

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Seven Spotted Ladybird

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Famous Trains

Readers will be aware of a little mouse playing in the British Philatelic Bureau handstamp used to cancel the Famous Trains first day covers. He found his way into the design by kind permission of Mr Terence Cuneo the noted artist who painted the pictures. The mouse is Mr Cuneo's 'nom de plume'.

Editorial

This month sees the fifth anniversary of the Stamp Bug Club, which we have featured in recent issues of the Philatelic Bulletin. While heading for the rarefied heights of specialised collecting — are all the 'i's' and 't's' perfectly dotted and crossed — it is important not to forget the young collector. At Stampex this year, both the exhibition organisers and the Post Office have been trying to encourage potential young collectors. Hopefully these efforts will bear fruit.

In this issue of the Bulletin we are repeating the offer for readers wishing to join the Stamp Bug Club for themselves, their own families, or young relatives. While stamp collecting cannot compete with such pastimes as underwater hang-gliding for example, it still has a lot going for it. As a hobby it is flexible enough to be adapted to individual taste and resources. Apart from the strictures imposed by display and exhibition rules, there is no right or wrong way to collect. It is not surprising then that stamp collecting ranks as the world's most popular and enduring hobby, transcending national and cultural boundaries.

Everything must start somewhere, and with stamp collecting this is the schoolboy or schoolgirl collector. As a point of interest, the breakdown of Stamp Bug Club membership is 60-40, boys-girls, proving that stamp collecting is not a male-only preserve.

Unfortunately the commercial world of philately has all too often not paid sufficient attention to potential young collectors. They have frequently been regarded as something of a nuisance rather than being encouraged as tomorrow's philatelists. Attitudes are gradually changing, and the elitist approach in philately is hopefully on the wane. Ironically, this is largely due to the impact of the economic recession and the traumas of the stamp market following the collapse of the investment boom after 1979-80. Collectors no longer need to be in the super-tax bracket to be taken seriously.

Finally, plans are currently being considered for an expansion of the Stamp Bug Club's activities and the Post Office's role in encouraging new and young collectors. Further details will be announced in due course.

CHARLES GOWEN

The Railway Letter Service

Part 5

This month we look at the railway stamps of three lines in the north of England — the standard gauge Keighley & Worth Valley and North York Moors railways and the narrow gauge Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway in Cumbria.

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

This railway runs from Keighley to Oxenhope (five miles) in West Yorkshire's 'Brönte Country'; there are intermediate stations and halts at Ingrow, Damens, Oakworth and Haworth. In recent years the railway has featured in several cinema and television films including *The Railway Children*. The line was closed by British Railways in 1962 and reopened by a preservation society in 1968.

The railway letter service started in May 1979 when a 15p stamp featuring a front view of a Class 4 locomotive was issued. This was in a vertical format and inscribed 'WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY LETTER!'. Several of the subsequent stamps have also been inscribed 'Worth Valley' rather than with the railway's full title. A 15p Christmas stamp was issued in November 1979, this depicted Father

Christmas and a train headed by locomotive No. 75078. A 25p stamp was issued in March 1980 — 15p of the 25p comprised the railway letter fee and 10p a premium for 'locomotive restoration'. The stamp featured Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway locomotive No. 752. In July 1980 the Company issued a 15p stamp to commemorate Patrick Branwell Brönte (1817-48), brother of the famous Brönte Sisters and one-time railwayman. The printers mis-spelt his name Bramwell on the initial printing of stamps, most of which were destroyed by being burnt in a locomotive firebox. The correctly worded stamp was issued on 9 July, the same day as the Post Office's Famous People stamps, two of which featured his sisters — Charlotte (12p) and Emily (15p). A second Christmas stamp, this time a 20p value — was issued on 21 November 1980, it featured Father Christmas with carol singers at Keighley Station. Four 20p stamps in honour of the Railway's President the late Rev. Eric Treacy, Bishop of Wakefield were issued in April 1981 — each featured the Bishop's portrait, two with locomotives (Nos. 45525 and 92220), one with Keighley Church (where the Bishop was once a curate) and one with the Treacy Memorial Hall in Wakefield.

The locomotive restoration stamp of 1980 was reissued in May 1981, the 15p 'Letter Fee' denomination being blocked out and surcharged 20p. A 20p stamp was issued jointly with the Bluebell Railway in September 1982 — this commemorates the centenary of locomotive engineer O.V.S. Bulleid and features one of his locomotives hauling the 'Atlantic Coast Express'.

Four cancelling handstamps are in use — at Keighley, Oakworth, Haworth and Oxenhope stations — these are circular (37mm in diameter) worded 'Worth Valley Railway Letter Service' with the station name and date; they are struck in black. Special cancellations have been used on first day covers for all issues since the first Christmas stamp (18 November 1979). These are applied at Haworth Station, the railway's headquarters. A special Post Office handstamp was sponsored by the railway company to commemorate the start of the railway letter service on 9 May 1979, this was applied to mail posted in the philatelic posting box at Haworth station on that day.



Keighley & Worth Valley Rly. — 1980 20p Christmas stamp featuring carols at Keighley station; 1979 15p Branwell Brönte stamp. Branwell, brother of the Brönte Sisters, was for a short time a railwayman.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway

This company operates the railway from Grosmont (on the B.R. Middlesbrough to Whitby line) to Pickering, a distance of 18 miles; there are intermediate stations at Goathland and Levisham. The line was closed by British Rail in the late 1960s and reopened by a preservation society in 1973; the line south from Pickering to near Malton on the York-Scarborough line remains closed. The company has over 20 steam locomotives which are used during the tourist season, diesel units are used for routine services.

The company signed the Railway Letter Agreement with the Post Office in August 1976 but it did not start the railway letter service until 1981. A colourful and attractive 20p definitive was issued on 22 July 1981 — this features a train headed by locomotive No. 29 near Beckhill climbing the 1 in 49 bank to Goathland. Two 20p commemorative stamps marking the thirtieth anniversary of the reopening of the Talylyn Railway (first preserved railway) were issued on 29 July 1981 — these feature N.Y.M.R. locomotives Nos. 29 and 5. A 20p stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of George Stephenson's report on the construction of a railway from Whitby across the Yorkshire Moors was issued on 5 July 1982 — the stamp was printed in sheets of

four and reproduces a painting 'Whitby from the Railway', c. 1882 by F M Sutcliffe (1853-1941). Another 20p commemorative — this time celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Act of Parliament authorising the building of the railway was issued on 2 May 1983; this features the front page of the Act and is printed in blue on silver paper.

