

Philatelic Bulletin

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Now that our recent series about the Postcard Story has come to an end we can look back on another success. The interest which Malcolm James generated far exceeded our expectations and we have been gratified by the number of appreciative letters we have received. We have space now to start another series and we have prevailed upon our good friend James Watson to turn his hand this time to the early days of stamps. The first of his features under the general title 'Collecting the Victorians' starts this month. We have every confidence that James's unique style will once again bring interest to the young and not so young!

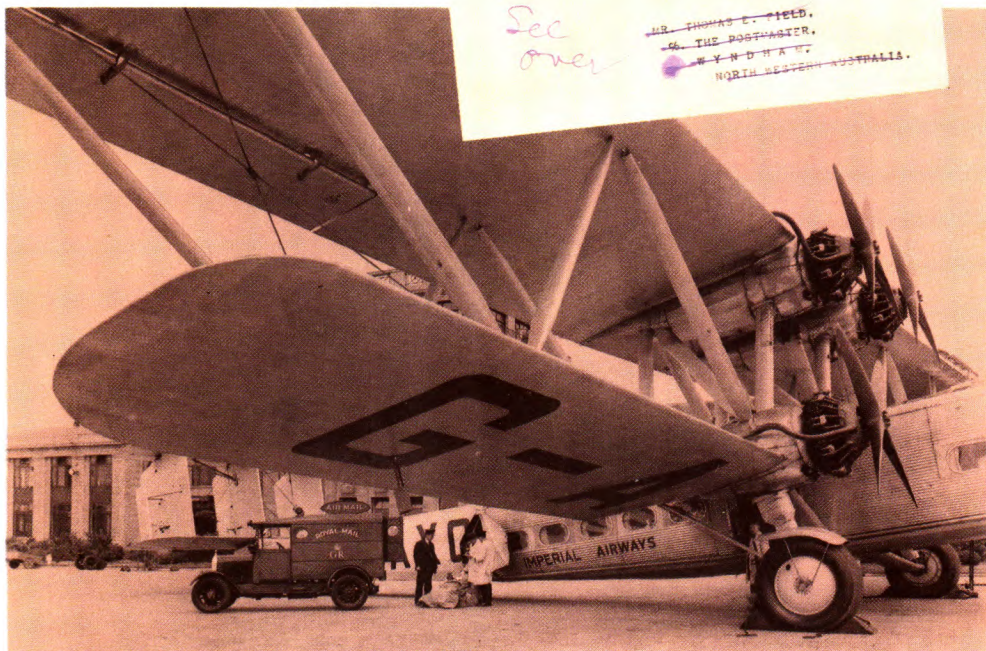
When I made my plea for more 'Letters to the Editor' recently I did not realise what the response might be. In next to no time hundreds of you wrote to me – most unfortunately with individual points or queries which were better replied to than to air in the Bulletin. The sort of letters we prefer are those on the wider aspect of GB collecting which might stimulate discussion among readers.

In August I mentioned rising prices. We have now done our sums and find that we cannot continue to offer 12 issues, post free, for less than it costs us to produce! We have kept the inevitable increase as low as possible and from 1 January 1980 the inland and surface mail subscription will be £1.75 and the airmail £3.



**The Editor wishes the readers
of the Philatelic Bulletin
a very happy Christmas
and a prosperous New Year.**

Philately and an Invention



In collecting covers thematically the choice of an invention may seem ordinary. If it is narrowed down to an item such as an aeroplane it becomes more precise, but if it is allied to an airport and the people who developed the experiment to something living then one has something sharp – such is the story of Croydon Airport, 1915-1959. The story starts back in the 1700's when Richard Carew, a rich landlord from Devon owned much of the farmland of Beddington & Waddon including New Barn farm which was to become part of the airport. The first prize item in my collection is a letter addressed to Richard Carew at Exeter in 1704.

Initial preparations to start an airport came with the outbreak of the first world war. In 1915/16 the arrival of BE 2C's, Avro's, & Sopwith Camels & Pups formed a fighter base. With the end of the war civil planes quickly took over and in the next three or four years such firms as K.L.M., Handley Page, Daimler & Instones started flights to Paris etc on an experimental basis. Local interest was considered and Surrey Flying Services did a good

trade in local flights at 10/- or £1.1.0 per trip. Finance and profit was however always a problem and in 1924 Handley Page, Daimler, and Instones combined to form part of the Imperial Airways who were soon experimenting with flights to Europe and beyond.

