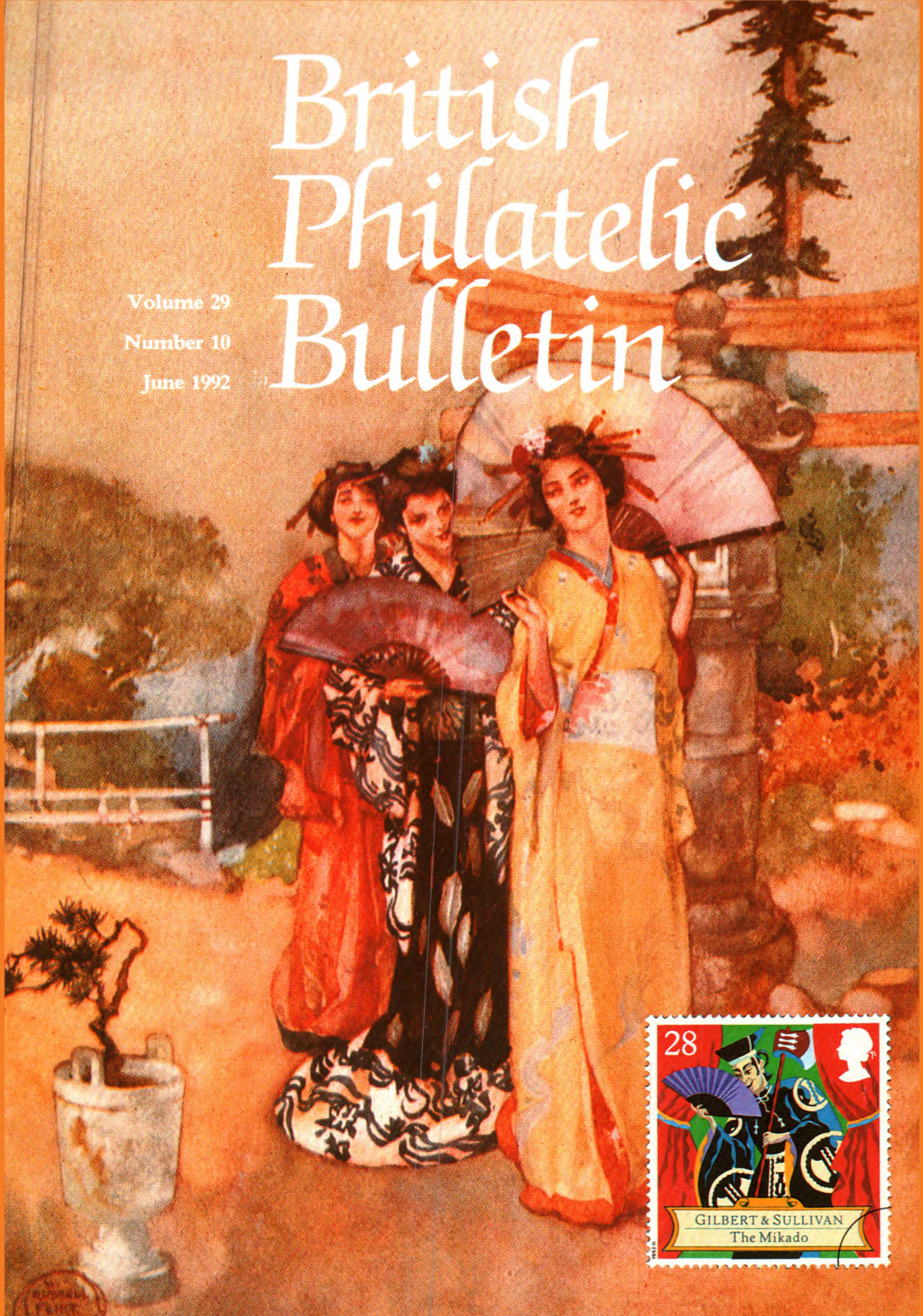


British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 29

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Contents

- 219 Gilbert & Sullivan
- 222 Stamp Bug Club Album 91 Competition
- 223 National Postal Museum – The Philatelic Year 1991
- 224 The Machin Head on Stamps: Part 5 1989-91
- 225 Irish Postal Map Postcard
- 226 Collections & Philatelic Counters
- 230 Machin Quarter-Century
- 231 Retirement of Ray McKinnon
- 232 Postbag
- 234 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
Posting Boxes
- 235 New Scottish Aerogramme
- 236 Book Reviews
- 237 Six Month Digest
- 238 Commemorative Covers
- 239 Competition
- 240 June Digest
Royal Mail Peterborough Family Fun Day
Bournemouth Stamp Fair
Kellogg's Stamp Book Promotion

Front cover: The three little maids from *The Mikado* by Gilbert & Sullivan. Illustration by Sir William Russell Flint RA, first published by Macmillan in 1928. (Courtesy of Mary Evans Picture Library)

1990 Miniature Sheet

The number issued of the 1990 Penny Black miniature sheet was 1,991,550.

Europa 92/Civil War Cylinders & Colours

The cylinder/plate numbers and colours of the Europa stamps are as follows:

24p Santa Maria 1A (carmine) 1B (cream) 1C (gold) 1D (black) plus two shades of grey (see note below), also 2A1B1C1D, 3A1B1C1D, 4A1B1C1D, 5A1B1C1D, 6A1B1C1D, 8A1B1C1D, 9A1B1C1D, 10A1B1C1D, and 11A1B1C1D.

24p Flags 1A (new blue) 1A (lemon) 1A (magenta) 1A (black) 1A (new blue – second shade), also 2A2A2A2A2A, 3A3A3A3A3A, and 4A4A4A4A4A.

39p Operation Raleigh 1A (carmine) 1B (cream) 1C (gold) 1D (black) plus two shades of grey (see note below), also 2A1B1C1D, 3A1B1C1D and 4A1B1C1D.

39p Expo 1A (new blue) 1A (lemon) 1A (magenta) 1A (black).

Note: the black cylinders on the 24p Santa Maria and 39p Operation Raleigh were used to print only markings in sheet margins, not the stamps themselves. Both were also printed in two shades of grey for which cylinder/plate numbers are not shown.

The cylinders and colours for the Civil War stamps are as follows:

24p 1A (black) 1B (stone) 1C (bistre) 1D (scarlet) 1E (indigo) 1F (grey-green) 1G (yellow-ochre)

28p 1A (black) 1B (yellow-ochre) 1C (ochre) 2D (rose-pink) 1E (blue) 1F (dull yellow-green) 1G (slate-lilac)

33p 1A (black) 2B (ochre) 1C (pale orange) 1D (lemon) 1E (reddish-orange) 1F (new blue) 1G (olive-green)

39p 1A (black) 1B (yellow-ochre) 1C (yellow) 1D (greenish-yellow) 1E (vermilion) 1F (indigo) 1G (orange-brown)

Revenue Stamps Seminar

The Revenue Society of Great Britain will mark its second anniversary with a whole day seminar on 13 June (10.30-16.30) at the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. The collecting and exhibiting of revenue stamps has been accepted by the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) under their Rules and Guidelines for International Stamp Exhibitions and the seminar will examine the differences between these and those of postage stamps. To provide comparative and up-to-date views of major revenue material, the seminar will bring together revenue specialists from the UK and Europe to describe and demonstrate: 1. The new FIP Rules and Guidelines, 2. Revenue research, 3. Revenue material for display under the new Rules, 4. Judging Revenues. The Society extends an invitation to anyone interested in revenues to attend; there is no charge. Anyone interested should contact: Ian Crane, 15 Springbank, Eversley Park Road, Winchmore Hill, LONDON N21 1JH.

Gilbert & Sullivan

21 July 1992

Five stamps are to be issued on 21 July to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Sullivan, Britain's leading composer in the late Victorian era. Creator of many orchestral and choral works, he is best remembered for the comic operettas produced in collaboration with the satirist and playwright W S Gilbert (1836-1911). These light-hearted Gilbert and Sullivan masterpieces have introduced many to memorable music.



The **18p** stamp (inland 2nd class basic rate) features characters from *The Gondoliers* which was first performed at the Savoy Theatre in London in 1889.

The **24p** value (inland 1st class and EC basic rate) depicts a character from *The Yeomen of the Guard* which was performed at the Savoy in 1888.

The **28p** denomination (basic rate to non-EC European countries) features a scene from *The Mikado*, dating from 1885.

A scene from *The Pirates of Penzance* appears on the **33p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate). This work was first produced in 1879.

The final value, **39p** (basic airmail letter rate) features *Iolanthe* which dates from 1882.

