (and was virtually illiterate all his life), but nevertheless he was admitted to the Royal Academy at 14 and was exhibiting a year later. In fact the R.A. recognised his talent and supported him against his numerous critics for most of his life. He became an A.R.A. and then R.A. (in 1802), a professor of perspective at the Academy in 1807 and latterly (1845) deputy President. Much of his life was taken up with his sketching tours, visiting France, Germany, Holland and Italy.

The stamps were designed by Stuart Rose, C.B.E., then Design Adviser to the Post Office, and the paintings were reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum and the Trustees of the Tate Gallery. Some 300 of his paintings and 20,000 drawings and watercolours were bequeathed to the nation, and a large number of his paintings, remarkable for their



Turner 1775-1851



Turner 1775-1851



Turner 1775-1851



Turner 1775-1851

vivid colour and effects and especially for their sunsets, are in the National Gallery, among them 'Ulysses deriding Polyphemus', 'The Evening Star', 'A Frosty Morning' and the celebrated 'Fighting Téméraire'.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. Listed varieties include broken letters 'r' in 'Turner' on the 4½p, 5½p and 10p stamps, while the 5½p is additionally found with an apostrophe before '1851' and a stop between '18' and '51'.

JAMES WATSON

New Stamp Books

The third in the Post Office's current series of stamp booklets with illustrated covers will be introduced on 27 July 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 Toulouse Goose 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 LNER 'Mallard' steam locomotive, in the series on Railways.

The £1.46 'Postal History' book, again illustrated by John Gibbs, is devoted to the Parcel Post Centenary and will contain 6 x 16p stamps and 4 x 12½p stamps. The design shows an early horse drawn carriage and a 4½d 'Jubilee' stamp of 1892.

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 selvedge.

Some previous issues were produced with two first class stamps adjacent to the selvedge. 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.

Regional Postcards

Wales and The Marches Postal Board

Wales and The Marches Postal Board will issue its third set of 6 Regional postcards depicting a 'Castles' theme to coincide with Wales' Festival of Castles Year (Cestyll 83) on 27 June 1983. They will illustrate the following subjects:

WMPB 18: Castell Coch, Cardiff

WMPB 19: Pembroke Castle

WMPB 20: Rhuddlan Castle

WMPB 21: Raglan Castle

WMPB 22: Beaumaris Castle

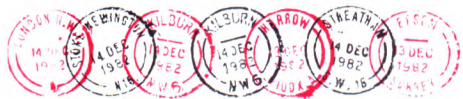
WMPB 23: Powis Castle

The costs are £2.52 per set, or, 42p singly. These prices are for serviced cards, including the cost of the cards, first class postage, first day of sale handstamping and service charge. Sets of mint cards (contained in a wallet) are 80p, or singly at 13p, for personal callers only at crown post offices and philatelic sales counters in the Wales and The Marches Postal Region. Bulk orders for mint cards only are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges will apply. Orders with remittances for serviced cards should be sent to, PL1 Marketing Section, HPO, 220-228 Penarth Road, CARDIFF, CF1 1AA.

Orders for single sets and single cards only, may also be ordered by post from CARDIFF.

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Letter to the Editor



Sir,

Further to Mr Allan Daniell's letter correcting the description 'Short C-class' wrongly applied to the 10p UPU Centenary issue of 1974, I would add the following information which supports his view, and which I would submit is the 'whole truth':

The 'Maia' was built from scratch as the lower portion of the composite with the smaller, long range 'Mayo'. Short's designation was S.21 with the civil registration G-ADHK. The aircraft had a fuselage length of 84' 10³/₄" and a span of 114' 0". Tare weight was 24,000 lbs and all up weight 38,000 lbs. First flight was at Rochester on 27 July 1937. The aircraft, unlike all S.23 C-class aircraft, never served with Imperial Airways. It was destroyed by enemy action in Poole Harbour on 11 May 1941, having served as a navigation trainer after completion of the composite trials.

In contrast the 31 Short S.23 aircraft were all built specifically for Imperial Airways between 4 July 1936 and 30 March 1938. Their fuselage length was 88' 0" but they retained the 114' 0" span of the type S.21. Tare weight was 23,500 lbs. and all up weight 40,500 lbs.

To summarise therefore – the 10p UPU stamp shows the Short S.21 'Maia' and not the Short S.23 C-class aircraft.

Yours faithfully,
Alan Scholefield

ST HELENS
Merseyside

Forces Covers

The British Army Series

The Army is to issue an official set of six covers to coincide with the Post Office British Army stamps issue on 6 July. The set of six covers will comprise one 'Army' cover and the remaining five will link with the regiments depicted on the stamps: The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), The Royal Welch Fusiliers, The Royal Green Jackets, Irish Guards and The Parachute Regiment.

