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1992 British Olympic Team

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Royal Mail Cover of Quality Awards

First class design in first day and commemorative covers was rewarded by Royal Mail's first annual "Cover of Quality Awards" for cover producers at a special presentation at the National Postal Museum on 14 May.

Established by Royal Mail to encourage and recognise high standards in cover design, the judges made their decision against three key criteria: excellent cover design, originality of approach and commercial success. A winner was announced in each of the three categories – charity/community; commemorative; general. The judges also made three commendations. The winners each received an engraved crystal goblet presented by Colin Pawson, Royal Mail's Head of Philatelic Marketing. Royal Mail also awarded an additional prize of £1,000 to the winning charity concerned, the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals.

The winner in the "Charity/community" category was A. G. Bradbury for a PDSA cover using the Dog stamps. Commended was Benham's cover to mark the 50th anniversary of the first aircraft jet engine (raising funds for service charities), using the Scientific Achievements stamps.

In the "Commemorative" section the winner was the Western Front Association's cover to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme using the Victoria Cross stamp from the Gallantry stamps issue. Commended was Benham's cover commemorating the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII, using the Roses stamps.

The winner of the "General" category was Benham's cover for the Centenary of Crufts Dog Show using the Dogs stamps. J & M Arlington Ltd was commended for the promotion cover for Stansted Airport.

The judging panel comprised Colin Pawson, Head of Philatelic Marketing, Royal Mail; Angela Reeves, Design and Editorial Manager, Royal Mail, Derek Yardley, Chief Executive, Philatelic Traders Society; and Christian Petersen, member of the Stamp Advisory Committee. Colin Pawson commented: "Judging was difficult because a good proportion of the entries demonstrated creative and well executed design which not only reflected well the subject in hand, but also integrated the stamps themselves to make an effective and harmonious whole. This in itself epitomises the partnership which exists between Royal Mail and cover producers and which we hope the Cover of Quality Awards will help to build on even further".

Royal Mail will be repeating the Cover of Quality Awards in 1993 and will be announcing details later.

Castle High Values

The plate numbers seen and reported for the new Castle High Values, issued on 24 March 1992, are as follows:

- £1 – 1A, 1C (dot), 1D, 1I (Probably 1I, but looks like 1I), 2B
- £1.50 – 2A, 2C, 2D
- £2 – 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D
- £5 – 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D

I am obliged to Bernard Denbow of the Philatelic Counter at the London Chief Post Office for his help in compiling this list. Ed.

Single European Market

13 October 1992



A single 24p stamp (inland first class and EC basic rate) will go on sale at post offices, at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters on 13 October to commemorate the setting up of the Single European Market from the beginning of 1993. Stamps are being issued by the other eleven countries which make up the European Community: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain. Apart from the Netherlands, the designs are based on a common theme of the 12 stars making up the European Community emblem.

Each country invited one of its leading artists to submit a design based on their interpretation of that country's star. For the United Kingdom, the artist chosen was David Hockney.



The British stamp will be in five colours; cylinders and colours are – 1A (gold) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (magenta) 1D (ultramarine) 1E (black).

The idea of a Europe working together came about after the Second World War and in the late 1940s and 1950s various organisations were established to foster closer economic, social and cultural links. The Organisation for European



Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was set up in April 1948, followed by the Council of Europe in May 1949. One of the principal achievements of the Council is the European Convention on Human Rights (1960) under which were established the European Commission and the European Court of Human Rights.

The European Coal and Steel Community was established by treaty in 1951 and came into effect from July 1952. Discussions were held at Messina, Sicily, in 1955 between the foreign ministers of the six member countries of the ECSC (Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and West Germany) to advance towards economic integration in Europe. This led to the signing of the famous Treaty of Rome on 25 March 1957 and the establishment of the European Economic Community from 1 January 1958. Britain, Denmark, the Irish Republic and Norway sought membership in 1961 but it was not until 1 January 1973 that Britain, Ireland and Denmark became members. Greece became the tenth member of the Community on 1 January 1981, with Portugal and Spain following on 1 January 1986.

From 1 January 1993 the free movement of goods across national frontiers will come into effect – a single European market of some 340 million people. The start of the process towards the single market came when the European Commission published a White Paper in 1985 containing some 282 proposals which offered a comprehensive approach to the implementation

of a single market. A deadline of 31 December 1992 for the completion of the single market was set. The Single European Act, which entered into force on 1 July 1987, agreed changes to the legislative framework of the European Community to allow this process to happen. A feature of this Act, the first major amendment to the Treaty of Rome, was that matters relating to the single market should no longer be subject to unanimous decision. In the past, progress had only been as fast as the most reluctant member state decided.

The aim of the programme is to remove barriers to the free movement within the European Community of goods, persons, services and capital, thereby enabling it to act as a single commercial and consumer entity.

In simple terms, it means that goods should be allowed to cross Community frontiers without bureaucratic fuss or restriction; that individuals should be able to work or study anywhere within the Community; that consumers should be able to enjoy full access to the widest range of products of each member state; and that even non-tangible services, such as television broadcasts, should be freely available across national boundaries.

The Single European Market is hardly likely to mean that being more European after 1992 will make the British less British, the French less French, or the Italians less Italian. This is well illustrated in the stamps issued by member states to celebrate the Single European Market. These carry a common theme – the star representing each country on the European Community flag – but each has a style and treatment which epitomise the remarkable diversity of European national character.

European Stamps

The six members of the Coal & Steel Community issued “Europa” stamps in a common design in 1956 – depicting a “Europa Tower” surrounded by scaffolding. Each country issued two stamps; those from Luxembourg are now quite scarce. In 1959 the *Conférence Européenne des Postes et Télécommunications* (CEPT) was established and the following year’s Europa stamps featured CEPT’s 19-spoked wheel (representing the member countries) which formed the letter “O” of the word “EUROPA”. The initials CEPT or the Conference title in full also appeared on the stamps.

Since 1974 Europa stamps have been produced in a common theme but with each country producing its own designs; the themes have been

– Sculpture (1974), Paintings (1975), Traditional Crafts (1976), Scenery (1977), Buildings (1978), Communications (1979), Famous People (1980), Folklore (1981), History (1982), Works of Human Genius (1983), 25th anniversary of CEPT (1984), European Music Year (1985), Nature Conservation (1986), Architecture (1987), Transport & Communications (1988), Games & Toys (1989), Buildings (1990), Europe in Space (1991) and Columbus (1992).

Britain’s first Europa stamps were issued in September 1960; they were also our first two-coloured commemorative (special) stamps. A second Europa set was issued the following year but there was then a long gap until 1980. In the meantime stamps with a European theme were issued to mark the 10th anniversary of CEPT (one in set of five “Anniversaries”, 1969), British entry to the EEC (1973), European Architectural Heritage Year (1975), and the first elections to the European Parliament (1979).