Gilbert & Sullivan

Arthur Seymour Sullivan was born at Bolwell Terrace, Lambeth on 13 May 1842, of a musical father who was violinist at the Surrey Theatre in

Blackfriars Road. After training in Leipzig, Arthur became the first Principal of the National Training School of Music, later taken over by the Royal College of Music. He was knighted in 1883. He met W S Gilbert in 1869 and their collaboration made both household names. Their first work, *Thespis*, was commissioned by John Holingshead of the Gaiety Theatre for Christmas 1871. In 1875 Richard D'Oyly Carte (1844-1901) produced their *Trial by Jury* at the Royalty Theatre. In 1877 D'Oyly Carte became Manager of the Opera Comique in the Aldwych and in the same year produced the first Gilbert & Sullivan opera *The Sorcerer*, followed by *HMS Pinafore* in 1878, *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1879 and *Patience* in 1881 which transferred to the new Savoy Theatre that year. The Savoy, financed by D'Oyly Carte for the production of Gilbert & Sullivan works, was London's first public building lit by electricity. Productions of *Patience* were followed by *Iolanthe* (1882), *Princes Ida*, *The Sorcerer*, and *Trial by Jury* (1884), *The Mikado* (1885), *Ruddigore* (1887), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (1888), and *The Gondoliers* (1889). In 1890 Gilbert quarrelled with D'Oyly Carte over the production expenses of *The Gondoliers*, in particular the cost of £500 for new carpets. Sullivan supported D'Oyly Carte and the famous partnership broke up. Their last work together – *The Grand Duke*, 1896 – was judged a failure. Sullivan died at Queen's Mansions,



Victoria Street on 22 November 1900 and was buried in St Paul's. A fine bust of him can be seen in the Victoria Embankment Gardens; a mourning female figure of Music weeps against the plinth which bears lines by Gilbert:

Is Life a boon?
If so it must befall
That death when e'er he call
Must call too soon.



William Schwenk Gilbert was born in London on 18 November 1836, son of William Gilbert, the novelist. After studying at King's College, he became a clerk in the Privy Council Office, 1857-62. He was called to the Bar in 1864 but was not a successful lawyer. By 1861 he was writing for the publication *Fun* (under the name "Bab"), and later for *Punch*. In the late 1860s and early 1870s his plays were performed at St James's and Haymarket theatres. His collaboration with Sullivan began in 1871. After Sullivan's death he worked with Edward German but productions, such as *Fallen Fairies* (1909) were less successful. Gilbert, who was knighted in 1907, lived mostly in Kensington from 1883 to 1890, thereafter at Harrow Weald where he died on 29 May 1911 after suffering a heart attack trying to rescue a young woman from a lake. A plaque of Gilbert, opposite Embankment underground station, bears the inscription "His Foe was Folly, & His Weapon Wit."

The Designer

The stamps are the work of Lynda Gray who was born in 1947 in Braintree, Essex. She

studied illustration at Portsmouth and Leicester Colleges of Art and has lived in London, working as a full-time freelance illustrator since 1971.

Her first stamps for Royal Mail were the 1986 Christmas issue featuring traditional Christmas Customs. Ms Gray wrote about her research for these stamps in the November 1986 *Bulletin*. She also designed the cover for the 1986 Christmas stamp book, Christmas stamp pack, aerogramme, first day cover and provided illustrations for the presentation pack. The text in the pack, by Suzanne Wolstenholme, was based on original research by Ms Gray.

Further designs followed in 1988-89 on three 50p books in a Gilbert and Sullivan Opera series. These featured *The Yeomen of the Guard* (issued 5 September 1988); *The Pirates of Penzance* (24 January 1989) and *The Mikado* (25 April 1989).

Printing Details

The stamps, measuring 35 x 37mm, were printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd in sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin'gum, perforation 14½ x 14. The 18p has one phosphor band, the others are on phosphor coated paper.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 229) will cost £1.75. It was designed by Silk Pearce with text by Christopher Somerville and photography by Anthony Pickhover. Printing was by Raithby, Lawrence & Company Limited of Leicester. The pack features characters from Gilbert and Sullivan operas, theatre posters and biographical details of Gilbert, Sullivan and Richard D'Oyly Carte.

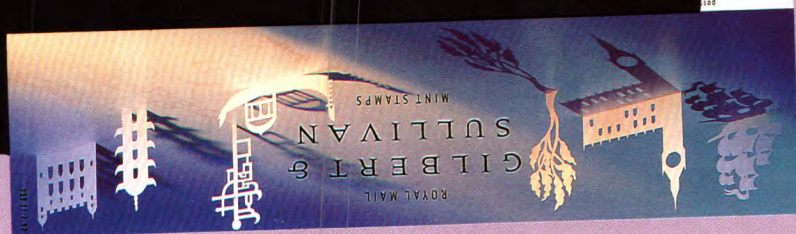
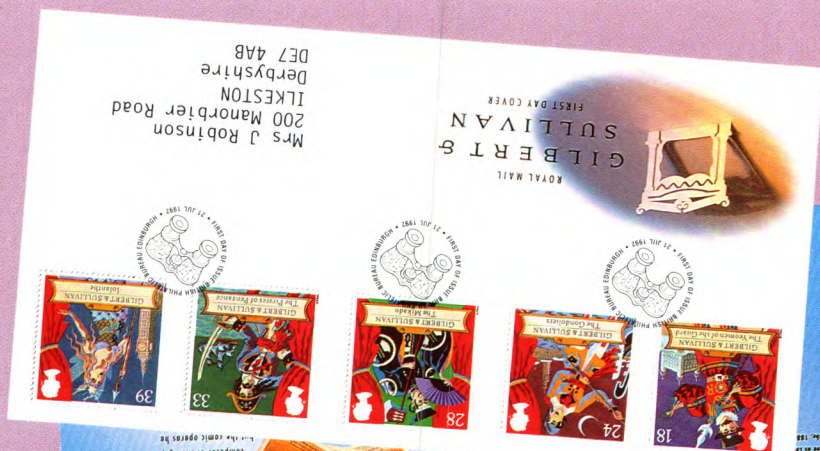
Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 145A-E.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 21 July, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Birmingham where the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is now based.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark.



Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 21 July.

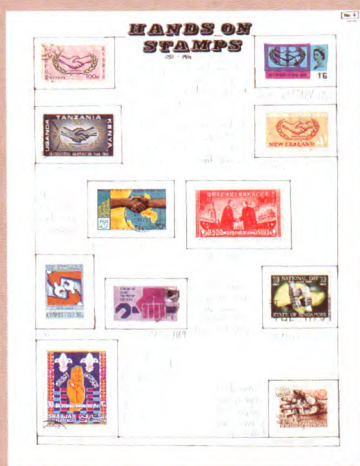
Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Midlands Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Birmingham, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA (Birmingham postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Details of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £9.35 UK, £11.25 Europe; £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters for one year from 22 July, price 21p.



Hands on Stamps – Jonathan Reay



The Changing Face of Europe – Dominic Vella

Stamp Bug Club Album 91 Competition

Every year young members of the Stamp Bug Club are asked to submit a thematic page from their stamp album, to be entered into the annual competition. There are two age categories: 5-11 and 12-16.

The club magazine *Stamp Bug News* gave tips to members on how best to impress the judges with their entries.

Hundreds of members sent in entries with themes ranging from "Lighthouses" to "Astronomy Through the Ages" which gave the judges a wide variety of themes to select from.

However, after much deliberation, the judges decided that the 5-11 age category first prize should go to Dominic Vella, age 10, from Bletchley; Dominics's theme being "The Changing Face of Europe".

First prize in the 12-16 age category went to Jonathan Reay, age 12, from Liskeard. Jonathan's theme was "Hands on Stamps".

Both winners were treated to a VIP day out in London, which started at Stampex (where Dominic and Jonathan were presented with their silver trophies, certificates and Penny Black stamps) and finished at The Guinness World of Records, Piccadilly Circus.

John Ryan, Royal Mail National

National Postal Museum

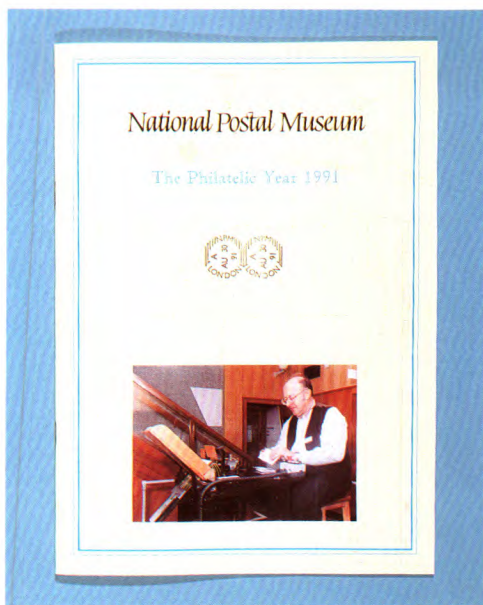
The Philatelic Year 1991

The Museum's annual report for 1991 contains a good mixture of articles of interest to philatelists and postal historians. In his Foreword, the Post Office Chairman, Sir Bryan Nicholson, congratulates the Museum "on its 25 years' service to the Post Office and the nation and for its continuing endeavours in maintaining a high standard of professionalism and mounting a varying and interesting range of displays." Sir Bryan writes of the recent "fundamental reorganisation of the Royal Mail" which "gives us the opportunity to stand back and assess the Museum's role for the future. Up to now the Museum has, in accordance with its origins and available space, been largely a philatelic museum. To be a proper postal museum, one that reflects the full history of the British Post Office and its present services and mission, requires much more. Whether and how this can be achieved is currently being reviewed..." Users of the Museum will welcome this statement.

The Introduction, by David Lane, Director & General Manager of Royal Mail National, outlines the progress made during 1991 and reiterates the Chairman's announcement that a review of the needs of the Museum is in progress to "clear away some of the limitations to protect and optimise our heritage."

