

British Philatelic Bulletin

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A NONSENSE SONG, PEN SKETCH, ALPHABET CHARACTER AND RHYME BY

Edward Lear

Stamp World
London
90

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Castle Stamps on TV

Bulletin readers may be interested to know that the Duke of York will be featured taking photographs of the castles on the ITV programme "Nocon on Photography" to be broadcast on 18 October.

High Values Pack

The presentation pack for the new High Values will be numbered 18, not 16 as stated in the September *Bulletin*.

Editorial

JOHN HOLMAN

This month's issue of the *Bulletin* will be read by a larger number of collectors than usual as a complimentary copy is being enclosed with each issue of *Stamps* magazine. I hope that readers of *Stamps* who have not previously seen the *Bulletin* will find in it much to interest them. The main purpose of the *Bulletin* is to inform collectors of forthcoming issues of British stamps and this month we feature the 1988 Christmas issue, due on 15 November. As well as details of the stamps, information is given about the Christmas Pack, aerogramme and other products. The Olympic Games in Seoul will generate great interest and I am pleased to include an article on the philatelic aspects of the 1908 Games in London. A similar article on the 1948 Olympics will be published next month.

Much has been written in the philatelic press, including *Stamps* about the decline in interest in stamps amongst young people. Often this has been blamed on videos and computer games. I was thus pleased to read an article in *The Daily Telegraph* not too long ago which reported that many young people are becoming bored with such games and turning again to reading books. This is a good sign and hopefully some parents and teachers encouraging the interest in reading will also foster an interest in stamp collecting.

Swiftair Packs

Swiftair packs were introduced in March 1987 (see *Bulletin* May 1987, page 195) but have not been generally available. From 10 October they will be on sale at main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, price £1.90 (small size), £1.95 (medium) and £2 (large).

NPM News

The National Postal Museum galleries will be closed 3–7 October for essential maintenance work. The sales counter will remain open. A display of the forthcoming Castle High Values is on show in the main gallery until the end of October.

Christmas, 1988

15 November 1988

The five stamps to be issued on 15 November will be Britain's 23rd issue of Christmas stamps and are entitled "Compliments of the Season". The theme is the sending of Christmas cards which began some 145 years ago. Henry Cole is credited with sending the first cards. The story of their origin is told by the late Arthur Blair in his delightful book *Christmas Cards for the Collector* (1986). Cole was a very busy man and in December 1843 found that he had insufficient time to write his usual letters of Christmas greetings to his friends and business associates.



"It was then", writes Mr Blair, "that one of his greatest inspirations took shape; an idea that was to become the biggest secular event in the Christmas calendar and in time create a huge industry that has brought wealth to many business concerns and employment to countless people: the creation of the world's first commercially produced Christmas card."



Cole contacted the artist John Callcott Horsley (1817-1903) who produced an attractive design showing three generations of a family, the adults drinking (in red wine) a toast to absent friends with the children eating plum pudding. The card was lithographed by Jobbins of Holborn and sold at one shilling at Felix Summer-



ly's Home Treasury Office in Bond Street.

Henry Cole (1808-82) is well-known to postal historians as an enthusiastic postal reformer, entrant in the Treasury Competition, Secretary of the Mercantile Committee and close friend of Mulready. For a while he was employed by the Post Office as assistant to Rowland Hill.

The five stamps show Christmas cards set on a mantelpiece, the cards featuring scenes from the Nativity. This ingeniously solves the problem of having a religious (Nativity) and a secular



(Christmas card) theme in the one design. The values and designs are: **14p** (second class inland) The journey to Bethlehem; **19p** (first class inland) The Shepherds; **27p** (aerogrammes & airmail postcards) The Magi; **32p** (Zone B airmail) The Stable and **35p** (Zone C airmail) The Annunciation.

Technical Details

The stamps have been designed by Lynn Trickett of Trickett & Webb Limited, illustrated by Andrew Davidson and with photography by Lucinda Lambton. Printing was by Harrison & Sons Ltd using the photogravure process in sheets of 100 on phosphor-coated paper (19p-

35p) and on standard fluorescent paper with a single phosphor band (14p). Perforation 15 x 14, gum PVA Dextrin.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 194) will cost £1.50; it was designed by Trickett & Webb Limited with text by Neil Mattingley and photography by Robert Dowling. It features Christmas cards from the collection of Courtier Fine Art Limited and includes a potted history of the Christmas card. The pack was produced by Clement & Foster Limited.

PHQ Cards

PHQ cards (Nos. 114A-E) featuring each of the five stamps will be available from 1 November, price 16p each.