As part of the closer links with Europe, the same rate of postage now applies to inland first class letters (up to 60g) and letters to EC countries (up to 20g) – the current charge is 24p. This concessionary rate was introduced from 20 October 1986. The current rate for letters to European countries not in the EC is 28p. Non Value Indicator (NVI) stamps are valid for full or part postage on mail to EC and some other European countries – the list of countries was published here in February 1992 (page 144), and is given in the latest printings of NVI stamp books and Greetings stamp books.

The Single European Market Stamp Design Concept

The single market stamps from the EC countries will be issued on the following dates:

Belgium – 26 October
Denmark – 8 October
France – end October
Ireland – 15 October
Italy – October/November
Germany – October/November
Greece – not yet announced
Luxembourg – 5 October
Netherlands – 6 October
Portugal – 4 November
Spain – November
U.K. – 13 October

Designer

The British stamp has been designed by David Hockney who was born in Bradford, West



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Yorkshire in 1937 and educated at the Bradford College of Art, the Royal College of Art in London, and in the USA, where he has taught and now lives. He is well-known as a "pop" artist, experimenting with various styles. Many of his works include graffiti-like figures and include heavy colours. California has inspired his "swimming pool" paintings; poetry has also inspired many of his works. Since the 1970s he has become an established portrait painter and has also worked as an etcher and in film-making. In 1978 he designed the stage settings for Mozart's *Magic Flute* at Glyndebourne, and in 1980 costumes and sets for the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. His awards include the Shakespeare Prize of the Hamburg Foundation, 1983, and the first prize of the International Center of Photography, New York, 1985. His publications include books of drawings and photography and illustrated versions of the *Fairy Tales* of the Brothers Grimm.

Printing Details

The stamp was printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor coated paper, in sheets of 100. It measures 41 x 30mm, is perforated 15 x 14 and has PVA Dextrin gum.

Presentation Pack

The pack, – No. 231, was designed by Minale, Tattersfield and printed by Raithby, Lawrence & Co Ltd of Leicester. Price 55p, it will be available from 13 October from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters.

Royal Mail Stamp Card

A card, featuring an enlargement of the stamp design, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p. It is numbered 147.

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 13 October, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service – one for the Bureau, the other for Westminster, centre of British government.

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 13 October.

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 London South Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail London SW, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW85BB (Westminster 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 14 October, price 21p.

Anyone for Tennis?

Each year the Post Office holds a tennis tournament with teams from various PO businesses. At the recent tournament, in Bournemouth, Royal Mail National was represented by Miss Rosena Robson (front row, left), Acting Manager of the Special Stamps section.



New Miniature Letter Box

PO Archives have produced another model, No.3 in their "Post Office Historical Miniatures" series. The latest subject is the ornate 1857 "Science & Art" box, faithfully modelled from the original in the PO official collection. Like the previous models in the series (the Penfold and the 1863 London Letter-Carrier figurine), this one is at 1/19 scale and comes in a box with a historical note. It is hand-painted in a green which matches contemporary plates found in the Archives, with gold ornamentation. The flap for the aperture (impractically set in the roof) is picked out at actual scale. Most exquisitely, the model features the compass roof tile of the first London boxes.

The price of the model is £19.95, inclusive of postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to "The Post Office" and orders sent to: Post Office Archives, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant Complex (Phoenix Place entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB.

One of these boxes, re-gilded and restored to its original splendour, now stands in the foyer of the new Archives and Records Centre.



Posting Boxes

133. The Vermillion Giant

The Post Office No 4 Kiosk, commonly referred to as K4 was designed by the GPO Engineering Department in the 1920s. It was intended to be a complete post office, incorporating a letter box, telephone kiosk and stamp machines and was for use in areas where a sub post office was



uneconomic or where a 24 hour service was needed. Customers complained about damp stamps and callers were annoyed by the noise of the stamp machines. Motorists complained that the giant size of the Kiosk obstructed vision and pedestrians disliked the amount of pavement space the Kiosk occupied. Such difficulties earned the K4 the sobriquet "the Vermillion Giant". It was costly to produce and less than 50 were put into service. Few now remain in use. One, on the East Somerset Railway, has now been restored and features in our photograph this month. A commemorative cover was produced and special handstamp used on 5 July 1992 to mark the official opening after restoration. Details of the cover are given in this month's "Commemorative Covers" feature.

We are obliged to Michael Arlington of cover producers J & M Arlington Ltd for submitting the photograph. This box, before restoration, was illustrated here in September 1986, also a similar box at Station Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.

Correction: We are obliged to Cyril Macey for pointing out that the second box illustrated here in May is in fact a George V box, not George VI as stated. Some boxes of George V's reign bore the cipher "GR" instead of "GVR".

Decimal Stamp Books – 2

D. G. A. MYALL

Olympics Window Books

In my first article (May) I promised some further notes about these books. With the appearance of the *Questa* 10 x 2nd on 31 March, we now have Olympics books from all three printers, although only Walsall have printed all four values. Apart from the logotypes, these books are notable for two things: an extended validity notice on the inside back cover and blue barcodes.

Validity of non-value stamps

The general public, and even some Post Office staff, are sometimes unsure about the exact extent to which non-value stamps may be used on inland post. After the flame-coloured stamps appeared, some inland mail bearing the black 1st-class NVI was surcharged or even refused. At the other extreme, I have seen envelopes bearing just a 1p stamp that have passed through the post as first-class mail without surcharge, "1p" having apparently been mistaken for "1st."

To avoid this sort of thing, a beautifully printed colour leaflet has been available free from post offices since February. The leaflet, RM0692/L, is titled "Stamps which just say 1ST or 2ND..." and illustrates the 1st-class NVIs in black and flame (which it calls orange) alongside a 24p stamp over the caption: "ALL these are worth 24p" and the light and dark blue 2nd-class NVIs alongside an 18p stamp, stating: "ALL these are worth 18p".

For overseas post, Royal Mail has successfully negotiated acceptance of our non-value stamps by other European Community countries, as foreshadowed by David Dale in the June 1991 *Bulletin*. The full list of countries which now accept these stamps, which have no value and no stated country of origin, was announced in a News Release on 21 January and printed in the inside back covers of the Olympics books issued the same day. The 1st-class stamps prepay the postage on letters up to 20g to Community countries. The 2nd-class stamps, however, can be used only for part postage on overseas letters and cards. The extended validity notice in the books of 2nd-class stamps is illustrated in figure 1.

Since these stamps are valid indefinitely, they

These stamps are valid for second class inland items up to 60g within the UK. They can also be used as part payment on heavier items, both within the UK and to the destinations shown below.

Although one 2nd class stamp is not sufficient postage for sending letters and cards abroad, which includes the Republic of Ireland, they can be used as part payment for mail sent to the European Community (EC).

European destinations for which these stamps can be used are:

Andorra, Belgium, Denmark, France (including Corsica), Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Ireland (Rep. of), Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal (also Azores and Madeira), San Marino, Spain (including Balearic and Canary Islands), Vatican City State.