In the section "Work in Progress" we learn of the completion of the *Chronolist of British Stamps*, detailing 3500 stamps issued by Great Britain since 1840. The *Chronolist*, compiled by Dr Jack Goodwin, can be examined at the Museum. Work on the collections of fiscals, George V shades, Machins, "Stamp Furniture", postmarks, and postal mechanisation is outlined, and the updating of the UPU collection reported. Information is given on the installation of the Museum's Edicon photoimaging and cataloguing system.

During 1991 the NPM put on four exhibitions: Stamping the Mail (postmarks), Penny Red Anniversary, The Edwardian Post Office, and Maps and the Post Office. Displays of items from the NPM went to the Musée de la poste in Paris and the "British Week" event in Skien, Norway. The centre-piece of the "Stamping the Mail" exhibition – the replica Pearson Hill stamp cancelling machine – is the subject of a separate section in the report, describing the



construction of the replica from original Patent drawings.

Popular features of earlier reports have been articles by Catherine Rickman on Conservation. This time Ms Rickman explains her work in conserving old maps for display in the Maps exhibition. Also included is a rather sad report on the condition of the Mulready Woodblock purchased by the NPM during 1991; prompt action has prevented further deterioration of this important historical item.

The Museum acquired nearly 1400 new items during 1991, including letters from the Civil War, a Post Horse Licence sign, stamp vending machines, a collection of St Kilda postal history, and numerous artworks of recent special issues. At a reception, in August, to mark the Museum's silver jubilee, were displayed stamp cancelling machines past, present and future; this received widespread publicity in the philatelic press. Jack Peach, member of the Friends of the NPM, provides an account of his work in organising the Museum's collection of meter marks and machines. John Holman reports on his work on the *Philatelic* and *Postmark* Bulletins and the future for these magazines.

The Philatelic Year 1991 is available from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), KEB, LONDON EC1A 1LP, price £2. 28 A4 pages, profusely illustrated. A limited number of the 1989 and 1990 reports are still available, price 50p and £1 respectively.

The Machin Head on Stamps

Part 5 1989-91

DON STADDON

This article - published to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the introduction of the Machin design in 1967 - brings up to date the story from Part 4 of "The Machin Head on Stamps" in the February 1989 *Bulletin*. Since that time all new Machin definitives have conformed to the Jeffery Matthews colour standards announced in the July 1988 *Bulletin* by David Dale, then Manager Definitive Stamps, Royal Mail Stamps and Philately. However, there are differences in the head on stamps from different printers, and in the 1990 Penny Black Anniversary definitives.

On 26 September 1989 seven stamps were issued, printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited. All have the B2 head which has two curved lines of shading in the hair, the base of the bust close to the bottom frame, and a uniform dark background. The 15p, 20p, 24p, 29p and 34p values were colour changes only, the 30p and 37p were new values.



50p - B2 head, colour sand (13 March 1990) and D head, ochre (1977)

On 13 March 1990 the 50p definitive was re-issued with the B2 head. This new version also appeared in the "London Life" prestige stamp book issued on 20 March 1990. (This 50p is in a new colour - sand. The sheet stamp is printed on non-phosphor, or later advanced coated, paper; the book stamp has two phosphor bands.) Previous printings, in ochre, had the D head which has one curved line of shading in the hair and a uniform pale background.

Another seven definitives came out on 4 September 1990, all with B2 heads. Of these, previous printings of the 10p and 17p values have the D head, and the 31p the C head which has one line of shading in the hair and a graded



31p C head, 4 September 1990

background. The 22p, 26p and 27p values were colour changes, and the 33p a new stamp.

With these changes it would have been assumed that all newly printed low value definitives from Harrisons would have the B2 head. This proved not to be the case, as a reprint of the 3p on advanced coated paper was produced from cylinder 38 which has the smaller size B1 head. The difference is quite clear when com-



3p - B1 and B2 heads, from cylinders 38 and 43

pared with the 3p B2 head printings from cylinder 43.

However, all of the new definitives issued on 10 September 1991 have the B2 head. Of these, the 6p previously had the C head, the 18p, 24p, 28p, 34p and 35p were changes of colour, and the 39p a new value.

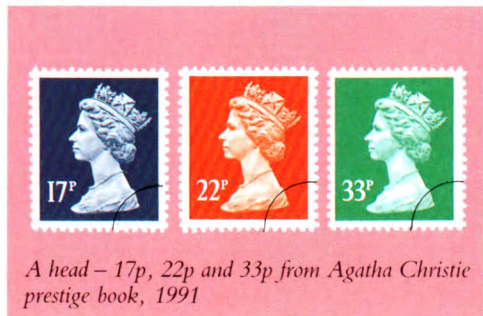
Finally I should not forget to mention the 18p definitive photogravure-printed in Holland by Joh. Enschedé. Issued on 19 November 1991 this stamp also has the B2 head.

The House of Questa

The House of Questa has been using offset-litho to print national definitives for Royal Mail since

1980. Since 1986 the A head has been used, mostly with a uniform dark background, but sometimes with a pale background as exemplified by the 13p value in the February 1988 *Financial Times* stamps book.

The A head has two curved lines of shading in the hair. The base of the bust is clear cut and the outline looks flattened whereas with the B head the outline is rounded. The version with the pale background has been designated "E" by the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle.



A head – 17p, 22p and 33p from Agatha Christie prestige book, 1991

Questa was responsible for the Agatha Christie prestige stamp book issued on 19 March 1991. The 17p, 22p and 33p definitives to be found in this book all have A heads.

Questa also produced the 1992 Welsh prestige stamp book containing Questa printed definitives, and Harrison printed 39p Winter-time stamps. The 1st and 2nd class NVIs and the 33p National definitive also have A heads.

Walsall Security Printers

In 1989 Walsall produced a £1 machine vending booklet containing 4 x 14p and 4 x 19p stamps. Issued on 25 April that year, these were the first Royal Mail Stamps from this particular printer. Walsall prints by offset-litho and its stamps have a similar A head to those on Questa printings, but with some differences as follows:

1. There is no patch of dark shading under the jaw line;
2. Emblems on the crown are more clearly separated;
3. Shadows on the collar are more pronounced;
4. There is no kink in the necklace;
5. The ear ring.

These differences apply not only to the £1 stamp book mentioned above but also to Walsall definitives in "Window books" issued since August 1989.

Walsall uses two, frequently three, and exceptionally, four plates to achieve the quality of

reproduction required by Royal Mail. In all cases however the head remains the same.

1st and 2nd class Non Value Indicator stamps

The Harrison printed NVIs have the B2 head. Questa and Walsall NVIs all have the A head with variations as described earlier in this article.

Penny Black Definitives

All sheet and booklet stamps from Harrisons, Questa and Walsall have the A head. There are some variations in the issued stamps from the three different printers, but they came from the same original.

Country Definitives

All country definitives are produced by Questa with the same A head used consistently since late 1988.



Country stamps – A head, used since late 1988

High Value Definitives

The 1988 Castles stamps have engraved versions of the Machin head, two facing left (£1 and £2), and two facing right (£1.50 and £5).

Conclusion

Excluding the 1988 High Values, which have engraved Machin heads, it seems fairly safe to say that Royal Mail has now standardised the heads on all definitive stamps. The B head is used by photogravure printers Harrison, and Enschedé, and the A head by the two litho printers Questa, and Walsall.

Irish Postal Map Postcard

The North of Ireland Philatelic Society has recently published its seventh postcard. This shows a postal map of Ireland in 1832. The map shows mail coach and mail cart routes, horse and foot posts, with distances in Irish miles from Dublin. The card is available, 20p unused, 45p with first day cancel from: Norman Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, BELFAST BT5 7BZ.

Collections & Philatelic Counters

Special Handstamp Centres

In May 1991 we published a listing of Collections and philatelic counters at 33 main post offices. Readers have requested that we publish an updated version of this from time to time. This we are pleased to do; giving addresses, telephone numbers, opening hours and details of special handstamps.

Times of opening are subject to change to meet local circumstances (staff sickness for example) and collectors travelling long distances are advised to phone the relevant Collections/philatelic counter first to ensure it will be open on the day (and time) they intend visiting.

Special handstamps are available for use on mail posted at or handed in at Collections and Philatelic Counters. The handstamps, which depict well-known landmarks or features of local significance, can be obtained under the reposting facility by sending addressed and stamped covers to the relevant Special Handstamp Centre (SHC). The relevant SHC and relevant handstamp number (as published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*), is given in the entry for each Collections/counter. The full addresses of the SHCs are given below. Covers to receive the Portsmouth Philatelic Counter handstamp, for example, should be sent to the South East Special Handstamp Centre at Windsor, requesting handstamp 2129. All mail for these handstamps should bear the minimum first class rate (currently 24p) if addressed within the UK or to EC countries or the relevant overseas rate. Please state clearly which Philatelic Counter handstamp you require – ideally lightly pencilling the number of the handstamp in the top left-hand corner of the cover(s).

Illustrations of the 33 Philatelic Counter handstamps, with details of the SHCs applying them, are given in each issue of the *British Postmark Bulletin*: the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. This is published fortnightly and available on annual subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT: £9.35 UK, £11.35 Europe, £20.75 Rest of World (Air Mail).