As well as carrying railway letters, the company also carries parcels and special stamps for this purpose are issued. They are of a standard design printed in black on different coloured papers — yellow (Goathland station), Pink (Pickering), green (Grosmont) and blue (Levisham). They can also be used on railway letters when the regular railway letter stamps are not available.

Four handstamps are used — one at each of the stations; these are circular (38mm diameter) and have the date across the centre. They are normally struck in black ink although the Pickering and Goathland datestamps have also been seen in blue and green respectively. Cancellation of the parcel stamps is usually by a single-line datestamp, although the Goathland dated cancellation has been used. Various special — including pictorial — handstamps have been used from time to time, usually on the day of issue of new stamps and for letters carried on 'Special' services.



North Yorkshire Moors Rly. — cover bearing original 20p stamp despatched from Goathland and posted on arrival at Pickering.

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway

This railway runs from Ravenglass on the Cumbrian coast along the Esk Valley to Dalegarth, a distance of seven miles. There are intermediate stations at Muncaster Mill, Irton Road, Eskdale Green and Beckfoot. The railway was built in the 1870s to a gauge of 3'—its predominant traffic was the carriage of iron ore. Following the failure of the original company, the track was relaid at a 15" gauge in 1915. Freight traffic continued until the quarries closed in 1953. In 1960 the railway was auctioned for £12,000, control of the company passed to Mr Colin Gilbert, supported by a preservation society.



Ravenglass & Eskdale Rly. — Original 1969 1/2d stamp featuring locomotive River Mite and 1980 15p on 20p surcharge. This stamp was produced in anticipation of the exhaustion of stocks of 15p stamps before the 20p rate was introduced.

The company signed the Railway Letter Agreement with the Post Office in 1969 and the railway letter service started on 1 July when a large 1/2d stamp printed in white on a black background was issued. The stamps—printed locally—were bound in books of 50. As the railway letter fee had been increased to 1/3d before the stamp was issued, a cachet worded '1d. Surcharge Paid' was used alongside. A 1/3d stamp featuring locomotive *Muriel* (now *River Irt*) and daffodils was issued to commemorate William Wordsworth's bicentenary on 3 June 1970—the same day as the Post Office

1/6d stamp depicting *Grasmere*. The 1/3d stamp was surcharged 10p in February 1971. A 5p stamp depicting the railway's motif was issued in June 1971, for use with the 10p stamp to make up the new 15p rate. A 15p definitive was issued in August 1971—the design of which was based on the original 1891 railway letter stamps inscribed 'FEE FOR CONVEYANCE OF SINGLE POST LETTER BY RAILWAY'.

When the 10p concessionary fee for the minor railways was introduced in June 1974 a new vertical format 10p stamp was issued depicting a R. & E.R. train. A 15p definitive was issued in May 1978 showing a train headed by locomotive *Northern Rock*, the stamp was inscribed 'Britain's First Radio Operated Railway'. A 20p definitive was issued in November 1980 when the 20p rate was introduced—this features the company's current logo a 'flying wheel' and a Furness squirrel—this animal has featured on several stamps since 1975. Prior to the issue of the 20p value, some stamps were surcharged with the old rate of 15p as it was feared stocks of 15p stamps would be exhausted before the new rate came into force. In the event the stamp was not needed but was later made available to collectors.

In addition to the William Wordsworth stamp (which was also used as a definitive), commemorative stamps have been issued for the centenary of the opening of the railway in 1975 (10p), centenary of the start of passenger services, 1976 (two at 10p), Queen's Silver Jubilee, 1977 (10p, surcharged 15p in 1978), to commemorate steam-hauled excursion trains through Ravenglass B.R. mainline station, 1979 (15p) and the 21st anniversary of the preservation society, 1981 (20p).

Only one cancellation is used—circular worded 'RAVENGLASS & ESKDALE RAILWAY' with the date across the centre. This was struck in violet ink in 1969-70, since 1971 in black. The original datestamp lasted until 1980, its replacement can be distinguished by differently spaced lettering.

Details of the stamps currently available can be obtained by writing to: Railway Postmaster, Keighley & Worth Valley Rly, Haworth Station, Haworth, KEIGHLEY, West Yorkshire, BD22 8NJ; North Yorkshire Moors Rly, Railway Letter Dept., Glencliffe, Gosmont, WHITBY, North Yorkshire, YO22 5PA or General Manager, Ravenglass & Eskdale Rly, RAVENGLASS, Cumbria, CA18 1SW. In the last of these articles on the Railway Letter Service, we will look at stamps issued by the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire and by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland which operates services in both Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic.

JOHN HOLMAN

118. British Wildlife, 1977

Some of Britain's best loved wild animals appeared on the five 9p stamps issued by the Post Office on 5 October 1977 with the aim of making children and adults more aware of the nation's wildlife heritage and the need to protect and preserve it. Each stamp pictures a different animal — hedgehog, brown hare, red squirrel, otter and badger — depicted in its natural environment and posture. The stamps were a 'first' for Patrick Oxenham, who has spent a lifetime studying and drawing animals, and has become one of Britain's leading and best known animal and wildlife artists.

The hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus*, is a friendly little fellow, fearless and well protected by its spiny coat. In the garden it consumes a large number of harmful insects and destructive slugs and snails. Regrettably more hedgehogs are killed on our roads than by their natural enemies, badgers and foxes. The brown hare, *Lepus capensis*, is one of the two kinds of hare native to Britain, and is widely distributed in lowland regions. Hares are distinguishable from rabbits by their long ears and hind-legs, also by the divided upper lip — hence the term 'hare-lip' for this defect in humans. They occupy 'forms' or shallow scrapes in a pasture and do not burrow: here the young hares or leverets are born with great frequency throughout the year. The blue or mountain hare is a highland animal, stockier than the brown hare and confined to the uplands of northern England, Wales and Scotland.

