

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 22

Number 1

September 1984



Contents

- 1 Editorial
Worcester Philatelic Counter
- 2 Errors and Varieties Part 2
- 4 Philatelic Gift Vouchers
Change of Address
New Post Office Handstamping Regulations
- 5 Withdrawn Items
- 6 A Coaching Problem
- 7 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
CXXXVII:
'Uniform Postage' Stamps and the
Treasury Competition
- 8 New Presentation Packs — Definitive Stamps
New Country Definitive Stamps
- 9 Posting Boxes
Fifty Years of Photogravure Stamps
- 11 The British Council Stamps Issue
25 September 1984
- 13 British Special Stamps:
112. 500th Anniversary of British Printing,
1976
- 14 Postcard Stories:
16. Hunting with Caldecott
- 15 Letters to the Editor
- 16 Telecom Technology Showcase
Album Leaves
Book Reviews
- 17 Forthcoming Events
- 18 Forces Covers
Commemorative Covers

Worcester Philatelic Counter

As from Monday 9 July 1984 the hours of business at the Worcester Philatelic Counter were changed to the following times: Tuesday to Friday 1000—1330 and 1430—1600, Saturday 1000—1200. On first days of issue business will commence at 0900.

Editorial

A collecting area which has grown in popularity over recent years, is that of special philatelic covers which commemorate important events or famous people. This in turn has led to a considerable increase in the number of privately sponsored handstamps produced specially for particular covers.

Problems have been experienced in the past because the existing handstamping regulations have not always been applied with the same diligence by all post offices. As a result, this had led to anomalies in different parts of the country, and over recent months an attempt has been made to standardise procedures. During this exercise, it became clear that existing regulations for the cancellation of mail did not always meet collectors' requirements.

The existing regulations have therefore been examined in detail by the Post Office to see how they affect philatelic mail. This resulted in a considerable revision of existing rules, and we are pleased to include the new regulations in this issue of the Philatelic Bulletin. The basic concept behind their production was to come up with a set of rules which catered for all the different requirements of collectors, as far as was operationally possible. These new regulations will take effect from Monday 1 October 1984, and should eliminate some of the past anomalies as well as meeting collectors' requirements.

We would be very interested to receive any constructive comments from readers about these new handstamping regulations. A good deal of correspondence has been received in respect of the recent article on stamp design by Guy Averill. While the majority appeared to like the article, one or two did not, and we are publishing two letters from opposite ends of the spectrum in this issue.

The second part of the interesting feature by Alan Benjamin on errors and varieties on British stamps is also included in this Bulletin. In the October issue we hope to include a feature outlining the Post Office's position concerning these. Also, due to lack of space in the current issue, we have been unable to start the promised series on mail transport, and this will now begin in the October Bulletin.

CHARLES GOWEN

Errors and Varieties

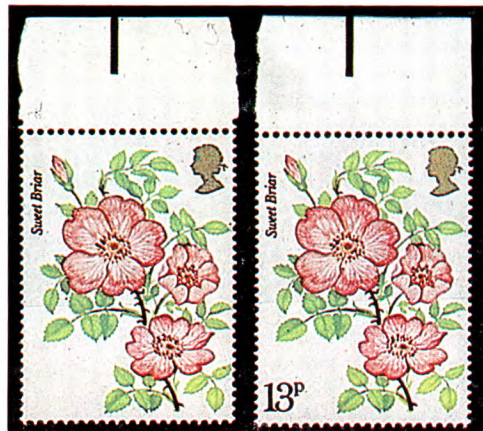
Part 2

Design Errors

The type of error where the design is inaccurate has never occurred on a British stamp. However, there have been instances where due to a freak occurrence, mis-spelling has resulted — “One” spelt “Qne”, and “Pence” spelt “Pencf” are two examples from the stamp of the reign of George V. During the present reign the “d” has been left out of “and” on more than one occasion, but as the variety usually only effects one stamp position in the sheet, they are known as positional varieties. They are caused by small defects that have been missed when the cylinder or plate was being prepared.

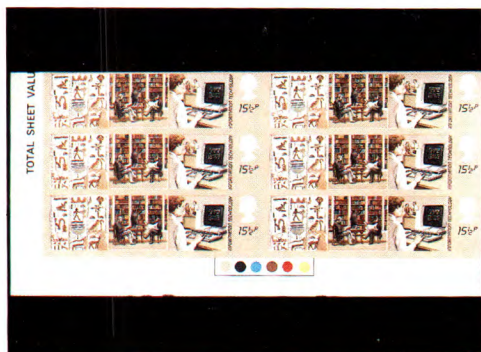
Modern positionals are usually inexpensive and ideal for the beginner specialist. To a greater or lesser degree most special issues have one or two varieties of this nature, as do many ‘Definitives’. The 1983 ‘Christmas’ had some good examples from broken value tablets on the 12½p to missing ‘Birds’ on the 31p.

Generally speaking if a mistake is made in the design, it is discovered and corrected long before stamps go into production and there are sufficient safeguards within the Post Office to prevent this type of embarrassing error. The closest example that we have, must surely be the 13p ‘Roses’, which, due to an oversight was released without the value being included in the design. It was thought that all examples were destroyed. However, two stamps escaped the net, one being used on commercial mail from Dover and the other being mint.



Stamps that are released in error

Very occasionally a stamp issue or printing is prepared but for a variety of reasons it is decided that the stamp should not be issued. When these stamps are inadvertently released they have great philatelist interest. Such rarities have existed from as far back as Victorian line engraved. I have already mentioned the 13p ‘Roses’ without value and the 1/6d without phosphor. Another error of the present reign, is the 5d ‘Machin’ experimentally printed on phosphor coated paper (plus additional phosphor bands). This is not easily recognisable and quite understandably was sent to Post Offices in error. For this reason it is easy to understand that most were used up on ordinary mail. The few mint survivors now fetch around £250.



Perforation Errors

The lack of perforations creates another of the major errors, known as Imperforates. They rank alongside missing colours as the most desirable of the major errors. In addition to imperforates we have perforation shifts which like colour shifts create spectacular varieties and paper folds, where part of the sheet is folded in upon itself prior to perforation. Double perforations and perforation jumps turn up from time to time on many issues. The perforation equivalent to the positional variety is the blind perforation. This is where one finds in a normal sheet, one or more perforation holes unpunched. Depending on the perforator used, these can be found in specific parts of the sheet, or completely at random. Normally collected in pairs, they make an interesting and inexpensive sideline.