Special Handstamp Centre
Royal Mail City of London
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA
Manager: Jim Eldridge
Tel: 071-239 5115

London South SHC
Royal Mail London South West
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB
Manager: Sydney Sparham
Tel: 071-239 6012

South East SHC
Royal Mail Windsor
Peascod Street
WINDSOR
Berks SL4 1AA
Manager: Richard Oak
Tel: 0753-855717

Northern England SHC
Royal Mail Newcastle
Forth Street
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA
Manager: Tracy Hunter
Tel: 091-235 3484

Midlands SHC
Royal Mail Birmingham
Royal Mail Street
BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA
Manager: Dave Carless
Tel: 021-644 8644

Wales & The West SHC
Royal Mail Cardiff
220-228 Penarth Road
CARDIFF CF1 1AA
Manager: Jayne McMullen
Tel: 0222-392454

Scotland & N Ireland SHC
Royal Mail Glasgow
George Square
GLASGOW G2 1AA
Manager: Robert Alexander
Tel: 041-242 4470

Collections

25 Castle Place Post Office

BELFAST BT1 1BB

Tel: 0232-237099

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-13.00 Sat

Handstamp: Scotland & N Ireland SHC, No. 2103

1 Pinfold Street Post Office

BIRMINGHAM B2 4AA

Tel: 021-643 5548

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-13.00 Sat

Handstamp: Midlands SHC, No. 2104

51 Ship Street Post Office

BRIGHTON BN1 1AA

Tel: 0273-748704

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat

Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2105

The Galleries Post Office

Castle Galleries

BRISTOL BS1 3XX

Tel: 0272-252285

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Thu; 9.30-17.30 Fri;
9.00-13.00 Sat

Handstamp: Wales & The West SHC, No. 2106

9-11 St Andrews Street Post Office

CAMBRIDGE CB2 3AA

Tel: 0223-323325 ex 24

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat

Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2107

2-4 Hills Street Post Office

CARDIFF CF1 2ST

Tel: 0222-345286

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Handstamp: Wales & The West SHC, No. 2109

2 St John Street Post Office

CHESTER CH1 1AA

Tel: 0244-348315

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat

Handstamp: Wales & The West SHC, No. 2110

19-39 Head Street Post Office

COLCHESTER CO1 1AA

Tel: 0206-763022

Open: 9.00-17.00 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.15 Sat

Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2111

Kings Square Post Office

GLOUCESTER GL1 1AD

Tel: 0452-419498 ex 3

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Fri opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat

Handstamp: Midlands SHC, No. 2118

North Street Post Office

GUILDFORD GU1 4BB

Tel: 0483-306691

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-13.00 Sat

Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2119

The Lyceum Post Office

1 Bold Street

LIVERPOOL L1 4DD

Tel: 051-708 4056

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Handstamp: Northern England SHC, 2122

Trafalgar Square Post Office

24-28 William IV Street

LONDON WC2N 4DL

Tel: 071-930 9813

Open: 10.00-19.00 Mon-Fri; 10.00-16.30 Sat

Handstamp: SHC, Royal Mail City of London,
No. 2123

26 Spring Gardens Post Office

MANCHESTER M2 1BB

Tel: 061-837 8418

Open: 8.30-18.00 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.00);
8.30-13.00 Sat

Handstamp: Northern England SHC, No. 2125

Windsor Post Office

38-39 Peascod Street

WINDSOR

Berks SL4 1AA

Tel: 0753-861451

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Mon opens 9.30);
9.00-13.00 Sat

Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2133

22 Lendal Post Office

YORK YO1 2DA

Tel: 0904-679719

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat

Handstamp: Northern England SHC, No. 2134

Post Shops with Philatelic Service

New Bond Street Post Office

BATH BA1 1AJ

Tel: 0225-442459 ex. 15

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-13.00 Sat

Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2102

33 Silver Street Post Office
DURHAM DH1 3RE
Tel: 091-386 4644
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Fri opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: Northern England SHC, No.2114

Slindon Street Post Office
PORTSMOUTH PO1 1AB
Tel: 0705-835202
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Wed closes 16.30,
Fri opens 9.30); 9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: South East SHC, No.2129

Philatelic Counters

28 High Street Post Office
CANTERBURY CT1 2BA
Tel: 0227-475282
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2108

Corporation Street Post Office
COVENTRY CV1 1AB
Tel: 0203-557281
Open: 9.30-12.30 and 13.30-16.30 Mon, Tue,
Wed and Fri; 9.00-12.30 Thu and Sat
Handstamp: Midlands SHC, No. 2112

10 High Street Post Office
CROYDON CR9 1HT
Tel: 081-681 8883
Open: 9.00-16.30 Mon-Fri (Wed opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: London South SHC, No. 2113

2-4 Waterloo Place Post Office
EDINBURGH EH1 1AL
Tel: 031-550 8350
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri (Fri opens 9.30);
9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: Scotland & N Ireland SHC, No.
2115

Bedford Street Post Office
EXETER EX1 1AH
Tel: 0392-432401
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-13.00 Sat
Handstamp: Wales & The West SHC, No. 2116

1-5 George Square Post Office
GLASGOW G2 1AA
Tel: 041-248 4435
228

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-10.30 & 11.00-
12.30 Sat
Handstamp: Scotland & N Ireland SHC, No.
2117

City Square Post Office
LEEDS LS1 2UH
Tel: 0532-447763
Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: Northern England SHC, No. 2120

4 Bishop Street Post Office
LEICESTER LE1 6AJ
Tel: 0533-545969
Open: 10.00-13.30 & 14.30-17.00 Mon-Fri;
9.30-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: Midlands SHC, No. 2121

London Chief Post Office
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA
Tel: 071-239 5048
Open: 10.00-16.00 Mon-Fri
Handstamp: SHC, Royal Mail City of London,
No. 2123

St Nicholas Street Post Office
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AN
Tel: 091-235 3764
Open: 10.00-17.00 Mon-Fri
Handstamp: Northern England SHC, No. 2126

Queen Street Post Office
NOTTINGHAM NG1 2BN
Tel: 0602-474311
Open: 9.00-13.30 & 14.30-17.00 Mon; 9.00-
17.00 Tue Thu & Fri; 9.30-13.00 Wed;
9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: Midlands SHC, No. 2127

102-104 St Aldates Post Office
OXFORD OX1 1ZZ
Tel: 0865-814753
Open: 10.00-17.00 Mon-Fri
Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2128

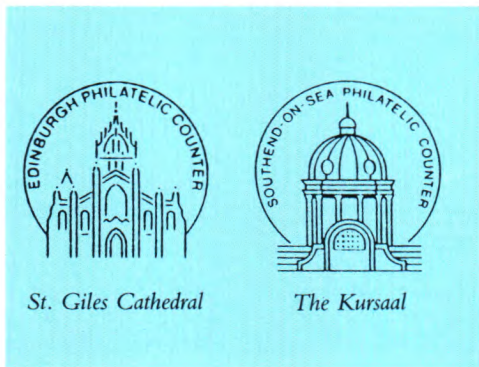
59 High Street Post Office
SOUTHAMPTON SO1 1WA
Tel: 0703-831242
Open: 9.00-12.30 & 13.30-16.30 Mon-Fri
Handstamp: South East SHC, 2130

Weston Road Post Office
SOUTHEND ON SEA SS1 1BZ
Tel: 0702-347839

Open: 10.00-16.30 Mon-Fri; 10.00-12.00 Sat
Handstamp: South East SHC, No. 2131

High Cross Post Office
TRURO TR1 2AP
Tel: 0872-223591

Open: 9.00-17.30 Mon-Fri; 9.00-12.30 Sat
Handstamp: Wales & The West SHC, No. 2132



Post Shops

There are now over 100 post shops at main post offices; these sell a wide range of useful products – greetings cards, wrapping paper, gifts, etc. Post shops also stock philatelic products such as presentation packs and albums.

Some philatelic counters are to be located within post shops; these counters will continue to stock the full range of philatelic products, catering for the specialist as well as the more general collector. At the time of going to press philatelic counters had been established in the post shops at Bath, Durham, and Portsmouth (addresses above). There should be no reduction in service offered by these outlets.

Space precludes listing full addresses and phone numbers of all post shops but we hope the following abbreviated listing will prove of use to *Bulletin* readers:

London: Broadway, SW1; Chiswick, W4; Ealing, W5; Euston Centre, NW1; Farringdon, EC1; Golders Green, NW11; Hampstead, NW3; High Holborn, WC1; Holloway, N7; Houndsditch, EC3; Kentish Town, NW5; Lombard St, EC3; Lower Edmonton, N9; Marble Arch, W1; North Finchley, N12; Paddington, W2; Seething Lane, EC3; Shepherd's Bush, W12; Swiss Cottage, NW3; Theobalds Rd,

WC1; Trafalgar Square, WC2; Upper Holloway, N19; Victoria St, SW1.