The red squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, is a creature of the coniferous forest which also lives in deciduous

woods, especially young beech plantations. It is not now common in England, although it has been reintroduced in Scotland and now flourishes there in large numbers. Its relative, the grey squirrel, a species introduced from North America, has spread rapidly in Britain and has a voracious appetite for the buds and bark of trees, seeds, fruit, nuts and fungi. Compared to the bright fur and bushy tail of the 'red' squirrel, the 'grey' is a drab, but equally lively, animal.

The otter, *Lutra lutra*, is an aquatic mammal about three feet in length with webbed feet and a thick, powerful tail. During the last 50 years it has declined in numbers and is missing from many of its former haunts, due to the disturbance and pollution of our waterways, and not the least to indefatigable and vicious hunting for 'sport', a fate which has also threatened the wild mink. Otters are now protected in England. The badger, *Meles meles*, is one of the most popular of British mammals — it is nocturnal and lives in underground setts or burrows, generally in woodland amidst bracken and shrubs, where its home consists of a complex of passages and chambers with numerous entrances and exits. The common badger is greyish brown on the back and black below, while the head is white with dark lines on the side, muzzle pointed, length about 2 to 2 feet 6 inches. Badgers are now protected under the Act of 1973, but their alleged links with the spread of bovine tuberculosis in cattle has necessitated some eradication of these mammals in parts of the country.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (two



panes of 50, 5 X 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor, the five stamps being arranged together in horizontal *se-tenant* strips throughout the sheet. Listed varieties include the 'extra berry' behind the squirrel's left ear and a short curved line below the nut in his paws; shortened whiskers on the otter's left cheek, a broken 'e' in 'Otter' and a superfluous hyphen between 'Otter' and 'Lutra'. The quantity issued was 61,420,000 of each denomination.

JAMES WATSON

New Stamp Books

'Social Letter Writing' Discount Stamp Book

The Post Office will issue a new discount stamp book in the Social Letter Writing series on 5 March 1985. It will remain on general sale until 6 April 1985 at all post offices in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and until 8 April 1985 at post offices in Scotland, unless stocks are previously exhausted. Containing 10 x 17p definitive stamps, on the reverse side of which will be printed in non-toxic ink, the letter 'D', the cost of the book will be £1.55.

Because of the anticipated demand for these books, sales will be restricted to two per customer at all post offices including philatelic counters. At the British Philatelic Bureau, orders for more than two books will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

From 9 April a £1.70 stamp book containing 10 x 17p definitive stamps will be available. It will include a special offer for letter writing material. Both books are designed by George Hardie.

The 17p stamps contained in the £1.55 and £1.70 books are printed on phosphor coated paper.

Illustrated Stamp Book Covers

On 23 April 1985 three new stamp books, values

50p, £1.30 and £1.54 will be issued. The 50p and £1.30 books are third in the present series of books with illustrated covers. The 50p book designed by Peter Morter depicts the orchids 'Bifrenaria' and 'Vanda Tricolour'. The £1.30 book illustrating trams, features a Blackpool Tram, car number 717, is designed by John Thirsk and contains 10 x 13p definitive stamps. The £1.54 book, number 13, designed by John Gibbs, continues with the Postal History theme illustrating surface printed stamps produced by Thomas De La Rue and Co, and contains 4 x 13p and 6 x 17p definitive stamps.

The books are available initially only from philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT. They become available from post offices or vending machines as stocks of the existing books run out.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Both the stamps and booklet covers are printed by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd; the stamps in photogravure on the Chambon press and the covers on the Libra bookmaking machine.

The stamps in the 50p book are printed in one format only with one 1p stamp above three 13p stamps on the right hand side and two 1p stamps above the two 4p stamps on the left hand side of the page. Each stamp in the 50p book will be printed with a single phosphor bar.

The 13p stamps in the £1.30 tram book will bear a single central phosphor bar.

In the postal history book the 17p stamps will bear two phosphor bars and the 13p stamps will have a single side phosphor bar. The layout will be five 17p stamps above one 17p and four 13p stamps.

Cylinder numbers of the stamps will appear periodically on all three books, that is on every eighth book for 50p stamp vended books and every sixth book for counter books.

All books, except the 50p machine vended book, appear with both left and right hand formats.



Post Office Stampex Trophy

We would like to congratulate Mr J S Hanson of Whimple, Devon, the winner of the 1985 Post Office Stampex trophy with an exhibit entitled 'The 1d value of King George V 1911-1924'. Mr Hanson was also the winner of a gold medal.

Treasury Competition – Entries

Of the 2,600 entries for the Treasury Competition, perhaps as much as a quarter have survived, the majority of them in the collection of H M The Queen, and in the R M Phillips and Post Office Collections, in the National Postal Museum. The designs can be roughly divided into two categories, those which are ideas for adhesive labels or 'Stamped' letter seals (less than 50) and those for stamped envelopes or letter sheets (the great majority). It is a design from the second category that is featured in this month's 'Gem' from the R M Phillips Collection.

All the submissions received, on arrival, are given a reference number to identify their authors. Unfortunately no record now exists of the authors of many of the more interesting entries. Among the unknown competitors is the originator of a set of hand-drawn letter sheets collectively identified by

the reference number T No 20912. Illustrated here is letter sheet No 9 bearing in manuscript, 'General Scotland Envelope' at top and 'York' at right. At the left is, hand painted in green, a large thistle and 'ONE OUNCE', and a smaller thistle is on the reverse, (VOL 1-34). The R M Phillips Collection also includes letter sheets number 4, described as 'General County Envelope', (VOL 1-23), and number 8, described as 'District Scotland', (VOL 1-33).

Only eight letter sheets survive out of the eleven or more designs submitted as T No 20912. Since the Post Office Collection has the two Ireland Envelopes (nos 6 and 7) visitors to the National Postal Museum can see no fewer than five out of the surviving eight in this most attractive set of 1839 Treasury Essays.

JOHN MEMMOTT Assist. Curator



British Composers. Stamps Issue 14 May 1985

To commemorate 1985 as European Music Year, The Post Office will issue on 14 May four new postage stamps depicting the following British Composers: George Frideric Handel (17p), Gustav Holst (22p), Frederick Delius (31p), Edward Elgar (34p).

First Day Cover Services

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

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover — price 15p — addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Worcester' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', as requested and despatched.