The first name used postally on the Aerodrome was 'Waddon Aerodrome' and from 1922 there are good examples of this single ring handstamp on mail flown to Zurich via Paris and Geneva which used the blue P25 air mail label which is little changed to this day. In the following year there are examples to Berlin, to India via Rome, Alexandria and Bagdad, and later on to Siam and beyond. In this period much of the mail for South America was sent from Croydon to Berlin from where it was sent by flying boat or Zeppelin and given a circular red cachet. Air mail for Scandinavia was also sent via Berlin. As far back as 1921 the R33 airship was moored at Croydon as an experiment but although the tests were successful the mast was only used for a few days and was dismantled after a few months.



Imperial Airways were always keen on advertising and at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley they had a single engine passenger plane G-EAWY and a few smaller planes on show. Postcard photographs were on sale showing the plane in The Palace of Industry and some showing planes on the airport at Croydon. All the postcards were printed on the back 'Imperial Airways, Croydon Aerodrome. The only British air service to and from the continent. The safest in the world.' The point of safety was well made as accidents to passengers were unknown despite the infancy of flying, but, the statement that they were the only British Air service to and from the continent seems a little doubtful.

Perhaps the most exciting day in the life of the airport was when Colonel Lindberg arrived some eight days after his epic flight from the USA to Paris. There are perhaps postally used postcards of the landing which would be a collectors dream. (I would be interested to know of any which exist. Editor)

Another exciting date was on 30 May 1930 when Amy Johnson left for her solo flight to Australia. Photograph postcards of the event and her Gipsy Moth plane are available even if expensive and make a nice addition to the postal history. During this year Imperial Airways were pushing ahead with their trial flights to the Far East. The existing arrangement of sending mail from Croydon to Karachi and thence by steamer took nineteen days but as from October 1930 the routing was changed to Marseilles, where it was taken by a French plane to Bagdad, from there by British plane to Karachi, from there by Indian planes to Calcutta, and finally by French planes to Siam. The fact that this saved time seems remarkable considering the many changes.

Other airlines coming into Croydon were equally adventurous and in late 1931 we have the first return service from England to Tasmania showing a beautiful single ring handstamp 'Croydon Aerodrome/Croydon Sy'. Throughout this saga it is important to remember that Airport handstamps were only used on privileged or VIP mail, all other mail having provincial handstamps. This accounts for the great scarcity of Croydon



Aerodrome postmarks. This year is also important in that it was the first year of the England – Australia official air mail by Imperial Airways. Special covers showing a map of Australia together with a special letter from Imperial Airways was issued as a souvenir. The first leg from Croydon to Karachi was by Argosy G-AAEJ 'City of Coventry', and from there by DH66 Hercules G-EBMW flown by two senior pilots R P Mollard and H W C Alger. The plane crashed at Timor however and the mail was collected from Australia by Kingsford Smith causing about seven days delay. This caused difficulties on the much advertised return flight and the mail was flown to Darwin by Qantas; to Rangoon by Kingsford Smith; to Calcutta by Imperial Airways in 'City of Karachi'; to Delhi by India State Service to Karachi, and then by Imperial Airways regular service to Croydon. On this flight similar commemorative covers were used and the charge was 1/11d.

In December of the same year Australian National Airways issued a further commemorative cover marked 'Xmas Greetings by First All Australian Air Mail – Australian National Airways', and which were intended to be flown from Croydon in December. Owing to a plane accident on the ground however the mail was sent to Hamble and flown from there. Viewing the life of the airport, this brings us to half way.

(To be continued)

EWART SANDERS

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection LXXII

A Stamp that never was

The three 'Imprimatur' copies of the 1867-82 5/- rose on white paper, watermark Maltese Cross, displayed as this month's 'gem' are remarkable enough in themselves for their quality. All three are corner copies showing the relevant plate numbers and have been carefully cut from the (imperforate) sheets to give generous margins.

But it is the Plate 4 imprimatur which is of particular interest. Like several other contemporary stamps (the 1/- green plate 3 and the 10d plate 2) the 5/- plate 4 watermarked Maltese Cross is an abnormal. Though it is likely that the normal six (imperforate) sheets were printed, from which one was selected for registration, the remaining five being perforated and then issued, there is no evidence that the five sheets were actually issued as no perforated copies have been recorded on this paper.