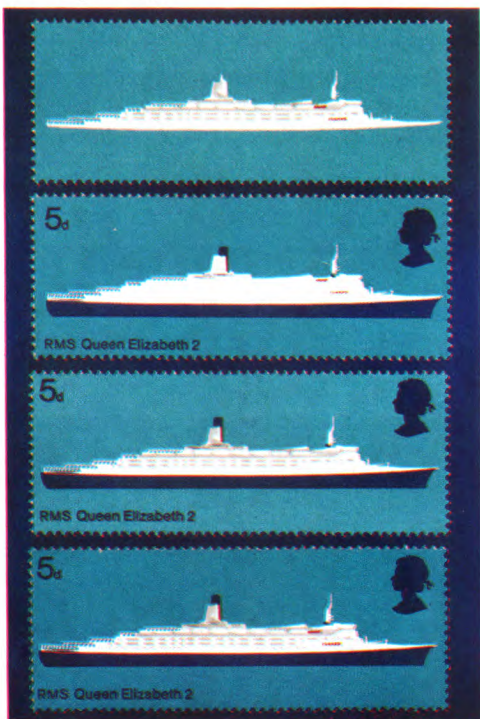
Tagging Errors

Tagging is the term used for the application of chemical inks such as graphite or phosphor so that it reacts to the sorting sensors. Tagging has gone through several stages from graphite, phosphor graphite, phosphor bands and finally phosphor coated with varieties occurring in all these states. Graphite errors are restricted to misplacements resulting in lines in the wrong position or the wrong number of lines.

Phosphor ink being the same as normal ink, suffers from identical problems. Colour shifts become phosphor shifts. Missing colours become missing phosphors. Errors of colour become errors of phosphor, which although not detectable in daylight become apparent when viewed with the aid of a U.V. lamp. Of these varieties the most popular has always been missing phosphor. Theoretically these could not occur before 1967, as before then stamps were officially issued with or without phosphor. However, non-phosphors go back further, the first known example occurs on the 1963 'Paris Postal Conference' 6d with non-phosphor stamps (due to a dry print), se-tenant with phosphors. Missing or non-phosphor stamps (both terms mean the same), should not be confused with "ordinary" stamps. The latter being deliberately issued without phosphor tagging, for example the current 50p and 75p 'Machins'. Whereas non-phosphor errors are stamps that have been issued without tagging due to some mistake.

One of the most interesting is the 1/6d 'Machin' Gum Arabic from Cyl 5A2B. At the time that this stamp was accidentally issued 'Machins' had changed over to PVA Gum and an experiment was in progress with the 1/6d on phosphor coated paper (PCP). Because these stamps had no visible phosphor bands, they were confused with a batch of 1/6d Gum Arabic that had not had the phosphor applied. This 1/6d could therefore be equally described as a paper error. More recently another missing phosphor emerged for rather similar reasons.

The 22p 'Machin' has been the subject of some experimental phosphor coating. Once in a while an experimental printing is deliberately released as a pilot to test reaction to the innovation under normal working conditions. These innovations are much sought after by collectors, but are outside the scope of this article. However, when an experiment goes wrong, or when the experimental stamps are not intended for release, but escape, then they are considered errors or varieties. It would appear that a batch of PCP did not have the phosphor included in the coating. Missing phosphors range considerably in price, from a few pence to several hundreds of pounds. The 1/6d and 22p are valued around £5 to £500 respectively.





In conclusion

Bearing in mind the huge volume of stamps produced for the British Post Office, the number of major errors is surprisingly small. Of the major errors no missing colours have been discovered since 1980 and although imperforates continue to be found the numbers and frequency have been greatly reduced. With the advent of phosphor coated paper, missing phosphors are now restricted to missing phosphor bands in booklets. The lesser errors such as shifts of colour and perforation are still occasionally to be found. This is not altogether a bad thing, as to eliminate these quirks of printing completely from philately would make it a duller and less exciting hobby.

ALAN BENJAMIN

Philatelic Gift Vouchers

We would like to advise readers that, due to lack of demand, philatelic gift vouchers have been withdrawn. All vouchers which have not been redeemed, will still be honoured.

Change of Address

The Philatelic Bulletin and Postmark Bulletin have moved to new premises. The new address is: Postal Headquarters, Marketing Department, RMM 3.3, Rooms 102-104, 33 Grosvenor Place, LONDON SW1X 1PX.

New Post Office Handstamping Regulations

Because of problems which some collectors and dealers have experienced in the past, the existing handstamping rules have been examined by Royal Mail Marketing staff to see how they affect philatelic mail. The basic concept was to produce a new set of rules which cater, as far as possible, for all the different requirements of collectors. These rules have now been finalised and are detailed below. It must be stressed that they apply only to items submitted to the Post Office, including the British Philatelic Bureau and the Directorate of Postal Courier Services, requesting a special philatelic handstamp cancellation (privately sponsored or Post Office sponsored including first day of issues handstamps).

1. Handstamps will be used to cancel valid postage stamps affixed to bona fide items of mail only.
2. Designs on the address side of covers must be restricted to the left hand half leaving the right hand half clear for the postage stamp(s), postmark and address.
3. Stamps may be affixed in various positions and formats (leaving the design clear) on the address side only of covers. In the case of maximum cards the stamp may be placed anywhere on the picture side (see paragraph 7).
4. Items bearing on their address side, or side to be postmarked, a design resembling a postage stamp or postal impression in shape or size will not be accepted.
5. Items must not bear previous postmarks. An item will not be given more than one type of impression. Requests for two or more different postmarks on a cover eg. postmark slogan and handstamp or two different handstamps will be refused.

An envelope which has previously been used for postal purposes will not be accepted. Reconditioned envelopes and postcards, or items with labels affixed, which could conceal a previous cancellation, or enclosed in an outer cover with stamps showing through an aperture are not acceptable for philatelic postmarking and will be returned uncanceled. However small labels showing a delivery address are acceptable.

6. All items submitted for special handstamping including first day of issue handstamping which are to be delivered individually through the post or

returned under cover must bear a proper delivery address.

Items may be collected from the handstamping office (or HPO counter) providing PRIOR arrangements have been made. Items to be collected must be individually addressed to facilitate identification, though they need not be addressed 'c/o Poste Restante' of the office concerned.

7. Maximum Cards

Postcards with postage stamps affixed to their picture side are normally unacceptable for postal transmission and will not be given an operational (ie. non philatelic) cancellation.

However, this type of item, known as a Maximum (or Maxi) card will be accepted for a philatelic cancellation *ON ANY DAY* at offices, including the British Philatelic Bureau, where a special handstamp (privately or officially sponsored) or a first day of issue handstamp is in use.

The illustration on the postcard need not bear a direct relationship to the subject of the postage stamp affixed.

The postage stamp(s) may be affixed anywhere on the picture side.

The card must bear a delivery address on the reverse side.

Postcards with stamps affixed to both the picture and address sides will be refused a cancellation.

Since Maxi cards are normally classed as embarrassing items, they must not be sent through the post unless enclosed in an outer cover which should be provided by the sender (this return cover does not require postage). They may also be collected from the handstamping office (see paragraph 5).