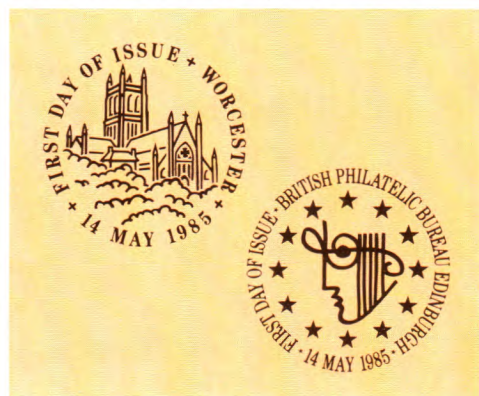
SERVICE 'B'

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

INLAND OVERSEAS

SERVICE 'A'	£1.49	£1.30
Deposit account customers	£1.43	£1.25
SERVICE 'B'	£1.34	£1.17

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 3 May 1985.



The Stamp Bug Club

In the December 1984 Issue of the Philatelic Bulletin, we included details of a special offer for readers wishing to join the Stamp Bug Club for themselves or for their children or young relatives. With the fifth anniversary of the Club being celebrated this month seems an appropriate time to remind readers that the special offer is still open. This is a free set of the 1984 Christmas PHQ cards featuring the Nativity for Bulletin readers applying before 31 March 1985. In addition, there is a bumper edition of Stamp Bug News (the club magazine) being produced this month with an exclusive Insects first day cover for members. There are also several special competitions and offers for club members in this anniversary issue of Stamp Bug News.

Readers wishing to take advantage of this special offer should send a postal order or crossed cheque made payable to 'The Stamp Bug Club' to: The Stamp Bug Club, Dept PB, Freepost, PO Box 109, HIGH WYCOMBE, Buckinghamshire, HP10 8NP. (No stamp is necessary). For readers wishing to use the Club Girobank account, the Giro number is 215 8353.

New Postcards

The free Stamp Bug postcard available to Club members visiting the National Postal Museum was withdrawn on 28 February 1985. As part of the Club's 5th anniversary celebrations, a new Stamp Bug postcard is being issued on 12 March 1985. It will go on sale at all philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum on that day. Bulk supplies of the card will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh where normal handling charges will apply. The design of the card features 'Stamp Bug' himself with his 5th Birthday cake. The price of the card is 14p, the same as Regional and PHQ cards. A special one day handstamp is available on 12 March 1985 at High Wycombe, where the club is based, and is also the issue date of the Insects stamps. The reposting address is: The Head Post Office, 15 Queen Victoria Road, HIGH WYCOMBE, Buckinghamshire,

HP11 1AA. The outer envelope should be clearly marked 'Stamp Bug Handstamp,' and all postcards and other items should bear a minimum of 16p in postage as is normal for special handstamping.

York Head Post Office

A special postcard was recently issued by York Head Post Office depicting the LNER locomotive 'Flying Scotsman' with the wording 'Famous Trains Through York'. The card is available, price 15p, from both the York Philatelic Counter and the National Postal Museum. Orders by post together with the appropriate remittance (including 18p to cover handling) should be sent to York Philatelic Counter, 22 Lendal, YORK, YO1 2DA or to personal callers only at the National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1LP.

Insects Stamps

Colours and Cylinder Numbers

- 17p: black, greenish yellow, rose, bright blue, azure, gold, grey-black.
22p: black, greenish yellow, cerise, blue-green, blue-black, gold.
29p: black, greenish yellow, bright rose, greenish blue, grey-black, gold, bistre-yellow.
31p: black, greenish yellow, rose pink, new blue, black, gold (two blacks).
34p: black, greenish yellow, bright rose, greenish blue, grey-black, gold.
17p: 2A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G
22p: 1A 1B 2C 1D 1E 1F
29p: 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G
31p: 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F
34p: 2A 3B 1C 1D 1E 1F

New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme

A new Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme will be issued on 23 April 1985 to mark the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Scottish National Institution for the War Blind. The charge is 30p of which 26p is for postage. Designed by Helen Fox BA MSIAD FRSA in collaboration with Forth Studios it is printed by Waddingtons Security Print Ltd. with two phosphor bars.

Repurchase of Unused Stamps

The Post Office will no longer repurchase unused stamps, with the old shilling and penny face values, from 28 February 1985. This applies to all pre-decimal issues of the present reign, with the exception of the £1 value. These old £sd stamps were valid for postage until 29 February 1972, six months after the end of the official change-over to decimal coinage. It was originally intended that pre-decimal stamps would be repurchased for one year only, but this service continued and has now finally ceased.

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale during March.

'Cattle' stamps and presentation pack on 5 March 1985

16½p definitive stamp on 9 March 1985.

A Unique Handstamp

Although primarily a philatelic museum the National Postal Museum has, under its present curator Raife Wellsted, acquired many 'Postal History' artifacts. These range in size from a pre-war mobile post office down through pillar boxes to items as small as postmen's badges and buttons, each one having its story to tell.

Recently, following the curator's visit to Auspex the National Postal Museum was presented with a unique handstamp by the Australian Post Office. This was the handstamp used by the Postmaster General on 8 December 1934 at Croydon Airport at the inauguration of the first direct air-mail service between England and Australia. The hangar was decked with the flags of the Dominions and Dependencies and the civil air ensign and the air-mail pendant fluttered above the giant Handley Page HP 42 'Hengist'. The ceremony was opened by the Secretary of State for Air, Lord Londonderry who, after making a short speech, turned to the

Postmaster General saying "I have to ask you to despatch the mail which is in your charge. I will add to it these letters which I have received from their Majesties the King and Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales". The PMG, Sir Kingsley Wood, accepted the mail and stamped the royal letters. He used a special date-stamp of silver with an ivory handle (fig. 1). Afterwards the date-stamp was sent with the mail to the PMG of Australia. As he cancelled the stamps, Sir Kingsley Wood dropped the letter into a special royal blue silk air-mail bag held by Mr Gutt, an EC postman. The bag bore the words 'Air-Mail, first England-Australia despatch, 8 December 1934'.

