

British Philatelic Bulletin

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February 1988



Y Beibl Cymraeg

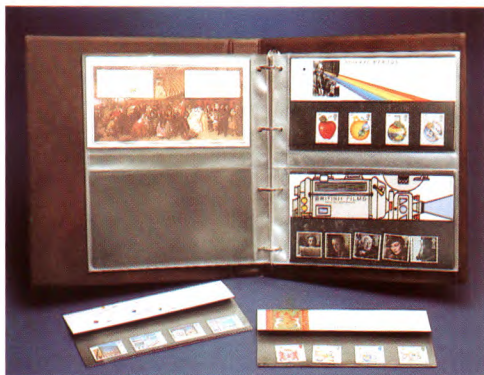
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Philatelic Points of View

The Stamps and Philately Division of the Royal Mail wants to hear more from philatelists about matters of concern to them. The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is therefore inviting readers to put forward their comments and suggestions on a wide range of philatelic topics over a six month period.

Attention is being focused on one particular subject area each month. The subject for this month (the last in the series) is Presentation Packs and Presentation Pack Albums (see below).



So, if you would like to express a view or make a suggestion regarding either of these items, please write to the following address:

Philatelic Points of View
Presentation Packs and Presentation Pack
Albums
Room 328
Royal Mail Stamps and Philately
22/25 Finsbury Square
LONDON
EC2A 1PH

This is the end of the six month period of “Points of View” and there will be a prize of a special stamps Yearbook to the person who has sent in the most interesting suggestion in the opinion of a Royal Mail panel of judges.

The result will be published in the *British Philatelic Bulletin* later this year.

The Welsh Bible—1588—1988

1 March 1988

Four stamps will be issued on 1 March, St David's Day, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the publication of Bishop William Morgan's translation of the Bible into Welsh. The stamps were designed by Keith Bowen and feature portraits of four of the main figures involved in translations of the Bible.



William Morgan. Cefnithudd y Esgibol Cymraeg cyntaf 1588.
Translator of the first complete Bible into the Welsh language 1588.

The Renaissance, beginning in Italy, gradually spread throughout northern Europe. It revolutionised art and music but above all it changed men's ideas. The rediscovery of classical texts in their original languages, Latin, Greek and even Hebrew, lead to an upsurge in interest in the philosophical ideas of the great men of the past. In particular, this was reflected in ideas on religion. There was considerable revulsion against the corruption of ecclesiastical practices and language among many of the great thinkers such as Erasmus whose ideas came to be described as humanism. One of their aims was to reconcile the many great religions of the world, another was to return to the sources of their information to eliminate wrong interpretations, and a third was to make their thoughts available both to each other and to the general public. This was greatly helped by the spread of printing from moveable type.

They wrote in Latin, and Latin was the language of the Church but they recognised that to appeal to a greater audience meant that they must write in the vernacular. In particular, the Bible should be available to people in their own languages. With the failure of reform from within came the cataclysm of the Reformation and the great work of translation began. Many of the translators were to produce works of fine literature, standardising their languages in the process. Luther's German and the English of the Authorised Version are two examples.

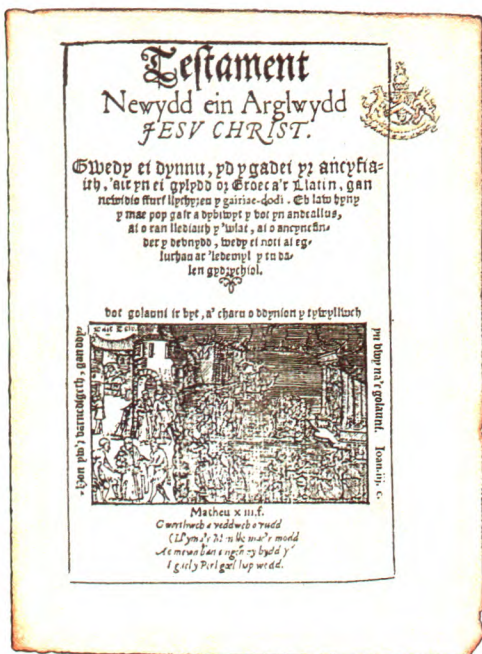
In Wales the first of the translators was William Salesbury who wrote in 1547 "If you do not wish to be lower than beasts, seek learning in your tongue ... If you do not wish to depart wholly from Christ's faith, seek the Holy Scriptures in your tongue." Later came Bishop William Morgan whose translation of the Old



Testament and thorough revision of the New was published in 1588. This had a similar cultural impact on the people and language of Wales as that of some of other countries' translators which is the reason for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of its publication. Morgan, who is shown on the **18p** stamp was rector of Llanrhacadr-ym-Mochnant. His was the first complete translation and is noted for its warm, dignified style.



William Salesbury, **26p** stamp
Principal translator of the New Testament into the Welsh language 1567.



allowed some of the reformers' goals to be achieved.

The stamps bear Keith Bowen's depictions of the translators based upon several sources. The inscriptions are in the style of the period and in both English and Welsh, making this the eighth special stamp issue to appear with Welsh inscriptions.

Technical Details

Designed by Keith Bowen, the stamps have

Morgan built on the work of others. William Salesbury, who is depicted on the **26p** stamp, came from Llansannan, Clwyd. A layman, he had translated the Gospels and Epistles of the English Prayer Book into Welsh in 1551. His was the inspiration for the Act of Parliament, passed in March 1566, for the translating of the Bible and Divine Service into the Welsh tongue. Salesbury's New Testament appeared in 1567, though it contained a large number of variant readings and archaisms.

On the **31p** stamp is shown Richard Davies. He translated five of the New Testament books in a less pedantic fashion than Salesbury with Thomas Huet, Precentor of St David's, translating the Book of Revelation. Davies invited Salesbury to join him and continue work on the Old Testament but disagreement caused a rift. Morgan took up the work where they left off.

On the final stamp, the **34p**, is Richard Parry of St Asaph's. Together with John Davies, rector of Mallwyd, he carried out a revision of Morgan's work in 1620. He standardised the language still further and a popular version appeared in 1630 termed the "Little Bible". This



Richard Davies, **31p** stamp
Principal translator of the New Testament into the Welsh language 1567.

been printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited. In format they are vertical, 35mm x 37mm, perf. 14 x 14½, printed on unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper. Printing is in sheets of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum.

PHQ Cards

PHQ cards (Nos 108 A-D) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 15 February, price 15p each.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack will cost £1.31 and was designed by Newell and Sorrell, with text by Dr Brynley F Roberts. The text appears in both English and Welsh. It was printed by Clement & Foster Limited.

First Day Cover

The first day cover design is similar to the flap of the presentation pack. It costs 16p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one from the British Philatelic Bureau featuring William Morgan's signature, and the other from Tŷ Mawr, Wybrnant,

Gwynedd shows Morgan's birthplace.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark. The charges will be £1.56 (inland) and £1.36 (overseas). Application forms, available from the Bureau and at Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 1 March.



Richard Parry. Gs olugudd y cyfeiriad diwygiedig o'r Bibl Cymraeg 1620. Editor of the revised version of the Welsh language Bible 1620.



Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed 'Special First Day of Issue Handstamp' to:

'British Philatelic Bureau' 20 Brandon Street,
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

'Tŷ Mawr' Special Postmark Duty
Caernarfon Sorting Office
Cibyn Industrial Estate
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd LL55 2ND





Y BEIBL CYMRAEG
1588-1988

Post Brenhinol Downodd Cyhoeddus Cymral

THE WELSH BIBLE

1588-1988

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Y BEIBL CYMRAEG

1588-1988

Stampiau Newydd shony Post Brenhinol

THE WELSH BIBLE

1588-1988

Royal Mail Mini Stamps

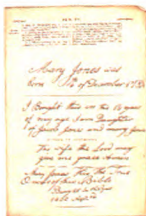


Yn ferch 16 oed yn 1800 cerddodd Mary Jones y 25 milltir o'i chartref i'r Bala i bryni Beibl gan Thomas Charles. Daeth ei henw'n gyfystyr ag awydd y werin am wybodaeth grefyddol a diwyllianol a chredir mai ei sêl hi a oedd ym meddwl Thomas Charles 5 mlynedd yn diweddarch pan gymerodd ran amlyg yn y trafodaethau a arweiniodd at sefydlu'r Gymdeithas Feiblaau Brydeinig a Thramor.