They should not be used for any other international destinations.

Pull Open

Fig. 1. Extended validity notice for 2nd-class non value stamps.

will, presumably, become valid for use in other countries which join the Community at a future date. I believe that NVI stamps have already been used on mail to non-EC countries and some have been delivered without being surcharged (although they should have been). Until non-value stamps become widely known and accepted, keep a lookout for examples of unusual or invalid use. They would make an interesting sideline collection.

Barcodes

Ever since the first window books were issued in 1987, they have carried a barcode, printed in black, to assist retailer stock control, etc. On all the Olympics book covers this is printed in blue, although the actual numbers, etc. are unchanged (see fig. 2). Barcodes work equally well in a number of colours, (although red does not give



Fig. 2. Barcodes from books of 10 x 1st-class NVIs, third issue. Left – black (normal issue); right – blue (Olympic issue).

a clear signal) and the change was requested by Royal Mail to save a printing colour. The colours used to print previous window book covers were: the stamp colour, Royal Mail red, Royal Mail yellow, cyan blue and black. For the Olympic covers, black was replaced with reflex blue. It remains to be seen whether the code will revert to black when the Olympics promotion is completed.

Worldwide Airmails Window Books

On 16 September 1991, two new books printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd went on sale. They contained panes of four 33p or four 39p stamps, prepaying the rates for worldwide postcards and airmail letters respectively. Each also contained a pane of four airmail labels, a first for decimal stamp books. However, this was by no means the first time that airmail labels have appeared in a British stamp book. That occurred in the 3-shilling issue of May 1930 which included a stitched interleaf with two labels. Subsequently, other books carried them,



Fig. 3. Airmail labels from 2s. Silver Jubilee book, 1935.

including some of the Edward VIII issues. The pane of three labels from the Silver Jubilee books of 1935 is illustrated in figure 3.

The airmail labels were printed by sheet fed lithography on a Roland Favorit press using a 102gsm paper gummed PVA supplied by Coated Papers Ltd. The sheet layout was the same as for the stamp panes, viz: 72 panes with binding margins at the left, printed in nine rows of eight columns. In the Finishing Department at Walsall, the stamp sheets were perforated on a Bickel machine to Royal Mail's specification and the label sheets were rouletted. Both were affixed to the covers in a similar manner, using the same format and equipment, which was specially designed for stamp book production. Briefly, the covers are cut into gangs of six, comprising two columns of three and the stamps are cut into gangs of three panes in a single column. The

stamp panes are pasted into the covers two columns at a time, the tab cuts are made in the covers and the mass is then folded and guillotined into six separate books. In normal books of four, all the stamps appear to the right of the central fold of the cover while the larger panes of ten are placed much further to the left. For the two airmail books, the labels were affixed first, in the normal position of panes of stamps for other books of four, and the stamps were affixed last, in the normal position of panes for books of 10.

These booklet labels are quite different from those available in sheet form from post offices. Currently, the latter are self-adhesive, although the former rouletted type is still available in some post offices. When mounting and writing up a collection, the inclusion of related material adds to its interest. The pre-Elizabethan books with airmail labels are quite expensive but you can get some airmail labels free from your local post office and display a block on the same page as these worldwide books, in order to show how the booklet labels differ from those normally available. Since the labels in the Walsall books cannot be obtained from any other source, stamp booklets once again provide a unique source for an item.

New plate Combinations

The following have been issued since my May article was written; the dates are the earliest recorded, there being no official first day:

Table 2

Questa 10 x 1st	Q6 Q6	20.3.92
Questa 10 x 2nd	Q6 Q6/Q1	14.5.92

Table 4

Walsall 4 x 1st	W6 W15 W10 W3	24.3.92
Walsall 4 x 1st	W6 W16 W10 W3	23.4.92
Walsall 4 x 1st	W6 W16 W11 W3	17.4.92
Walsall 4 x 2nd	W6 W7	6.5.92
Walsall 10 x 2nd	W14 W9	9.4.92
Walsall 10 x 1st	W10 W9 W11	25.4.92

Table 5

50p Archaeology No. 2	B35 B4	20.5.92
50p Archaeology No. 3	B35 B2	28.4.92
£1 Punch No. 2	B21 B1	28.4.92
£1 Punch No. 2	B20 B3	20.5.92
£1 Punch No. 3	B21 B1	28.4.92
£1 Punch No. 3	B20 B3	29.4.92
£1 Punch No. 3	B20 B1	20.5.92

The numbers refer to tables published in Mr Myall's article in May. Ed.

Writing up a collection

From time to time I will include some hints about what to include in a modern booklet collection and how to arrange the items on an album page. There are many facets to the subject and the depth of one's study will determine the manner of mounting and writing up.

If you are able to visit the National Postal Museum you can get some ideas from the Newbery Collection, but you should give advance notice of your visit in order to ensure its availability. This collection treats the covers as of equal importance to the contents and embraces all aspects of production and issue. It is really a series of collections, and deals separately with: the basic issue (see below), different plate printings, perforation and other varieties, rates notices, publicity (press photographs, official leaflets, promotional offers and grill cards), as well as the single stamps.

It will be apparent to readers of my articles that I am an advocate of using inexpensive, or free, material to embellish a collection of stamp books. Among the most useful are the outer labels used by all three printers when packaging books, usually in lots of 1,000, for despatch to Royal Mail. These contain all the information necessary to enable any issue to be readily identified in store and to meet requisitions from sales points. An example from the Questa 10 x 2nd Olympic books is illustrated in figure 4.

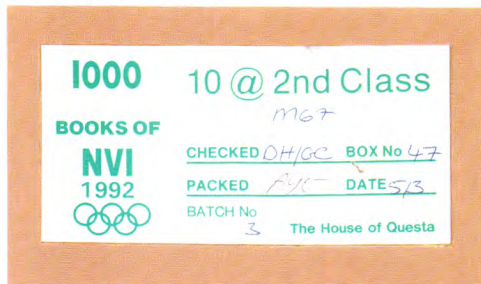


Fig. 4. Label from carton of 1000 Questa Olympic books of 10 x 2nd-class stamps.

Such labels make a splendid introduction to each issue, accompanied by two opened books, one showing the outer cover, the other showing the inside, usually a cylinder or a plate book. Just such a page from the Newbery collection is shown in the photograph in the November 1991 *Bulletin*, p.63. These basic pages need contain, therefore, only the minimum of writing up; just the date of issue, the name of the printer and the type of cover. Another example: the two 24p stamps in the Europa '92 set depicting the games

logotypes make a nice supplement to a display of the Olympic window book covers. This use of associated material in a booklet collection provides opportunities for using your imagination and of personalising your collection.

Those who wish to go deeper into the subject of modern stamp book collecting should join the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle. The membership secretary is A. J. Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3SD. The Circle publishes a *Journal* six times a year and I have recently rewritten their *Bookmark Catalogue*. This covers decimal stamp books in depth from February 1971 to September 1991 and it is intended to issue annual supplements. Membership is also an excellent source of contacts for overseas readers who do not have ready access to the free material from post offices, etc. mentioned in this article.