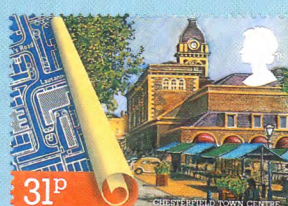
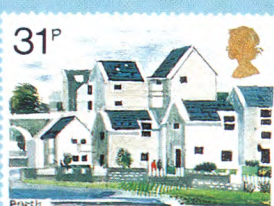
The mail was then handed to Sir Eric Geddes,

chairman of Imperial Airways, who in turn handed it to the pilot with the words 'Pilot, the King's Mail for Australia'. Tractors pulled the aircraft onto the runway where the rest of the mail bags were loaded into the plane from the new streamlined air-mail car and from four of the regular blue air-mail vans. At 1.7pm 'Hengist' took to the air, the mail arrived at Port Darwin on the 18th and reached the air terminal at Brisbane on 20 December taking less than half the time taken by surface transport. I would suggest that few people at that inaugural ceremony would have thought that fifty years later, almost to the day this handstamp would 'come home' and become a valuable addition to the National Postal Museum collection.



Preliminary Designs

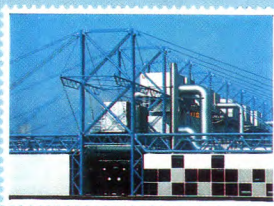
We are again taking the opportunity to reproduce a selection of the many excellent stamp designs submitted for the 1984 programme.



Minale Tattersfield

Ronald Maddox

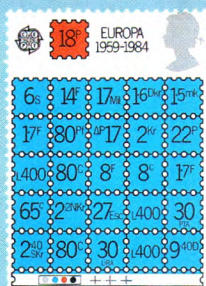
Trickett & Webb



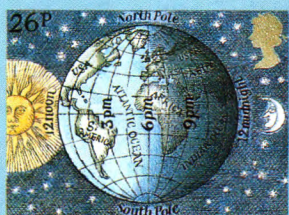
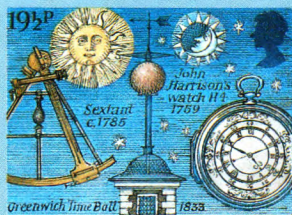
Michael Taylor



Fritz Wegner



Keith Bassford



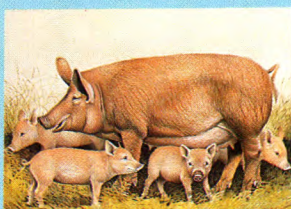
Fritz Wegner



Don Burston



Barry Driscoll



Patrick Oxenham
(The Garden Studio)

6. Pneumatic Mails

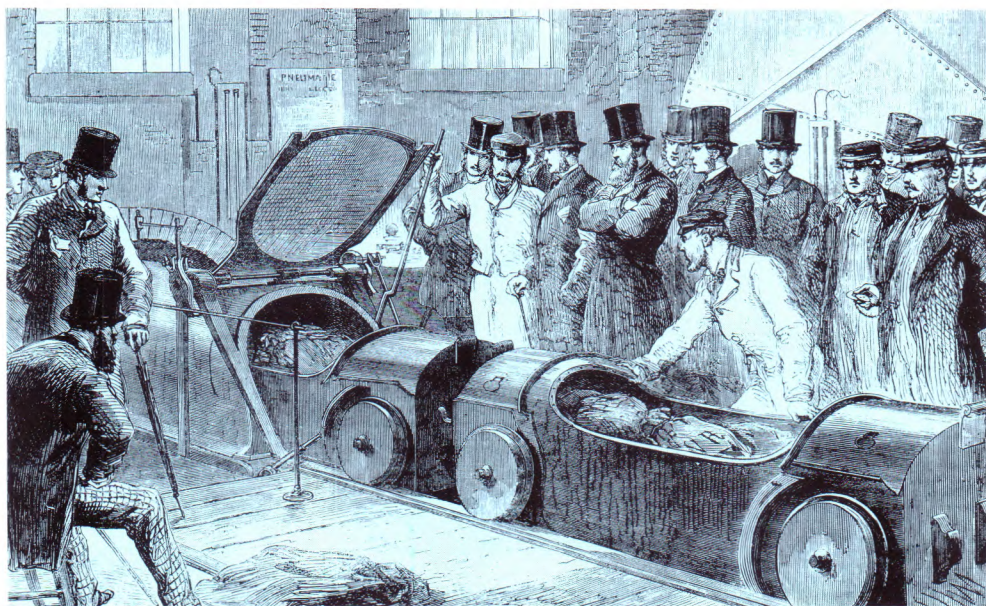
Since December 1927 the Post Office has successfully operated an underground railway linking six important sorting offices with the main railway termini at Paddington and Liverpool Street. It runs through some six miles of tunnels and has eight stations served by automated miniature trains which daily transport more than 40,000 bags of mail beneath the busy streets of London. However, the idea of subterranean mail-trains was not new. From the 1820s experiments had been carried out in the use of pneumatic tubes — utilising air as a method of propulsion — and, early in 1863, the Pneumatic Despatch Company established a pneumatic railway for the Post Office, hoping to speed up the carriage of mails in the metropolis. The 'tube' was laid 9 feet below the ground, between Euston Station and Eversholt Street (near the NW District Post Office); the wrought iron rail-cars each weighed nearly 8 cwt.

Sir Rowland Hill, then Secretary to the Post Office, personally inspected the first experimental despatch of mails with other officials and directors of the Despatch Company — he witnessed the

mail-cars being sucked through the tube to Euston, a distance from the NWDO of about half a mile, in one minute. The trials included the carriage of passengers who travelled 'without injury'. Regular mail despatches between the NWDO and Euston commenced on 20 February 1863 and continued until 20 October 1866, still on an experimental basis. Temporarily closed by financial difficulties, the service resumed on a new tube between Euston and the Post Office at St. Martin's-le-Grand, via Holborn in December 1873, and finally closed in October 1874 when the Post Office had doubts as to the efficacy of the pneumatic railway.

An urban pneumatic post project was started in Italy in 1910 with networks being established in Rome, Milan, Turin, Naples and, later, Genoa. A cylinder containing about ten letters or telegrams was propelled down the tube by compressed air, its progress being accelerated by a machine creating a vacuum at the destination station. Special 'Posta Pneumatica' stamps were, and are, used — the system is still in operation today.