Aberdeen (Union St); Altrincham (Stamford New Rd); Andover (Bridge St); Ashford, Kent (Tufton St); Aylesbury (High St); Banbury (High St); Barking (Station Parade); Barnet (High St); Barnsley (Pitt St); Basildon (East Square); Basingstoke (London St); Bedford (Dane St); Belfast (Castle Place); Birmingham (Pinfold St); Bishops Stortford (South St); Blackburn (Ainsworth St); Blackpool (Abingdon St); Bletchley (Queensway); Bognor Regis (High St); Bolton (Deansgate); Borehamwood (Shenley Rd); Bournemouth (Post Office Rd); Bradford (Forster Square); Brentwood (High St); Bridgend (Wyndham St); Camberley (Princess Way); Cardiff (Albany Rd); Chelmsford (Exchange Place); Chesterfield (Market Place); Chorley (High St); Cosham (High St); Crawley (The Boulevard); Dartford (Hythe St); Derby (Victoria St); Dorchester (South St); Dudley (High St); Dunfermline (Queen Anne St); Dunstable (High St North); Edinburgh (Waterloo Place); Enfield (Church St); Epsom (High St); Exeter (Bedford St); Fareham (West St); Farnham (West St); Folkestone (Bouverie Place); Glasgow (Bothwell St); Grimsby (Victoria St); Halifax (Commercial St); Harlow (Stone Cross); Harpenden (Station Rd); Harrogate (Cambridge Rd); Harrow (College Rd); Haywards Heath (The Orchards); Hemel Hempstead (The Marlowes); Hitchin (Hermitage Rd); Horsham (Carfax); Huddersfield (New St); Hull (Jameson St); Hyde (Market Place); Keighley (Towngate); Leeds (Albion St, City Square, and New York St); Leicester (Bishop St); Leighton Buzzard (Church St); Luton (Arndale Centre); Macclesfield (Castle St); Manchester (Spring Gardens); Milton Keynes (Midsummer Boulevard); New Malden (High St); Newcastle upon Tyne (Eldon Square); Newport, Gwent (Bridge St); Newport, Isle of Wight (High St); Nottingham (Queens St); Oldham (Lord St); Oxford (St Aldates); Paisley (County Square); Poole (High St); Potters Bar (Drakes Lane); Preston (Birley St); Rotherham (Bridgegate), Southampton (Above Bar St); Stevenage (Town Square); Swansea (Kingsway); Torquay (Fleet St); Uxbridge (Crown Walk); Watford (Market St); Welwyn Garden City (Howards Gate); Weston super Mare (Regent St); Weymouth (St Thomas St); Wickford (Lower Southend Rd); Wigan (Wellgate); Winchester (Middle Brook St); Woking (Commercial Rd); Yeovil (King George St).

Machin Quarter-Century

The Machin definitive series made its debut 25 years ago this month – 4d, 1s and 1s 9d stamps went on sale at post offices on 5 June 1967. The £sd series, issued in stages between June 1967 and March 1969 comprised 18 values from ½d to £1. Decimal high value stamps were introduced in June 1970, with the low values following in February 1971. Since then postal rates



The first decimal stamps – June 1970

have increased on numerous occasions, resulting in many new values and reissue of values in new colours or in different phosphor variations. The Machin head was introduced on the Country (Regional) stamps, designed by Jeffery Matthews, in July 1971.



The Machin head on Country issues

Today many collectors specialise in these issues; supporting two specialised societies and numerous publications. Some find the design every bit as delightful as the Penny Black with which it is often compared; others are fascinated by the different printings, types of phosphor, gum, paper and perforation. However not everyone is so keen on the Machin; some readers have

recently suggested its replacement by small-size pictorial definitives. Others, whilst expressing affection for the Machin, feel that after 25 years it is time for change.

We should be interested in your views on the Machin, both for and against. Tell us why you find it such a fascinating subject to collect, or why you consider it dull. After 25 years would you like to see a change? Should we consider pictorial definitives? If so, what would you like to see featured? Send your views (please keep them fairly brief) to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 July. A selection of your comments will be published here later in the year. All responses, in favour or against, will be entered in a draw and the senders of the first 10 drawn will be sent presentation packs of the current Machin stamps (1p-75p). We look forward to hearing from you.

The Machin Head

The background to the change from the Wilding to the Machin head was described in 10 articles entitled "The Genesis of the Machin Design" by Don Staddon published here in April, May, August, October, November and December 1986, February, May, September and November 1987. The story makes interesting reading and shows how various portraits of The Queen were considered before Arnold Machin's plaster cast was finally accepted.

The new definitive series was announced in the *Bulletin* of March 1967 with a fuller report the following month. It was stated that the 4d value was to be in olive brown sepia, a colour "expressly requested by the Queen".

Arnold Machin was born in Stoke on Trent in 1911 and educated at Stoke School of Art, Derby School of Art, and the Royal College of Art. He was awarded a Silver Medal and Travel Scholarship for Sculpture in 1940; two of his terracotta works were purchased by the Tate Gallery three years later. He was a tutor at the Royal College of Art, 1951-58 and Master of Sculpture, Royal Academy School, 1958-67. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1956 and awarded the OBE in 1965. In 1964 he designed the new effigy of The Queen used on decimal coinage until 1984.

The choice of Mr Machin to prepare the new profile portrait of The Queen for the stamps was made on the recommendation of the Council of Industrial Design's Stamp Advisory Commit-

tee, providing much valuable advice on the design of the stamps. The Committee, headed by James Fitton, included Abram Games and Professor Richard Guyatt, respectively designers of the 1948 3d Olympic Games and 1951 4d Festival of Britain stamps, and 1977 Silver Jubilee issue, and Sir John Wilson, then Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.



Retirement of Ray McKinnon

On 30 March philatelists from Glasgow and the west of Scotland gathered to make a presentation to Ray McKinnon on the occasion of his retirement from the Post Office after 46½ years service. Ray was from 1976 the personality behind the Philatelic Counter at Glasgow's main post office in George Square until 1990 when he became the Manager of the Special Handstamp Centre for Scotland and Northern Ireland. He was known to innumerable customers, not just the locals but tourists and visitors. To all he was the acme of perfection. There was always the friendly courteous service with a cheery word to all – young and old alike; language was no barrier. An active collector himself, he knew what the collector wanted and where possible



Arnold Machin signing the National Postal Museum's visitors' book, 17 September 1987

Mr Machin visited the National Postal Museum in 1981 and again in 1987 to see the "Genesis of the Machin Design" exhibition (September 1987–March 1988). He is shown at the exhibition with the then Post Office Chairman, Sir Ron Dearing, and the camera used to take photographs of the Machin cast for stamps, in the *Bulletin* of November 1987 (page 56).



Ray McKinnon on a retirement visit to Harrisons, stamp printers

met their requirements. When the Philatelic Counter had a display area, he arranged some outstanding shows, usually chosen to complement the special issue then current. Ray's standing with collectors can be understood when one travelled up from London to be there on the night.

This was another occasion when Royal Mail in Glasgow came out "tops"; not only did the District Head Postmaster provide a room for the evening but full facilities were laid on as well, even down to a "Last Day of Service" cover.

For all who attended it was a night to remember. It is certain that all who ever knew Raymond would want to wish him a long and happy retirement.

Bill Colley, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow

VAT on First Day Covers

Brian Calvert of Nottinghamshire asks "would it be possible to explain, perhaps through the 'Postbag' column, why VAT is payable on the full costs of first day covers, and yet not on the mint stamps ordered through the Bureau? As a relative new-comer to collecting this has been puzzling me for some time."

The Royal Mail Group Taxation Services has provided the following answer: "Schedule 6, Group 3 of the 1983 VAT Act exempts from VAT the conveyance of postal packets by the Post Office. Obviously the consideration paid by the public for such services is the purchase of postage stamps. Therefore the supply of postage stamps by all divisions of Royal Mail and indeed throughout the Post Office is exempt from VAT. In contrast to this, philatelic items do not qualify under this exemption, or as a zero rated or exempt supply under any other area of the legislation and are, therefore, a standard rated product. The fact that the stamps are included in the purchase price of a first day cover renders them an integral part of the philatelic supply and VAT is therefore chargeable on the full value of that supply."

Shakespeare Stamp Designs

Last December we asked for your comments on the designs for Shakespeare stamps submitted as part of the Royal Society of Arts student design competition of 1990/91. Some of the winning entries were shown here in August, September and December 1991. Leslie Price of West Yorkshire wrote: "Shakespeare has, and always will be synonymous with playwriting. Mark Bonner's designs (August) were sketchy and did not portray any message without reading the stamp. The post opener is eager to find out the contents of any envelope, than to read the stamp. Designs by Deborah Downing and Susan Davies (September) are both excellent but still have this written explanation. Philip Ashcroft's attempts (December) whilst artistic, need a written explanation! Thanks to education, literature and even the odd £20 note, the image of Shakespeare has been captured by

Christopher Raybould's designs (September). Typography and design need no further explanations. A first class comedy stamp would cheer up anyone's poll tax demand!"

Mr C Czarniecki of London commented on the two designs in the December *Bulletin*: "I am very impressed by the first design although I think the hats worn by the public look Victorian to say the least. The second design, however, is not that impressive. For a start what looks like an aerial view has been spoiled because the artist has got the proportions wrong. I don't suppose that the non-existent Queen's head could be transposed to the top left hand corner thus giving a bit more detail of the Globe theatre. On the whole I think it was a good try by an ambitious student."