In any event this particular corner copy of plate 4 with the lettering HA could only come from the first (watermark Maltese Cross) printing because, for the second printing on blued Anchor water-



mark paper, the plate format was re-arranged so that there was no longer an 'H' row on the sheet. This particular copy of Plate 4 is therefore probably the only surviving 1867-83 Five Shilling stamp lettered AH/HA.

A G RIGODE RIGHI

Book Review

Parcel Post Labels of Great Britain: Part 3.

(Devonshire & Gloucestershire)

by Lt. Cdr. J O A Arkell, RN, FRPS, L.

Published by Harry Hayes, 28, Trafalgar Street, BATLEY, Yorks WF17 7HA.

Price £4.00 (by post £4.35).

A scholarly study of West Country PP labels by an acknowledged authority whose own collection extends to no less than 72,000 labels. Parts 1 and 2 of this magnum opus, covers Berkshire and Yorkshire respectively.

Books like this prove the old adage that the specialist pays not only for the information he requires but for the information others do not. The price of a specialisation is small circulation, and a small circulation means high cost.

Four pounds may seem a lot of money to pay for 47 pages, but anyone who has tried to dig out this sort of information for himself will be only too pleased to pay the entrance fee.

Stanley Gibbons



Mr Eric Allen, who has served the firm of Stanley Gibbons for a quarter of its 126 years existence, fixing a plaque marking the site of the Plymouth born philatelist's home and business, 8 Lockyer Street.

The dates of the 1980
Special Issues are:

January 16

British Birds

- A Kingfisher
- B Dipper
- C Moorhen
- D Yellow Wagtail



March 12

Liverpool and Manchester Railway 1830

- A A se-tenant strip 5 stamps showing an engine and four carriages.

April 9

London 1980 Pictorial Single Stamp 50p

May 7

London 1980 Miniature Sheet

A single 50p stamp in a surround.

May 7

London Landmarks

- A Albert Memorial
- B Royal Opera House
- C Hampton Court
- D Kensington Palace
- E Buckingham Palace

June 18

Famous People

- A Charlotte Brontë
- B George Eliot
- C Emily Brontë
- D Mrs Gaskell

August 1 (Friday)

Sport

- A Athletics
- B Rugby
- C Boxing
- D Cricket

September 10

Music

- A Sir Henry Wood
- B Sir Thomas Beecham
- C Sir Malcolm Sargent
- D Sir John Barbirolli

November 19

Christmas

5 stamps. Details to be announced.

- A First Class Inland
- B European All-Up
- C Zone D Airmail Letter
- D Zone C Airmail Letter
- E European and Overseas Surface Postcard



Reproduced by kind permission of Mr Edward Proud.

The controversy about the recognition due to Chalmers as the inventor of the adhesive stamp and the instigator of the penny post etc. is well known and the occasional commemorative item can be met with. A typical example being shown on a 1940 centenary f.d.c. An aspect of this which is seldom seen in England is shown by two items of German postal stationery of the city private posts of Frankfurt and Berlin – both Rowland Hill and Chalmers being shown together.

Collecting the Victorians

1. Sixty Years of Stamps

The celebrations marking the death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill, pioneer of 'Uniform Penny Postage', during the past year have attracted many newcomers to the stamp collecting hobby. and the fact that, in 1980, the world's first postage stamps, Penny Black and Twopence Blue, have their own 140th anniversary will turn many a collector's thoughts to those superficially dull, but consistently dignified, stamp issues of Queen Victoria's reign. Some of them are not so dull or unattractive as they may at first appear. Most of them have gradually increased in value, and will continue to rise, while some of the scarce ones are rather expensive, even prohibitive in price, but it is still possible to build up a good collection of Victorians, over a long term, at moderate cost.