Thomas Charles, un o sylfaenydd y Gymdeithas Feiblaau Brydeinig a Thramor
Thomas Charles, one of the founders of the British and Foreign Bible Society

Mary Jones, as a girl of 16 in 1800, walked bare foot the 25 miles from her home to Bala to buy a Welsh bible from Thomas Charles. Her name became synonymous with the desire among the common people for literary and religious knowledge, and it is believed that her zeal was in Thomas Charles's mind when 5 years later, he took a prominent part in discussions which resulted in the creation of the British and Foreign Bible Society.



A page from the Bible given to Mary Jones by Thomas Charles, with her signature

1987 Special Stamps Poll

Once again we are asking readers to vote for their favourite stamps. Shown here are all the special stamps issued by The Post Office during 1987. Let us know your top three sets on the enclosed form, plus the reason why you like your favourite set best, and we will award 1987 Yearbooks, this time to the five readers whose comments we feel are the most original and interesting.

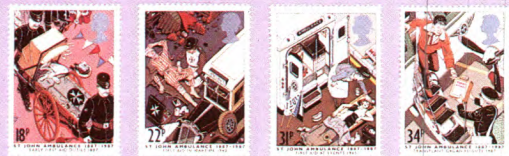
The closing date for votes is 31 March 1988 and the results will be published in the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. We look forward to receiving your vote!



1. Flowers



2. Sir Isaac Newton



4. St John Ambulance



5. Scottish Heraldry



8. Christmas



7. Studio Pottery



3. British Architects in Europe



6. Victorian Britain



GPO Art in the Thirties

The Work of the Poster Advisory Group

TONY GAMMONS

In January 1988 the National Postal Museum issued a set of three postcards to complement its exhibition "Railways and the Post". The subjects were chosen from the Post Office Archives' poster artwork collection which contains a number of designs commissioned by the short-lived "Poster Advisory Group" of the mid 1930s.

With the disbandment of the Empire Marketing Board, which at one time supplied over 20,000 schools throughout the country with posters and maps, there was a great demand for posters of high quality which could be used for educational purposes. The Post Office, for example, was constantly receiving applications from schools for copies of its ordinary advertising posters. With the encourage-

ment of the three Departments of Education in the United Kingdom, the Post Office wrote, in May 1934, to all local education authorities offering to arrange for free periodical issue of posters and maps illustrating the growth and development of communications which would be suitable for display in schools. As a result over 20,000 schools applied to be placed on the Post Office's list for the supply of this material.

To ensure that a high standard of artistic design, as well as of educational value, be maintained Sir Stephen Tallents, the Post Office's Public Relations Officer, enlisted the help of a small panel of advisers including Kenneth Clark, Director of the National Gallery, J L Beddington of Shell and Clive Bell, a well-known art critic.

Fig. 1

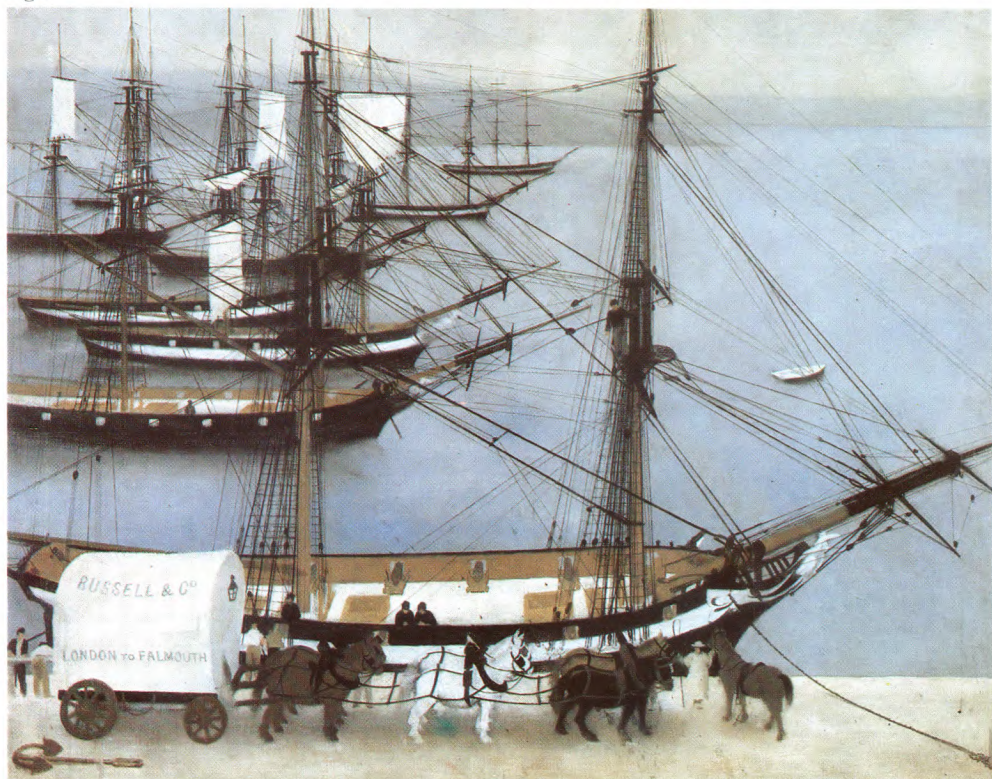




Fig. 2

The Department's poster production fell into two main classes:

1. "selling posters" relating to special services and facilities which were commissioned as and when needed.
2. "prestige" pictorial posters and maps which were intended for the decoration of post offices and for issue to schools.

The group's function was first to assemble a list of subjects covering the main activities of the Post Office and second, to put together a panel of artists, then to choose a subject for each artist "which seemed best suited to his gifts".

The first set of prestige posters was ready for distribution in November 1934 and were designed by H S Williamson, the principal of the Chelsea School of Art. The set consisted of PRD 88 *Relays carrying the King's messages, 1482* (see *British Philatelic Bulletin* January 1986, page 91); PRD 89 *Mails for the Packets arriving at Falmouth, 1833* (Fig. 1); PRD 90 *Loading mails at the docks in London, 1934* (Fig. 2); and PRD 91 *Loading Air Mails for the Empire, Croydon 1934* (Fig. 3). Two leaflets accompanied the set of posters, one

dealing with PRD 89 and 90, the other with PRD 88 and 91. These leaflets were designed primarily to assist teachers who might wish to associate a lesson with a subject illustrated by one of the posters.

The posters were also made available to organisations such as boys' clubs, Boy Scouts and schools not covered by the original list. If stocks permitted, private individuals were able to order the posters at 1s each or 3s per set. In size these differed from previous Post Office posters, being "Royal", i.e. 25 inches wide by 20 inches high.