First Day Cover

The first day cover envelope, featuring Christmas cards on a mantelpiece, will be available about two weeks before the stamps go on sale, price 17p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and one at Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed. The Bureau handstamp features a Christmas card being posted in a snow-covered pillar box; that of Bethlehem shows a card being delivered at a house letter box, the front door being decorated for the festive season. The Bethlehem cancel is inscribed "First Day of Issue" in English and in Welsh.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the five stamps cancelled with either postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 15 November.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an

outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to:

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
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Bethlehem	Special Postmark Duty Letter District Office 15 Wind Street SWANSEA SA1 1AA
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1988 Collectors Pack

The 1988 edition of the Collectors Pack will be issued on 15 November, coinciding with the issue of the Christmas stamps, price £9.50. The pack contains all 1988 special stamps, but not the Edward Lear miniature sheet, mounted on a quality display board. In addition to the stamps, there is a colourful and informative brochure, giving details of the stamp subjects. The pack will be available from the Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices.

Royal Mail Yearbook

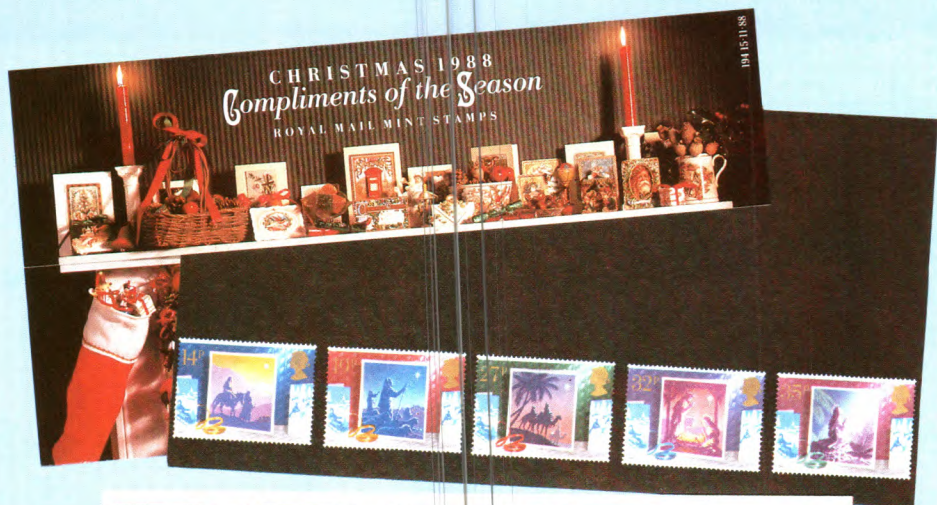
Volume 5 of the Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook will go on sale on 15 November. The handsomely produced book contains background information about the development and production of all the special issues of 1988.

The book is hardbound with a matching slipcase and includes sets of all 1988 special stamps including the Edward Lear miniature sheet. It will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and most main post offices. The Yearbook will cost £16.95.

National Postal Museum News

Details were given in the July *Bulletin* of the Spring 1988 issue of *Cross Post*, the journal of the Association of Friends of the NPM. The price quoted was £1.25. We should point out that this is the price to members of the Association, the journal is available to non-members for £2. Orders to: National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Details of the Friends can be obtained from the same address.

Also in July we published details of cards on sale at the Museum's sales counter; intending purchasers should please note that the Mobile PO card (SEPR 50) is now sold out.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Designed by Sarah Godwin
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

HARK!
the herald
Angels sing
GLORY to
the new-born King,

PEACE on
earth, and
mercy mild,
GOD and sinners
reconciled.

By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme



SECOND FOLD HERE

Sender's name and address
(please show postcode)

An aerogramme should not contain any enclosure.
If it does, it may be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.

This Christmas Charles Wesley's Hymn for Christmas Day
is two hundred and fifty years old. Charles wrote some

Christmas Aerogramme

Christmas aerogrammes have been issued annually since 1965, this year's aerogramme features Charles Wesley's *Hymn for Christmas Day*:

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem...

This hymn was written 250 years ago. Charles Wesley (1707-88) wrote some 6,000 hymns and is known as "the most gifted and indefatigable hymn-writer that Britain has ever known".

The aerogramme reproduces the text of the hymn quoted above with drawings of doves. The 27p stamp also features doves, set against a globe. The illustrations are the work of Sarah Godwin, who designed the Isaac Newton stamps (24 March 1987).

The aerogramme, which has been printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited, goes on sale on 15 November, price 32p. It will be withdrawn from general sale on 24 December but will remain on philatelic sale for one year.

Postal Rates

In the August *Bulletin* details were given of the new definitives (23 August). The reason for the new 28p stamp was not given – this is for the second stage first class rate, letters weighing between 60 and 100 gm. The 20p stamp is a "make-up" stamp, similar to the 5p and 10p values.

The 27p stamp is for aerogrammes and airmail postcards, not the Zone A airmail rate as stated in the feature on the Edward Lear stamps. The Zone A rate from 5 September has been 30p.

Cylinder News

The 28p definitive (23 August) was printed from cylinder 4; the 1p QL roll (26 July) from cylinder R38.

The 1908 London Olympics and the Franco-British Exhibition

BOB WILCOCK

Olympic philately was born with the revival of the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. The Greek government issued a superb set of stamps with classical designs relating to the ancient Olympic Games, to publicise and help finance the Games.