This can be accomplished in two ways, (1) by aiming to form a simple, representative collection of all Victorian issues – the *Gibbons' Catalogue* records approximately 200 basic stamps, or (2) by being really selective and confining interest to separate studies of any of the following groups:

The Penny Reds 1841-1879

The Embossed Issues 1847-1854

The Surface-Printed Issues 1855-1883

The First High Values 1867-1883

Britain's Smallest Stamp ($\frac{1}{2}$ d.)

and the First $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1870

The Penny Lilac 1881 and the First

'Postage & Revenue' Issues 1887-1892

The 'Jubilee' Stamps 1887-1892

Start your representative collection with one or two decent Penny Blacks and Twopence Blues – the nicest postmarked ones you can find within your price limit – and include the *second* 2d. blue imperforate with 'white lines added' to the design, issued in 1841. Follow with the Penny Reds, first the imperf types which replaced the 1d. black, then the comparatively common perforated stamps with letters in all four corners – still easy to obtain and popular because of the different plate-numbers which appear in the side frames of the stamps. There are also some perforated 2d. blue stamps of this period. The three embossed stamps – 6d., 10d. and 1s. – of 1847-54 have become connoisseur items and fetch connoisseur prices, but it would be nice to have one or two nicely used examples on a



representative album page.

In 1855, Britain started issuing the surface-printed (actually typographed or letterpress-printed) stamps which, printed by De La Rue, continued throughout the Queen's reign and beyond. The same young portrait of the Queen was used throughout, at her insistence, but monotony is relieved by the many different frame designs of the stamps and their various colours. The famous Penny Lilacs were issued in 1881, first Die I with 14 dots in each corner (which had a short life), then Die II with 16 dots. Some undeniably dull lilac and green stamps were issued in 1883-84, and they were followed by the most colourful issues of Victoria's reign, the so-called 'Jubilee' stamps of 1887-1892. In my next article I will survey the Penny Reds as a specialist group.

JAMES WATSON

Forthcoming Events

The Woking and District Philatelic Society

The Society will be holding its second Annual Fair and Exhibition – Wopex 79 – at Christchurch Hall, Woking, Surrey on Saturday 15 December 1979 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

There will be displays by members, a Post Office sales counter and dealers' stands. Refreshments will also be available.

Admission by programme (obtainable at the door) price 20p.

Withdrawal of Obsolete Stamp Values

The range of low value definitive has been reviewed and it has been decided that the 6p, 7p and $7\frac{1}{2}$ p definitives and 7p and $7\frac{1}{2}$ p Country definitive values are no longer required. These values were therefore withdrawn from general sale as the close of business on 28 November 1979.

British Birds Stamp Issue

16 January 1980

While the protection of birds is important, so too is their natural abode. The species of birds illustrated on the four stamps to be issued on 16 January 1980 all depend on a wet-land habitat for their survival. Such areas are all too readily lost to drainage and 'improvement'.

To remind us of these problems the birds depicted are the Kingfisher, the Dipper, the Moorhen and the Yellow Wagtail.

Printing Details

Designer: Michael Warren

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Format: Vertical

Process: Photogravure

Size: 30 mm x 41 mm

Perforation: 14 x 15

Sheet Size: 100

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Phosphor: Pre-treated

Values and Colours

10p	cold yellow; blue; bright yellow-green; vermilion; black; gold.
11 1/2p	warm blue; orange-red; deep green; brown; cold yellow; black; gold.
13p	cold yellow; blue; light emerald; bright rose-red; black; gold.
15p	greenish-yellow; bluish-grey; apple green; red-brown; blue-black; gold.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date of the postage stamps, price 8 1/2p each.

Presentation Packs

Presentation packs, price 61 1/2p, containing all four stamps will be available from 16 January.

First Day Cover Service

The following service for first day covers will be provided.

Two special pictorial handstamps will be available: Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, or, Sandy, Beds., as requested, and despatched for a charge of 68 1/2p. Deposit account customers will be charged 64p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 57 1/2p per cover.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 7 January 1980.



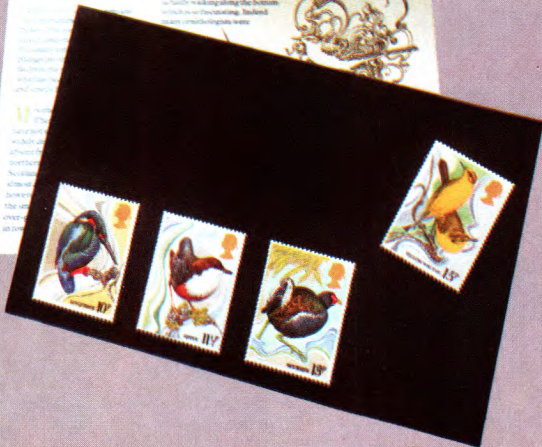
British Post Office Mint Stamps

British Birds

The blackbird, which is native to the British Isles, is a common sight in most parts of the country. It is a very hardy bird, and is often found in the most desolate of places.