With the first set proving a great success John Armstrong was commissioned to produce a second set of four, while Macdonald Gill and McNight Kauffer were asked to prepare maps showing the world-wide system of the radio-telephone and air mail communications. Although the group spent a considerable amount of time choosing the artist for a particular poster, results, apart from the first set, were on the whole disappointing when compared with other work done by the same artists in other fields. Tallents felt that one of the main

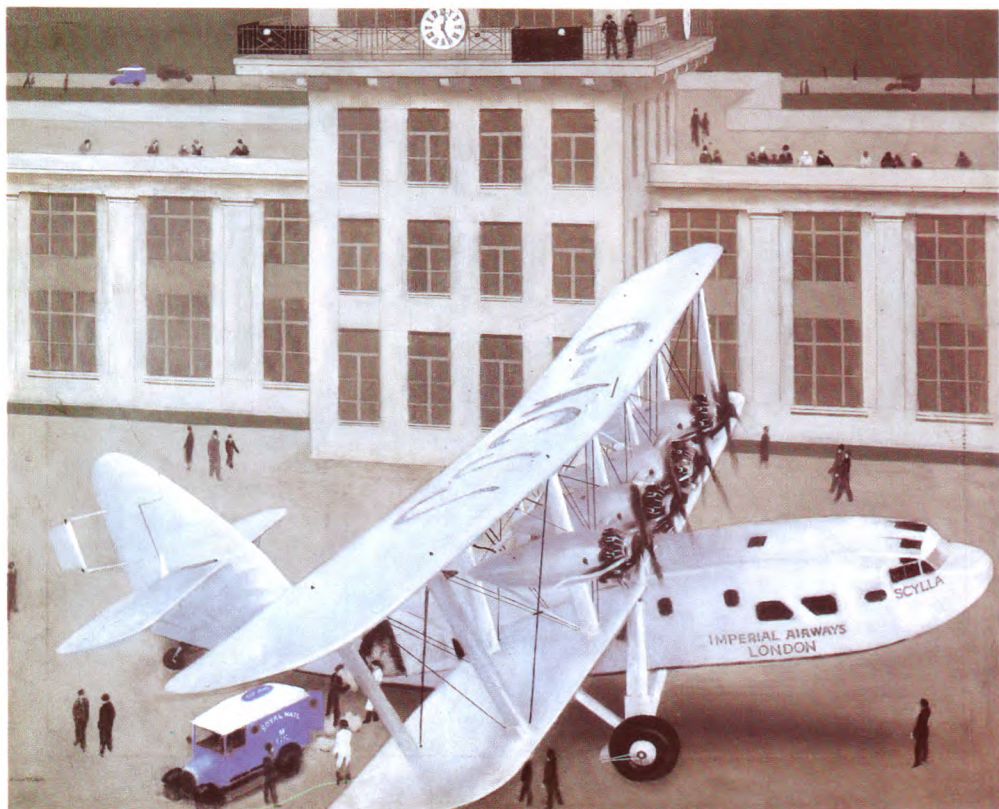


Fig.3

problems was his own inexperience of Post Office operations. He, therefore, suggested that A G Hight, an Assistant Controller of Sales and Publicity and John Grierson, the Post Office's Film Officer, should prepare a new schedule of subjects which should be submitted to the Poster Group for consideration and, if accepted, for the Group to recommend artists for the various subjects. Special attention was paid to overseas subjects for two reasons. From the artist's point of view they offered greater variety of subject and would bring in more of the quality that the Empire Marketing Board's posters secured. From the display point of view they had the advantage of suggesting the world-wide range of Post Office activity, an aspect which could, with great advantage, be emphasised in offices dealing mainly with "petty and short range transactions". Tallents also considered that one of the major problems was in getting the artists under the skin of Post Office activities. In a memo to the Post Office Board in October 1935 he likened some of the artists to

"boys sticking up a leaflet on a gate and running away"! It must be said, however, that some of the designs chosen by the group were hardly inspiring. At a meeting in 1935 the following designs were commissioned: *Underground cable manhole*; *A landscape with a main pole route*; and *Oxy-acetylene cutter*.

Late in 1935, Lt Col E T Crutchley took over from Stephen Tallents as Public Relations Officer and attended his first group meeting on 12 February 1936. The Hight-Grierson list was submitted at this meeting bringing forth the following remarks from Kenneth Clark. "While the Post Office had obtained the services of a number of artists of repute, there had seemed to be difficulty in choosing subjects suited to their particular style and capabilities." He thought that it would be impossible to choose any articles of note who could be expected to produce first class designs from the list and suggested that the Department could experiment among the younger, less eminent artists who might be more adaptable to the needs of the Post Office. The Group felt somewhat

aggrieved that a considerable number of the posters approved by them had not been issued. For example, only two of the "Armstrong" set had been selected for display in post offices. This caused considerable friction between the Group and Crutchley who clearly felt that many of the posters did not satisfy Post Office requirements. The Group pressed for executive rather than advisory powers, complaining that the failure to act on its recommendations put it in an impossible position. Crutchley considered that the Postmaster General should retain the right to decide what posters he would accept, either for exhibition in schools or in post offices. If this meant the resignation of the Advisory Group he recommended that this be accepted and the group not reconstituted. It was felt that as the leaflets and booklets produced by the Post Office had received generous approval, Highest as Controller of Publicity had all the necessary taste, experience and contacts to secure a similar measure of success with posters.

In December 1937, Crutchley wrote to the members of the advisory group, on behalf of the PMG, saying that "he (the PMG) had regretfully come to the conclusion that, in view of the wide differences of opinion which have manifested themselves as to the means of satisfying the requirements of the Post Office, he cannot, without mutual embarrassment, continue to come to the Poster Advisory Group for advice." The task of commissioning posters passed to the general Publicity Committee, thus ending the Post Office's excursion into, as Crutchley put it, the "advanced art movement".

Welsh Bible Cylinders

The cylinders and colours printed of the Welsh Bible stamps to be issued on 1 March are as follows:

18p	Grey black 3A	Greenish yellow 1B	Cerise 4C	Blue 1D	Black 2E	Emerald 1F
26p	Grey black 2A	Yellow 1B	Bright rose-red 4C	Turquoise blue 1D	Black 2E	Orange 1F
31p	Black 2A	Chrome yellow 1B	Carmine 1C	New blue 1D	Grey black 1E	Blue 1F
34p	Grey black 1A	Greenish yellow 2B	Cerise 2C	Turquoise green 1D	Black 2E	Bright violet 1F



New Finds for NPM

Recently a large number of photographs have been transferred to the National Postal Museum. Among them were some as shown here by John Hedgecoe taken in June 1966 as a possible alternative to the Machin design. Essays were produced in October to December of that year.



The "Financial Times" £5 Prestige Stamp Book

L F NEWBERY

The £5 *Financial Times* Prestige Book will be issued on 9 February. For the first time this has been printed in offset litho by The House of Questa. This is the first book of stamps to be produced by this printer for the Post Office and also the first time that books have contained stamps printed in lithography. There are thus seven new stamp varieties contained in the book.

The book will contain 12 full colour pages and four panes of definitive stamps. All were printed in offset lithography on Heidelberg Speedmaster printing presses, sheet-fed, 12 up (three columns x four).

Stamp panes

There are four panes of stamps each with an illustrated stub: 9 x 18p ACP; 6 x 13p central band; mixed value pane with 3 x 13p right band, 3 x 13p left band, 18p, 22p, and 34p with two bands; 6 x 18p ACP. All the stamps were printed from two plates to give added depth of tone. Printing of the stamp panes was on unwatermarked paper with a weight of 102

gsm; all the panes have a selvage on all four sides.

The sheets were perforated on a Bickel perforator giving a single extension hole opposite every row in both left and right selvages and perforations right across the top and bottom.

No plate numbers were printed on the sheets. The necessary marginal markings occurring on sheets, interleaves and covers were all trimmed off in production and do not appear in the issued books. These were colour bars right along the lower edge, traffic lights towards the top of the left side, and various cutting lines and trimming instructions.

Of the four stamp panes the phosphor band layout was illustrated last month.