A similar set was issued in 1906 to mark the "unofficial" Olympics held outside the normal four year cycle, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the modern Games. It was at the Session of the International Olympic Committee held during those Games that Rome withdrew as hosts of the 1908 Games and London was invited instead.

The task of organising the Games fell to the British Olympic Council, (under the British Olympic Association), and the council was fortunate that a major international exhibition, the Franco-British Exhibition, was also planned for 1908, incorporating a stadium for national and international events. The British Post Office at that time would never have contemplated issuing commemorative stamps, and so it is to the postal history of the Franco-British Exhibition, and to postcards, that the Olympic philatelist must principally look to form a collection relating to the 1908 Olympics.

The Franco-British Exhibition

The Exhibition was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales (later King George V and Queen Mary) in the pouring rain at 3.30pm on 14 May 1908. The event proved enormously popular; 123,000 visitors attended on the opening day, and attendances were regularly in excess of 100,000.

Even before the gates were open to the public a special post office, officially known as "Shepherd's Bush, Exhibition B.O., W.", had been opened on 11 May. It was issued with a counter handstamp for registered mail, etc. A second handstamp was despatched on 20 May (the date on the proof in the impressions book in PO Archives being the opening day, 14 May). The first die reads SHEPHERDS-BUSH with a dash, and "*" beneath RD. The second die reads SHEPHERDS.BUSH with a dot and the "*" is



Die 1



Die 2



Die 1



Die 2

beneath ER.

Ordinary mail received a FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION LONDON handstamp. Two dies were issued, with differences so slight it is very difficult to tell them apart. The proofs in the impressions book are both dated 18 May, and they were despatched on 26 May. Whether they were brought into use on that day is not known, but they were certainly in use on 27 May. Prior to that time postcards and other ordinary mail posted at the exhibition will have received the standard Shepherd's Bush double ring c.d.s.. The exhibition closed on 31 October, but the post office remained open until 14 November.

Ballymacclinton

Within the exhibition an Irish village was created. Known as Ballymacclinton, it opened on 10 July, and amongst the village buildings was a post office. A handstamp BALLYMACCLINTON SHEPHERDS BUSH. EXHIBITION. W was despatched on 5 June, over a month before it opened. A second handstamp was supplied, but the impressions book records "clock time aperture but no clock supplied. No date of despatch is shown, and no example has been identified in use. Ballymacclinton PO closed on 31 October.



(Top) Postcard showing the Ballymacclinton Post Office

(Bottom) The two Ballymacclinton handstamps (only the first was believed used) and the unused Stadium handstamp

A third post office was planned, as part of the stadium, and this would have been of prime interest to Olympic collectors of course. A handstamp was prepared, and is recorded in the impressions book, but the area set aside for the PO was converted into changing rooms, and so it never opened and the handstamp was never used.

The Olympic Games

Olympic collectors therefore must content themselves with examples of the exhibition and Ballymacclinton postmarks, ideally on Olympic dates and on Olympic postcards or those of the stadium. The Games were opened by King Edward VII on 13 July. Events commenced straight after the Opening Ceremony, with athletics on the track, swimming and diving in the "swimming tank" within the stadium, cycling on the banked cycling track, gymnastics on the field, and to conclude the day, a demonstration of cycle polo!

The Games continued until 25 July when the medal ceremonies for all the events were held. Despite the wide variety of events to watch in the multi-purpose stadium, attendances were poor. Prices were high and the weather was bad. Interest gradually picked up over the fortnight however, and the highlight of the Games was undoubtedly the marathon on 24 July.

The race was run over a 26 mile course from Windsor Castle to the White City Stadium, with a further 385 yards round the stadium running track to the finish in front of the royal box (a distance that became the standard marathon distance). Messengers brought regular reports to the 90,000 crowd in the stadium – no radio or TV in 1908! At 24 miles the leader was reported as Hefferon of South Africa, some three minutes ahead of Pietri Dorando of Italy. Rockets were launched as the leaders reached 25 miles, and a few minutes later it was not Hefferon but Dorando who ran through the stadium entrance to an enormous roar from the crowd. Unfortu-



THE GREAT EVENT OF 1908.
THE KING OPENING THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

Postcard showing King Edward VII opening the Games

nately he started to run the wrong way round the track and as officials tried to re-direct him he stumbled and fell. These same officials helped him up and he staggered those agonising last 385 yards. Again he fell and was helped and then found reserves of energy to take him across the line with anxious officials running at his elbow (a moment captured in the dramatic photograph reproduced on a postcard produced earlier this year by the Society of Olympic Collectors).

Meanwhile the American John Hayes had entered the stadium and finished just half a minute after Dorando. The American team's protest at the assistance given to Dorando was upheld and the Gold medal was awarded to Hayes. Sympathy was all with Dorando however, and honour was satisfied when Queen Alexandra presented him next day with the Queen's Cup.

Events did not just take place in the stadium.