MALCOLM JAMES



Decimal Booklet Pane Printings – Technical Details

by L. F. Newbery

(Continuing Len Newbery's recent series, the following information has just become available)

Section IV (part 2) – Printings of single value panes for Folded Stamp Booklets

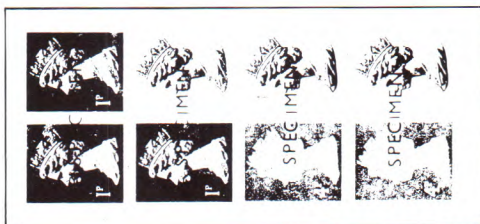
Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink PhosBars			Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/ Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
DP25/25A	10 x 6½p	7	27	1 CB	Jumelle 2	48 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	4.12.75	28 Sep 1976	5171
		8		1 CB				unrecorded		
DP26/26A	10 x 8½p	3	28	Two	Jumelle 2	48 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	5.12.75	28 Sep 1976	5170
DP29/29A	10 x 7p	11	27	1 CB	Jumelle 1	48 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	31.3.77	8 June 1977	5433
DP30/30A	10 x 9p	24 25	28	Two	Jumelle 1	48 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	18.5.77 18.1.78	8 June 1977	5432
DP34/34A	10 x 8p	8	27	1 CB	Jumelle	48 row Kampf	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	13.8.79	30 Nov 1979 15 Feb 1980	For AL rolls For booklets
DP35/35A	10 x 10p	5	37	All over phosphor	Jumelle	48 row Kampf	PPP/ PVA1/ Dex	12.9.79	30 Nov 1979	
DP35D/ 35E	10 x 10p	5	27	1 CB	Jumelle		FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	6.12.79	6 May 1981	

Bogus Specimen Overprint on 50p Booklet Pane

Recently a 50p machine booklet with Orchids design cover and with the stamp pane overprinted with bogus SPECIMEN overprints was offered to a well-known dealer who viewing the booklet with suspicion refused to handle it.

The term Bogus is used because no decimal machine or low value counter issued booklets whether sewn or folded have been issued with either SPECIMEN or Cancelled overprinted stamps.

Booklets required as voucher copies were specially made up without stamps. Booklets required by the Post Office engineers for testing vending machines were also specially prepared with the cover text reading DUMMY BOOKLET/FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY and containing a



pane of 'poached egg' labels with the text reading FOR/TESTING/PURPOSES/ONLY.

The practice of issuing Air Letters with the stamp overprinted SPECIMEN was discontinued in 1975.

L F NEWBERY

Posting Boxes



No. 69. Our illustration, supplied by Mr Harry Dagnall the distinguished postal historian, shows a refurbished type 'A' Standard pillar box of the reign of King George V. It stands outside St Marylebone Parish Church, London, opposite Madam Tussaud's. The notice on the box gives an indication as to its present use, 'Gifts for the new healing and counselling centre.' A plate behind the aperture prevents letters being inserted, but a hole in the plate allows donations to be 'posted.'

Book Review

British Regional Cards and Covers (5th Edition)

The fifth edition of this catalogue lists all known illustrated Post Office postcards (excluding PHQ cards) issued by Postal Regions, Head Postmasters, Postal Headquarters and the National Postal Museum, up to December 1984. The catalogue describes card

types and printings in detail and provides an up-to-date price guide. It also includes separate sections for souvenir covers of post office visits, marketing items, cards and covers produced by The Post Office, also Telecommunications cards and covers. The catalogue is a comprehensive guide to these Post Office issues and is excellent value for money. It is currently available through dealers at £2.75, or it can be obtained direct from the publisher; Regus Publications, Regus House, Longhurst Lane, Mellor, STOCKPORT, SK6 5PY. For orders by post 35p should be added to cover postage and packing.

Forthcoming Events

The British Society of Australian Philately

As well as holding meetings in London, the British Society of Australian Philately holds one provincial event each season. This will be a two-day philatelic event on 23-24 March 1985 at the invitation of the Canterbury Philatelic Society, to be held at the Red House Hotel, London Road, Canterbury, Kent. There will be a formal meeting with members' displays on 23 March, and an afternoon display on 24 March for the benefit of visiting members. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr T R Findlayson, 86 Clarence Road, FLEET, Hants GU13 9RS.

Annual Congress — Scottish Philatelic Societies

The 56th Annual Congress of the Association will be held on Saturday 30 March 1985 in the Pathfoot Building of Stirling University and on Sunday 31 March in the Cotterell Building at the University.

A commemorative Cover featuring the logo of the Association is being produced and will be cancelled on Congress Day, 30 March, with a pictorial handstamp featuring the outline of the Wallace Monument, Stirling. Serviced cover costing £1 (Cheques to be payable to the Association) can be ordered from James C McLean, 15 Murray Place, PERTH.

Philatelic Event at Shrewsbury

The Shropshire Philatelic Society, the Shropshire Postal History Society and the Welsh Philatelic Society have combined to hold an extended philatelic event at Shrewsbury on 30 March 1985. This will be held at the Beauchamp Hotel, The Mount, Shrewsbury from 11 am to 5 pm with a break for lunch. The two principal displays will

feature The Second Anglo-Boer War and The Postal History of Radnorshire. Participating members will also be contributing mini-displays. Further details can be obtained from the organiser, Mr D Salt, 7 Wood Bank Drive, Port Hill, SHREWSBURY, SY3 8RW, or the Secretary of the Welsh Philatelic Society, Mr D Daunton, 21 Torkington Road, WILMSLOW, Cheshire, SK9 2AE.

Goodmayes Philatelic Society

A stamp fair will be held on Saturday 30 March 1985 by the Goodmayes Philatelic Society. This will be held at the Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Several dealers will be in attendance. Admission is free, and refreshments will be available.

Forces Covers

Royal Air Force

Steam Engines

Forces Cover (RFDC 33) is devoted to the Battle of Britain Class locomotive '92 Squadron' is currently available bearing the five 'British Trains' stamps, cancelled on 22 January with BFP5 1857 handstamp, 'Battle of Britain Exhibition — Hendon', which has as its motif the famous engine 'Spitfire'. After flight the cover will be signed by Group Captain Denis David CBE, DFC, AFC, AE a veteran of both the Battles of Britain and of France, and Mr M Fopp MA, MBIM, curator of the Battle of Britain Museum. Proceeds from the sales will be devoted to the Bomber Command Museum Appeal. The cover can be obtained from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at £3.50 including postage and packing. For overseas orders please add 50p extra for postage.