Pane 1

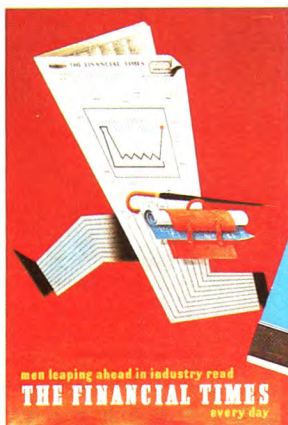
9 x 18p with the stub featuring an *FT* promotional booklet and a cartoon for Pension Day, 1 January 1909. Printed on HS6/ACP paper supplied by Harrison & Sons Ltd, on PVA Dextrin gum. In the ex-

Pane 1



FT promotional booklet and cartoon from the 1920s.





Pane 2

Pane 2

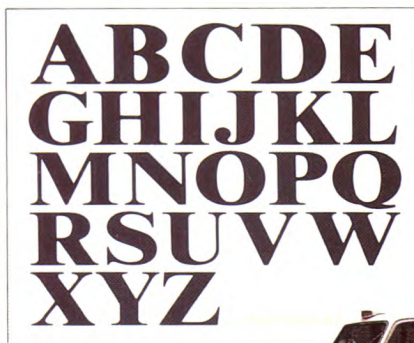
treme left and right trimmed off portions of the sheets was a 6mm phosphor bar right across the full height of the sheet. Similar bars were on the other three sheets. 6 x 13p with the stub featuring book matches. The stamps have a central 4 mm phosphor bar of an organic phosphor for dry offset

Pane 3

printing. The paper was supplied by Coated Papers Ltd, gummed with PVA gum (not PVA Dextrin). Mixed value pane (6 x 13p, 1 x 22p, 1 x 34p and 1 x 18p) with the stub featuring a poster entitled "We're not so wild about Sir John". The three 13p stamps on the left have

Pane 3





Pane 4

Pane 4

one phosphor band on the right whilst the three 13p on the right have one left band; the remaining 22p, 34p and 18p have two bands. The paper and phosphor used is the same as for pane 2 (ie Coated Papers Ltd on PVA Dextrin gum). 6 x 18p with the stub showing a recent *FT* advertisement – “No FT – No Comment”. The paper and gum are the same as for pane 1 (ie ACP paper from Harrison and Sons Limited, with PVA Dextrin gum).

Covers

These are printed on Huntsman Silk paper, with a weight of 250 gsm. The saga of the *Financial Times* illustrated in colour begins on the inside of the front cover and continues through the interleaves ending on the inside of the back cover. The outside of the back cover is devoted to philatelic items sold by the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters.

There are four interleaves of Huntsman Silk paper with a weight of 115 gsm. The pages are numbered at the top, but in the case of 3, 5, 6 and 7 the number is omitted.

Book Production

The 12-up sheets were gathered in the following

sequence: FC, 1/L, Pane 1, 2/L, Pane 2, 3/L, Pane 3, 4/L, Pane 4, BC. The mass is then guillotined into columns x 4 on a Polar guillotine and sewn on Singer sewing machines. After sewing, the columns are then backed with a white plastic strip on a backing machine. Finally, the columns are trimmed and guillotined into individual books.

Packing

The books are bundled in 25s with every five books reversed and card interleaved, also with card outside every 25 front and back. The bundles are shrink-wrapped and cartoned, 400 books per carton (16 bundles x 25).

For stamp booklet collectors this edition provides four new stamp booklet panes and for other collectors seven new stamps and eight set-tenant pairs.

Spring Stampex 1988

Spring Stampex 1988 will take place from 1 to 6 March at both Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1. There will be a Post Office stand and the first day sees the issue of the Welsh Bible stamps.

There will also be a stand for the Stamp Bug Club and one for the National Postal Museum with activity tables and sales counters.

For the period of the exhibition there will be a special handstamp and a slogan cancellation from London SW1.

The International Year of Disabled People, 1981

British Special Issues: No.144

FRANCIS KENNEDY

This issue was in support of the UN-proclaimed International Year of Disabled People. The designs by John Gibbs were this artist's first for stamps and were essentially practical, each one pinpointing a method for combatting a disability.

The four stamps were 14p, 18p, 22p and 25p covering, respectively, the basic inland letter rate; the European basic letter rate (before the special EEC rate now applicable); the basic Zone B rate (for the Americas, Africa and the Near East); and the basic Zone C rate (for the Far East

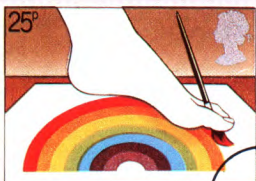
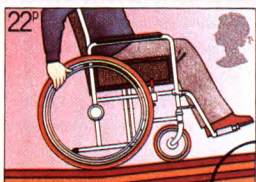
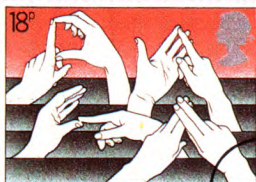
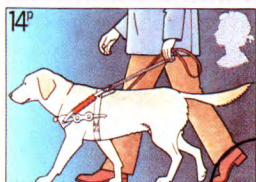
and Australasia).

The four designs dealt with specific disabilities as follow: **14p**, blindness – guide dog set against a graduated background suggesting the darkness of blindness into light under guidance; **18p**, deafness – the four pairs of hands together spell out the word “deaf” in British sign language as used by deaf and dumb people; **22p**, patient-propelled wheel chair – symbolising independent mobility for a chair-bound patient, even when ascending an incline; **25p**, the triumph of the armless artist – painting with the foot, a tribute to the Association of Mouth and Foot Artists, each one of whom is without the use of arms.

Philatelic press comment on the issue included the observation, in the *Philatelic Magazine* (February 1981), that the Post Office had missed an opportunity to issue a colourful set of charity stamps bearing a premium in aid of those whose difficulties the stamps themselves underlined. The magazine recalled the sober two-toned blue 4½p + 1½p stamp of January 1975, the only occasion that the British Post Office has issued a postage stamp carrying a premium over face value specifically to raise funds for charity. That stamp, with its silhouette of a wheelchair patient, received minimal official promotion because the Post Office was not keen on the idea and the extra accounting such a stamp would generate. Sales of that stamp had eventually totalled 7,000,000 and produced a net figure of £53,000 after agreed expenses had been deducted. This, plus a donation of £4,000 was shared between about 12 nominated charities, who themselves had spent money on advertising the stamp. Nobody can say what would have happened to the 1981 IYDP issue had each stamp carried a charity premium, but the actual sales were: **14p**, 43,061,000; **18p**, 10,466,000; **22p**, 10,037,000; **25p**, 9,688,000.

Printing was in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited, in sheets of 100 (2 panes of 50), perf. 15 x 14, on phosphor-coated paper backed with PVA Dextrin gum.

Minor constant printing flaws occur in several positions of sheets of all values but only three more prominent flaws are worth noting. They are: **14p**, dark grey spot on right show (row 3, stamp 1, no dot cylinder); **18p**, colour smear almost adjoining base of the right-hand thumb on the second of the two upper pairs of hands (row 6, stamp 3, no dot cylinder); **25p**, white nick in paint brush handle just above the white section (row 5, stamp 10, dot cylinder).



The Early Post Offices of Cyprus

JACK C GOODWIN

The year 1878 was an important one in Cyprus. The British took over from the Turks on 12 July, and on 22 July Lt Gen Sir Garnet Wolsley assumed the position of Her Majesty's High Commissioner. On the postal side 27 July saw the opening of the first post office (on Larnaca's seafloor) and on 7 August the first "route contract" was signed, for the carriage of mail between Larnaca and Nicosia. By 1900, 198 postal facilities had been established.

Obviously, the postal history of Cyprus does not begin with the British. However, the service before this was indeed meagre. In mediaeval times letters went to and from Cyprus, complete with their impressive seals, and the Turks operated a mail service of sorts prior to 1878. Apparently, there was a place for mailing and receiving letters in Larnaca and a Nicosia shop which sold Turkish stamps (£6 per year at maximum), but there was action only when an Ottoman naval vessel visited the island.