Postcard produced by the Society of Olympic Collectors to commemorate Dorando's marathon run



Dear Sir,

The **Figure Skating** events of the **Olympic Games** will take place at Princes Skating Rink on October 28th and 29th. Reserved Seats for the two days of the competitions, £1 1s. 0d. Season Tickets to admit from October 9th during practice of competitors (daily, 9.30 to 4.30 and 8.30 to 11.0) and for two hours afternoon public skating (4.30 to 6.30) including a reserved seat at the competitions, £2 2s. 0d. Day Ticket (to include afternoon skating), 5/- . Evening (non-skating), 3/- . As the leading representative skaters of the world have entered for the competitions the demand for seats is likely to be large, and early application should therefore be made to Mr. H. W. Page, Princes' Skating Club, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.

The Grand Banquet of the National Skating Association (Ladies and Gentlemen) will be held at the Holborn Restaurant on October 29th. Members of the Association can obtain tickets for themselves and guests at 15/- a head (including wine).

Will you please inform me at the address below, not later than October 10th, whether you will attend the banquet and the number of your guests? All applications must be accompanied by remittance.

Yours truly,

F. G. FEDDEN,

108a, Cannon Street,
London, E.C.

Reverse of postal stationery postcard giving details of figure skating events and a grand banquet - 15s including wine!

Fencing events were held on a special fencing ground just adjacent, but the Olympic tennis tournaments were held at Wimbledon and at Queen's Club, shooting at Bisley and Uxendon, yachting off Ryde, Isle of Wight, and on the Clyde, and powerboat racing in Southampton Water. The Henley Regatta for 1908 was the Olympic regatta, and there was also an autumn programme in late October, principally of field sports in the stadium, hockey, lacrosse, rugby and soccer. The Olympic boxing tournament took place at the Northampton Institute.

Figure skating was also held as part of the autumn programme, on 28 & 29 October, at the Princes Skating Club. It was not unusual in those days for postal stationery cards to be privately overprinted, and invitations to the figure skating were issued in just that form. This would be an outstanding philatelic item in any collection; whether there are comparable items for other events is not known. An envelope used by the British Olympic Association in 1908 is known, but nothing from the British Olympic Council. Their headquarters at the Imperial Sports Club within the Franco-British Exhibition is however depicted on postcard. This is not an easy card to find, but there are some 300 or more postcards known of the stadium, the Olympics and the competitors, so in conjunction with the postmarks these can form a most impressive collection.

The collection can be enhanced with vignettes (labels) and other ephemera – tickets, programmes and so on. There is a Franco-British

Exhibition vignette, recess printed in dark blue, printer not known, and a vignette published by A Baguet, 4 R St. Laurent, Paris, with the text “Franco-British Exhibition” at the top and “Exposition Franco-Anglais” at the foot. The design of this second label is included in a vignette with the additional wording across the top BRITISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE. There was in fact no such organisation, and it is not known whether the



Attractive vignette for the Franco British Exhibition vignette was on sale in London for it is to be found se-tenant with labels advertising the “Fore de Paris” in the Grand Palais in February 1908, and the “Concours Général Agricole” in Paris in March 1908. These vignettes exist imperforate and perf 11, and in eight different colours or shades, sky or slate blue, yellow-green, orange, vermilion, carmine, red-brown or dark brown.

The author acknowledges the help of Ken Cook for advice and loan of illustration material. The figure skating card is illustrated by courtesy of Morris Rosen of the USA.

National Postal Museum News

The Museum exhibition entitled "British Philately at the Olympic Games" opens on 17 October and will continue until the end of the year. Half the exhibition has been arranged by members of the Society of Olympic Collectors which arranged a similar, very successful display at Spring Stampex in March. The other half has been provided by the Museum and will consist of artwork for the 1948 Olympics issue and some other sports artwork.

The Museum Sales Counter will be selling the Dorando card referred to in Mr Wilcock's article. Unused cards will cost 25p.



A special one-day Olympic handstamp will be used on 18 October. Covers/cards to receive this postmark should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, ECDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. The Society of Olympic Collectors will have available their Dorando card cancelled with this handstamp, price £1.25 plus 20p postage. Orders should be sent to: R J Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, BRENTWOOD, Essex, CM14 5ES. The Society can also supply this card cancelled with the Stampex Olympic postmark at the same price.

Three new NPM cards will go on sale on 7 November, numbered 88/10-12; these will complete the Monarch's Heads series and will feature (1) George V Downey head (three-quarter profile), (2) George VI, (3) George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now Queen Mother). The cards will cost 20p each. Further information will be given next month.

The Transatlantic will form the subject for the Museum's main exhibition during 1989; this will open in February. Further details will be published here nearer the time.

A new display in the main gallery shows the preparatory artwork for the first pictorial definitive from Qatar in 1961. The British Post Office provided the postal administration there until 1963 and produced these stamps on its behalf. The stamps were delayed because of a change in ruler and so provide a great variety of provisional artwork. None of this material has been on show before.