Dove. The Dove is one of the most common of all birds in the British Isles. It is a very hardy bird, and is often found in the most desolate of places.

The blackbird, which is native to the British Isles, is a common sight in most parts of the country. It is a very hardy bird, and is often found in the most desolate of places.



British Birds
POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVER



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

British Special Stamps

59. British Ships 1969

The Post Office's maiden voyage across the thematic oceans of the world was an enterprising project, intended as 'a tribute to British ship-builders and seamen'. The issue of six stamps depicting 'British Ships' on 15 January 1969 was no doubt inspired by the *QE2*'s own impending maiden voyage and it is likely that the original idea of a commemorative issue for the debut of Britain's latest Cunarder was subsequently and enthusiastically expanded to embrace our maritime history from the first Elizabethan era to the second contemporary one.

David Gentleman designed the stamps (employing his favourite 'cut-out and stick down' technique) which were issued in varying formats – the 5d. *Queen Elizabeth 2* in treble-definitive size; three double-size 9d. stamps, issued together in a strip, showing an Elizabethan galleon, an East Indiaman and the *Cutty Sark*; and two treble-size stamps, both 1s. denominations, issued as a pair and depicting the *Great Britain* and the (first) *Mauretania*.

Here now is a summary of the six vessels which I described in greater detail in 'Stamps for Pleasure: 18. Ships & Shipping' – November 1978 *Philatelic Bulletin*. *RMS Queen Elizabeth 2* (now universally known as the *QE2*): Built by Upper Clyde Ship-builders (formerly John Brown) for Cunard; length 963 feet, gross tonnage 65,862; launched by HM the Queen in September 1967; cost £30 million. Designed for trans-Atlantic crossings and cruises.

Elizabethan galleon: Merchantman and warship; average tonnage 500 to 900, and length 100 to 200



feet; far superior to Spanish galleons in design and seaworthiness. East Indiaman: Operated by the East India Company between Britain, India and the Far East in the late-18th and early-19th centuries; fast, comfortable vessels of 1,000 tons and upwards. *Cutty Sark*: Famous clipper; launched at Dumbarton on the Clyde in 1869; named from Burns' poem *Tam o' Shanter* ('cutty sark' or 'short petticoat'); length 224 feet and gross tonnage 963; now permanently moored at Greenwich.

Great Britain: First iron-built, screw-driven, ocean-going ship; designed by Brunel, built at Bristol, 1840-43, and launched by Prince Albert; length 300 feet, gross tonnage 2,735; finally used as a storage hulk in the Falkland Islands, and towed back to Bristol in 1970. *Mauretania*: built by Swan, Hunter for Cunard; length 760 feet, gross tonnage 31,938; entered service in 1907, crossed the Atlantic in record time in the same year; broken up at Rosyth in 1934.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Son in sheets of 72 (5d. 8 x 9), 120 (9d. 6 x 20) and 80 (1s. 8 x 10), on unwatermarked paper, the 5d. with one (horizontal) phosphor band, the remaining values with two bands. Some values are recorded with colours omitted, the most spectacular being the 5d. with the black – Queen's head, value, hull and inscription – omitted. Quantities sold were: 5d. 67,584,528; 9d. 14,351,160; and 1s. 10,784,480; English presentation packs, 116,526; German packs, 4,416.

JAMES WATSON



London 1980

Demands for display frames at the LONDON 1980 International Stamp Exhibition to be held at Earls Court from 6-14 May next year have come from collectors throughout the world, proving that London is still the centre of International Philately.

The Organising Committee are extremely gratified by the considerable support shown for the Exhibition, which should be viewed in the light of the fact that overseas Commissioners were asked to submit only the best entries from their particular countries – without such a restriction the demand for frame space would have been even greater. In particular, requests received for frame space in the Airmail Postal History and Thematic sections have been far greater than anticipated.

Some 1400 individual entries have been received, and these would occupy over 9000 frames were this number available. Unfortunately the Exhibition only has space for approximately 4000.