The limits of size and thickness for Maxi cards are the same as for other postcards. (Details appear in the Post Office Guide.)

8. First Day of Issue Handstamping

First day of issue handstamps may only be used on covers bearing one or more of the new stamps.

Items bearing stamps in addition to the new issue will not be given a first day of issue cancellation. However, private or officially sponsored special handstamps may be applied to such items if requested.

Covers bearing only stamps of previous issues will be given a normal operational cancellation.

Items collected from ordinary posting boxes will also be given a normal operational cancellation..

9. Returning Philatelic Items

After cancellation philatelic items will be put in normal course of post for delivery. Bulk postings of

50 items or more to the same address will be sent through the post in the most economical manner. If customers supply a box or packing to protect or contain their cover(s) in transit it will be used if possible for the return delivery. Additional postage is *NOT* required on the outer cover. Requests for items to be returned by registered post or recorded delivery will be met providing the return package *WHICH SHOULD BE SUPPLIED BY THE SENDER* is acceptable for the service being used, *AND* it contains 100 or more items to the same address.

10. Counter Date Stamps

Items will not be cancelled with a counter datestamp, or packet stamp, unless they qualify for that type of postmark and meet all the requirements of the service used ie. Registered Mail/Parcel Post.

Counter date stamps are not available under the reposting facility.

11. Postmark Slogans

These are operational cancellations and it is not possible to guarantee a perfect impression every time.

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale during September:

All existing stamp books, values 50p, £1.25, £1.45 and £1.60, will be withdrawn from sale at the close of business on Saturday 1 September 1984, prior to the tariff increase.

Following the introduction of the proposed new tariff rates on 3 September 1984, the following stamp values will be withdrawn from sale at the close of business on 7 September 1984, 3½p, 12½p, 20½p, 23p and £1.30 national definitive stamps, and 12½p and 20½p 'country' definitive.

The existing stamp rolls, GL (500 x 12½p) and JL (500 x 16p) will also be withdrawn on 7 September 1984.

The Royal Mint prestige stamp book, price £4, will be withdrawn from sale on 13 September 1984.

A Coaching Problem

With the 200th Anniversary of the Carriage of Mail by Coach this year, several postcards have been introduced by Regions and by the National Postal Museum to commemorate the event. One of these, the SS26 card of the National Postal Museum, is entitled 'Old Coaching Lines', by J C Maggs. The original of this painting, which is the property of the National Postal Museum, shows a coach in the snow with an additional pair of horses to pull through the drifts. This pair was known as a 'cock-pair' and, when used, were always controlled by an outrider and not directly by the driver of the coach.

We are uncertain which actual route this coach is supposed to represent. The writing on the door appears to begin with 'L' to 'London' but it

could be any vertical letter. It may be that Mr Maggs was using his imagination in the setting of this view, but does any reader recognise the scene behind, with the square tower to the church or cathedral and the chimneys of the factories near by. It is, perhaps, an anachronism? Maggs himself was painting during the revival of interest in coaching some 100 years ago and may have painted a coach in front of a scene which could not have existed at the time that the coach was running?

We would welcome your views and would ask anyone with an idea as to the location to write to The Curator, National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1LP. RAIFE WELLSTED Curator



The National Postal Museum is offering colour reproductions of the painting — size 680 mm x 503 mm — signed by the Chairman of The Post Office, Sir Ron Dearing. The cost is £10 each, plus £1 postage and packing.

Orders accompanied by remittances made payable to 'The Post Office' should be sent to the address as above.

'Uniform Postage' Stamps and the Treasury Competition

The Penny Postage Bill received the Royal assent on 17 August 1839, having previously passed through both houses of Parliament without a division. In addition to the introduction of penny postage, this bill also abolished the Parliamentary privilege of 'free post', even Queen Victoria giving up her franking right as an example to her subjects.

In September 1839, Rowland Hill was given a post at the Treasury so that he could commence the considerable task of supervising the introduction of the reforms. For whilst the 1840 reforms are often remembered only for the introduction of the adhesive postage stamps, they in fact involved profound changes in Post Office working practices.

In an attempt to smooth the passage of the changes, Rowland Hill introduced, on 5 December 1839, a temporary uniform rate of 4d for all letters of not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz in weight. This experimental measure was announced by the Treasury on 22 November 1839 and was to last until 9 January 1840. The experiment was successful in that it showed that the Post Office could cope with the changes and the higher volume of mail.

The Uniform Penny Postage was introduced on 10 January 1840 amid scenes of great excitement and triumph. The crowds that gathered at the St Martins-le-Grand Office to see the evening despatch were so large that they had to be controlled by the police.

Adhesive stamps and covers could not be prepared in time and handstruck stamps were used. There are many different types of these handstruck penny-postage stamps; some 350 towns in England

and Wales each employed at least one distinctive stamp. These handstamps remained in use for 13 years before they were abolished in 1853 when pre-payment by adhesive stamps became compulsory. The paid stamps are fully listed and illustrated in 'Handstruck Stamps of the Empire'.

On 6 September 1839, the Treasury placed an advertisement in 'The Times' inviting proposals and suggestions from the public for the design of the stamp or stamped covers. There was to be a prize of "£200 to such proposals as they may consider the most deserving of attention and £100 to the next best proposal". The Treasury made four points which they considered most important:

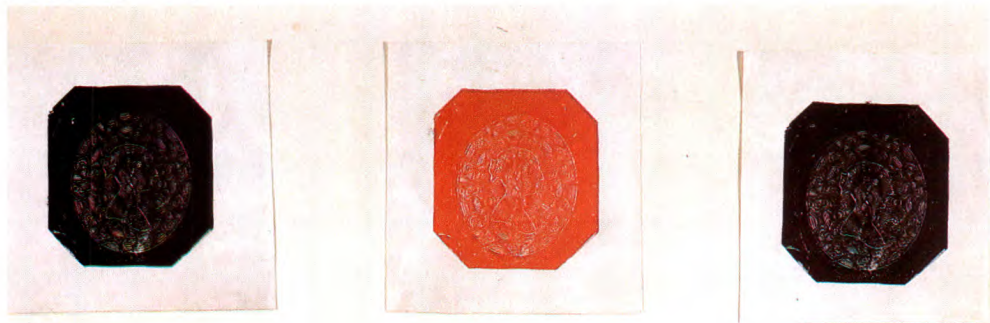
1. The convenience as regards the public use.
2. The security against forgery.
3. The facility of being checked and distinguished in the examination at the Post Office which must of necessity be rapid.
4. The expense of the production and circulation of the stamps.

The response was overwhelming; more than 2,600 suggestions and designs were submitted. Although none of the entries were destined to be used, many contained ideas or concepts which were later to be adopted by the Post Office. These will be examined in subsequent 'Gems'.