Mr N Montfort of Norfolk liked Christopher Raybould's designs (September): "Crown, rose, dagger and Red nose – a perfect 1990s interpretation of Shakespeare – without doubt should be considered for future issue."

Our thanks to all who took the trouble to write in. We will be featuring some of the student designs in the 1991/2 competition shortly.

Mail by Bus

J W Walton of Cumbria wrote following the note here in February 1992 about the 25th anniversary of the introduction of the postbus service in Wales. He wrote: "When my parents lived at Tirril, a small Cumberland village 3 miles from Penrith on the road to Ullswater, in the early 1920s there was a Post Bus between Penrith and Pattendale. It was run by a private company which held a contract from the GPO, carrying the mail and about a dozen passengers. I made the journey to Penrith in it quite often, and remember what I think was an experimental trial of a steam driven vehicle, with a vertical boiler in front of the seats. I don't think it lasted long in that form. As I left the district in 1925 I cannot say what happened to the service after that, but I believe it was taken over by the Cumberland Bus Company which took over most of the privately owned bus services of those days. I think it should be described as a Post Bus."

In the past mail bags were quite regularly carried by bus to post offices in rural areas and at least one company – Southdown – produced a 6d stamp which was affixed to bag labels to denote payment of the fee for carrying the bag. (The use of this stamp, sold in books by

Southdown to the Post Office, has long ceased.) From 1893 to 1939 letter posting boxes were provided on vehicles by certain tram and bus operators – details can be found in chapter 16 of Jean Farrugia's book *The Letter Box* (1969). A photograph of a postman collecting a posting box from a Manchester tram was illustrated here in April 1988 (page 172). A box used on a bus service in the Highlands is preserved in the Inverness Museum, and tram posting boxes are held at the Tramway Museum, Crich, Derbyshire, and Manchester Museum of Transport. One of the Manchester boxes was included in David Harrop's interesting display of Postal Memorabilia at Spring Stampex 1992.

Wrong Royal

Robert Smith of London SW9 takes me to task for an incorrect statement in the January *Bulletin* concerning the first British stamp of the present reign to show a member of the Royal Family other than The Queen herself. The first was not the 1972 Silver Wedding issue (showing the Duke of Edinburgh, as well as The Queen), but the 1s value in the set issued in 1969 to commemorate the investiture of the Prince of Wales. This stamp featured a portrait of Prince Charles. I am pleased to set the record straight. Mr Smith continued his letter: "Incidentally, readers may be interested to know that Captain Mark Phillips, who appears on the 1973 Royal Wedding stamps, is the only living commoner (i.e. a person not having a royal title) to be featured on a British stamp."

In a postscript, he asks "Who is Mrs J Robinson of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, and why is her address always featured on the publicity for Royal Mail first day covers?" Mrs Robinson and her address are both fictitious; first day covers should show an address and this one was invented 20 years ago and first used in publicity for the Silver Wedding covers (see November 1972 *Bulletin*, page 9). For some time prior to that, the covers were shown unaddressed. If any retired Post Office official reading this knows why this particular name and address were invented, I should be pleased to hear from them.

Post Offices Open During 1971 Strike

Adrian Leopard of Alderney who tells me that he has first day covers of the decimal definitives postmarked at Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire on 15 February 1971. I have recently seen reference to mail handled at Devoran, Truro, Cornwall; Feock, Truro, Cornwall; Hastings,

Sussex; and Newhaven, Sussex during the 1971 strike but cannot confirm that first day covers exist postmarked at these offices. This brings to over 160 the number of offices known to have operated local mail services during at least part of the strike period (20 January–7 March 1971). The original listing of just 44 offices was published here in February 1991 (page 135).

Henry Archer

James B Geraghty of Dublin has for some time been researching the family of Archer in Ireland and is particularly interested in Henry Archer who pioneered stamp perforation. He would be interested to hear from readers who can supply references or information relating to Henry Archer. Letters should be sent to Mr Geraghty at: Farnham House, 4 Henrietta Street, DUBLIN 1, Irish Republic.

Walsall Plates on NVI Stamps

The Technical Services Director of Walsall Security Printers informed Royal Mail Stamps on 13 November 1991 of a change to their printing technique. This may be of interest to specialist collectors of NVI stamps and stamp books. He writes:

"In order to improve our on-press quality control when printing first class stamps we have decided to separate out two elements which previously were combined in one plate. Our printings were previously made up of:

- (a) A plate combining the full range tonal values of the Machin head and the solid background.
- (b) A plate which carries only the Machin head in reduced contrast, printed in a different colour to simulate the hue/tonal shift effect of gravure printing.
- (c) A plate combining the background solid with extra shadow detail in certain areas, printing in the same colour as plate a.

Future printings of this stamp will have the two elements of plate c separated onto different plates, both of which will print in the same colour as plate a. Consequently a new plate number (W1) will be incorporated beginning with the printings undertaken this week."

All letters sent to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in "Postbag" or other sections of the Bulletin. Readers' comments relating to stamp issuing policy are brought to the attention of the relevant Royal Mail Manager. The Editor regrets that he is unable to reply personally to all letters – to do so would seriously delay production of this, and the Postmark, Bulletin.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

198. Military Telegraph Stamps

Shown this month are "Military Telegraphs" stamps in the "Victorian Revenues & Other Fiscals" display on show at the National Postal Museum until February 1993.

From the mid-1840s private companies offered either public or private telegraph services; many used stamps to indicate payment. From 5 February 1870 the Post Office controlled all the companies.

For the War Office, "unappropriated die" stamps were overprinted MILITARY TELEGRAPHS or ARMY TELEGRAPHS; the former were used only in Africa, the latter at home and abroad. The Military Telegraph overprint, the first to be applied, can be found on 10 stamps, of face values 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 8d, 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s and £1. These were produced to aid Army Telegraphs officials in Egypt who had to keep accounts of small amounts paid in currency. In August 1884 Colonel Webber, Royal Engineers, applied to the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House for a series of stamps overprinted "Military Telegraphs". They were received in September 1884 and put into use; approximately 5000 of each value were produced. A further printing was made early in 1885. The 6d stamps shown here, dated April 1885, are probably from the second printing. Military Telegraph stamps were in use until early 1890.

Lionel Jones, Philatelic Officer



Posting Boxes

131. Scenic Boxes

With the summer holiday season about to begin, we feature this month two boxes in colourful settings in gardens open to the public.

Miss P Hall of Edinburgh sent in the photograph of the Edward VII box, painted green, which can be seen at the entrance to Highdown Chalk Garden, near Worthing, West Sussex. Miss Hall tells us that the box "was gifted to the council as a memorial to the donor's husband." The gardens contain many rare trees and plants collected from all over the world, all suitable for chalky soils. The plate on the box invites visitors to enjoy the gardens and contribute to the maintenance.



The photograph of the Victorian box was submitted by Mrs W Griggs of Hythe, Kent. This box, located at Arceton Manor on the Isle of Wight, is of the standard type introduced in 1887 with the royal cipher. Earlier boxes of this type, from 1883, were "anonymous", that is they did not show the royal cipher.

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies sent in by readers for this "Posting Boxes" feature – enough to last for the next few years. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.

Readers interested in letter boxes are reminded of the existence of the Letter Box Study Group – details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BS.

New Scottish Aerogramme

SCOTS GUARDS 1642-1992



The Commission granted by Charles I to the Marquess of Argyle for the raising of the Regiment of Scots Guards in 1642

Ensign with the State Colour

Battle Honours

Namur, 1695
Dettingen, 1746
Lucelles, 1801
Egypt, 1801
Talavera, 1805
Barrosa, 1808
Fuentes D'Onor, 1808
Salamanka, 1812
Nive, 1813
Peninsular, 1808-18
Alma, 1808
Inkerman, 1854
Sevastopol, 1855
Tel-el-Kebir, 1882
Egypt, 1882
Suakin, 1898
Modder River, 1900
South Africa, 1899-1902
Retreat from Mons, 1914
Marne, 1914
Aone, 1914
Ypres, 1914-17
Festubert, 1915
Loos, 1917
Somme, 1916-18
Cambrai, 1917-18
Hindenburg Line, 1918
France & Flanders, 1914-18
Gazala, 1942
Medenine, 1942
Dielbel Bou Aoukaz, 1943
North Africa, 1941-43
Monte Camino, 1943
Anzio, 1943-45
Quarry Hills, 1945
Rhine, 1945
North-West Europe, 1944-45
Falkland Islands, 1982



The Battle of Talavera, 1809 - The Third Guards in action



Sergeant and Fraser, 1815
engaging Colonel Cuberes at Headquarters, the Battle of Waterloo, 1815



GUARDS, 1815
WATERLOO, 1815

SCOTS GUARDS 1642-1992



The Colour Party protecting the Colour at the Battle of the Alma, 1854



Private William Reynolds awarded the Victoria Cross for relaying the men across the Colours at the Alma, 1854 - one of the Regiment's seven VCs



France, 1917
Sergeant Clark and men of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment of the 1st Battalion



A Churchill tank from 'D' Squadron, 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards, Münster, April 1945



Winston Churchill, then Prime Secretary, with Scots Guardsmen at the siege of Salway Street, 1811



Pte Major James Robb on Mount Tumbledown, The Falkland Islands, 14 June 1982

Designed by Collis Clements
Printed by McCrone & Co. Limited for the British Post Office
TO OPEN SLIT HERE (GU FOLDS BACK, GEAR IN SE)