In attempting to solve this problem, the Selection Committee has taken the view that as many exhibitors as possible should be able to participate. It is unfortunate that many potential exhibitors will be disappointed either by the reduced number of their exhibits that can be accepted, or the decrease in the frame space offered.

The size of this task, coupled with the disruptions to postal services in various parts of the world has regrettably caused a delay in the announcement of frame allocations. It is hoped that by now all exhibitors will have received their allocations.

Cost of admission to LONDON 1980 will be £1.50 for adults and £1.00 for children and senior citizens.

However, to help those who work in London and will only be able to visit the Exhibition after normal working hours, a special reduced rate of £1.00 for adults and 50p for children and senior citizens will apply after 5.00 p.m. each day.

To cater for those who would like to view the Exhibition in relative comfort, the Organisers have designated 6 May as Preview Day. On this day alone admission will cost £3.00 all day, and there will be no reductions for children and senior citizens.

A season ticket, available for as many visits as

you like to LONDON 1980 from 6 to 14 May, will be on sale at £10.00. To ease congestion at Earls Court, season tickets will be available from the Organisers' Office in advance – further details about the purchase of season tickets will be given later: purchasers will be given a voucher which they may exchange for a copy of the Official Exhibition Catalogue.

Details about party rates to LONDON 1980 will be given later.

HOURS OF OPENING

6 May 1980, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.; 7-13, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Sun 11, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.); 14, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Book Review

T.P.O. – a History of the Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain: Part 1.

England, the 'Specials' and associated TPOs. (3rd. Edition.)

Published by The Railway Philatelic Group, Stable Becks, Grasmere, AMBLESIDE LA22 9PX.

Available from the Publishers by post £3.75.

This third edition replaces one which has been out of print for some time. Parts 2 & 3 covering the South, and Scotland & Ireland are still available.

It is hardly necessary to emphasise the care and research which goes into compiling reference works of this sort. If they are not carefully prepared they never reach a third edition.

Certainly no one is better qualified to write a history of the TPOs than a member of the Railway Philatelic Group and Mr Wilson has not disappointed his readers.

If it's authoritative information you're looking for, this series of handbooks is where you will find it. For the enthusiast it is obligatory reading.

Correction

On page 44 of the November issue of the Bulletin, re-tenant should have read se-tenant, and on page 53, 82p should read 8½ p.

Postmark Slogans

Be properly —
addressed —
POSTCODE IT —

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

Until 21 December 1979 (P) 'CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES XMAS SHOPPING AS IT SHOULD BE'. To be used at Bletchley, Wolverton, Buckingham and Newport Pagnell. 1st and 2nd class.

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

Until further notice 'BE PROPERLY ADDRESSED POSTCODE IT'. To be used at the following offices:

South West Postal Region

Bath 1st and 2nd Class
Bradford on Avon 1st and 2nd Class
Shepton Mallet 1st and 2nd Class
Trowbridge 1st and 2nd Class
Wells 1st and 2nd Class
Yeovil 1st and 2nd Class
Bournemouth 1st and 2nd Class
Bristol 1st and 2nd Class
Weston Super Mare 1st Class
Avonmouth 1st Class
Fishponds 1st Class
Keynsham 1st Class
Kingswood 1st Class
Westbury on Trym 1st Class
Salisbury 1st and 2nd Class
Andover 1st and 2nd Class
Southampton 1st and 2nd Class
Winchester 1st and 2nd Class
Swindon 1st and 2nd Class
Calne 1st Class
Chippenham 2nd Class
Devizes 1st Class
Melksham 1st Class
Torquay 1st and 2nd Class
Newton Abbot 1st Class
Truro 1st and 2nd Class
Bodmin 1st and 2nd Class
Falmouth 1st and 2nd Class

Helston 1st and 2nd Class
Newquay 1st and 2nd Class
Penzance 1st and 2nd Class
Redruth 1st and 2nd Class
St Ives 1st and 2nd Class
Wadebridge 1st and 2nd Class
Hayle 1st and 2nd Class
St Marys 1st and 2nd Class
Dorchester 1st and 2nd Class
Weymouth 1st and 2nd Class
Exeter 2nd Class
Barnstaple 1st Class
Gloucester 1st and 2nd Class
Cheltenham 1st and 2nd Class
Plymouth 1st Class
St Austell 1st Class
Bude 1st Class
Taunton 1st Class
Bridgwater 1st and 2nd Class
Chard 1st and 2nd Class
Crewkerne 1st and 2nd Class
Ilminster 1st and 2nd Class
Minehead 1st and 2nd Class
Wellington 1st and 2nd Class