Forthcoming Events

Solent Stamp Club Fair. The Solent Stamp Club will be holding a Collectors' Fair on 29 October at the Portsmouth Polytechnic Old Library, situated behind the Guildhall. There will be displays of stamps, some 30 stamp and postcard dealers are expected to attend and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Enquiries to: D V Gerrey, 47 Hazleton Way, Cowplain, PORTSMOUTH PO8 9BP, tel. 0705 - 663450 during shop hours.

Liverpool Stamp Fair. The Liverpool Philatelic Society this year celebrates its centenary with various activities including a Stamp Fair & Exhibition at the Britannia Pavilion, Albert Dock on 29-30 October. Hours: 10.00-17.00 on the 29th, 10.00-16.00 on the 30th, admission 25p. Over 20 dealers in stamps and postal history will attend. Enquiries to: Dr P H Dangerfield, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, LIVERPOOL L69 3BX.

Malling Stamp Club. The Club will be hosting the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies' Autumn Rally at the East Malling Village Hall on 22 October, 10.30-17.00. In addition to stamp displays, there will be a raffle; refreshments and car parking available. A limited edition postcard reproducing Malling postmarks will be on sale; this is available price 30p including postage from: M Thompson, 77 St Marks Avenue, Northfleet, GRAVESEND, Kent, DA11 9LN.

Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club. The Club is holding its 21st annual exhibition on 29 October in the United Church Hall, Church Street, Dorchester from 10am to 5pm. At least 40 frames of philatelic material will be on display and judging will take place for the Head Postmaster's Trophy. A wide range of dealers will be in attendance. Refreshments and car parking facilities will be available. Enquiries to Joan Burgess, 16 Mistover Close, Manor Park, DORCHESTER, Dorset, DT1 2EQ.

Design Matters

1. Stamp Design Approval – Who Decides?

BARRY ROBINSON

Design Adviser to The Post Office

In this, the first of a new series of articles, Mr Robinson explains the workings of the Stamp Advisory Committee. Earlier articles by Mr Robinson on stamp subjects and designers were published in the August 1983, October 1983 and May 1984 issues of the Bulletin.

The question of who decides which stamp designs should be approved and which should not has never been an easy one. This is hardly surprising since an assessment of a stamp's design, like that of any other art form, is always subjective. There are many schools of thought on what constitutes good or bad design. Thankfully, there is no infallible authority ruling on the subject – stamps would be a lot less interesting if there were!

Ever widening the responsibility for approval to embrace the broadest range of eminent experts is no guarantee of unanimity – experts can disagree, just like the rest of us. The wider the consultative process is spread, the greater the danger of finding that the lowest common denominator principle invariably wins the day.

From the earliest days of postage stamps, the Post Office has always been willing to consult with and take advice from outside sources. Even Sir Rowland Hill was prepared to seek the help of three Royal Academicians when it came to decide on the design of the very first postage stamp.

In his excellent book, *Royal Mail Stamps*, a previous Design Adviser, Stuart Rose, traces the history of this consultative process over the years. In particular, he describes the different formulae tried with varying degrees of success in the post-war period leading up to the formation of the Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) in 1967.

Stuart believes the setting up of the SAC was perhaps the most important step that had been taken in the long history of stamp production for, as he wrote, ... *it established for the first time the Post Office's own self-sufficiency in the complete control of stamp production. Never before had it been in the position to exercise its own expert judgement in an area of Post Office activity which for the past*

century and a quarter had often been overwhelmed with outside advice...