By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme

Postmark official address (left) and right



Great Britain
Postage

SECOND FOLD HERE (AN DATA FILLER IN SE)

Postboxes

An aerogramme should not contain any envelopes or flat cards and must be folded a single sheet of paper

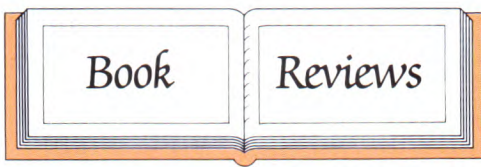
The designs which illustrate this aerogramme were all photographed by Andrew Cockburn (courtesy of the Regimental Association) of the Scots Guards except the following:
Reproducing guide - The Guards Museum
Winston Churchill at Salway Street - Major Basil Phipps
Pte Major James Robb - Pte Major

Royal Mail
International
Official sponsor of the 1992 British Olympic team

Designed by Collis Clements
Printed by McCrone & Co. Limited for the British Post Office
FIRST FOLD HERE (AN DATA FILLER IN SE)



Shown here is the new Scottish aerogramme to be issued on 23 June to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Scots Guards. The aerogramme, illustrated by Collis Clements, will be available from post offices in Scotland, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters, price 44p (includes 34p postage). Scottish aerogrammes were introduced in 1974; this is the 36th in the series.



Back in 1974 the National Postal Museum put on a display of British Royal Household Mail which attracted considerable interest. Over the years there have been a number of articles on the subject and James Mackay's *British Official Mail* (1983) included a useful chapter. Now collectors have a magnificent book to guide them – **Royal Household Mail** by Glenn H. Morgan, published by the British Philatelic Trust. Arranged in eight sections, it which brings together all previously published information, and a lot more besides. Section 1 (Introduction) sets out the regulations for handling Royal Household mail and the type of postal markings applied. Section 2 records the royal postal officers from Robert Gascoigne, Poste of the Courte, in 1565 to Brian Johnston, Court Postmaster from 1981 to 1989. Section 3 gives details of the franking privilege and the use of facsimile signature stamps and the familiar royal cypher certifying stamps. Different kinds of royal stationery are described. In Section 4, Mr Morgan moves on to a detailed account of the postal arrangements and markings for nearly 60 "Land Based Residences" connected with the Royal Family, some for only a very short period. Here are illustrated the certifying stamps used by the Lord Chamberlain, Purse Bearer (Holyroodhouse), etc — some well-known, others rarely seen. "Royal Residences on the Move" is the subject of Section 5, here are described the markings used on mail carried on The Queen's Flight and on royal yachts. The listing of Post Offices Associated with Royalty (Section 6) includes many smaller offices such as Ballater, used for mail from the royal residences at Balmoral, and Tetbury, near Highgrove House, home of the Prince & Princess of Wales, as well as the bigger offices handling royal household mail in London and Windsor. Section 7 provides a chronological list of relevant dates and copies of important documents; Section 8 lists the main published works and references to royal household mail in Post Office Archives — this alone amounts to 14 pages. No doubt collectors can add snippets of information to Mr Morgan's *magnum opus* but this book is likely to remain the standard work on the subject for many years to come. 224

pages. Price £20 (postage £2.50 UK, £3.50 overseas surface mail) from: British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse St, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

In recent years some collectors have become "conservation conscious", mounting their more valuable stamps/covers on conservation quality album pages. Useful published, advice includes Catherine Rickman's articles in the National Postal Museum's *Philatelic Year* annual reports, a paper by R F Schoolley-West in the British Philatelic Federation *Congress Handbook* of 1986, and a detailed work *The Care & Preservation of Philatelic Materials* by T J Collings & R F Schoolley-West published by the British Library in 1989. In 1988, postal historian Graham Moss set up Papersafe, a company supplying conservation quality album sheets and providing conservation and repair services. His book **A Collector's Guide to the Care and Repair of Books and Documents** will be of interest to collectors who want to take greater care of their stamps, covers and albums. In Chapter 1 Mr Moss explains papermaking and the problems of paper deterioration — "there are two ways in which paper is damaged; one is the actual structure of the paper, that is, what it is made from, and the other concerns the conditions under which it is kept." Collectors have little control on the first, but much over the second and in Chapter 2 Mr Moss provides sound guidance on Storage and Display, looking at problems of acidity, humidity, black paper, corner mounts, exhibition protectors, etc. The cleaning and repair of philatelic material and other documents is a skilled job and should not be undertaken lightly. In Chapter 3, Cleaning and Repair, Mr Moss sets out how he deals with damaged books. Whilst philatelists might try cleaning and repairing expendable material in their collections, the reviewer strongly advises against such attempts on valuable or irreplaceable material. Better to avail yourself of the services of a professional conservator. This little book is well worth its modest price and may, in the long run, save you considerable anguish over damaged material. Price £5 paperback, £9 case bound from: Papersafe, 146 Chapel Road, OLDHAM, Lancs, OL8 4QJ. Papersafe's price list is available from the same address.

† For details of qualified paper conservators, contact: The Conservation Register, The Conservation Unit, Museums & Galleries Commission, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, LONDON SW1H 9AA, Tel. 071-233 3683.

The 1992 edition of **The British Philatelic Federation Yearbook and Philatelic Societies' Directory** is now available. Despite its somewhat tedious title, the book contains a wealth of useful information and should be in the library of every serious collector. Over 500 national, local and specialist philatelic societies and stamp clubs are listed; details are given of philatelic magazines, museums, judges, lecturers, videos and slides, dealer organisations, insurance, expertising services, catalogues, and the work of the BPF, including its annual Congress. The book has been redesigned and skilfully edited by Julia Seaman, to the high standard of her predecessor, Herbert Grimsey. 172 pages, card covers. ISSN 0260-1265. Price £8. Available from: BPF Ltd, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until November 1992. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

3 Dec	N Ireland 18p, 24p, 28p, 39p (IS181, 241, 282, 390)
3 Dec	Scotland 18p, 24p, 28p, 39p (SS182, 241, 282, 390)
3 Dec	Wales 18p, 24p, 28p, 39p (WS182, 241, 282, 390)
3 Dec	Country Stamp Pack (CP010)
31 Dec	Wintertime stamp cards (AQ190)

1992

14 Jan	Wintertime stamps (AS485)
14 Jan	Wintertime pack (AP101)
14 Jan	Snowdon Shepherd book (PA127)
21 Jan	3p Def. Redrawn numerals (DS032)
21 Jan	50p Def. ACP (DS503)
21 Jan	50p book – Archaeology 2 (TB013)
21 Jan	£1 book – Punch 2 (TB014)
21 Jan	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB047)
21 Jan	4 x 1st class book/W (UB048)
21 Jan	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB049)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/W (UB050)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/H (UB051)
22 Jan	Happy & Glorious stamp cards (AQ196)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp book (JB004)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp pack (JP001)
6 Feb	Happy & Glorious stamps (AS491)

6 Feb	Happy & Glorious pack (AP102)
6 Feb	NPM Queen's Accession cards (NQ911)
6 Feb	NPM K. Edward Building card (NQ912)
11 Feb	33p Coil (DC857)
11 Feb	39p Coil (DC858)
25 Feb	Prestige Stamp Book (Wales) (YB003)
25 Feb	Tennyson stamp cards (AQ202)
25 Feb	Post Office Archives cards
3 Mar	Smiles Book Reprint (JB005)
10 Mar	Tennyson stamps (AS497)
10 Mar	Tennyson pack (AP103)
24 Mar	Revised £1 Castle (FS012)
24 Mar	Revised £1.50 Castle (FS152)
24 Mar	Revised £2 Castle (FS022)
24 Mar	Revised £5 Castle (FS052)
24 Mar	Revised Castles pack (FP008)
24 Mar	Europa stamp cards (AQ207)
31 Mar	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB052)
7 Apr	Europa stamps (AS498)
7 Apr	Europa pack (AP104)
14 Apr	Scottish aerogramme (QS029)
28 Apr	50p book – Archaeology 3 (TB015)
28 Apr	£1 book – Punch 3 (TB016)
6 May	NPM People in the Post cards (NQ913)

Forthcoming

2 Jun	Civil War stamp cards
16 Jun	Civil War stamps and pack
23 Jun	Scot Aerogramme (Scots Guards)
7 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamp cards
21 Jul	Gil & Sull stamps and pack
28 Jul	50p book – Archaeology 4
28 Jul	£1 book – Punch 4
28 Jul	78p book – Kellogg's Bran Flakes
1 Sep	Green Issue stamp cards
15 Sep	Green issue stamps and pack
15 Sep	NPM Artefacts post cards
29 Sep	Single European Market stamp card
Sep†	50p book – Shrievalty
Sep†	£1 book – Shrievalty
6 Oct†	Christmas aerogramme
13 Oct	Single Euro Market stamp & pack
27 Oct	Tolkien Prestige Stamp Book
27 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
Oct†	4 x 1st class book/W
Oct†	4 x 2nd class book/W
Oct†	10 x 1st class book/W
Oct†	10 x 2nd class book/W
Oct†	10 x 1st class book/H
10 Nov	Christmas stamps and pack
10 Nov	1992 Collectors' Pack
10 Nov	1992 Yearbook

Notes:

† = provisional date of issue

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin office.