The Austrian Post Office at Larnaca (1845–1878) was more active, and its LARNACCA DI CIPRO cancellations on Lombardy-Venetia stamps (from 1863) have long aroused the interest of postal historians.

Most of the Pashas who ruled Cyprus between 1571 and 1878 were concerned with themselves only, and the last decades of occupation were particularly non-progressive. The British arrived to find only one metalled road ("metalled" with rocks and having bridges, so as to be all-weather), that between Larnaca and the capital. Otherwise, the highways were "trails", the expression used by an early tourist, Sir Samuel Baker. There was one telegraph line, from the Karpass (connection with Syria) to Larnaca. The aim of the new administration was to "develop" the new possession and communication was thus a priority.

As might be expected, the improvement of mail service was linked to road building, and, given the paucity of the Cyprus Government's financial resources, it is remarkable that progress was so rapid.

The military played a considerable role at first. In Nicosia the Army's Headquarter Camp

(at Metokhi Kykko and about a mile from the city centre) had a post office for several months before that in the centre opened. The Polymedia Camp PO, near Limassol, was for the Army only, but the military road constructed to the "rest camp" at Troodos resulted in opening of both army and civilian postal services over that route: Zygoth (a temporary camp), Dhoros, Lania Bridge Station, Silikou, Kouka, Pano Platres and Troodos. Other camps with mail service, albeit briefly, were at Pasha Chiftlik (near Larnaca), Zyyi and Mathiati.

Helping the soldiers keep in touch with home was clearly a priority, but so also was service to the major population centres. Larnaca was the hub of it all in those days, with Nicosia of secondary importance. Famagusta was doing nothing as a port, its harbour silted up, and Limassol was small. Of even less import, although "district capitals", were Kyrenia on the north coast and Paphos, a true hinterland at the time.

What is now called "the old road" from the capital to Famagusta, that through Asha and Vatili, was in such poor condition the British decided to develop the route through Kythrea, Lefkoniko and Trikomo. Though the mail service commenced in 1879 the road was not declared all-weather ("first class" was another term used) until 1886, and by that date postal services had been extended on up the Karpass Peninsula to Rizokarpaso. Yialousa also had a service by 1886, but most of the villages along the route from Nicosia were at first serviced by two of Cyprus's four "Circular Post" arrangements. These were Travelling Post Offices, the carrier delivering the mails, selling stamps and picking up letters along the way. The other two operated out of Myrtou (limited in area and time of duration) and Morphou. This latter served a huge area, the Solea and Marathasa valleys. It functioned for several years, even though postal agencies were quickly founded at Evrykhon, Galata, Kakopetria, Katydhata, Linou, Kaliana Station, Lefka and Kalopanayiotis.

In 1880, Famagusta itself received better service from overseas with the opening of the

road from Larnaca, via Pyla.

Limassol and Paphos lie west along the coast from Larnaca. District post offices were set up in both places in 1878, but most of the mail to Paphos was carried by sea until 1894. That year saw completion of the Erimi-Paphos road via Lakko Franko. It may appear incongruous that the 20-odd mile route north from Paphos to Polis already had a "diligence" mail service in 1887 (via Polemi and Skarphos Bridge in those days), but a look at the winding road near Lakko Franko (not even on the maps now), or even the snake trail which was the "highway" to Paphos as late as 1966, will explain the slow road progress.

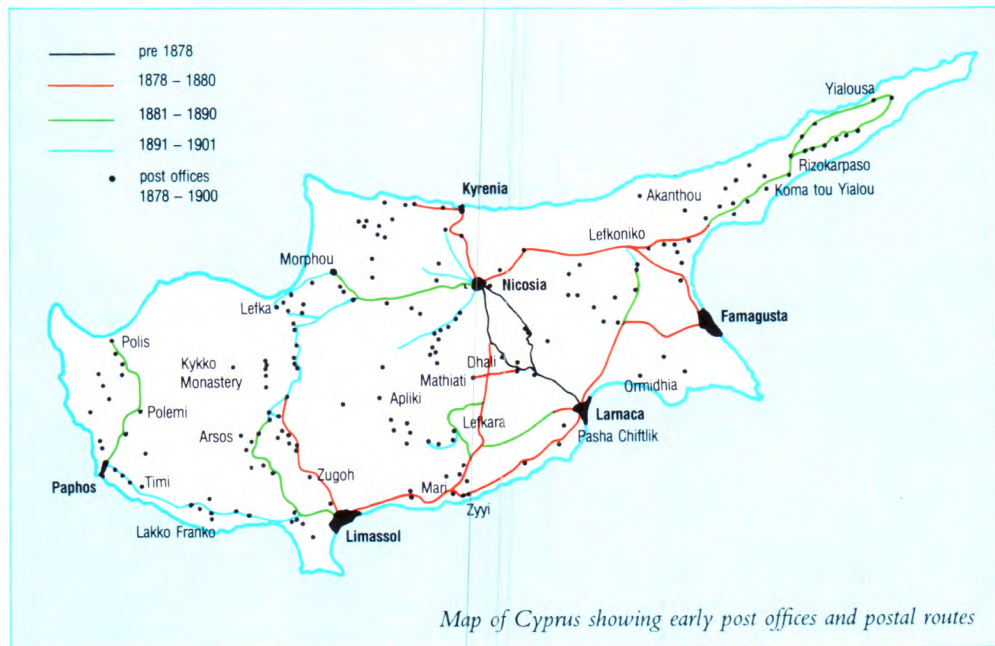
The early route from Larnaca to Limassol led via Mazotos, Zyyi and Mari Station (this ruined building may still be seen a few hundred yards to the south when crossing the Vasilikos on the Nicosia-Limassol highway). As noted above, the military were quick to provide a way on from Limassol up to Troodos, and a great civilian effort was made shortly thereafter on another artery into the mountain massif. The way to Paphos had already reached Erimi when The Wine Road project commenced. As with the military roads to Troodos and Mathiati, the prime purpose was not postal in nature. In this case, as the name implies, it was to provide a better way of bringing village wine to Limassol

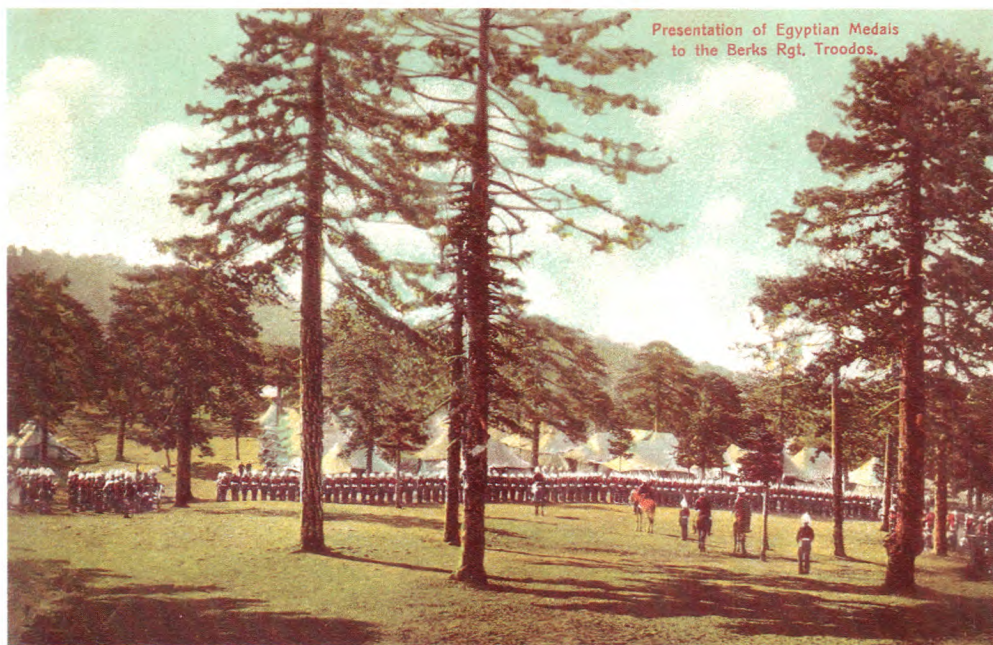
Port for export. Goat-skin bags on donkey-back resulted in tremendous spoilage. The "Cypriot cart" and its wooden casks took over as far up as Omodhos by 1886, the short distance on to Mandria taking another five years. Postal facilities were now provided at Pano Kividhes (the old site), Ayios Amvrosios, Mallia, etc.