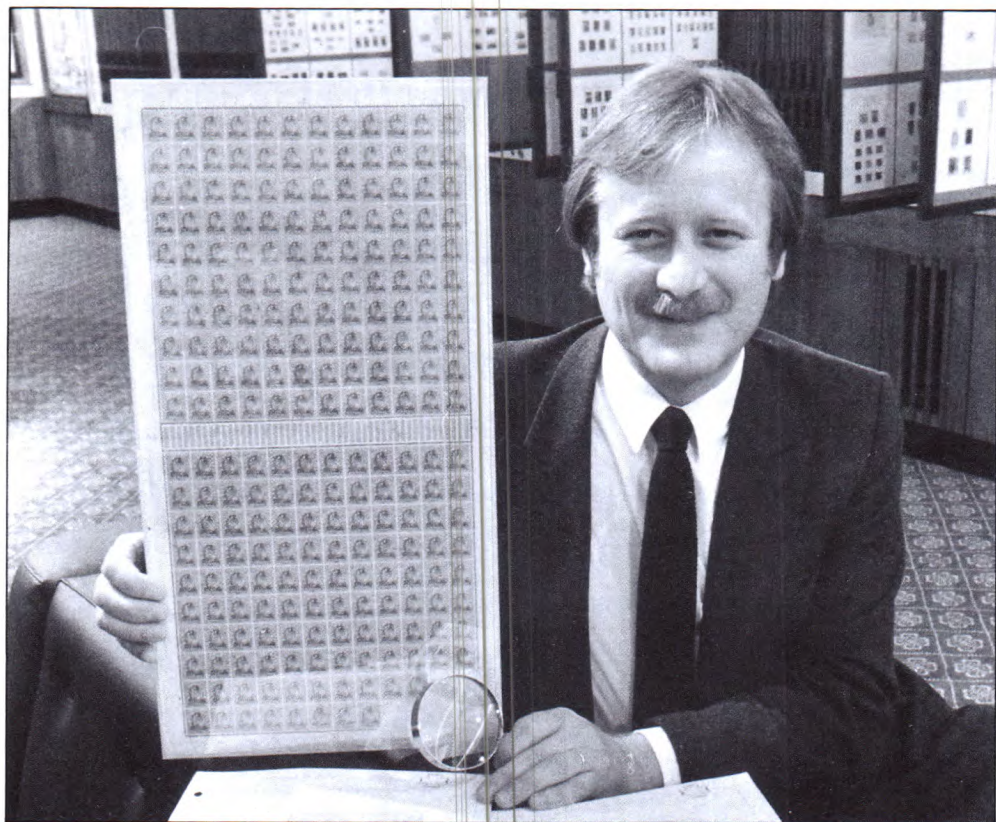
Having worked closely with the SAC for a number of years now, I can echo Stuart's opinion of the important role the Committee plays in the success of British stamp issuing policy. The Committee is far from being a remote, exalted jury which sees its task as the unquestioned arbiter of what the rest of us mere mortals should regard as good design. The atmosphere is relaxed and decisions are arrived at more in spirit of consensus rather than on a strict voting system.

The arts, naturally, are well represented on the Committee but membership is much more broadly based than that, with representation drawn from a number of fields including philately. It is this blend of the professional and informed amateur which gives the SAC its inherent strength.

The Committee members attend each meeting to consider design proposals, final artwork or essays. Where necessary, the designer or illustrator will be invited along to discuss his or her designs with members of the Committee. Because of Harrison's long-standing involvement with PO stamp printing, their director Derrick Howlett is a regular at SAC meetings where his advice has proved invaluable, particularly in providing guidance on what is or is not technically feasible.



The Committee is consulted at every major stage of a stamp's design and production, from



the earliest outline concepts right up to final essays. Major areas of their involvements cover accuracy (for example, checking the correctness of the heraldic content on the Armada stamps), historical fact (the use of the Julian calendar on the Armada issue: this was used in England until 1752 and differed by 10 days from the modern Gregorian calendar) and artistic judgements on the visuals, of the artwork and essays presented to them.

The consultation process goes well beyond the SAC itself since the success of virtually every new special issue depends on the active co-operation of one or more organisations with a special interest in the theme of the stamp. For example if a particular breed of animal is portrayed on a stamp, the relevant breed society will have been consulted from the earliest stages of design research. The designer will often find this to be the richest source of reference material as well as for guidance on subtle, but important points of detail which could otherwise be overlooked.

The danger, of course, with widening the

consultative process in this way is that the organisations concerned may assume that they have the right of veto on the final design. This can be a delicate problem but, thankfully, seldom arises.

Approval of essays is only given by the SAC when these are considered as satisfactory for issue and for submission to The Queen for final approval. Royal Approval, incidentally, is far from being a formality since The Queen takes a very personal interest in each new stamp issue. For example, it is not unknown for some very pertinent questions to emanate from Buckingham Palace as to why a certain stamp theme has been treated in a particular way. It has also been known for Her Majesty to ask the PO and the Stamp Advisory Committee to think again!

The Chairman of the Committee is Keith Fisher, General Manager, Stamps & Philately; the other Post Office member being Barry Robinson, Head of The Post Office Design Division. The other members are:

Dr Jean Alexander is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London and an expert on GB

stamps. She is also a thematic collector, and writes articles for various philatelic journals. She is a food scientist and works for the International Food Information Service.

Lady Casson, RIBA, FSIA, Des Hon RCA, is a Fellow of the Royal College of Art who was senior tutor in the RCA's School of Environmental Design until 1974. She spent three years on the Arts Council, six years on the Design Council and five years on the Crafts Council. She has also been on the Advisory Council of the Victoria and Albert Museum and of the Royal Society of Arts. She is a member of the London Transport Design Committee and the Council of the Zoological Society of London.

Mr Keith Grant has been Director of the Design Council since 1977. He was formerly General Manager of the Royal Opera and the English Opera Group, and was Secretary of the Royal Society of Arts from 1973 to 1977. He has also been on the Advisory Council of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Dr Alan Higgins, Senior Assistant Secretary of University College, London, is a Fellow and Council member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, past President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, and was a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1984. He was formerly Managing Editor of *GB Journal* and is an expert on GB stamps, particularly on stamped stationery. He has written many articles on GB philately, and has published books on postal stationery, and, together with Marcus Samuel, on specimen stamps and stationery. His handbook on stamped stationery is the standard work.