Record Flights

During 1984 The Royal Air Force Museum in conjunction with the Royal Aero Club and FAI instituted a new series of philatelic covers dealing with national and world record attempts. The latest such covers deal with the establishing of national records between the UK and the Falkland Islands. RAF(RD) 3, bearing a 1984 Christmas stamp, cancelled with BFP5 1000 handstamp at the time of departure was flown in a Nimrod of No 201 Sqn from RAF Kinloss to RAF Port Stanley via Ascension Island. RAF(RD) 4 bearing the Falkland Islands Harrier stamp, cancelled at Port Stanley deals with the return flight of the aircraft again via Ascension Island. National records were achieved on

both occasions. The covers were backstamped upon arrival at destinations, signed by the pilot Wing Commander T Earl RAF, include a photograph of the aircraft and crew and a description of the flight. The authentication of the records, verified by the FAI and Royal Aero Club, is contained in a special label attached to the cover, locked with the Royal Aero Club handstamp and signed by the Chairman of the Royal Aero Club.

The proceeds of both covers will be devoted to the Bomber Command Museum Appeal and can be obtained from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at £3.00 each including postage and packing. For overseas orders please add 50p. Details of RAF(RD) 1 and 2 can be supplied upon request.

Insects

The 5 stamps depicting 'Insects' will be used on the Forces First Day Cover, RFDC 34 to commemorate the most famous of all RAF 'insects', the Mosquito. The covers will be cancelled on 12 March with the special BFP5 handstamp '45th Anniversary of the Mosquito' after which it will be flown in the only serviceable Mosquito remaining in this country, and signed by the pilot and the Curator of the Mosquito Museum. As the Mosquito will not fly until towards the end of April we would expect to make deliveries of the cover early in May 1985. Orders should be sent to the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at £3.50 each including postage and packing. For orders from overseas; please add 50p for postage.

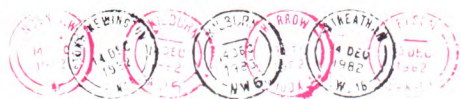
Royal Air Force Lyneham

The Royal Air Force, Lyneham, has launched a 'Support Our Hercules' Ethiopia Famine Relief Appeal. In support of this appeal, No 24 Squadron purchased 1000 Royal Mail 'Famine in Africa' special covers and flew them to Ethiopia. The crew are actively involved in famine relief operations in Ethiopia.

All the covers have been signed by the pilot and are priced at £2 each. In addition 100 have also been signed by the Detachment Commander at £2.50 each; 65 by the Station Commander, RAF Lyneham, price £3.50 each; 25 by Air Officer Commanding No 1 group, price £5 each, and 10 have been signed by the Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Strike Command, at £7.50 each.

Orders with remittances made payable to: '24 Squadron Fund'; should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, No 24 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Lyneham, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts, SN15 4PZ.

Letter to the Editor



Dear Sir

£4 Stamp Book — The Story of Christian Heritage

Having recently acquired the above and reading through it this evening, I was very surprised to see that St. Augustine dates were given as 354 — 430, when in fact he was sent to this country in 597 and died in 604.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo was 354 — 430, a very different person.

Yours faithfully
F A Baker

The entry about St. Augustine is incorrect as you quite rightly point out. Thank you Mr Baker for telling us about it.

EDITOR

Commemorative Covers

St Paul's, Jarrow

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the 1300th Anniversary of the Dedication of St Paul's, Jarrow on 23 April 1985. The cover will illustrate the spiritual, cultural and educational heritage of St. Paul's church. It will bear a 16p definitive stamp cancelled with a special handstamp based on the design of the 7th Century Jarrow Cross. The cost of the covers is £1 each. A limited number of covers will also be available signed by The Archbishop of York, The Bishop of Durham, Sir Harry Secombe, or local celebrity, Tom Kilgour. These signed covers can only be purchased from St Paul's Church Shop after 23 April 1985. Orders for the unsigned covers, with the appropriate remittance made payable to St Paul's Jarrow 1985 Dedication Festival should be sent to: Mrs C Teale, St Paul's Cottage, Church Bank, JARROW, Tyne & Wear, NE32 3DZ, accompanied by a 8½" x 5½" stamped addressed envelope.

The Amateur Entomologists' Society

A special philatelic cover commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the Amateur Entomologists' Society will be issued on 12 March 1985, to coincide with the release of the Insects stamps. The covers will be printed in full colour and will be cancelled with a special handstamp at Feltham, where the Society is

based. The Society was founded in 1935 to encourage the study of insects by amateurs, and publishes a quarterly magazine and specialist books on entomology. It has a membership of some 1800 and holds an annual exhibition in London every October. Only a limited number of covers are being produced, and prices are £2.25 for those bearing the 17p Insects stamp only, and £4.00 for those bearing a complete set of stamps. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing, but 50p extra for airmail should be added for overseas orders, and payment is requested in £ sterling. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to A G Bradbury should be sent to him at: 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

Football Clubs

Special philatelic covers have been produced to commemorate three football clubs which are playing in Europe during the current season. The clubs are Manchester United (UEFA Cup), Everton (European Cup Winners' Cup) and Liverpool (the European Cup), all of which have reached the quarter finals in their respective competitions. The covers are part of the Official Football Cover Series and contain printed filler cards and also have the match results and details printed on them. Bearing a single current definitive or special stamp, the covers are cancelled with a special handstamp. The next covers will be produced on 6 March 1985 for Everton and Manchester United, and 20 March 1985 for Liverpool. The price of the covers is £1.35 inclusive of postage and packing. Orders for the covers with the appropriate remittance, or requests for further information should be sent to Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT, SK3 8UD.

½p Stamp: Last Day of General Sale

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the last day of general sale of the ½p stamp. The covers are printed with an informative cachet and all bear a block of 6 x ½p stamps. Cancelled with a special pictorial Windsor postmark on 29 March 1985, the price of the covers is £1.30 each, 3 for £3.50, or 10 for £10.00. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. Order with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 4TD.

Darlington Railway Preservation Society

A special philatelic cover has been produced by the Darlington Railway Preservation Society to coincide with the Famous Trains stamps issued on 22

January 1985. The cover depicts the Society's emblem and contains a leaflet explaining its origins and aims. The covers bear the Famous Trains stamps cancelled on 22 January 1985 with the Darlington Philatelic Counter handstamp. The price of the covers is 60p for those bearing the 17p Flying Scotsman stamp only, or £3 for those bearing the full set of stamps. 25p should be added to orders to cover postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Cllr. Barrie Lamb, Lambs Stores, 24-26 West Auckland Road, DARLINGTON, Co Durham, DL3 9EP.