Kyrenia was the last of the "District Offices" to open, this in 1880, with Ayios Yeoryios and Karavas following shortly.

By 1880, mail from Nicosia to Limassol could go by a direct route rather than via Larnaca. Near that route is Lefkara, an especially large village in those days; the road through Sha, still a dirt track beyond that village today, was the way in 1884 when Lefkara's postal agency opened. Many years were to pass before the present road was built up the hill from Kophinou Station. Work had progressed on to Ora by 1894, a segment which, because of the road construction details available, reminds us of the corvée system employed. One reason for the cheap road building costs was the low wages paid, of course, but here and elsewhere villagers donated their labour on the roads for the privilege of having better communication with the outside.

Most of the early mails went via horse-drawn "diligence coaches", operated by private companies whose main purpose was carriage of





Postcard showing Troodos Camp

passengers. There were additional mail contracts specifying “by animal” (usually donkey, and right up till the late colonial era), plus carriage of some Army mail by the Army itself. Generally, it may be said that off-road areas had little service for some time after the turn of the century.

Our road map shows a few pre-1900 postal routes which have not been mentioned above (particularly west from Nicosia), but what it does not show is the continuing expansion early this century. In 1899, there were still several hundred villages without postal services, and these were not only in the Troodos and Kyrenia mountain ranges but even on the flat Mesaoria Plain. Given the circumstances, the early British administration did a remarkable job. Nevertheless, some perspective is established with the fact that another 197 post offices were opened between 1900 and 1920, and a further 355 by 1959 (prior to independence).

The above figures are not necessarily accurate. They follow a list of 819 post office openings (to 1984) compiled by the author from multitudinous sources. Regrettably, postal records of the period, except for correspondence between the authorities and London, are hard to come by. Much was lost in a fire in the 1930s. Yet researchers have dug up a wealth of mater-

ial, and “king of the diggers” has been the Rev Wilfrid T F Castle, whose *Cyprus 1353–1986: History, Postal History and Postage Stamps* is especially recommended to those who are inclined to broaden horizons. This greatly enlarged edition was published by Robson Lowe last year. Valuable also are the frequent publications of the British-based Cyprus Study Circle.

On lost material, for example, one wonders what compensation was received by the postmasters of the day. Some information as regards the larger places is available – but consider that as late as 1970 the man at Sandalaris, a small village north of Famagusta, received £1 per year (and his stock of stamps on hand never exceeded half that amount). His was not an unusual case, and it is to the credit of the British of that day, as well as present day Cypriot authorities, that communication by post should be easy. The job in those days (and even in many places in Cyprus today) was half part time, of course, and if the postmaster had a taverna or shop, maybe it helped business (particularly at mail arrival time). But in most cases it was the *mukhtar* (headman) who had to take on the job himself, shop or not, or pressure some patriotic citizen to assume the duties.

Nevertheless, the system worked from the beginning, and one must conclude that, given

the situation of starting from scratch and shortage of funds, the British got the Cypriots off to a good beginning in the postal business. To this day, Cyprus maintains a sizeable following of philatelists interested in its efficient administration of the posts.

For those with an eye to the nitty gritty, there follows a list of those 198 post offices which opened between 1878 and 1900 (the asterisk indicates closure prior to the latter date and headings are by District, the same now as then):

FAMAGUSTA: Akanthou, Angastina, Aphania, Asha, Avgalidha, Avgorou, Ayios Andronikos-Karpas, Ayios Andronikos-Trikomo (Topji-Kuey) [?], Ayios Elias, Ayios Seryios, Ayios Symeon, Ayios Theodoros, Ayios Yeoryios, Elissu, Ephtakomi, Famagusta, Galatia, Galinoporni, Gastria, Gypsos, Koma tou Yialou, Komi Kebir, Kondea, Korovia [?], Kridhia, Lapathos, Lefkoniko, Leonariso, Liopetri [?], Lysi, Lythrangomi, Marathovouno, Mesaoria Circular Post*, Panayia Eleousa Monastery, Patriki, Peristerona, Piyi, Prastio, Rizokarpaso (plus the Karpas Circular Post*), Sinda, Spathariko, Syngراسis, Tavros, Trikomo, Vathylakkas, Vatili, Yialousa.

KYRENIA: Asomatos, Ayios Yeoryios, Boghaz (Aghirda Pass) [?], Pano Dhikomo, Dhiorios, Kambyli, Karavas, Karpasha, Kondemenos, Kyrenia, Lapithos, Larnaka tis Lapithou, Myrtou (plus the Circular Post), Vasilia.

LARNACA: Athienou, Ayii Vavatsinias, Kato Dhrys, Half Way House, Kalavastos, Khirokitia, Kiti [?], Larnaca, Layia, Pano Lefkara, Mari Station, Mazotos, Melini, Odhou, Ora, Ormidhia, Pasha Chiflik*, Psematismenos, Tokhni, Vavla, Zyyi, Zyyi Camp* [?].

LIMASSOL: Agros [?], Akapnou, Alekhtora Station, Arsos, Asomatos, Ayios Amvrosios, Dhoros, Episkopi (separate Greek and Turkish Cypriot agencies), Erimi, Evdhimou Station, Kandou, Kilani, Pano Kividhis (old site), Kolossi, Kouka [?], Lakko Franko, Lania Bridge Station, Limassol, Mallia (separate Greek and Turkish), Moni [?], Moni Station, Omodhos, Pakhna, Paramali Station [?], Perapedhi, Phini, Pissouri [?], Pissouri Station, Kato Platres, Pano Platres, Polemedhia Camp, Prodhromos, Sili-kou (separate Greek and Turkish), Troodos, Vasa-Kilani, Zugoh*.

NICOSIA: Akaki, Anayia, Apliki, Astromeritis, Ayii Trimithias, Ayios Dhometios, Ayios Epiphaniος-Solea, Dhali, Kato Dheftera, pano Dheftera, Elea, Epis-

kopio, Evrykhou, Galata, Headquarter Camp*, Kakopetria, Kaliana Station, Kalokhorio-Lefka, Kalopanayiotis, Kambia, Katydhata, Kykko Monastery, Kythrea, Kato Lakatamia, Pano Lakatamia, Lefka, Linou, Louroujina, Lymbia, Margo, Mathiati Camp*, Mia Milea, Morphou (plus the Circular Post), Moutoullas, Nicosia, Nicosia GPO (then on Atatürk Square), Nikos, Paleometokho, Palouriotissa [?], Pedhoulas, Pendaria, Pera, Peristerona, Petra, Philia, Politiko, Prastio, Psomolophou, Pyroi, Yero-lakkos, Kato Zodhia, Pano Zodhia.

PAPHOS: Akhelia, Pano Arodhes, Dhrousha, Episkopi, Kathikas, Khrysokhou, Kissonerga, Koloni, Lemba, Lizata Station, Mandria, Paphos, Peyia, Polemi, Polis, Sykiasmylos Station, Timi, Tsadha, Yeroskipos, Yioulu.