North Eastern Postal Board

Barnsley 1st and 2nd Class
Bradford 1st and 2nd Class
Doncaster 1st and 2nd Class
Grimsby 1st and 2nd Class
Harrogate 1st and 2nd Class
Huddersfield 1st and 2nd Class
Hull 1st and 2nd Class
Leeds 1st and 2nd Class
Lincoln 1st and 2nd Class
Sheffield 1st and 2nd Class
Wakefield 1st and 2nd Class
York 1st and 2nd Class
Cleveland 1st and 2nd Class
Durham 1st and 2nd Class
Morpeth 1st and 2nd Class
Newcastle upon Tyne 1st and 2nd Class
Sunderland 1st and 2nd Class

North West Postal Board

Sale Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
Salford Lancs 1st and 2nd Class

Ashton under Lyne Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Rochdale Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Bacop Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Littleborough Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Shaw Oldham Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Todmorden Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Preston Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Chorley Lancs 1st and 2nd Class
 Stockport Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Alderley Edge Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Cheadle Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Hyde Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Macclesfield Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Stalybridge Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Wilmslow Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Buxton Derbyshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Glossop Derbyshire 1st and 2nd Class
 Warrington 1st and 2nd Class
 Newton le Willow Merseyside 1st and 2nd Class
 Runcorn Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class
 St Helens Merseyside 1st and 2nd Class
 Widnes Cheshire 1st and 2nd Class

Repeat Campaign

Until 31 October 1980 (P) 'SCARBOROUGH, WHITBY, FILEY YORKSHIRE HOLIDAY PLAYGROUND WRITE DIRECTOR OF TOURISM SCARBOROUGH'. to be reused at Scarborough, York. 1st and 2nd Class
 P Denotes Pictorial.

New Stamp Rolls and a new size Envelope

AL and BL Stamp Rolls

Two new stamp rolls are now available.

The AL roll has 500 x 8p stamps with a single phosphor bar in the centre, price £40.

The BL roll has 500 x 10p stamps all-over phosphor. The phosphor has been printed on the paper, price £50.

Both rolls are reeled endways.

New Size Envelope

The first item in the 'new-look' range of postal

stationery, also available, is Size 2 first-class stamped envelope. This, the larger of the two Post Office-issued envelopes, measures 220mm by 110mm, and bears a 10p printed stamp. The cost is 14p each or £1.32 per packet of 10.

The new rolls and the new envelope are obtainable from Philatelic Sales Counters and, by post, from the Philatelic Bureau. They will also go on sale at other post offices as and when current stocks are exhausted.



Posting Boxes

No 14: This unusual looking wall box is thought to be the only example of its type still in daily use. It is of the 2nd Standard type of box, made by the Smith & Hawkes foundry in Birmingham between 1859 and 1861. This type of box was made in two sizes but it was only the larger size that had these distinctive hinges. This example can be seen at Boyden End, Wickhambrook, near Newmarket, Suffolk.

Commemorative Covers

Rotary Club of Swansea

A special handstamp to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Club was designed for use on 21 November 1979, in connection with a commemorative cover.

The cover design depicts the Rotary Wheel and the Swansea City coat-of-arms, and, as the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International falls in the same Rotary year, it includes a reference to both anniversaries.

The cover executed in high class artwork, has been serviced with the Christmas 1979 stamps and a number are still available as follows.

Cover and single 10p stamp - 50p

Cover and complete set of stamps - £1

Orders, with correct remittance, should be sent to: Mr R C Wall, 14 Deepslade Close, Southgate, SWANSEA, SA3 2DQ.

Jockey Club

In the August Bulletin we were able to announce a series of covers issued by the Jockey Club. We have been asked to make clear the present position.

The specially signed covers at £24 per set are over-subscribed but the covers autographed by a well known jockey at each meeting at £12 per set of 8 are still available as are the ordinary covers at £4.80 per set.

Cartoonist Club

The Cartoonists Club which was formed in 1960 and now has a membership of over 200, recently visited New York.