In the next article I will look at the Greetings (Memories) book and Wales prestige book – both of considerable interest to collectors.

Ever Popular Machins

The Harmers Auction of 18–20 May included a specialised offering of Machin issues, part of the collection of well-known Machin specialist Andrew Watton. Many members of the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle attended the auction. The Machin section realised £66,398.

Top price of £3,850 was paid for the "SPECIMEN" panes of 2½/3p stamps from the 1972 Wedgwood booklet, against estimate of £1,500. These are the only such panes outside the National Postal Museum. A pair of 50p Rolls Royce mis-cut booklets, also estimated at £1,500, realised £2,640.

A 1969 £1 "Cook Book" with stamps handstamped "SPECIMEN," made £1,100, a plate block of 10 of the 20p Waddington, 4A 3B realised £1,320 (est £500), and a 1972 Wedgwood book first day cover with error back pane showing ½p in centre of pane (apparently unique) made £1,650.

The grand total for the three day auction was £608,350, inclusive of premium. Limited numbers of the liberally illustrated auction catalogue with eight colour plates are available price £5 inland, £10 overseas (to defray postage costs) from: Harmers of London Stamps Auctioneers Ltd, 91 New Bond Street, LONDON W1A 4EH.

Bulletin Editor's New Location and Anniversary

At the beginning of June the *Bulletin* office, and Editor Mr J R Holman, moved from the National Postal Museum in London's Chief Post Office to the headquarters of Royal Mail National in Turnmill Street, the other side of Smithfield Market. This is believed to be the *Bulletin's* sixth "home" since it was first published from the Philatelic Bureau in London in 1963.



John Holman, *Bulletin* Editor

At Turnmill Street Mr Holman will be working alongside the staff planning and arranging the design, production and distribution of Royal Mail stamps and in policy making in respect of Royal Mail's involvement with stamp collecting and philately. This should make for a better *Bulletin* which now comes under the Product Group (headed by Mrs Jane Ormrod) within the Stamps & Personal Mail section of Royal Mail National, under Mr Kevin Doherty, recently appointed Marketing Director for Stamps & Personal Mail. Royal Mail National, headed by Director & General Manager Mr David Lane, was introduced to *Bulletin* readers in February (page 129).

This August issue is the first *Bulletin* to be edited at Turnmill Street and the first for some years to be typeset by professional outside typesetters. Whilst at the Museum, Mr Holman typeset the *Bulletin* on an in-house typesetting machine – no mean task for someone who describes himself as a "cack-handed, one-finger typist". He will now have more time to devote to the planning of future issues, and hopefully, researching and writing more articles himself.

In addition to settling into a new office, Mr Holman is celebrating 35 years as a stamp collector this month having started in August 1957 when he saw a 2½d Scout Jamboree stamp on a letter addressed to his father. Soon after he was the proud owner of an album and a packet of stamps from Woolworth and his stamp career had started in earnest. From a general collector he went on to specialise in GB issues, particularly the Wildings which he still much admires. Less keen on the Machin design, he stopped his GB collection with decimalisation and has since formed collections of postal stationery, government mail, Scottish island postmarks, and British private posts. He has written extensively in the philatelic press – about 1000 articles and a similar number of book reviews. Before joining Royal Mail in 1988, Mr Holman worked for Stanley Gibbons, first as assistant to Catalogue Editor James Negus, and then as Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. Amongst the many enjoyable tasks he undertook at Gibbons were editing the *S. G. Postcard Catalogue* and writing new editions of the *Stanley Gibbons Guide to Stamp Collecting*. He still contributes to *GSM*.

Over 35 years he has derived "enormous pleasure" from stamp collecting and met a large number of "kind, extraordinary and sometimes eccentric people". Stamps have helped him in his historical studies (he has written on social and demographic history), and in many other ways. Although he says he might not recommend stamps as a career, he regards stamp collecting as a "wonderful hobby" and would recommend it to anyone. "I can't imagine not being a stamp collector", he says, "I'm looking forward to another 35 years of collecting".

Gilbert and Sullivan First Day Cover

We wish to correct an error on the filler card in the Gilbert and Sullivan first day cover; the 18p stamp has one phosphor band, the other four stamps are on phosphor coated paper. The card stated that all five stamps were printed on phosphor coated paper.

Machin Head on Stamps

A correction to Don Staddon's article in the June *Bulletin* (page 225) – the Walsall £1 book of 1989 contained 2 x 14p and 4 x 19p stamps, not 4 x 14p and 4 x 19p as stated. We are obliged to Keith North of Essex for bringing this to our attention, enabling us to set the record straight.

Great Britain and the 1992 Olympics

BOB WILCOCK

The stamp issued on 7 April to mark the Royal Mail sponsorship of the British Olympic team, the booklets issued in January, and the two Scottish aerogrammes with the British Olympic logo represent the first British Olympic philatelic programme since 1948 when the Olympic Games were held in London.

In 1948 there were a set of four stamps and an aerogramme. Much later, came Britain's first

confirmed its intentions in November 1984, Amsterdam, Belgrade and Brisbane followed, and from Great Britain the City of Birmingham.

A provisional Olympic logo was adopted, an adaptation of Birmingham's general logo, and this appeared on the council postage meter from late 1985. The illustration shows an example dated 17 October 1986, the day of the vote by the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne to choose the 1992 host city.

Although the council meter did not change, a full logo was adopted in 1986 with the slogan "Bring the Games to Britain". This was used on the meter of the press agents. The copy illustrated, dated 16 October 1986, is the only



GB 1948 Olympic stamps

Olympic booklet; on 6 May 1982 a £1.43 booklet was issued honouring the work of Edmund Dulac (1882-1953), and his 1s. design for the 1948 Olympics featured on the back cover.

Britain's connections with the 1992 Olympics date back to 1985. Following the success, both sporting and financial, of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, many cities put themselves forward as candidates to host future Games. As far as 1992 was concerned, Barcelona announced it would be bidding as long ago as 1981, Paris



Birmingham's Olympic bid and Minet sponsorship meter marks



1948 1s. Olympic stamp on 1982 stamp book cover



reported copy to date; most postage meters end up in the waste paper basket, but they do have their place in postal history and thematics.

Businesses use meters to advertise themselves, and those who, like Royal Mail, have become Olympic sponsors, advertise that fact on their postage meters. In this country there are meters from Mars, Brother and IBM, among others. These are world-wide sponsors, and Olympic meters are being used in their branches around the world. Very British are Minet, the London insurance brokers, who, in conjunction with *The Times* newspaper, give awards to help the training of Britain's Olympic competitors.



Panasonic Olympic Trials slogan

National Panasonic (Japanese in origin) sponsored Britain's main Olympic athletics trials held in Birmingham on 27 and 28 June. Throughout June an advertising slogan postmark was used in one first class machine in Birmingham.