Mr John McConnell, FSIAD, AGI is a partner of Pentagram Design Ltd. He has worked as a designer for Aer Lingus and for Tandy, Halford and Mills, and as a lecturer at Colchester College of Art. He is a member of Alliance Graphique Internationale, of the Designers and Art Directors Association, and of the Graphic Design Board of the Council for National Academic Arts. He has served on design competition juries for the Designers and Art Directors Association Exhibition and the London Art Directors Club. He is an assessor at the Royal College of Art and Editor of *Pentagram Papers*.

Mr Richard Negus, FSIAD, FSTD, a past President of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers and a member of the Design Council, is a senior partner of Negus and Negus, design consultants.

Mr Eric Ogden was Member of Parliament

for Liverpool West Derby from 1964 to 1983 and was sponsored by the National Union of Mineworkers. He is a former Merchant Navy officer and an ex-coal miner. He was a member of the House of Commons Services Committee, and was also Joint Chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Group for the Channel Tunnel. He was Vice/Chairman of the All Party CPA Falklands Group, member of the Falkland Islands Committee and a Director of the Falkland Islands Association. He is a consultant on South Atlantic Affairs and a Director of *Fotographica*.

Mrs Gabrielle Pike, CBE, JP is a past national Chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Her experience of public life covers service on the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Trust, the ITA and the Advertising Standards Authority. She is closely connected through Women's Forum, to the major Women's organisations. She served as a magistrate for 25 years.

Lord Reilly, MA, Hon Des RCA, Hon FRIBA, Hon FSIAD, was Director of the Design Council under June 1977. He has been a member of many public bodies including the Council of the Royal College of Art, the design panel and environmental panel of the British Railways Board, and the Historic Buildings Committee of the GLC. He is Chairman of the Boilerhouse Project of the Conran Foundation.

Professor Herbert Spencer, RDI, DrRCA, was formerly Professor of Graphic Arts at the Royal College of Art, and Master of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry and Vice President of the Royal Society of Arts from 1979 to 1981. He is a Director of Lund Humphries, publishers of books on the arts, architecture and design, and a consultant to W H Smith & Son Ltd and to the Tate Gallery. He is a former international president of Alliance Graphique Internationale.

Mr Michael Wolff, FSIAD, founded Wolff Olins, a design consultancy, with Wally Olins in 1965. He was President of the Designers and Art Directors Club in 1971. In 1985 he was President of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers. He now has a company of his own.

Mr Derrick Howlett, director, represents Harrison & Sons Limited.

Mrs Enid Jones is the representative on the Committee of the Department of Trade & Industry.

In the next article, Barry Robinson looks at the next stage in the development of stamps – the production of essays.

New Window Books

DAVID DALE

Manager Definitive Stamps Royal Mail Stamps & Philately

We are now able to give more information about the window book issues scheduled for 11 October, announced in last month's *Bulletin*.

Firstly some background to the previous issues. The original window books of 4 August 1987 – Type 1 – came in two sizes: 75 x 60mm for the four-stamp books (52p, 72p and £1.04) and 98 x 60mm for the 10-stamp books (£1.30 and £1.80). Eight of the 10 books with new locking tabs (Type 1A) went on sale early in 1988 (72p book code A and £1.04 book code J were not produced). The books issued on 23 August 1988 (56p, 76p, £1.08, £1.40 and £1.90) are all Type 2 and measure 75 x 56mm (four stamp) and 95 x 56mm (10 stamp). The panes of stamps have miniature sheet effect from surrounding selvedge but with smaller margins than for Type 1 books. Cylinder numbers appear on one in five books. Some of the £1.08 book, code S, have the tariff message omitted from the inside cover.

Fifteen new books are scheduled for issue on 11 October, some will be Type 2, others a new Type 3. All Type 3 books are 69 x 49mm in size. The main characteristics of the new books are:

Type 2. Printed by Questa. No selvedge, fully perforated. First litho stamps at these values. No plate numbers appear.

£1.90	100081	M
£1.90	200088	N
£1.40	100104	Q
£1.40	200101	R

Type 2. Stamps printed by Harrison, as 23 August issue, but covers printed by Walsall. Cylinder numbers on approximately one in five books.

76p	100074	K
76p	200071	L
56p	100098	O
56p	200095	P

Type 3. Printed by Harrisons. No selvedge; straight edges at top and bottom of stamp panes. No cylinder numbers. No window on book cover; printed stamp reproduction on cover. No code letters. Closure by spots of adhesive.

76p	100074
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£1.90	100081
56p	100098
£1.40	100104
£1.08	100111

Type 3. Printed by Questa. No selvedge, fully perforated stamp pane matching Type 2 books by Questa. Cover matches Harrison Type 3 books with closure by spots of adhesive. No code letters. No plate numbers appear on stamp panes.

£1.90	100081
£1.40	100104

The new books constitute varieties (in some cases very minor ones) of the same five basic designs. They and the stamps they contain are not considered as new issues. They will initially be available from philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau only, but will gradually come on sale at post offices and other Royal Mail Stamps outlets.