The stamps issue is being made in the year The Royal Scots celebrate their 350th anniversary. They are the oldest regular unit in the British Army and in recognition of their seniority they are featured on the 16p stamp.

The Army cover, approved by the Army Board, will carry the full issue of postage stamps and bear an illustration of soldiers of the five infantry regiments featured, plus other supporting Arms and in the background Windsor Castle.

The five regimental covers approved by the appropriate regimental colonel will carry the stamp specific to the regiment.

Six special handstamps have been approved by the Post Office for the issue.

The Army cover will be cancelled by British Forces Postal Service No 1983 bearing the Army insignia of crossed swords with crown surmounted by a lion and the legend British Army Series.

The remaining five covers of the set will be cancelled by the BFPS number shown below and will feature the individual regiments.

A limited number of 500 Army covers, each individually numbered, will on this unique occasion be signed by the five military members of the Army Board. A corresponding number of



regimental covers each signed by the respective Colonel of the Regiment/Colonel Commandant will also be available.

Profits from the venture will be donated to Army and regimental charities, under the direction of the Adjutant General.

There will be a coloured insert inside each cover, giving short historical details of the Army/regimental background to the issue.

The following prices will apply:-

- a. The Army cover bearing the full stamp issue. Cancelled by BFPS 1983 £2.00
Signed by the five General Officers, Members of the Army Board £10.00
- b. The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) bearing the 16p stamp. Cancelled by BFPS 0350 £1.00
Signed by the Colonel of the Regiment £2.50
- c. The Royal Welch Fusiliers bearing the 20½p stamp. Cancelled by BFPS 0294 £1.00
Signed by the Colonel of the Regiment £2.50
- d. The Royal Green Jackets bearing the 26p stamp. Cancelled by the BFPS 1800 £1.20
Signed by Representative Colonel Commandant £2.50
- e. Irish Guards bearing the 28p stamp. Cancelled by BFPS 1900 £1.20
Signed by the Colonel of the Regiment £2.50
- f. The Parachute Regiment bearing the 31p stamp. Cancelled by BFPS 2000 £1.20
Signed by the Colonel Commandant £2.50
Regimental covers bearing a full set of stamps are also available. £2.00
A complete set of 6 covers at the reduced price of £7

Serviced covers provided for addressees in the UK attract VAT. The total remittance must therefore include additional payment of 15%.

Serviced covers for addresses overseas including BFPO number, Channel Islands and Isle of Man do not warrant VAT charges.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Army Philatelic Account' should be accompanied by a 23 x 14cms stamped self addressed envelope and forwarded to:-

Philatelic Officer DPCS MOD (A) BFPO 777

New Colours for Staffordshire Regiment

The first Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) were presented with New Colours by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire (Sir Arthur Bryan) in the grounds of Colchester Castle on Saturday 21 May 1983. To mark the event a commemorative cover is now

available illustrating both the New Colours and Regimental Colours together with an Officer and Senior Non Commissioned Officer in Parade Dress against a back drop of Colchester Castle. The cover will have a pictorial handstamp number BFPS 1808, and the cost is 90p.

Orders with remittances made payable to the 'Philatelic Officer, 1 Staffords' at Roman Barracks, Roman Way, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 9NT.

The Queen's Own Hussars

To coincide with the issue on 6 July of five new postage stamps featuring five famous British Regiments, The Queen's Own Hussars Regimental Museum will offer a philatelic cover. It will commemorate two anniversaries (a) the 25th Anniversary of the amalgamation of the 3rd The King's Own Hussars with the 7th Queen's Own Hussars at Tidworth in 1958, and (b), the 600th Anniversary of the construction of the first buildings in 1383 now forming the Lord Leycester Hospital at Warwick - which now houses the Queen's Own Hussars Regimental Museum.

The cover features an officer on horseback, the Regimental badge, and the Lord Leycester Hospital. All five stamps will be affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp on 6 July 1983. The cost is £3.75.

In addition a limited number of covers will be available as above but signed by Lieutenant General Sir Robin Carnegie, KCB, OBE, Colonel of the Regiment, price £5.75 each; a further limited number will be signed by Captain Lee, Master of the Hospital, price £5.75, and in addition 100 covers will be cancelled at Tidworth price £4.75 each.

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

Commemorative Covers

Engineering Achievements

Cranfield Institute of Technology has produced a special commemorative cover bearing all three 'Engineering Achievements' stamps cancelled on 25 May 1983 - the first day of issue.

The cover includes an illustration by David Green showing one of Cranfield's many engineering research projects, and the insert describes

Cranfield's interests and some of its achievements. The cover is available, price £1.50.

Orders accompanied by remittances made payable to, 'Cranfield Institute of Technology' should be sent to, Mr E J MacAdam, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, BEDFORD MK43 0AL indicating the address to which covers are to be sent.