100th Annual Olympic Games handstamp, 1986

As part of the build-up to the original Birmingham '92 Olympic bid, on 19 July 1986 a special Torch Run took place from the centre of Birmingham to Much Wenlock, to the 100th Olympic Games. Founded by Dr William Penny Brookes, and first held in 1850, these Games were a fore-runner of the modern Olympic

Games, and were visited by Pierre de Coubertin in 1890, just two years before he announced his intention to revive the ancient Olympic Games. The 100th Olympian Games were marked philatelically by a handstamp, and the Society of Olympic Collectors produced a souvenir cover and postcard.

There was just one Olympic postmark for the first day of this year's Olympic stamp, from Manchester, unsuccessful candidate to host the 1996 Olympics (to be held in Atlanta), and now



Olympic stamp with Manchester handstamp, 7 April 1992

candidate for the year 2000. The illustration shows the postmark on a maximum card of Cobi, the Barcelona mascot, inviting the world to the Games. Good luck to the British team, and good luck to Manchester for the future!

Previous articles on British Olympic philately can be found in the *Bulletin* of July, October and November 1988 and February, March and April 1989. The Society of Olympic Collectors can be contacted through the Secretary: Mrs E P Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, LANCASTER LA1 2TU.

Sovereign Exhibition

An exhibition on the 40 years of The Queen's reign opened at the Victoria & Albert Museum on 3 April and will continue to 13 September. The exhibition is open from 10.00-17.30 Monday-Saturday, 12.00-17.30 Sunday. Admission £6 adults, £4.90 for children under 17, students, registered disabled, holders of UB40, and senior citizens. Last ticket sales 16.30. Tickets can be booked in advance by phoning 071-497 9977. Further details from: Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, LONDON SW7 2RL.

Royal Mail Philatelic Products

First in a New Series

BARRY BURKE

Products Manager, Royal Mail

In this series of articles about Royal Mail philatelic products, my aim will be not so much to talk about the history and development of products, such as Stampcards or Presentation Packs (after all, most readers probably know as much, if not more, about this subject than me), but rather to describe the existing range, outline developments within the range and give advance information about new products. I will try to be as informative as I can and to resist the temptation to turn the column into an advertising feature (although this may be difficult!).

At this point, I think a brief definition of 'philatelic products' is required to establish the parameters of the column. This will help keep me focused on my subject when writing the column and will enable you to decide whether or not you want to proceed any further down the column than the title in future. Basically, we in Royal Mail describe as a philatelic product anything which is stamp-related but is neither a postage stamp or stamp book. This is, of course, a bit of a nonsense as stamps and stamp books have just as much right to be called products as Stampcards or *Michaela's Stamp Video* but we have to call them something, so products it is.

Thinking about it, products can be broken down into two sub-categories: those which



Barry Burke, Products Manager.

contain or can have stamps affixed to them (Presentation Packs, First Day Covers, Collectors' Packs, Yearbooks, Souvenir Books, etc.) which tend to be collected in their own right and those which are designed to be ancillary to the hobby, typically, Albums.

One development you will start to notice with products of whatever type over the coming



Royal Mail First Day Cover Album

months will be the introduction of bar-codes. This is to take advantage of the introduction of bar-code scanning facilities currently being installed at Collections and Postshops. When fully operational, the information scanned from bar-codes will lead to better sales information and stock control resulting in improved availability of products for customers.

Readers will have noted from the article on Philatelic Counters, Collections and Postshops – retail-style shops within selected main post offices – in the June Bulletin that Postshops in particular now carry a wider range of philatelic products than they ever have in the past. At the same time, the number of Postshops around the country has increased dramatically, the network almost doubling in size over the last year. Postshops are fast catching up with Philatelic Counters as the main retail outlet for products such as Presentation Packs and Albums.

In addition to this, Post Office Counters Limited are currently developing several different electronic point of sale systems (known within the trade as EPOS systems) tailored for use within ordinary main or sub post offices. Again, bar-code scanners may well form an important part of these systems in the long term, making the introduction of bar-codes on products even more important.

Our aim will be to make bar-codes as unobtrusive as possible. Peelable stickers will be used where possible and where not for example on Collectors' Packs and First Day Covers – we will avoid spoiling the look of the products themselves by printing codes on insert sheets or, in the case of First Day Covers, on the reverse of filler cards.

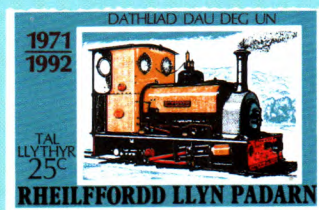
Of course, bar-codes already appear on the reverse of stamp books and I am told will soon even be printed in the *Bulletin*. I would be interested to hear from you if you have an opinion about the appearance of bar-codes on philatelic products. Are they an annoying disfiguration of attractive items, spoiling the look of a collection? Would readers, for example be put off buying Stampcards if they had bar-codes printed on the reverse? (We have no plans to do this, by the way.) Alternatively, could they form a fascinating collecting area in their own right? Or, are they simply so common these days as to be almost unnoticeable?

I look forward to reading your comments.

Readers can write to Mr Burke at: Royal Mail National, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS. Ed.

Railway Letter Stamps

To celebrate 21 years of operation of the line, the Llanberis Lake Railway, near Caernarfon, in North Wales issued four new railway letter stamps on 16 June 1992. The stamps, in English and in Welsh, and in two different designs, depict the locomotive "Dolbadarn" in its present rebuilt form, and as it was when it worked in the nearby Dinorwic Slate Quarries. Originally built in 1922, the loco was supplied new to the harbour at Port Dinorwic for shunting on the quays and was known simply as "No 2". Later transferred to the Quarries and given the name "Dolbadarn", she worked there until 1967, being one of the last steam locomotives in service in a British slate quarry. After purchase by the LLR in 1969, "Dolbadarn" was restored in time for the opening of the first section of the Railway in 1971. The stamps have been designed by Michael Seymour and printed in offset-litho by Faulwood and Herbert Ltd of Brighton in sheets of 10.



Horizontal pair split to illustrate full size.

The layout of the sheet is in alternate Welsh/English and English/Welsh pairs, each design appears with the wording in both languages, so a block of four is desirable to illustrate all variations. 10,000 stamps have been printed. Price 50p pair, £1 block of four, £2.50 sheet; £2.50 FDC (both stamps), postage 30p orders/enquiries: H. C. Creamer, Swn-y-Wylan, Cae Eithin, Minffordd, PENRHYNDEUDRAETH, Gwynedd, LL48 6EL. Remittances payable to "H. C. Creamer".

Themes of British Special Stamps

8. Ships and Boats: Part 2

G E DRABBLE

The first part of this article (July *Bulletin*) surveyed seven complete sets of marine subjects. Here, I complete the theme by considering 19 stamps included in other issues. I remind readers that I arbitrarily excluded three stamps as having too tenuous a link with ships and boats.