Four winners were announced, each to receive £100, they were Messrs James Bogardus and Francis Coffin (joint submission), Benjamin Cheverton, Henry Cole and Charles Whiting.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Assistant Curator



Three impressions from the original Bogardus/ Coffin dies.

New Presentation Packs

– Definitive Stamps

New presentation packs containing the entire range of low value definitive and country definitive stamps will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters on 23 October 1984.

The low value pack will contain 20 stamps: ½p, 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 13p, 16p, 17p, 18p, 20p, 22p, 24p, 26p, 28p, 31p, 34p, 50p and 75p.

The 2p, 5p and 75p stamps are printed offset litho by the House of Questa. The 4p and 20p stamps are printed offset litho by Waddingtons Ltd, while the remainder are printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

The price of the pack (no 5) will be £4.20.

The country definitive packs will contain 8 stamps.

10p, 13p, 16p, 17p, 22p, 26p, 28p and 31p.

There will be separate packs for Scotland (no 6), Wales (no 7), and Northern Ireland (no 8). The price of these packs will be £1.84.

The stamps for Scotland are printed offset litho by Waddingtons Ltd, except for the 10p which is printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

The stamps for Northern Ireland and Wales are printed offset litho by The House of Questa except for the 10p which is printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

New Country Definitive Stamps

Four new country definitive stamps for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will be issued on 23 October 1984. The design will be similar to the current range of country stamps. The new values are 13p, 17p, 22p and 31p.

Each stamp will be available from post offices in the appropriate country, and all twelve stamps may be obtained from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, and philatelic sales counters

Separate first day covers, price 15p each, and

pictorial handstamps will be provided by the Post Office for each of the countries. Collectors may be interested to know that the envelope will be the first to carry a new design and that they will be longer than previous covers for definitive stamps. The new size of the envelopes (216mm x 115mm approx.) will be the same as the first day envelopes for special stamps. The three covers will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, and from philatelic sales counters. Each country's covers will be available from Head Post Offices in the respective country.

For bulk orders, obtainable from the Bureau only, the costs are as follows:—

250 for £27.50
or 1000 for £90.00

The British Philatelic Bureau will provide the following service for first day covers:—

SERVICE 'A'

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and given all four stamps, cancelled as requested with a Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh: Cardiff: Edinburgh or Belfast pictorial handstamp and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers will be given the four stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched.

The following charges will apply:—

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
Service 'A'	£1.25	£1.09
Deposit account customers	£1.19	£1.04
Service 'B'	£1.10	£0.96

Application forms for these services are available from the British Philatelic Bureau and all Head Post Offices, and should be returned by 12 October 1984.

For customers who wish to post their own covers on the day of issue, first day of issue cancellations will be in use at all offices which normally provide them in each of the three countries, and at fifty-one philatelic counters in England. Also on that day, the normal reposting facility will apply for special cancellations in use at each of the three countries capitals. Covers bearing the country stamps may be sent under cover to the Head Postmasters of Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff, marking the outer, 'First Day of Issue Cancellation'.

Denominations and Colours

- 13p — light brown
- 17p — steel blue
- 22p — yellowish-green
- 31p — purple

Technical Details

Two printers are involved in the production of these latest issues — The House of Questa has printed the stamps for Wales and Northern Ireland and Waddingtons Ltd., those for Scotland.

The stamps are printed offset litho on unwatermarked paper.

The 17p and 31p stamps are printed on phosphor coated paper; the 22p stamp on advanced coated paper, and the 13p will be printed with a single central phosphor bar.

Posting Boxes



No 63 The posting box illustrated this month is known as a 'lamp' box. Designed during the 1890's they were meant to be fixed to lamp posts. They can be found on telegraph poles particularly where no lamp post exists. This box is situated in a chapel wall near Aberdorey, Gwynedd. The photograph was sent to us by Mr A W Cobbett of Copthorne, Sussex, to whom we are grateful.

Fifty Years of Photogravure Stamps

Fifty years ago this year Harrison & Sons Ltd. regained the contract for printing Post Office low value definitive stamps and the commemorative issues. They obtained this contract by pioneering in Britain the use of the photogravure process for stamp printing. High speed production and lower costs were the main advantages of the new system, and because the designs were based on photographs, a new stamp issue could reach the cylinder stage much more quickly than plates could be prepared by the typographic process. Cylinders of 480 stamps were used instead of the usual plates of 240, and as the rotary machines ran much faster, it was possible to supply greatly increased quantities of stamps for the Post Office and at the same time effect considerable economies in production.

The first stamps printed by the photogravure process were a Bavarian series issued in 1914, portraying the new King, Ludwig III. They were printed by the Munich firm of F A Bruckmann. When they appeared they caused quite a sensation because of the accurate reproduction of the photograph.

Further experiments were prevented by the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, which resulted in the disappearance of Bavaria as a stamp-issuing country. A set of stamps was printed in photogravure for Wurtemberg by K Ebner of Stuttgart in 1920, but these were very poor in quality.

During the war the process continued to develop and it was used for the reproduction of maps.

In 1922 the Paris firm of Vaugirard printed a set of stamps by photogravure (called by them heliogravure) for French Morocco, and Harrison & Sons had begun the experiments which led to their printing the 1923-24 set of Egypt.

The Egyptian issue was the first in which the photogravure process had been employed for any considerable quantity of postage stamps. It was originally intended the series should be printed by the steel plate process, but for economy it was decided to submit to King Fuad a first impression by photogravure. The King, himself a well-known philatelist, promptly insisted that the issue be printed by photogravure, whatever the costs or the difficulties.

Through printing the Egyptian issues and a set



for the Gold Coast in 1928, Harrisons gained considerable experience and were able to eliminate the flaws, blemishes and retouches which appeared on their early work and to match the colours more accurately.

The first British photogravure stamps were well produced but were not really suited to the new process. This requires simple designs which can easily be reproduced by photography, and not the fussy ornamentation used on the earlier typographed stamps. Various heads were tried for the royal portrait, but it was finally decided to use that employed for the 1912-22 series.

The first stamp of the new series was the 1½d brown, which appeared on 20 August 1934. The 1d followed on 24 September and the ½d on 19 November. After the initial printings of the 1d and 1½d stamps, the sizes of the designs were reduced slightly to allow for more accurate perforation and the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d appeared thus. It was later reduced again and this size was adopted for all low values.

The 2d stamp was issued on 21 January 1935, the 2½d and 3d appeared on 18 March and the 4d and 9d on 2 December. The series was completed in February 1936 with the issue of the 5d on 17 February and the 10d and 1s a week later.

The first photogravure commemoratives appeared in 1935 for the Silver Jubilee of King George V. These were an improvement on the definitives, but here again the design was too fussy for photogravure, as though the designer was not yet used to the new technique.