Gilbert & Sullivan. The Torbay Branch of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society is producing a cover to commemorate the world première performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* in Paignton in 1879. The opera features on the 33p stamp. Covers will be posted in a box at the Palace Avenue Theatre, Paignton, and bear a special cachet to this effect. The handstamp will show the post town Paignton, date 21 July 1992 and feature the Gilbert & Sullivan Society logo. Price £2.95. Orders, which must be received by 30 June, to: John Richardson, Tower House Lodge, Mabel Place, PAIGNTON, Devon, TQ4 5UB.

Mark Masonry in Wiltshire. A cover marking the centenary of Mark Masonry in Wiltshire will be available on 17 June 1992. The light blue envelope has the motif of the Province (Stonehenge) printed in red and dark blue; an insert depicts a map of the county showing the location of the Lodges and various emblems. The cover bears either the 37p Astronomy stamp (October 1990) or one of the Happy & Glorious issue cancelled by a special triangular datestamp. Price £3; orders will be despatched as soon as possible after 17 June. Orders/enquiries: D W Weeks, 6 Brixham Avenue, SWINDON, Wilts, SN3 1EW.

Civil War. To commemorate the Civil War in the Midlands, a series of seven first day covers is being produced by Bredon Covers. One cover bears the full set of stamps cancelled by a sponsored handstamp at Worcester "where the Civil War both started and finished". Price £4.95, postage 40p. Six other covers commemorate important battles and sieges in the Midlands. These will be sent by registered post bearing operational datestamps of post offices nearest the sites. Orders/enquires (enclose SAE) to: Bredon Covers, Chapel Lane, PERSHORE, Worcs, WR10 2JA.

English Civil War. Benham are producing a number of covers to complement the stamp issue on 16 June. A luxurious cover, blocked in real 22 carat gold and carrying a special hall-mark, features an original painting by C C Stadden showing the Raising of the Flag at Nottingham. This cover, will be flown around

all the main battlefields of the war, costs £9.99. Edgehill, the first main battle of the war is commemorated on another cover, produced for the National Army Museum, again showing a painting by Mr Stadden. Price £4.99 or £7.99 signed by the Museum Director. A third cover, produced in association with *History Today* magazine, carries a dramatic painting of a battle. Price £4.99 or £7.99 signed (details of signatures available from Benham). Orders/enquiries: Benham, see below.

English Civil War Series. Benham are launching an exciting new series on the English Civil War, intended as a complete history of the war from 1642 to 1649. Covers cost £3.50 each, reduction for standing order customers. A luxury album, to house the series, costs £20. Postage on all Benham covers 45p. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD, Tel. 0303-850041.

Rumbelows and FA Football. Commemorative covers were produced on 12 April and 9 May for the Rumbelows League Cup Final (Manchester United v Nottingham Forest) and the FA Cup Final. The multicoloured covers bear the match results and special Wembley handstamps. Price £3 each. Orders/enquiries: Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT, SK3 8UD. Lists of other football covers available from same address.

Civil War. The Sealed Knot (society of Cavaliers and Roundheads), the Edgehill Battle Museum, the Commandery and the Cromwell Museum have commissioned Adrian Bradbury to produce official first day covers. The Sealed Knot cover shows the members of the society in action, printed in full colour and gold-foiled. Cover, limited to 500, bears special Edgehill handstamp. Price £8.75. The Edgehill Battle Museum cover is printed on parchment-like paper and cancelled with special handstamp showing a gauntlet grasping a helmet. Limited to 250, price £8.75. The Commandery was Charles II's headquarters during the Battle of Worcester, it is depicted on a cover bearing a special Worcester handstamp. Limited to 500, price £7.50. The cover for the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon, shows a portrait of Cromwell, his portrait also features on the special Huntingdon handstamp. Limited to 1000, price £5.75. The 68th cover in Mr Bradbury's "Victorian Prints" series features an old engraving of Cromwell; the special handstamp for Naseby, Northamptonshire shows Charles

1. Limited to 250, price £6.75. Overseas add £1 and remit in sterling. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Summer Solstice Cricket Match. Royal Mail Hexham have been asked by the Gentlemen of Hexham to take part in a cricket match from dawn to dusk on 19 June to celebrate the Summer Solstice. The event is being held in support of local charities. A commemorative cover (500 only) with a special handstamp is being produced. Price £2. Orders/enquiries: Tracy Hunter, Special Handstamp Centre Manager, Royal Mail House, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA, Tel. 091-235 3484. Remittances payable to "Royal Mail".

Pakistan Cricket Tour. The Pakistan Cricket Tour from May to August 1992 will involve the traditional opening match at Arundel on 3 May, five Texaco one-day matches and five Cornhill tests. The 11 matches will be commemorated by special handstamps and commemorative covers featuring the Pakistan flag and the English standard of St George. Price £2.50 per cover or £22 for set of 11. Postage 50p for one cover, £1.50 for the set. Orders/enquiries: Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd, 28 Windlesham Road, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, W Sussex, BN43 5AE, Tel. 0273-455500. Credit cards accepted.

English Civil War Society. The Society's first day cover for the Civil War issue features a painting from the National Gallery of Charles I on horseback by van Dyck, with the emblems of the Society. A special handstamp is being applied. Price £5.50 with full set of stamps, £2.65 with single stamp. Overseas add £1 postage Europe, £1.50 beyond. Orders/enquiries: CoverCraft (ECWS), PO Box 432, BECKENHAM, Kent, BR3 3SZ.

The English Civil War Society is the foremost specialist organisation connected with the study, re-enactment and encouragement of interest in this period of British history.

Centenary of Railway Broad Gauge. To mark the centenary of the conversion of the broad to narrow gauge on the Great Western Railway, a commemorative cover has been produced featuring an 125 Intercity, a map showing the GWR from Paddington to Bristol and the first locomotive to be built in Swindon, "The Great Western". A special handstamp showing the two locomotives was used at Swindon on 20 May. Price £1.50 plus suitable self-addressed envelope. Orders/enquiries: Swindon's History in the Making, 58 Courtenay Road, Walcot, SWINDON, Wilts, SN3 3DG.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: June Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail National, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 31 July.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Green Issue stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the September *Bulletin*.

1. Who designed the Gilbert & Sullivan stamps?
2. Where was Arnold Machin born?
3. When is the 36th Scottish aerogramme being issued?
4. In what year were "Military Telegraphs" stamps put into use?
5. What was the date of issue of the Happy & Glorious stamps?

The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail National and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the March competition were: Rev. D Cawte of Berkshire (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); Mrs J Dewell of Kent; Mrs R Pook of Kirkcudbrightshire; S Holt of London; Mrs S Rowlands of Dyfed; and C Nadolney of Forestville, USA (Europa presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. *Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria*, 2. Optically Variable Ink, 3. 1 January 1801, 4. Keith Bassford, 5. 14 April 1992.

Our thanks to all who entered.

June Digest

Issued in June

2 June: The Civil War stamp cards, Nos. 144A-D, price 21p each.

16 June: The Civil War stamps – 24p, 28p, 33p, 39p.

Designer: Jeremy Sancha.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 35 x 37mm, perf. 14½ x 14, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum, Phosphor Coated Paper.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Banbury.

Presentation Pack: No. 228, price £1.55.

17 June: The Civil War souvenir cover, price 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters for one year.

23 June: Scottish Aerogramme – 350th anniversary of the Scots Guards.
Price 44p (includes 34p postage). On sale at post offices in Scotland, British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters.

Withdrawn in June

10 June: Sport '91 stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

24 June: 50p Aeroplanes No. 4 and £1 Mills No. 4 book containing 17p and 22p stamps.

Note: The 50p book is already sold out at the British Philatelic Bureau; any remaining stocks at Collections and philatelic counters will be withdrawn on 24 June.

Bournemouth Stamp Fair

The Bournemouth & District Philatelic Society will be holding its Annual Stamp & Postcard Fair at Summerbee Secondary School, Mallard Road, Bournemouth on 13 June, 10am to 5pm, admission free, refreshments available. Well-known dealers will be present. Enquiries: R Sharp, 72 Cardigan Road, BOURNEMOUTH, Dorset, BH9 1BG.

Royal Mail Peterborough Family Fun Day

As official sponsors of the British Olympic Team, Royal Mail Peterborough held a Family

Fun Day on 24 May. A commemorative cover was produced to mark the event. This depicts the Olympic logo and bears the 24p Olympic and Paralympic stamps cancelled by a special handstamp. Price £2.80. Orders/enquiries: Alan Angus, Philatelic Co-ordinator, Royal Mail, Bourges Boulevard, PETERBOROUGH PE1 1AA. Remittances payable to "Royal Mail".

Kellogg's Stamp Book Promotion

A new "stamp book promotion" for Kellogg's Bran Flakes is to go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters on 28 July. The book, price 78p, will contain two 39p definitive stamps and four airmail stickers. Further information will be published next month.

Civil War – Correction

The reposting address for the Banbury "First Day of Issue" postmark is: South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peas-cod Street, WINDSOR SL4 1AA *not* Midlands SHC as stated in May *Bulletin* (page 196).

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