The Belfast shipyards was the subject of a 4d stamp, one of a set of four marking the 20th International Geographical Congress of 1964. The set, designed by Dennis Bailey, was attractive, if somewhat *avant-garde*. The layout consisted of a picture occupying the left two-thirds, with a "Wilding" Queen's Head in an oval, and value in the right panel. The picture shows a ship, cranes, rigging and a part-finished hull, all in crisp poster-style drawing.

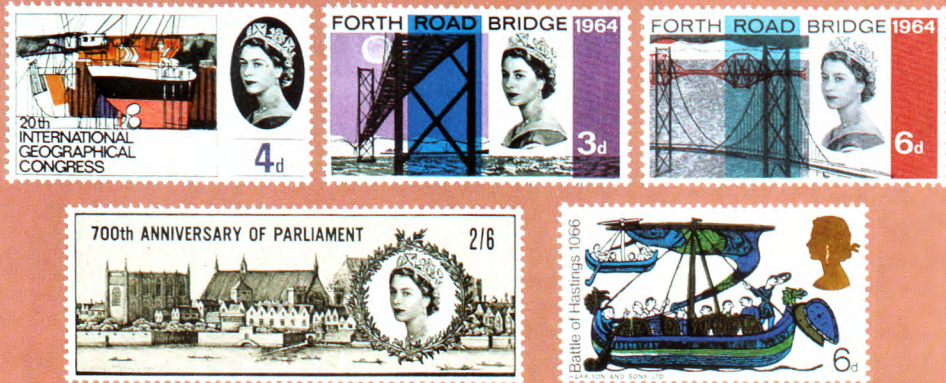
A pair of stamps designed by Andrew Restall appeared in September 1964 to mark the new Forth Bridge opening. The 3d consists of a moonlit scene, with an oil tanker passing under the bridge. The unusual view of the bridge, from one end, behind one of the two towers, and occupying just over half the space, is imaginative and clever, but the use of the three colours seems somewhat wayward; a vertical dark blue panel across half the picture seems to have no purpose, and obscures rather than enhances.

The 2s 6d stamp of a pair commemorating the 700th anniversary of de Montfort's

Parliament, issued in July 1965, shows no less than seven boats. The stamp was three times the width of the definitive low-value, and showed the Hollar panorama of the Thames from Parliament House to the Abbey, executed in 1647. The designer was Professor R Guyatt, FSIA, ARCA, later to design the Silver Jubilee issue of 1977. The uniform pale drab monochrome was criticised, but seems appropriate to a reproduction of an old engraving. Other criticisms of poor quality are difficult to justify.

British Technology, issued in September 1966, devoted the 1s 3d stamp to the SR N6 Saunders Roe hovercraft; the designer was Andrew Restall. This featured in the article in this series devoted to technology (May 1992). It is interesting to add here that the designers chose their own subjects, resulting in a somewhat arbitrary selection: the Severn Bridge, for example, was among the rejected designs.

Eight stamps designed by David Gentleman, marking the 900th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, appeared in October 1966. The subject of the 6d stamp is a troop-carrying boat, drawn in the style of the Bayeux Tapestry. A mere eight soldiers completely fills the vessel! A smaller boat, which appears to be hanging from a spar, holds another four men. The issue was undoubtedly popular with collectors. This was



the first time nine colours were used in the printing of the set, and also the first time gold was used for The Queen's head.

A freighter at the dockyard was the subject of the 9d stamp of a pair constituting the EFTA issue of February 1967. The *motif* was "movement of trade". Clive Abbott produced an attractive pair, in poster style, with blue background, with a string of the flags of the eight member-nations in miniature along the base, and the initials EFTA in very large lettering in white.



Epic Voyages

Sir Francis Chichester's famous yacht, *Gipsy Moth IV*, was the subject of a single stamp issued in July 1967 to commemorate his voyage from England to Australia and back. It was the work of Michael and Sylvia Goaman and purported to show the vessel in heavy weather off Cape Horn, although the stamp displays no hard evidence of the locality. It is very much an "action-shot", with the tiny figure of the lone sailor handling the sails as the yacht heels to starboard. The title in black in the lower left corner does not show up well against a background of dark sea.

A simple and effective 1s 9d stamp formed part



of "British Anniversaries", a set of four which appeared in May 1968. Clive Abbott was again the designer, and his submission marked the explorer James Cook's first voyage of discovery in the *Endeavour* in 1768. The portrayal of the ship, viewed from the side, in light brown on a white ground, with The Queen's head in the same colour is given added interest by a bold facsimile signature of James Cook across the top. A simple and clear title and bold value completes the design.

We look again to "Anniversaries", at a set of



five appearing in April 1970, this time designed as a set. This was the second design by Fritz Wegner. The 1s 6d marked the sailing of the *Mayflower* to the New World. All five stamps have bold coloured backgrounds, and portray a neat simple title and a relevant date. A group of six people (and a doll) gaze out, presumably to the departing ship, which is shown in formal poster-style in the background. The date 1620 above The Queen's head in gold establishes the 350th anniversary of the event. Eight colours are used to very good effect.

Vital Public Services

Fritz Wegner also produced one of three Anniversaries, appearing in April 1972, marking the 150th anniversary of HM Coastguard. A blue-jacketed white-trousered yellow-hatted "tar" holding a telescope in one hand dominates the foreground, against a backdrop of a very heavy sea, a stormy moonlit sky, a light-house and a sailing ship in very dire straits.

June 1974 saw the centenary of the Universal Postal Union, and Rosalind Dease produced an original set of four stamps, two of which featured in the article in this series on Aircraft (September 1990). The 3½p showed a silhouette view in light grey of the P&O steamer *Peninsular*. The view is completely unsupported, on a plain white ground, but any tendency to dullness is mitigated by the facsimile of a contemporary circular handstamp in purple: "Southampton Packet

Letter: JY 31 96". This was a very attractive stamp and set.

The 15p of a set of four in September 1979 by Brian Sanders commemorating the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Metropolitan Police Force shows a police launch on the Thames in almost photographic accuracy, and occupying the full width of the frame. There is no caption, but the four stamps clearly are designed to show four aspects of the work of the police.



A brief mention for the purists: on Commonwealth Day in March 1983, four stamps, designed by D Hamilton Frazer, showed examples of geographical features. The 15½p stamp featuring "Tropical Island" (location unspecified) includes a very distant view of the mainsail of a yacht. Also briefly, a colourful and bold set on Sport, designer Nick Cudworth, appeared in July 1986 (see article in January 1991), and the 22p illustrated rowing, with a close-up of part of the hull of a skiff, and part of the rower.

Hebridian Fishing

A cheerful and engaging set for Christmas, 1986 illustrated Christmas customs, and devoted one of five stamps to a boat theme. The 22p portrayed the Hebrides Tribute. The story appears in the *Bulletin* for October 1986. The illustration of three fishers, actually catching fish, is in medieval style, and the designer, Lynda Gray, made good use of six colours, including gold for The

Queen's head, (and for the fishing nets!). Snow falls thickly against a *pink* sky, but this seems in harmony with the style, which also dictates that the boat shall be small and the men large; one feels that there would not be room for many fish!