Thames Flood Barrier

A philatelic cover is now available sponsored on behalf of the GLC Thames Flood Barrier, bearing the 20½p 'British Engineering Achievement' stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp on 25 May 1983. The cost is £1.50. In addition the cover is also available with all three 'Engineering Achievements' stamps affixed and cancelled as above, price £3. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'D G Taylor' should be sent to him at, 202 Somervell Road, HARROW, Middlesex, HA2 8TS.

Prices include return postage and packing. Full details of these and other covers are available on request.

William Wilberforce

A new philatelic cover is now available incorporating a portrait of Wilberforce, and bearing a set of 'British Engineering Achievements' commemorative stamps, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp on 25 May. The cost of the cover is £2.50 including return postage and packing. Alternatively the cover as above, but with the 16p 'Humber Bridge' stamp only affixed, the charge is £2. Orders with remittances made payable to 'The Wilberforce Council' should be sent to:

Mr Jack Lennard, Salisbury Hall, Park Road, HULL HU3 1TD.

Philatex Bournemouth

A commemorative cover is now available coinciding with Philatex Bournemouth held between 2-4 June. The cover illustration is from a painting by Paul Bryant, aged 8, the overall winner of a painting competition open to school children in the Bournemouth/Poole area.

A 15½p 'Theatre' (ballerina) stamp is affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting an artist's palette, and including the legend, 'Philatex Bournemouth 2 June 83'.

The cost of the cover is £1 including return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Philatex Bournemouth' should be sent to, Dept P B, Stamp Centre, 6 Parchment Street, WINCHESTER, SO23 8AT.

The Quincentenary of the Dukedom of Norfolk

It was in 1483 that King Richard III created Sir John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, and on 28 June Arundel Castle will commemorate the 500th anniversary of this event with a souvenir cover. Illustrating the heraldic achievement of the present Duke it will have a 15½p 'Maritime Heritage' stamp (Henry VIII) affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting an outline of the Castle. The cost per cover is £1.50. A limited number will be signed by the Duke and these will be available price £5.25 each. Both prices include return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Arundel Castle Trustees Ltd' should be sent to, Arundel Castle, ARUNDEL, West Sussex BN18 9AB.

First Sawbridgeworth Scouts

To mark the 75th year of scouting in Sawbridgeworth on 1 June 1983 the scouts have produced a commemorative cover depicting a modern day scout. The covers will bear the 26p 'Scout' stamp cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp. The cost is £1.70 each including postage and packing.

Orders with remittances made payable to '1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group' should be sent to D W Mead, c/o 69 London Road, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, Herts CM21 9JJ.

William Wilberforce – 150th Anniversary

Kingston upon Hull City Council will issue a commemorative cover on July 29 as part of the celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, and the death of the renowned anti-slavery campaigner. 29 July is the day Wilberforce died, only three days after Parliament voted to end slave traffic.

The cover is printed in three colours bearing the official celebration logo, and a 16p 'Humber Bridge' stamp cancelled with a special handstamp. An insert card describes Wilberforce's life and how he is remembered in the city of his birth.

The cover is priced at 60p. Orders with remittances made payable to 'Hull City Council' should be sent to:-

Public Relations Officer, Hull City Council, 77 Lowgate, HULL HU1 1HP.

If requested in outer cover, stamped addressed envelope should be provided.

Eastbourne Borough Centenary

In celebration of the Eastbourne Centenary, the

Tourism and Leisure Department Philatelic Agents are to produce a commemorative cover with a one-day special handstamp on 16 June 1983.

The covers will bear a full colour embossed copy of the Borough Coat of Arms and will contain an illustrated insert card showing photographs of the respective Mayors of 1883 and 1983, together with extracts from the original Eastbourne Borough Charter. The stamps to be used will be the Jane Austen issue of 1975. Covers are offered with two of the four values affixed. A pair of covers may be ordered to obtain the full set of 4 stamps.

Serviced covers are priced at £1.60 each or £2.95 for a pair of covers.

A limited number of covers with full set of stamps will be numbered and signed by the present Mayor of Eastbourne and will be available at £5 each. These prices include post and packing.

Remittances should be made payable to Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd., and sent to 33 St Georges Place, CANTERBURY, CT1 2XX.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The following covers are currently available.

The Churchill Centre

Pictorial view of this Rehabilitation and Assessment Centre situated within the grounds of The Royal British Legion Village complex, Maidstone, Kent, with 15½p 'Commonwealth Day' stamp affixed and franked with special handstamp. Price £1.50.

Also available with complete set of Commonwealth Day stamps. Price £2.75.

Annual Conference

Colourful view of a famous Royal Naval vessel triumphantly returning to Portsmouth after service in the South Atlantic. 15½p Maritime Heritage stamp affixed and franked with special handstamp. Price £1.50.