The King Edward VIII series, which appeared in 1936, was an admirable design, simple yet effective, and many feel that it is one of the best British stamps. The King George VI series was good and the two 'Silver Wedding' stamps of 1948 are fine examples of what can be achieved by this process, but by far the



best stamps are the 'Machin' series of the present reign. They have a simple dignity and a strong range of colours.

There is no doubt that the decision made in 1934 to print Britain's stamps by photogravure was the right one, and it has been fully justified. The process is economical and a rapid and efficient method of providing the millions of stamps required every day. It also has the advantage of full security, since the very volatile inks used render the removal of cancellations virtually impossible.

The fact that Harrisons have managed to retain the contract for fifty years speaks highly of their technical ability and only on comparatively few occasions have our stamps been printed elsewhere. In 1979, when Harrisons were experiencing some printing difficulties, the 8p definitive was produced by Jon Enschedé of Holland, and in 1980, when the Post Office decided to extend the range of the definitives, The House of Questa and John Waddington of Kirkstall were entrusted with the printing of some of the 'Machin' issues by the lithographic process. Also, on very few occasions, some of the commemorative issues have been printed elsewhere.

OW NEWPORT



The British Council Stamps

Issue 25 September 1984



The aim of the British Council is to promote an enduring understanding and appreciation of Britain in other countries through cultural, educational and technical co-operation.

1984 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the British Council, now part of Britain's overseas representation. To commemorate this important event The Post Office will issue on 25 September four special stamps, which illustrate a wide spectrum of services promoted by the British Council.

Subjects and Denominations

'Education for Development'

Of those who come to Britain to study, nearly half, like the Nigerian doctor, are concerned with science and technology: 17p stamp.

'Promoting the Arts'

The score of Sir Michael Tippett's, 'The Midsummer Marriage' provides the background for a British violinist performing in Athens: 22p stamp.

'Technical Training'

A British engineer, appointed by the Council and funded by the Sri Lankan Government, is shown discussing a project against a British training manual: 31p stamp.

'Language and Libraries'

The Council assists the development of national library services and promotes the export of British books, a role symbolised by an extract from the

Oxford English Dictionary, framing a typical library scene: 34p stamp.

Printing Details

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

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack, number 156, and first day cover are designed by Newell and Sorrell. The pack will cost £1.25.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 11 September 1984, price 14p each.

Souvenir Covers

Souvenir covers — price 15p each — designed by Newell and Sorrell will go on sale on the day after the stamp issue, 26 September 1984.

For those customers who wish to send their own stamped and fully addressed covers for cancellation with the 'London SW' postmark, should enclose them in an outer envelope, fully addressed and stamped, and send them to: Philatelic Duty, SWDO, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON, SW8 5BB.



THE BRITISH COUNCIL 1934-1984 ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS

appreciating
arts, drama

(Memoirs by
The British
A Personal



photos

Usually associated with education, the Council's interests now embrace almost every aspect of British life. Its committees draw representatives from science, agriculture, medicine, industry, law and administration. Special advisory committees, some particularly concerned with Scotland and Wales, keep the Council in touch with British achievements and resources and enable it to represent these interests overseas. A network of regional offices looks after many of the students and visitors the Council brings to Britain and maintains day-to-day contact with the wide range of public and private establishments and individuals on which the Council relies.

From London headquarters the Director General controls over 4,000 administrative and specialist staff working in Britain and eighty countries overseas. By matching British resources to the needs and interests of other countries they forge lasting relationships crucial to long-term British interests.

An independent body with the Queen as its Patron, the Council is funded chiefly by British Government grants. The Overseas Development Administration and such major international agencies as the United Nations and the

the Council's interests now embrace almost every aspect of British life. Its committees draw representatives from science, agriculture, medicine, industry, law and administration. Special advisory committees, some particularly concerned with Scotland and Wales, keep the Council in touch with British achievements and resources and enable it to represent these interests overseas. A network of regional offices looks after many of the students and visitors the Council brings to Britain and maintains day-to-day contact with the wide range of public and private establishments and individuals on which the Council relies.

THE ARTS



British teachers and staff. The Council also runs national library services and promotes the UK's British books. Its own worldwide network of 111



libraries, with over two million books, provides one of the finest lending, reference and computer-linked information services in the world, a role symbolised by an extract from the Oxford English Dictionary, framing a typical library scene.



THE BRITISH COUNCIL 1934-1984 ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

112. 500th Anniversary of British Printing, 1976

The four special stamps issued by the Post Office on 29 September 1976 marked the 500th anniversary of the first printing in Britain by William Caxton. The stamps were designed by Richard Gay who, then 19, was the youngest person ever to design a complete set of stamps for the Post Office — three of them showed examples of Caxton's earliest works printed at his premises in Westminster, London.

The 8½p depicted a woodcut of the Squire (at first incorrectly identified as the Knight) from the second edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1484), while the 10p reproduced two of Caxton's type-faces — No.6, based upon a Flemish vernacular writing hand, and No.8, of French origin, in a formal Gothic hand — and a decorated initial from *The Tretyse of Love* (c. 1493). A woodcut of the Philosopher from the second edition of *The Game and Playe of Chesse* (c. 1483), of which the original was printed in Bruges, is pictured on the 11p stamp, while the 13p value represents two printers operating a primitive press in 1514.

The celebrated William Caxton (c. 1422-1491) was a man of Kent. In 1438 he was apprenticed to a London mercer (dealer in textile fabrics), Robert Large, who was subsequently lord mayor prior to his death in 1441. Caxton then moved to Bruges where he established himself as a successful merchant. Following a visit to Cologne he became acquainted with the art of printing by movable types as invented by Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz who set up his first

printing press there circa 1450. Caxton himself set up a press in Bruges and translated and printed the first book in the English tongue — *The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye*.

Returning to England about the end of 1476, Caxton founded a printery in what is now Tothill Street, Westminster, and in 1477 he printed and published *The Dictes and Sayengis (Sayings) of the Philosophers*, the first book printed in England, which was soon followed by many others. About a third of the 100 books printed by him survive in unique copies or fragments.

Richard Gay, who had been working in a Southend design studio, developed the designs from his winning entry in the Royal Society of Arts Industrial Design Student Bursary Competition for Postage Stamps of 1974 — sponsored by the Post Office — submitted when he was a 17-year-old student on a graphic design course at Southend School of Art. He was the first Bursary winner to have his winning designs used as stamps.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison & Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 5 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. Listed varieties include 'broken fingers', a gap in the shading by the horse's hind leg and the Squire's pointed shoe broken at the tip, all on the 8½p. The quantities issued were: 8½p 37,550,000; 10p 8,260,000; 11p 7,320,000; and 13p 6,780,000.