Mike Dempsey's "Victorian Britain", appearing in September 1987, is a favourite of mine, although this personal predilection was not reflected in the stamp poll of the year, which placed it fourth. It was printed in combined photogravure and intaglio. Four portraits of Queen Victoria are shown against a background of vignettes representing aspects of the reign. The 22p devoted much of the space to Brunel's *Great Eastern*; two small boats also are seen skipping around in front in a choppy sea. Vignettes of the cover of Mrs Isabella Beeton's *Household Management* and of Albert the Prince Consort also have place in the scheme. The design is a clever exercise in the use of space, shapes, colours and techniques which seems to epitomise the best in stamp design.



The remaining three stamps are summarised briefly, as the issues have already been reviewed in earlier articles. Mike Dempsey's Transport and Communications (see the article on Aircraft – September 1990) issued in May 1988 devoted the 26p of a set of four to a close-up of the liner *Queen Elizabeth*. The Australian bi-centenary issue (Sport – January 1991) designed by Garry Emery includes a somewhat vague 19th century clipper ship in grey. And finally, Malcolm



Swatridge's set of four celebrating Edward Lear (Literature – November 1990) shows the well-known "pea-green boat" with the Owl and the Pussy-cat as crew.

As other writers have pointed out, a thematic collection should be more than merely assembling a motley collection just because each stamp contains an element of the theme. An orderly system of presentation is necessary if a collection is to achieve its best potential.

Technology Revisited

With reference to the article on Technology, No. 7 in this series (May *Bulletin*), readers may be interested in some comments from a correspondent, Mr W H McCarter. Details of the Marconi/Kemp experiments appeared in the *Bulletin* of September 1972, page 10. In addition to the official first day cover, a special FDC was issued by Barry College of Further Education Radio Society bearing the 9p stamp only, postmarked Flatholm Island – Cardiff. Also, in July/August 1898, a second experiment took place, between Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, and Rathlin Island. This was marked by commemorative cards issued by Ballycastle UDC, dated 6 July 1973 and bearing the 9p stamp with two appropriate postmarks.

We are grateful to Mr McCarter for these details.

Earlier articles in this series by Mr Drabble were published in September 1990 (Aircraft), November 1990 (Literature), January 1991 (Sport), April 1991 (Architecture), October 1991 (Flowers), March 1992 (Paintings), May 1992 (Technology), and July 1992 (Ships & Boats, Part 1). Further articles are in preparation. Ed.

Philatelic Paraphernalia

The October 1991/January 1992 issue (Vol 2 No 27) of *Philatelic Paraphernalia*, journal of the Philatelic History Society, is now available. This contains a number of useful articles for those interested in the history of the hobby, including James Negus's detailed account of the PHS and its publications, and features on early philatelists the Rev. C S Morton (d. 1947) and Dr John Edward Gray, famous as a pioneer compiler of stamp catalogues. This issue of *PP* costs £3.75. An index to the 25 issues of Vol 1 (1984-91), compiled by James Negus, is also now available, price £3. Orders for these publications, and requests for details of the PHS, should be sent to: V T Short, Hunters Lodge, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell, OAKHAM, Leics LE15 7LJ.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

200. Postal Fiscals – Inland Revenue

Shown below is an imperforate imprimatur of the well-known "Allsopp label and stamp". Samuel Allsopp & Sons, a large family brewing company of Burton-on-Trent, was given permission by the Inland Revenue to use these labels for recording duties and receipts. The Stanley Gibbons *GB Specialised Stamp Catalogue* tells us they were supplied in blocks of eight containing two such strips which were perforated vertically down the middle and horizontally through the right-hand block of four. Various gauges were used at different times. The left-hand pair of the strip was overprinted in black with lines for entering the date, amount received in words and figures, the discount and the name and address of the customer, and this was retained.



The corresponding right half was overprinted as a form of receipt and issued to the customer. The 1d Inland Revenue stamp at right was valid for postage from 1 June 1881.

The imprimatur stamp (Phillips Collection, Vol. XLIII, page 20) is included in the "Victorian Revenues and other Fiscals" display currently on show in the open display panels in the main gallery of the NPM. The items shown, all from the Phillips Collection, have been newly researched and written-up based on the most authoritative published and unpublished sources.

The NPM in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1, is open Monday-Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Lionel Jones, Philatelic Officer

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.

Spitfire Attack. A collection of commemorative envelopes is currently available personally autographed by Vice Presidents of the Royal Air Forces Association. The cover based on a full colour reproduction of a painting by Peter Castle, aviation artist, features a Spitfire of No 603 Squadron during the Battle of Britain in 1940. Very few of these collections are available. For full details telephone the Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 1PA, on 0223-63980 or 0223-321853 (answer-phone).

Escape from Hong Kong. A small collection of covers is available from the Cambridge Stamp Centre commemorating the 50th anniversary of the fall of Hong Kong. The covers, in full colour feature Kai Tak Airfield at Hong Kong under attack and have been autographed by those involved in the Far East Campaign. Details from Cambridge Stamp Centre, address above.

150 Years of Reynoldston Postmarks. Although there was a Post Office in Reynoldston in the Gower peninsula of South Wales as early as 1799, the first "postmark" was issued to Reynoldston on 25 July 1842. To mark the 150th anniversary a postal history exhibition was held in the village from 21 to 25 July 1992. This included items lent by local residents, and photographs loaned by Royal Mail. A commemorative postcard illustrating Reynoldston postmarks from 1842 to the First World War and a commemorative "cacheted cover" were produced. Postcards cost 20p mint or 60p serviced, with 1st class stamp and cachet (please state Olympic or Welsh stamp required). Serviced covers, with Olympic or Welsh stamp and commemorative cachets, enclosing a brief one-page history of Reynoldston Post Office are available for £1. Postage and Packing 30p per order. Cheques/Postal Orders payable to "J Henderson". Orders/enquiries: J Henderson, Forge Acre, Knelston, Reynoldston, SWANSEA, SA3 1AR.

Post Office K4. The Post Office No 4 kiosk, commonly referred to as K4, was designed by the GPO Engineering Department in the 1920s. It was intended to be a complete post office, incorporating a letter box and stamp machines, to be placed in areas where it was uneconomic

to support a sub post office or where a 24 hour service was required. Less than fifty K4s were put into service and now only a handful remain in public service. One, on the East Somerset Railway, has been fully restored to its original condition and the fittings are truly representative of the services provided by the GPO in the mid-1930s. The East Somerset Railway has commissioned David Shepherd, OBE, FRSA to design a commemorative cover incorporating an original painting. Price £3.50, overseas £4, signed by David Shepherd £10 (200 only). Orders/enquiries: Mrs C Hurley, 2 Reaburn Close, Charlton Kings, CHELTENHAM, Glos, GL52 6NL.