Also available with complete set of Maritime Heritage stamps. Price £3.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal' should be sent to, Royal British Legion Village, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME20 7NX.

Humber Bridge

The Humber Bridge – the longest suspension bridge in the world – will be featured on a commemorative cover. The cover bearing a 15½p 'British Engineering' stamp will be driven over

the bridge on a journey to Hull for cancellation with a special handstamp. Authentication of this fact will be printed on the cover together with a logo and individual number. The cost is £1 each. Orders with remittances made payable to J V Starkey should be sent to 23 David Street, GRIMSBY, S. HUMBERSIDE, DN32 9NL.

800th Centenary of the Parish of Boldon

This historical event 1183 – 1983 is being marked by the issue of a commemorative cover. The logo features the lovely old village church of St Nicholas, West Boldon. The special handstamp depicts the open Boldon Book and will cancel the 26p Commonwealth stamp affixed. The cover features an insert giving a short history of Boldon.

A medieval Fair is being held in the Aubrey Leake Hall, West Boldon on July 2nd from 12-4.30 pm. A special one day postbox will be situated there.

Covers are limited to 1500, 200 of which will be signed by The Archbishop of York, Cardinal Hume, The Bishop of Durham, The Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle and The Rector of Boldon and The Reverend A Middleton.

Signed covers are £5 and unsigned covers £1 each.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'St Nicholas C.C. Fund' should be accompanied by 9" x 4½p" SAE and sent to, Mrs J Bowman, 17 Hardie Drive, West Boldon, TYNE & WEAR, NE36 0JH.

The Football Association and Football League

The following covers are being produced in conjunction with The Football Association and The Football League. They are all part of the Official Series which commenced at the start of the 1982-83 football season. Five covers have already been issued, and the following are currently available.

No. 6. The Milk Cup Final (Liverpool v Manchester Utd) 26 March 1983. Price £1 plus 20p p&p.

No. 7. European Championship at Wembley. (England v Greece) 30 March 1983. Price 80p plus 20p p&p.

No. 8. European Championship at Wembley. (England v Hungary) 27 April 1983. Price 80p plus 20p p&p.

No. 9. The F.A. Cup Final at Wembley on 21st May 1983. Price £1 plus 20p p&p.

After the covers have been cancelled with the special handstamps, they then have to be over-printed with the match results. This means that they are not normally available until 21 days after the event. All covers are sent under separate cover.

In keeping with the series, they are printed in colour and embossed, and contain informative filler cards. Various stamps will be used on these covers, including the 'Fishes' and 'Commonwealth Day' issues.

Remittances made payable to 'Dawn Cover Productions', should be sent to Dept. B. 27, Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT, SK3 8UD.

Forthcoming Events

Wakefield Philatelic Society

A stamp fair and philatelic display organized by the Wakefield Philatelic Society will take place on Saturday 23 July 1983 at Unity Hall, Westgate, Wakefield from 10am-5pm. Admission is free.

1983 Melville National Junior Stamp Competition

Although there were only 53 entries this year, it was felt by the judges that the standard was very high especially in the two senior classes. It was particularly pleasing to note that there were 20 entries put in through school stamp clubs. The judges this year were Mr Colin Spong (Senior Judge), Mr Graham Childs, Mr Kenneth Chapman, Mr Oliver Nugent and Mr Richard West.

The Post Office has invited ten award winners to attend a seminar to be held in the National Postal Museum, London. The successful entrants are:

CLASS 'A' Timothy Dexter, Crawley District PS

Glyn Wigley, Mablethorpe PS

CLASS 'B' Philip Ross, Wimbledon PS

CLASS 'C' Robert Sykes, Northampton PS

Andrew McCreary, Boston Grammar School

Michael Scot-Dagleish, Milford Stamp Club

Clair Nichols, Leatherhead Stamp Club

Andrew Man, St. Paul's School

Jens Finke, South Manchester PS

Sarah Rapkin, GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle

The seminar will take place between 16-18 August 1983.

Welsh Philatelic Society

Continuing its extended four-day formula, proven successful over the past three years, the Welsh Philatelic Society will be holding its seventh Annual Weekend Meeting at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tanybwllch, Maentwrog, from the evening of Thursday 16 June to midday Sunday 19 June 1983.

Apart from allowing some free time for local visits and excursions, the event will include a light-hearted 'egg-cup' Competition, a mini-auction, the AGM of the Society, displays covering 'Welsh Ship Letters' and 'Anglesey Postal History', a Postcard Display, and a Postcard Seminar. Dealers will also be in attendance.

Residential booking is now closed, but as usual non-residential participants will be more than welcome.

For further particulars please contact the publicity officer of the WPS: D. Dauntton, 21 Torkington Road, WILMSLOW, Cheshire, SK9 2AE (0625 528840).

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Memmott

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

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