To celebrate the occasion and the Rowland Hill Centenary a 'Mulready' cartoon was designed as a cover. The covers were flown to New York and on return they had the Rowland Hill miniature sheet affixed and cancelled.

They are available from Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 24/28 High Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 5AT at £1.65 each plus 20p postage.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

To celebrate the issue of the Birds Stamps on 16 January 1980, commemorating the centenary of the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has produced a limited edition of an exclusively designed commemorative

cover. Each cover will bear the full set of 4 stamps depicting a kingfisher, dipper, moorhen and yellow wagtail, cancelled on the first day of issue with a special pictorial handstamp, and will be priced at £1.50.

All proceeds will go to the RSPB's Silver Meadows Campaign which is a fund raising scheme to save land for waterbirds. Special arrangements have been made with the Post Office for ordering and direct payment through National Girobank only. Simply complete a Post Office Giro Inpayment Form at a post office, crediting the RSPB's Girobank account number 353 5002. The Post Office will then send the forms to the RSPB who will despatch the commemorative cover. All requests should be dealt with by the end of February.

Michael Warren, the artist, will be holding an exhibition of his work at the Central Library, Harpur Street, BEDFORD MK40 1PG and this will be open for public viewing between 9 and 16 January.

Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society

The Society is to produce a commemorative cover to coincide with the issue of 'Birds' stamps on 16 January 1979. The cover will bear all four of the stamps, cancelled with a special handstamp to be used in Leicester on the day of issue. The handstamp reads, 'The Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society Celebrate their 40th Year', and depicts the Great Crested Grebe - the emblem of the Society.

The cost of the cover, including return postage and packing, is £2. Orders should be sent to A G. Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ (0533 549922 Ext. 7476) to whom remittances should be made payable.

Dickens Festival

We understand that a few commemorative covers produced for the Dickens Festival, organized by the Medway Borough Council, are still available, price 55p each. Orders should be sent to J & M Arlington Ltd., 45 Lakenheath, London N14 4RL.

Stamps and Phosphor

One aspect of philately that is attracting an increasing number of devotees is the study of the phosphor marking on stamps which is necessary for the correct identification and segregation of mail by postal machinery. The Post Office hopes that the following information of new developments in phosphor markings will prove interesting to both specialists and general Great Britain stamp collectors alike.

At present, definitive stamps bear either one printed phosphor bar (for second class stamps) or two printed phosphor bars (for other definitive stamps). The special issue stamps have phosphor printed all over the stamps.

A series of successful experiments aimed at improving the method of applying phosphor to stamps has culminated in the installation of new coating equipment at the printers; this will enable the paper used to be coated with phosphor before stamp printing begins. This paper will be called phosphor coated paper. Applying phosphor in the coating is a cheaper method than adding phosphor at the time the stamps are printed.

As stocks of definitive stamps need to be replenished, the new supplies of stamps will be produced on phosphor coated paper (PCP). The exception will be the value for the second class letter rate, currently 8p, which will continue to have one printed phosphor bar.

New First Day of Issue Offices

Falkirk and Fort William post offices are now offering first day of issue facilities, for an experimental period, until further notice.

Back numbers

Mr P Fogel, 26 Colinwood Close, BURY, Lancashire, BL9 8HQ has offered to help those readers who wish either to obtain or dispose of back issues of the Philatelic Bulletin. Mr Fogel indicates that this scheme is a non profit making undertaking and he invites those interested to contact him, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

Forces Covers

Royal Navy

The 40th anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate will be remembered with the issue of a commemorative cover on 13 December 1979.

The cover illustrates the action between HMS 'Ajax', HMS 'Exeter', HMNZS 'Achilles' and the pocket battleship 'Graf Spee' in the vicinity of the River Plate. A special handstamp – BFPS 3456 – depicting the crest of HMS 'Ajax' will cancel a 10p Christmas stamp affixed. The cost is 55p.

In addition, the cover bearing an 11½p Christmas stamp, cancelled as above and signed by Commander R B Jennings DSO DSC RN (Retd), Gunnery Officer of HMS 'Exeter' during the action, is also available, price £1.00.

Alternatively it is offered with a 13p Christmas stamp affixed, signed by Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer GCB CBE DSC, Gunnery Officer aboard HMS 'Ajax' during the action; as well as Commander Jennings, for £1.85.

Orders should be accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope and remittances made payable to the FAA Museum.

Philatelic Bulletin

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