2p 'Variety' in Jeffery Matthews Green

As announced in the November *Bulletin* there will be an issue of definitive varieties involving the 2p and 75p stamps on 23 February, printed by The House of Questa.

The colour of the 2p, while remaining green, is a different shade from the existing stamps. This change is the first result of a review of the colours used for low value and country definitive stamps, with the aim of producing stronger and brighter colours to set off The Queen's head to greater effect.

This colour exercise has been carried out by Jeffery Matthews FCSD who is also responsible for the current typeface in use for the numerals of the low value and country definitives and the heraldic symbols of the country definitives as well as many special stamp sets.

The new colour shades will be gradually introduced to the definitive range in such a way as to keep down the cost of collecting. In this particular case several changes of artwork, colour and paper are combined in one issue. The changes to artwork and colour have been tied to the change in paper which is for operational reasons. The 75p is not affected by the colour exercise as it already meets the design requirements.

The actual shift in colour in the case of the 2p is not felt to be significant enough to be of general interest to all collectors and there will be no special First Day of Issue facilities at post offices, philatelic counters or the British Philatelic Bureau.

Commemorative Covers

Whitby – Australian Bicentennial. This cover commemorates two Whitby-built ships, the *Fishburn* and the *Golden Gate* which were amongst the 11 vessels in the First Fleet which reached Botany Bay on 26 January 1788. Cost is £1.40 each (10 or more 90p each) from D M Harding, 5 Spring Hill Terrace, Whitby, N Yorks YO21 1EG. Please enclose an a/c (10 in x 8 in).



Britain – Australia Bicentennial Committee. Marking the 60th anniversary of the first

solo flight from Britain to Australia a cover will feature the pilot Bert Hinkler and his Puss Moth aircraft (and also Amy Johnson and Charles Kingsford-Smith). A special handstamp at Croydon on 7 February will be applied and some of the covers will be flown to Darwin to be given a second cancellation on 22 February. With set of 1974 UPU stamps cost is £3.25 (£8.50 signed) or with two UPU stamps handstamped in Croydon and two Australian stamps handstamped in Darwin £5.50. Cheques to Covercraft, (BABC), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Preston North End FC. After a meeting of selected Lancashire and Midlands football teams at Anderton's Hotel in London on 23 March 1888 the Football League was born. Preston North End football club were the first League & Cup Winners and are producing a special handstamp to coincide with the Sports issue of stamps on 22 March. Covers bearing the football stamp will cost £2.50 each from A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL. Covers with the full set cost £4.25 (£7.50 signed).

Gems of the R M Phillips Collection

149. Victorian Printing Methods

It was not only the stamps in the sheet that had to be printed. Marginal markings had to be added to the printing plate and these also had to be proofed to check that everything was as required. This is the original die proof printed in black on India paper of the legend for the 1870 ½d issue. Printing was, of course by the line-engraved

process.

This item can be seen in the open display – Victorian Printing Methods – of the R M Phillips collection at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4.00pm on Friday.

PRICE 4^d Per Label. 1^s Per Row of 24. £1.00 Per Sheet.

Place the Labels ABOVE and at the RIGHT HAND SIDE of the Address.

In Wetting the Back be careful not to remove the Cement.

1989 Special Stamps Programme

In 1989 there are planned to be eight issues of special stamps. First provisional details are given here.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The RSPB celebrates its centenary in 1989. It is Europe's largest voluntary wildlife conservation body and carries out important conservation and educational work, both national and internationally. This set will continue the Post Office's natural history series.

Food and Farming Year. The Royal Agricultural Society of England is organising a wide range of events to celebrate its 150th anniversary which falls in 1989, which has also been named "Food and Farming Year". 1989 is also the centenary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the 150th anniversary of the Royal Show.

Children's Games and Toys. This is the annual "Europa" issue, and Children's Games and Toys is the theme chosen for 1989 by the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). The miniature sheet for Stamp World London '90 will be with this issue.

Mixed Anniversaries. This set will be based on the following anniversaries.

150th anniversary of public education. There are two anniversaries here: that of the creation in 1839 of the Committee of Education of the Privy Council which is the ancestor of the Department of Education and Science; and the appointment in the same year of the first H M Inspector of Schools.

Centenary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Centenary Conference of the IPU will be hosted by Britain in 1989. The IPU, whose main areas of work are action for peace and the strengthening of parliamentary institutions, is the oldest such international organisation in existence.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International (PTTI) World Congress. The Post Office trade unions are affiliated to the PTTI. The World Congress, held every four years, will be in Britain in 1989.

Third Direct Elections to the European Parliament. Stamps have already been issued for the first elections in 1979 and the second in 1984.

Regalia. We shall be selecting from the great variety of attractive regalia held in the United Kingdom. Details to be announced later.

Royal Microscopical Society. The Royal Microscopical Society is celebrating its 150th

anniversary. It is the world's foremost society for professional microscopists and it promotes all aspects of microscopy in all its applications – academic, medical and industrial.

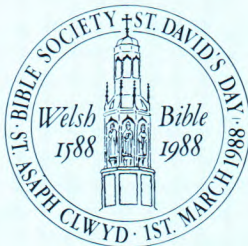
Industrial Archaeology. There is a wide range of sites to choose from in the United Kingdom and we shall announce details later in the year.

Christmas. This will be based on the 800th anniversary of Ely Cathedral.

Welsh Bible Covers

The following are some of the commercial covers being produced for the Welsh Bible issue of 1 March.

Bible Society. The covers depict the cathedral at St Asaph, where William Morgan was bishop, together with a copy of the 1588 Bible. The postmark shows the Translators Memorial which stands outside the cathedral and which was erected in 1888 in honour of the translators. Covers are available at £4.25 (£7.50 signed or £2.25 with a single stamp). Orders to A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL (overseas add 50p).



St Asaph Cathedral. A special first day cover featuring St Asaph Cathedral with wording in English and Welsh has been designed by Benhams. Price is £3.75 (£5.75 signed) from Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Westcliff House, FOLKESTONE, Kent CT20 1SZ.

Exhibition Cards

Exhibition cards will not now be available from the following overseas exhibitions:

Orco-Expo, Los Angeles, USA 8–10 January 1988

Interpex, New York, USA, 16–20 March 1988

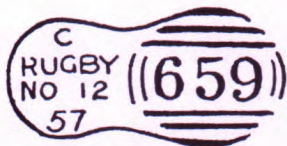
Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.20 Duplex Cancellations

The first cancellation (as distinct from a postmark) used by the British Post Office was the Maltese Cross handstamp applied to the 1d black and 2d blue in 1840. Letters were also struck, *on the reverse*, with a handstamp indicating the place and date of posting. In 1844 each post office was allocated a number which, in England and Wales, set within arcs and bars, formed an upright oval on which a cancelling handstamp was based. In Scotland the office number was set within parallel bars to produce a rectangular format while the offices in Ireland (then, of course, throughout the whole of the country) adopted a distinctive number in parallel bars cut away to a diamond shape. The customary place and date town handstamps continued to be applied to the reverse of letters.

Beginning in London in 1853, "duplex" cancelling handstamps were introduced. These consisted of the existing numeral handstamps (often called "killers" because they so frequently completely obliterated the adhesive stamp) and the town handstamp clamped together. The duplex handstamps were applied, in one operation, to the front of the letter, thus simultaneously cancelling the stamp and impressing the town postmark alongside it on the face of the envelope – a great time-saver in the sorting offices.



The "Rugby shoe"

In the provinces, experiments were made with duplex handstamps with horizontally elliptical town marks impinging on the upright numeral canceller. They are known to collectors as **spoon cancellations**. These tend to vary in

size and detail from place to place, one exceptional example being used at Rugby, Warwickshire. Instead of a complete circular frame to the town name the frame lines embrace the numeral and bars section, the resulting overall shape being that of a short, broad shoe sole – hence the references among collectors to the "Rugby shoe".