A few covers commemorating the return of locomotive No 78018 to Darlington and signed by the engine's designer, R A Riddles, are also available. Further details of this and future covers can be obtained on application.

GWR Preservation Group

A special philatelic cover was produced on 22 January 1985 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Great Western Railway, by the GWR Preservation Group at Southall. The covers depict the GWR Prairie 4110 locomotive in full steam, taken from an original oil-painting, and the GWR logo. This locomotive has just been acquired for restoration by the Preservation Group. The covers bear the Famous Trains stamps cancelled with a special commemorative handstamp on 22 January 1985, the day of issue of the stamps.

The price of the covers is £2.50 for those bearing a single stamp (either the 29p Cheltenham Flyer or 34p Cornish Riviera stamp), and £4.00 for those bearing the full set of Famous Trains stamps. A few covers have been carried via the special TPO apparatus at Didcot and bear the 'exchanged' cachet and GWR TPO postmark; these cost £4.00 each. A set of all 4 of the above covers costs £12.00. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing, but £1 should be added for overseas orders (Air Mail), and payment should be made in £ sterling. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to D G Taylor, 202 Somervell Road, HARROW, Middlesex, HA2 8TS.

Shepway Society for the Mentally Handicapped

A special philatelic cover is being produced by Shepway Society for the Mentally Handicapped to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Operation 'Varsity'—The Crossing of the Rhine, the last airborne wartime operation. The covers will depict a hand-coloured illustration of the parachute wings and Pegasus symbol superimposed on a map of the dropping and landing zones. The covers will be carried on a Pilgrimage to the area organised by the

Airborne Forces Security Fund on 23-26 March 1985. On 28 March 1985 the covers will be carried on a parachute drop by a former member of the 6th British Airborne Division who participated in the 'Varsity' operation, courtesy of the Red Devils. Bearing a 17p Famous Trains stamp depicting the Flying Scotsman, the covers will be machine cancelled at Aldershot. The price of the covers is £2.25 for those signed by the parachutist, and £2.50 for those also signed by a member of the Red Devils. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing, and all profits from the sale of the covers will be divided equally between the Airborne Forces Security Fund and Shepway Society for the Mentally Handicapped. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Shepway Society MHC should be sent to: R W Mortimer, 155 Dolphins Road, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT19 5QA.

The Royal Entomological Society

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the centenary of the Royal Charter of the Royal Entomological Society to coincide with the issue of the Insects stamps on 12 March 1985. The cover will depict a silk-look illustration from an 18th century book of hand-coloured prints by Maria Sibylle Meriaen. The covers will bear a full set of Insects stamps cancelled with a special postmark, and will cost £3.80 each. A limited number of covers signed by the President of the Society are available at £4.80 each, or signed by David Attenborough at £5.80 each. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Royal Entomological Society should be sent to: Benham (A Buckingham Ltd), 22/28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

The Natural History Museum

A special philatelic cover is being produced for the Natural History Museum, to coincide with the issue of the Insects stamps on 12 March 1985. The Natural History Museum houses one of the world's famous collections of insects. A special postmark has also been produced, whose design will feature a specially commissioned painting by Peter Barrett, who also designed the 'Dogs' stamps in 1979 and is a well known Natural History artist. The price of the covers bearing the full set of Insects stamps cancelled with the special handstamp is £3.80. Covers signed by the designer of the Insects stamps, Gordon Beningfield, are also available at £4.80 each. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: The Natural History Museum, Stamp Offer, Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 5HU.

Victorian Prints

A new series of first day covers featuring Victorian Prints is being produced by A G Bradbury. The covers each depict a Victorian print or engraving, and commenced with the Famous Trains issue on 22 January 1985. Only a limited number of covers will be produced for each special stamp issue, and they will be of matching format, forming part of a numbered series. Each cover will be cancelled with a special postmark. Full details are available from A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

Angling Entomology

A special philatelic cover commemorating angling entomology and the Alexandra Trout Fly is being produced to coincide with the Insects stamp issue of 12 March 1985. This well-known trout fly, originally known as the Lady of the Lake, was renamed in honour of HRH Princess Alexandra, who later became Queen Alexandra. The covers will bear the full set of Insects stamps and will be cancelled at Alexandria Post Office. The price of the covers is £3.75 inclusive of postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Stan Muscroft, 43 Ferndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 8JJ. Further details can be obtained on application.

The Royal Princess

A special commemorative postcard has been produced to celebrate the naming of the new P & O cruise line and its subsequent maiden voyage. The postcard depicts both HRH the Princess of Wales who named the liner and the Royal Princess itself, the largest purpose-built cruise ship ever constructed. The postcards have also been printed with the technical, launching, royal naming ceremony, and maiden voyage details, including the liner's arrival in Miami, Florida. Bearing a 17p definitive stamp, the cards have been cancelled with either a special 15 November 1984 postmark for the Naming Ceremony, or a special 19 November 1984 postmark for the Maiden Voyage. The price of the cards is £1 each, 3 for £2.80, or 10 for £8.00. Mint cards are also available at 35p each, 3 for 90p, or 10 for £2.75. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. Some of the cards are available posted in Miami on the liner's day of arrival and also carried on board with a paquebot mark, and details can be obtained on request. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 4TL.

'Photo-Repro' Covers by Pilgrim

Pilgrim Philatelics are continuing their 1985 series of 'photo-repro' covers bearing the 'Insects' stamps on 12 March. The cover design includes a gold die-stamped frame with a colour photograph set behind a clear acetate protective window within the frame. Lettering will be diestamped in a colour complementary to the stamps. The photograph will be of a seven spotted Ladybird. A special philatelic handstamp will be used, and an information card inserted into the cover.

Covers bearing the full set of five stamps are limited to 50 copies only. In addition covers are available bearing the 22p 'Ladybird' stamp only. The price of the covers with all five stamps affixed is £4.35 each, and with the 22p stamp—£2.50 each, including return postage and packing. These prices will apply to the remaining six special stamp issues for 1985. Orders should be sent to:— Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd., 33 St. Georges Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

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