JAMES WATSON



16. Hunting with Caldecott

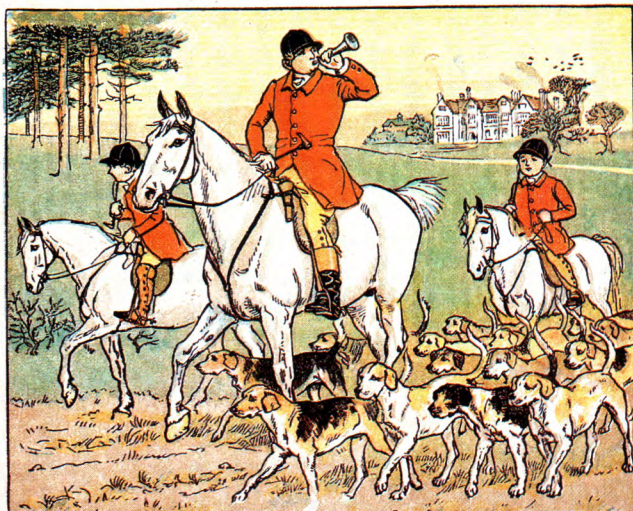
The inimitable Randolph Caldecott (as he is invariably described), artist and illustrator of children's books, was born in Chester in 1846. He started life as a bank clerk in the Shropshire market town of Whitchurch, where his latent artistic talent was given little encouragement, circa 1861. Later he was moved to the Manchester branch of the bank and he embarked on his studies at the Manchester Art School, where he developed his characteristically bold style of illustration. His drawings and sketches of topical events began to be accepted by the local press and, gaining confidence, he submitted work to some of the London publishers with some success. Eventually he gave up banking and moved to London where he attended the Slade School of Fine Art and became a regular contributor to the *Graphic*, *Punch* and other journals.

Caldecott illustrated many books of children's tales and nursery rhymes, among the first of them being *John Gilpin*, the story of a London draper's ride to Ware and back on horseback which was told in William Cowper's famous poem. The artist was at

his best depicting rural subjects and scenes of country life such as fox-hunting, e.g. *The Three Jovial Huntsmen* and *The Grey Mare*. My card shows 'the huntsman blowing his horn in the morn', from the tale *The Fox jumps over the Parson's Gate*. It is card No. G 5 in the series of 48 picture cards by Randolph Caldecott, published by Frederick Warne & Company just before the First World War and reprinted in the 1930s. There are eight sets of six cards prefixed by the letters A to H. Among the titles are *Sing a Song of Sixpence*, *The Queen of Hearts*, *Hey Diddle Diddle*, *A Frog he would a-Wooing Go* and *Ride a Cock Horse*. His pictures revealed a compassionate understanding of children and animals, and a delightful sense of humour.

Sadly, Randolph Caldecott contracted rheumatic fever and died of an inflamed heart while on a visit to Florida in quest of a more temperate climate in 1886. The Caldecott medal has been awarded each year since 1938 to the best American illustrator of children's books.

MALCOLM JAMES



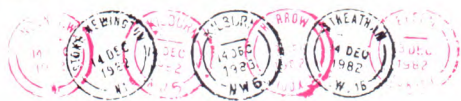
The Huntsman
blows his horn
in the morn,
When folks
goes hunting,
oh!

-The Fox jumps over
the Parson's gate-

From the
Original
Drawing
by
RANDOLPH
CALDECOTT

PUBLISHED BY F. WARNE & CO

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir,

May I say how much I enjoyed the article by Guy Averill in Vol 21, No 11 for this month, on the subject of stamp design. As an architect, much of the interest that I have in my collection is slanted towards the design aspect of the stamps, and I therefore found many common views with Mr Averill in his article.

I would, however, like to raise one or two points which Mr Averill may care to comment upon. Firstly, I feel that the subjective nature of design appreciation was somewhat lowered in importance. Even though he says that "...an idiosyncratic approach would hardly allow the subject to be taught...", Mr Averill must remember that the vast majority of people do not have any training in design whatsoever, and those who do are themselves bound to be influenced in their preferences by many factors, such as their profession, any other interests, their age group, and the socio-economic group in which they find themselves. Thus, a 75-year-old widow, ex-teacher from Somerset interested in natural history will have totally different design values from a 25-year-old single Malayan student of archaeology whose hobby is electronic games. It is really therefore only a very small minority of people who have similar interests who can usually come up with similar definitive views on what constitutes good design. For example, I cannot myself agree with Mr Averill about his condemnation of the 1979 European Parliamentary Election issue.

Secondly, I feel that he is a little cursory in his dismissal of the effect of printing process upon the final result. Surely the artist, if he is worth his salt, is conscious of the final process at all times during the development of his design — and there are some very fine designs (and some truly awful ones) in all processes.

With reference to Mr Averill's section on symbolism, I am sorry that he did not enlarge a little on the ubiquitous symbol which appears on all stamps — the Queen's head. In my personal (subjective) view, many of the most successful designs are those which have placed this necessary evil (from the designer's point of view) in a separate panel, such as J. Norris Wood's birds of 1966. Your recent series of articles on trials and essays has shown the various attempts at positioning the head on

full-stamp designs, none of which are as successful as, say the '65 Battle of Britain or the '70 Literary Anniversaries.

It would be an interesting exercise if you asked your readers to submit their 'top ten' designs of, say, QEII — and perhaps also valuable if they also submitted their 'bottom ten'! For interest's sake, I enclose my own (subjective!) selection for these lists.

Nevertheless, all power to Mr Averill's arm! His article should be required reading for all design committees!

TOP TEN (from best downwards)

- 21 Jun 72 Village Churches
- 17 Jan 84 Heraldry
- 15 Aug 73 Inigo Jones
- 14 Oct 66 Battle of Hastings
- 8 Jun 65 Churchill death
- 7 May 80 London 80 exhibition
(not never! the 50p)
- 15 Jul 70 Commonwealth games
- 16 May 73 Cricket centenary
- 12 Jun 77 Racket sports
- 1 Jun 66 World Cup (4d only)

BOTTOM TEN (downwards to worst)

- 10 Apr 84 Urban Renewal
- 9 Apr 80 London 80 exhibition
(50p value)
- 14 Nov 73 Royal Wedding
- 2 Sep 75 Interparliamentary U. Conf.
- 6 Feb 81 Folklore
- 22 Aug 79 Rowland Hill
- 11 May 77 Silver Jubilee
- 16 Jun 80 Bird protection Act
- 8 Sep 82 Information technology
- 7 May 63 Paris Postal Conf. centenary

Yours sincerely,
Brian M Hodgkinson

Cyprus

Dear Sir,

With reference to the article in the July bulletin entitled 'I know what I like...' by Guy Averill. It had never occurred to me that the 'Seahorses' on the George V High Values were breathing on the king's neck, and it seems this was written purely in an attempt to add humour to the article.