Tall Ships. A limited edition commemorative cover is to be issued to mark the return of the Tall Ships to Merseyside, the Grand Regatta Columbus 12-16 August 1992. The cover, will be in colour, and bear a 1992 Christopher Columbus 24p stamp cancelled at Liverpool with a special one-day handstamp on 12 August 1992. Covers can be ordered in advance (posted under separate cover after 12 August), from: Tall Ships Cover, Wirral Museum, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, WIRRAL, L41 5HN. Remittances payable to "Friends of the Williamson Art Gallery". Price £2.50 including postage within UK, £2.75 overseas.

Liverpool Pals. The Merseyside Branch of the Western Front Association continues its appeal to raise funds to restore and conserve the colours of the four battalions of the Liverpool Pals, and to erect permanent memorials to them, at Ypres and on the Somme. The Pals were originally raised in Liverpool by Lord Derby, and wore his crest as their cap badge. The battalions were heavily involved in the fighting during the 3rd Battle of Ypres and suffered grievous casualties. A special commemorative cover has been produced. It bears the 22p Roses stamp (Red for Lancashire), cancelled at Liverpool with a special handstamp postmark on 31 July 1992, to mark the 75th anniversary of the start of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, often referred to as "The Battle of Passchendaele". Each individually

numbered cover (limited edition of 500) contains an explanatory insert. Price £3.65 plus 35p postage and packing (25p per cover for two or more). Remittances payable to "The Liverpool Pals Appeal Fund". Orders/enquiries: D W Sheard, 47 Venables Drive, Bebington, WIRRAL, L63 9LY. The Pals' first commemorative cover for the 75th anniversary of The Battle of The Somme was completely sold out; it won the First Award in the Commemorative Category of Royal Mail's "Cover of Quality Awards", 1991. A third cover, will be produced to mark the 75th anniversary of The Armistice, on 11 November 1993. Details will be available nearer the date.

Savoyards Appreciation Society. The Society, the members of which are aficionados of Gilbert and Sullivan, produced a first day cover for the Gilbert and Sullivan stamp issue. The cover, featuring characters from the operas, bears the five stamps cancelled by a special Halifax handstamp which incorporates the names of Gilbert and Sullivan's main works. The cover cost £4 or £7.50 signed by the Society's Honorary Life Member and most famous living ex D'Oyly Cartian—John Reed, OBE. Discounts are available on orders of 25 or more signed covers. Remittances payable to "The Savoyards Appreciation Society". Orders/enquiries: Jack Kent, 18 Pannal Green, Pannal, HARROGATE, N Yorkshire, HG3 1LH, Tel 0423-879664.

Britannia Locomotive Society. On 27 July 1991 the Society issued its fourth cover to mark the return of "Britannia" to Main Line running in the locomotive's 40th anniversary year. A train entitled "The Britannia Phoenix" ran from Crewe to Hereford and return; the early stages of the run retracing the steps of the original test run. The cover features a colour photograph of "Britannia" awaiting departure from Crewe with "The Britannia Phoenix". Cover No 4A has the full set of 1985 Famous Trains stamps plus the British Railways Rocket 150 railway letter stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp of the side view of the locomotive and nameplate with the legend "Return to Main Line Working 27/7/91 Crewe Cheshire", price £15. Cover No 4B is as 4A but less the Rocket 150 stamp, price £10. Cover 4C bears the 22p Rose stamp (nearest new issue to the date of the train) plus the Rocket 150 stamp, price £5. All covers, available in limited numbers, bear a "Carried by Steam Train Hauled By 7000 'Britannia'" cachet. Orders/enquiries: P Swinger, Ambleside, Finborough Road, STOWMARKET, Suffolk, IP14 1PY, Tel: 0449-613884.



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: August Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail National, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 30 September.

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 November *Bulletin*.

1. Who designed the British Single European Market stamp?
2. How many countries are issuing Single European Market stamps?
3. Which artist was honoured by a £1.43 stamp book in May 1982?
4. The K4 kiosk was popularly known as what?
5. What was the trade of Samuel Allsopp & Sons?

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 May competition were: G Jones of Chester (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); H L Kings of Northants; F Sauzet of Macon, France; F L Clark of London; N C Aykroyd of Saudi Arabia; and F J Neate of Avon (Civil War presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Jeremy Sancha; 2. BBC; 3. Exeter; 4. People in the Post; 5. 19 November 1991.

Our thanks to all who entered.

August Digest

No new items are being issued in August

Withdrawn in August

5 August: 1st and 2nd class NVI Retail ("Window") Books, issued 6 August 1991: 4 x 1st and 2nd class printed by Walsall, 10 x 1st and 2nd Walsall, 10 x 1st and 2nd class Questa, 10 x 1st Harrison.

Note: These books do not bear the Olympic logos or details of countries to which NVI stamps are valid; they were superseded by the Olympic books of 21 January and 31 March 1992 which contain information on the validity of NVI stamps.

19 August: Dinosaur stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

Six Month Digest

Space precludes a full Digest this month, we list stamps due for issue to the end of 1992.

Forthcoming

1 Sep	Green Issue stamp cards
15 Sep	Green Issue stamps and pack
15 Sep	NPM Artefacts postcards
15 Sep	NPM Machin postcard
22 Sep	50p book – Sheriff's Millennium
22 Sep	£1 book – Sheriff's Millennium
22 Sep	4 x 1st class book/W
22 Sep	4 x 2nd class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/H
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/H
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/Q
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/Q
29 Sep	Single European Market stamp card
6 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
13 Oct	Single European Market stamp and pack
27 Oct	Tolkien Prestige Stamp Book
27 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
10 Nov	Christmas stamps and pack
10 Nov	Christmas stamp book
10 Nov	1992 Collectors' Pack
10 Nov	1992 Yearbook
10 Nov	NPM Christmas postcards

Notes:

The NVI stamp books scheduled for 22 September are as the books issued on 21 January 1992 but without the Olympic/Paralympic logos on the front cover.

W = Printed by Walsall Security Printers;

H = Harrison & Sons; Q = House of Questa.

New Bulletin Subscriptions

To cover higher costs of production, new subscriptions to this *Bulletin* and to the *British Postmark Bulletin* will come into effect from 1 September 1992.

The new rates will be:

	UK/Europe	Rest of World
Philatelic Bulletin	£8.00	£11.50
Postmark Bulletin	£10.00	£21.75

The price of single copies, available from Collections, philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum, is increased to 70p.

We are taking the opportunity of making our subscriptions more flexible in the future. Details of joint subscriptions to both Bulletins, also two year subscriptions will be announced later in the year.

Kellogg's Stamp Book

The promotion, involving the new 78p stamp book (issued 28 July) will be on packets of Bran Flakes starting at the end of August and running until December. Watch your local supermarket!

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Notes:

- (c) = Correction
- (I) = Letter to the Editor
- Author's name in parentheses