During the early 1860s, the duplex handstamps were largely standardised. England and Wales adopted the upright oval numeral and bars in conjunction with a circular town name. Scottish duplex handstamps carried the post office number between bars in the form of a rectangle at the left of which was the circular dated town mark. The Irish duplex handstamps favoured the diamond-shaped numeral obliterator with a few English-type "spoons" at an early stage.

The duplex cancellations were phased out towards the end of the 19th century to be replaced by the "squared circle" handstamp consisting of a circular, dated town mark (*without* the office number) set within a squared up design which was achieved by filling in the four corners with small arcs and triangular bits of type. These handstamps cancelled the adhesive stamps very effectively, the town of despatch being easily read against the background of the stamp.

February Digest

Issued in February

9 February **£5 Prestige Stamp Book for Financial Times** Contents:

pane 1 – 9 x 18p (ACP); pane 2 – 6 x 13p (1PB); pane 3 – 3 x 13p (1RB), 3 x 13p (1LB), 1 x 18p (2PB), 1 x 22p (2PB) and 1 x 34p (2PB); pane 4 – 6 x 18p (ACP)

printing: The House of Questa, offset litho

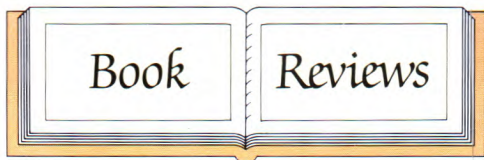
Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp (for pane 3) – Bangor.

15 February **Welsh Bible PHQ Cards (Nos 108 A–D)** 15p each

23 February **2p and 75p definitives** with redrawn values and two-colour printing (2p) by Questa in offset litho

Withdrawn in February

No items are due for withdrawal in February.



Stamps by R F Schooley-West. Published by the British Library. 64pp (30 in colour), limp binding, £5.95.

This is the latest in the British Library's series of paperbacks. It is a guide to the extensive philatelic collections maintained at the Library and is written by the Assistant Director in charge of these collections. Details are given of the Tapping collection, telling some of the stories of famous rarities and errors. Other collections described include those of the Stamping Department of the Board of Inland Revenue, the Turner and Ewen collections of railway services and several specialised collections such as "Postland in the Second World War" (Bojanowicz), airmails (Fitzgerald) and the work of the engraver John A C Harrison. This is an excellent introduction to the Library's philatelic holdings though the colour illustrations are of variable quality and the text is marred by a number of errors such as Henry VIII's postmaster being described as Sir Robert Tuke.

English Provincial Kraggs by James A Mackay. 127 A4 pp, limp binding, 846 illustrations. £6.60 (£7.90 overseas) post paid from the author at 11 Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DB1 1LN.

This book covers the impressions made by the Krag continuous impression cancelling machine employed at post offices and sorting offices in the English provinces (not including the London area). As usual the work concentrates on a listing of the markings and their variations.

Scottish Numeral Postmarks by James A Mackay. 196 A4 pp, £9.60 (£10.30 overseas) post paid from the author as above.

In this book the author deals with the numbers allocated to post offices in Scotland from 1844 onwards and used in cancellers down to the beginning of this century. After the initial allocation from London, replacements and additions were supplied by the firm of Alexander Kirkwood and Son of Edinburgh who held the Post Office contract from about 1829 till 1924. The proof books of this company are the source of some of the information given in this volume.

The First TPO

Sir,

I am interested or surprised to read that the anniversary of the "first experimental TPO falls on 20 January 1988". According to *The Railway Gazette* of 16 September 1938, "the first TPO was run between Birmingham and Liverpool for the first time on January 6 1838".

Which is the correct date?

JOHN F GORDON, Redditch, Worcs.

Tony Gammons of the National Postal Museum replies:

Early writings on the experimental TPO gave the date as 6 January, 1838. However, as Harold Wilson states in part 1 of his book on TPOs – *T.P.O. A History of the Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain* – correspondence found in Post Office Archives proves that date incorrect.

On 6 January 1838 George Louis wrote a memorandum "Should the proposition be approved I would venture to recommend that Mr Karstadt and Mr Ellis proceed forthwith to Birmingham and there learn the circulation which will be the same as the Rail so that they may be quite *au fait* when the Carriage is ready which will be in about ten days – if approved I will myself for a journey or two personally inspect the proceeding."

The proposal, put forward by George Louis and Lt Col Maberly, was not approved by the PMG until 7 January and returned to Louis on 8 January. On 20 January 1838 George Louis, the GPO official responsible for the "experiment" wrote a letter to the PMG and John Moss, Chairman of the Grand Junction Railway, bearing the inscription "First Frank on a moving Post Office, moving at the rate of 26 miles per hour". In the light of this there can be little doubt that 20 January 1988 is the sesquicentenary of the first Travelling Post Office.

1988 Sports Stamps

Sir,

I feel I must have been informed, but failed to make a note, regarding the issue date of the 1988 Sports stamps. Could you please clarify the date

as the January *Bulletin* states the date as 22 March but the *Stamp Bug Calendar* enclosed with it, states the date as 12 April.

P SIMPSON, Stockport, Cheshire

The date of the Sports stamps has now been changed to 22 March from its original date of 12 April. A note to this effect did appear in the January Bulletin but not very prominently, so I trust this alerts anyone who might have missed it. Ed.

Prestige Stamp Books

Sir,

With regard to the letter about prestige stamp books in the January *Bulletin* I personally do not collect mixed-value panes but specialised singles. I think the Post Office has got its policy right. The high value of the book together with good design and legitimate subject matter make them very attractive. As for the contents, most of the stamps are suitable for first or second class letters and the higher value stamp is needed to complete a definitive collection.

However, the provision of a first day service for the mixed-value pane seems illogical since all the stamps are available previously while other se-tenant panes and stamps are denied a first day service. I realise that the revenue from first day covers must go a long way towards high production costs but surely the present policy towards a first day service needs revising.

The Post Office should either not provide a service for the mixed-value pane or a genuine new issue should be included in the booklet pane. If a special stamp was included I feel this could be justified because the Prestige Stamp Book subjects to date have all been worthy of an issue, indeed the Christian Heritage Christmas stamps of 1984 were issued in the same year as the Christian Heritage stamp book.

Alternatively, an entirely different approach might be of benefit to all. If a first day service was provided for new definitive mixed-value panes, window booklet panes and stamp changes everybody would be happy since these items are identifiable from the original issues.

C J CROCKFORD, Devizes, Wilts.

Machin Variations

Sir,

I was very interested in Mr Roscoe's letter in the October *Bulletin*. I enter in my album all the technical details of new issues and I am sometimes frustrated when you miss some.

I also want to disagree with Mr Roscoe's comments about leaving out details that are

familiar to experienced collectors. I am sure we have lots of young collectors who do not know the date on which watermarks were discontinued.

R MONK, White Rock, British Columbia, Canada

Linnean Society Covers

Sir,

I note with some interest in the December issue of your *Bulletin* (No.4, Vol. 25) the information about the Linnean Society covers on page 85. I was surprised to see that you did not mention the awful inaccuracy on the cover. There is no such thing as the "Berwicks" Swan – although the lithograph itself is of the "Bewick" Swan. I feel my ancestor Thomas would be turning in his grave at this misspelling.

Perhaps the Society would like to send his namesake's great grandnephew (my son) a unique first day cover pointing out the mistake!

M BEWICK, London SE26

Correction

Contrary to the information which was given in the Book Reviews on page 93 of the December 1987 *Bulletin*, the SG Diary 1988 is not available from Philatelic Counters and *Collect British Stamps* is available from Philatelic Counters and the British Philatelic Bureau.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Douglas N. Muir

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