His comments on the 'P.U.C.' £1 were most displeasing. This stamp is clearly one of the best ever produced by the Post Office and its design is superb. The engraving of the dragon, St George and the horse are much more detailed than the 10/- High Value of 1951 which Mr Averill seems to prefer.

I can only add that collectors own personal opinions should be kept to themselves and not wasted on 2½ pages which could otherwise have been used for a more informative article.

Yours faithfully,
MD Barton
(Aged 16)

Crowthorne
Berkshire

Telecom Technology Showcase

Four new postcards will be issued on 1 October 1984 by the Telecom Technology Showcase. Two of these will be souvenir postcards available only on the day of issue.

The first two postcards are Ephemera no 8 featuring a reproduction of a 1930's art poster showing the then new Jubilee Kiosk (no 6) and Ephemera no 9 which features telephone stamps issued by the National Telephone Company between 1884 and 1891 for use as payment in attended public call offices. The price of the cards is 10p each.

The two souvenir cards, numbers SPC NO7 and SPC NO8, are 40p each. The number of the special cards will be limited to those ordered or purchased over the counter by close of business on the day of issue. First-day-of-sale postcards of each of the new cards will be available. These will bear a special '100 years of the Pay phone' first-day-of-sale cachet.

Further details of serviced cards can be obtained from the Telecom/Technology Showcase. Orders by post for mint cards should add 40p for postage and packing. These should be sent with the appropriate remittance to: Telecom Technology Showcase, Baynard House, 135 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON, EC4V 4AT.

Album Leaves

The new prices quoted in the August edition of the Bulletin album leaves in packets of 10 were incorrect. They should have read:

First day cover (large)	£2.50
First day cover (small)	£1.75
Postcard	£2.50
Presentation pack	£2.50

We offer our apologies.

Book Reviews

Channel Islands Revenues

A Story and a Catalogue by John Simpson

The purpose of this book is to put on record all the known details concerning the Revenue stamps of the Channel Islands and the Sales Tax stamps of Guernsey with other Fiscals of both Islands. Listings of the Revenue and Sales Tax stamps in existing catalogues are very incomplete and lack any reference to the reasons for their issue and the uses to which they have been put. In the Channel Islands Specialists' Society there are a number of members interested in these stamps, but even there, not many know the full story. This has only come about as a result of much research over several years and correspondence with the different printers and members of the Pinches family. The Jersey States Treasury has been very helpful and letters going back almost fifty years from States Officials in Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney in the author's possession have been consulted and are quoted in the text.

For the student of this subject, the book is well worth the cost of £4.00 post free from CISS Publishing, 63 Revensbourne Gardens, Clayhall, ILFORD, Essex, IG5 0XH.

A more Expeditious Conveyance: the Story of the Royal Mail Coaches by Bevan Rider (J A Allen, £12.50). Refreshingly different in its approach to the subject, and beautifully illustrated by the author, this new book is a must for anyone interested in the coaching age generally or the ways in which the Mail Coach Service operated on the several Roads out of London.

Available from leading book shops.

Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom

by George R Pearson, Compiled by Alan Finch and Colin Peachy

The third edition of this very useful book is based on the last edition which appeared in 1973, and goes up to the end of 1983. It includes over 6000 entries and over 1000 illustrations in its 276 pages. Several early handstamps have been discovered since the last edition, and these have been included. All prices have also been brought up-to-date. The book is produced in handy A5 size with a two-colour card

cover, and is printed in offset-litho. The price of the book is £8.00 plus £1.00 for postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: The British Postmark Society, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH.

The Channel Islands Sub-post Offices and their Postmarks

by David Gurney

This new book, while owing much to what has previously been written, far surpasses anything already in print on the subject. It is not just a catalogue of markings; it is not just a Postal History book; it is really a social history of the Islands during the last 150 years as evidenced by its effect on postal affairs. The research undertaken has been very extensive and many a homely touch is introduced when referring to that noble band, the sub-postmasters and mistresses.

The sub-post offices — or Parish post offices — were for long the social centres of the country districts, forming part of the village stores. They moved around as one shop closed and another opened until, today, sophistication has caught up with them and their cancellations are only used for counter work and for the occasional registered letter or parcel. All ordinary mail is sent uncanceled to the Head Office and much romance (philatelic, of course) has gone.

The postcard era in the early part of this century was that in which the sub-offices played their main role. Fortunately, many of these cards ('Having a good time; wish you were here; Love from all') still exist and it is not too difficult to put together a good collection of the Parish markings. But a fine collection is another matter, including as it must the many rare markings of which only a handful may exist. David Gurney has such a collection and in this book he shares it with us, the readers — experienced collector and neophyte alike.

Price £11.00 this book is available from CISS Publishing, 63 Ravensbourne Gardens, Clayhall, ILFORD, Essex, IG5 0XH.

1985 Stanley Gibbons Stamp Collectors Diary

Published in conjunction with Collins the Diary specialists, the diary is available from 7 September 1984, price £2.75. It contains 64 pages of philatelic information and colour illustrations and is the perfect gift for all stamp enthusiasts. Included in 16 sections is a survey of the special issues depicting the present crowned heads of Europe; a review of the George V Silver Jubilee Stamps of 1935 and a look at 'Stamps on Postcards'. Popular features continued

from the 1984 edition are information on First Day Covers and philatelic accessories; a glossary of philatelic terms; how to get the best from the Post Office philatelic service; and tables to record wants and purchases over the year. This is all in addition to the 'week to a page' diary and other traditional contents such as London Underground and Inter-city railway maps.

The diary is bound in leathergrain with an attractive 'stamps on stamps' design dust-jacket. It can be ordered direct from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, Unit 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hampshire, BH24 3SH, or from leading stationers.

Stanley Gibbons Simplified Stamps of the World Catalogue, Volume 1, Countries A to J

Over 4,800 stamps and 1,300 illustrations have been added to the latest edition of the Stanley Gibbons Simplified Stamps of the World catalogue, Vol 1 countries A to J, which will be published on 7 September, price £12.95.

This catalogue lists every single basic stamp ever issued. Its simplified format and many illustrations makes it easy to use and ideal for the general, beginner or thematic collector. All stamps are priced, so giving an indication of current values — thousands of which have changed since last year's edition.

The second companion volume of this catalogue, which deals with countries K-Z will be published on 26 October.

Forthcoming Events

Welsh Federation Event at Llanrwst

The Welsh Philatelic Society will again be participating in the Annual Event of the Federation of North Wales Philatelic Societies, to be held at the Eagles Hotel, Llanrwst on Saturday 6 October 1984, from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

The highlight of the event will be a talk and display on "Thematic Collecting" by Mrs Margaret Morris, Secretary of the Thematic Section recently formed by the British Philatelic Federation. The programme will include a mini-auction, static displays, and a number of dealers stands.

Catering will include a snack-type lunch, but usual bar snacks will be available. For more particulars, please contact the Secretary of the Federation: Dr Joan Harper, 28 Allanson Road, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, CLWYD, LL28 4HL. (Phone: 0492 44570.)

Camberley & District Stamp Club

A Stamp Fair will be held on 29 September 1984 by Camberley and District Stamp Club and the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies. The venue is the Civic Hall, Camberley, and the Fair will be open from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Admission is 20p for adults and 10p for children. A Post Office philatelic counter will be in attendance as well as over 30 dealers' stands. There will also be displays for two major competitions as part of the Surrey Convention in the inter-Society competition for the Mason Cup, and the Three Counties Competition will include entries from Societies in Berkshire and Hampshire as well as Surrey. Refreshments and ample parking are both available.

Hereford and Mid Wales Philatelic Society

The H&MW PS will act as host society at the Three Counties Federation of Philatelic Societies 15th Autumn Rally. It will be held at the St Martin's Centre, Ross Road, Hereford, on Saturday 13 October 1984. There will be displays, competitions, and dealers' stands. Light refreshments will be available and ample car parking is nearby.

Wolverhampton Philatelic Society

The annual stamp fair and exhibition of the WPS will take place in the Methodist Church Hall, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton, on Saturday 6 October 1984.

G M Stamp Fairs

Fairs will be held by G M Stamps at the following locations:

ST ALBANS: to be held on 15 September and 27 October at the Jubilee Centre, Catherine Street, ST ALBANS.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: to be held on 16 September and 4 November at the Rhodes Centre, South Road, BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

CHELMSFORD: to be held on 22 September and 3 November at The Pavilion, County Cricket Ground, CHELMSFORD.

LETCHEWORTH: to be held on 23 September at the Plinston Hall, Broadway, LETCHEWORTH.

DUNSTABLE: to be held on 29 September at the Queensway Hall, Queensway, DUNSTABLE.

HERTFORD: to be held on 30 September at the Castle Hall, Fore Street, HERTFORD.

Admission is 20p at all venues (children free) and further details can be obtained from G A Sinclair, G M Stamps, c/o National Westminster Bank, WARE, Herts.

Poole & District Philatelic Society

The Poole and District Philatelic Society is holding its annual Stamp Fair on Saturday 8 September 1984. This will be at the Lagland Street Boys Club, 2 Lagland Street, Poole from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm. There will be a Crown Agents display, and admission is 10p for adults and 5p for children.

Forces Covers

Royal Mail

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Inauguration of the First Regular British Airmail, to coincide with the issue of the Royal Mail stamps on 31 July 1984. The cover is No. RFDC 39 in the Forces RFDC Series, and will bear the full set of Royal Mail stamps, cancelled with BFPS 1845 handstamp and flown in Concorde. The price of the cover is £3.20 including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: The Director of Appeals, Royal Air Force Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON, NW9 5LL.

Commemorative Covers

The British Council

To coincide with the issue of a set of four special stamps on 25 September 1984 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the British Council, a special philatelic cover has been produced for the organisation. This will contain a pamphlet summarising the Council's activities worldwide in promoting "an enduring understanding and appreciation of Britain through cultural, educational, and technical co-operation". Only a limited number of covers are being produced, and they will all be cancelled with a special handstamp.

The cost of the covers is £2.50 for those bearing a single 17p British Council stamp, and £4.00 for those bearing the complete set. A few covers will also be available at £5.50 each, bearing the full set of stamps, signed by Sir Charles Troughton, Chairman of The British Council. All prices include inland postage and packing, and a donation to the British Council Benevolent Fund. Overseas postage is extra. (Minimum £1 airmail.) Orders, with the appropriate remittance made payable to Greenberg and Porter, should be sent to: The British Council FDC, Greenberg and Porter, 13 Fordyke Road, Becontree Heath, DAGENHAM, Essex, RM8 1PJ.

Women's Institute Life and Leisure Exhibition

This exhibition, opened by Her Majesty the Queen, was held at Olympia from 26 June—1 July 1984, and was the first ever mounted by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. To commemorate this event a special philatelic cover has been produced by J & M Arlington Ltd. The covers are available bearing a 16p Greenwich Meridian stamp cancelled with a special pictorial postmark on 26 June 1984, the first day of issue of the stamp as well as the opening day of the exhibition. The cost of the cover is £1.50 plus 30p postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to the National Federation of Women's Institutes, 39 Eccleston Street, LONDON, SW1W 9NT.

Reed Business Publishing Developments

A special philatelic cover is being produced for Reed Business Publishing Developments (RBPDP), a Division of Business Press International, the world's largest specialist and technical publisher, to coincide with the issue of the British Council stamps on 25 September 1984. Established in 1976, RBPDP has acquired the specialist knowledge and expertise required for successful publishing for the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Only a limited number (500) of covers is being produced, and these will all bear the full set of British Council stamps cancelled with a special handstamp. The price of the cover is £3.60 including postage and packing. Orders, with the appropriate remittance made payable to Business Press International, should be sent to: R.B.P.D., Limited Edition FDC, Times House, Throwley Way, SUTTON, Surrey, SM1 4AF.

RISCA Mineworkers' Championship Flower Show Society

The RISCA Mineworkers' Championship Flower Show Society in the county of Gwent, celebrates its 21st anniversary in September 1984. The Society has been honoured by the international boards of both Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Societies world-wide. To commemorate this event a special philatelic cover will be issued on 29 September 1984. This will bear the 16p Gardens Stamp issued on 24 August 1983 cancelled with a special handstamp. The cost of the cover is £1.75. A second cover, measuring 10" x 10" and bearing the same stamp and cancellation, containing a souvenir catalogue on the history of the valleys will also be issued on the same day. This will cost £3.25.

Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: E K Griffiths, 52 Danygraig Road, Risca, NEWPORT, Gwent, NP1 6DB.

Derbyshire Constabulary

To commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Derbyshire branch of the International Police Association, a world-wide fellowship of police officers, a special philatelic cover will be available bearing a 16p 'Europa' (Bridge) stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting the International Police Association Crest. The covers, price £1.50 each, will be available from 2 September 1984. In addition 500 covers will be signed by the Chief Constable of Derbyshire, and the Chairman of the Derbyshire Branch of the IPA. These will cost £2 each.

For those who require the cover sent in an outer envelope should send a stamped and addressed envelope, measuring at least 8" x 5½", with order. Remittances should be made payable to: 'Derbyshire Constabulary Gala Commemorative Cover' and sent to: PRO, Police Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley, DERBY, DE5 3RS.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

The Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by:
British Post Office
Postal Headquarters
Philatelic Marketing Section
Room 102-104
33 Grosvenor Place
LONDON
SW1X 1PX

to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscriptions (*Inland, Europe and overseas*)

Surface mail £3.50

Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:

British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters price 30p.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £4.00.

Printed in Great Britain by
Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd
for the Post Office