The basic reason for the large number of varieties is that window books are going through a period of intense development as the design is revised and new printers are introduced. It is intended that window books will become the only type sold over the counter, whether at post offices or in other shops. They will gradually replace the existing books of 10 stamps which normally carry promotional offers, and window books will not have cover changes.

As a consequence there are going to be a relatively high number of book covers in the near future, although there will not be so many changes to the stamp panes they contain. By the middle of 1989 the situation should settle down into a pattern that will see fewer changes to standard books than in the past. Only two machine vended books will have regular cover changes and the window books will change only with postal tariffs. However there may be other completely separate books such as books of Christmas stamps.

This article supersedes the information given in the September Bulletin (page 18). Note change of issue date to 11 October.

Municipal Revenue Stamps

O W NEWPORT

With the growing interest in revenue stamps readers may be interested in those issued in the past by a number of British counties, cities and towns. These form an interesting collection as a group, or individually as part of country collections; although some of the stamps are rare and nowadays difficult to obtain.

The *Local Stamp Act* of 1869 allowed for fees, fines or penalties to be collected by means of special stamps approved by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. This applied whenever clerks of the special and petty sessions and of the justices of the peace, within the jurisdiction of any local authority, were paid in whole or in part under the *Criminal Justice Administration Act* of 1851. Gloucestershire, the Isle of Ely and Northamptonshire issued such stamps in a standard design and Sheffield, Southampton and Winchester issued stamps in other approved designs. These issues are described in alphabetical order.

Chatham & Sheerness Police Courts

In 1882 Chatham & Sheerness Police Courts issued typeset oblong stamps printed in black on maroon paper, roughly perforated 11½-12 on

three sides, to collect fees or fines. They were in denominations of 1s, 2s, 2s 6d and 3s. They were numbered at the left hand side. About 1890 these were replaced by a new series typeset in black on white paper, perforated 12, in the same denominations. These were numbered in the top left corner.

Gloucestershire

In 1870 the county of Gloucestershire issued a series of eight stamps in a common design for payment of court fees. They were all printed in blue, had the name GLOUCESTERSHIRE in a curve round the top, a shield in the centre and were overprinted in red with the value at the bottom. Values were 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1. They were printed in three stages – first the design with black tablets for name and value, second the county name was added and finally the value was overprinted in red. They were perforated 15½ x 15.

A second series, in the same design and colours, but printed in two operations – the stamp with county name in blue and then the values in red – was issued in 1875. Denominations and perforations were as before.



A third series, printed in two stages, was issued in 1878. Design as before but in denominations of 3d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d and 5s, perforated 12½. Later in 1878 a further series was printed in denominations of 3d, 6d, 1s, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d and 5s, perforated 14. The 6d, 1s, 2s 6d and 5s were also issued overprinted GAOL.

A series in the same design but printed in brown and overprinted in violet was issued in 1870 for collection of fines. Values were 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s 6d, 5s and 10s, perforated 15½ x 15.

Other series are reported to exist in mauve and violet: 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1, perforated 14 or 15½ x 15, and in yellowish-green and red: 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 in various perforations. Most of these stamps are fairly easy to obtain.

Hampshire Land Charges

In 1962 the county of Hampshire issued special typeset stamps for payment of fees made for searching the registers in connection with land charges. They were printed by J. Sloper & Co London on coloured papers with an overall minute overprint HAMPSHIRE LAND CHARGES in grey: 6d yellow & black, 1s green & black, 2s pale turquoise green & black, 2s 6d red & black, 2s 6d dull green & black, 5s bright lilac & black, 12s 6d blue & black, 15s pale turquoise-blue & black, 15s pale dull green, black & vermillion, 15s white, black & vermillion, 15s yellow-green, black & vermillion and 25s lemon & black.

Isle of Ely

Between 1878 and 1880 the Isle of Ely issued a series of blue and red stamps in the same design as the Gloucestershire issues. They were printed in two operations in the following denominations: 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 in various perforations. They were used for court fees. All values except the 2s were overprinted GAOL in black but were probably not issued.

In 1870 a series was issued in brown and violet for collection of fines. Values were 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1. They were perforated 15½ x 15 and later 14. All values exist overprinted GAOL.

In 1882 a green and carmine series were issued for payment of court fees: 1d, 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1, perforated 14. These also exist overprinted GAOL. A similar series for court fees is also reported to exist printed in mauve and violet. All the Isle of Ely stamps, except the first series, are very scarce.

Lancaster Palatine Court

In 1885 the Chancery of Lancashire issued a series of stamps for collection of court fees. They were printed in black on pale turquoise-green and perforated 12. The stamps were typeset and had a serial number printed in the top right corner. Beneath was the inscription CHANCERY OF/LANCASHIRE/FEE/FOR/VALUE. Values were: 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s, £1, £2 and £5, the value appearing in either the bottom left or bottom right corner. Various printings were made up to 1971 and the letters and figures vary considerably in size and thickness.

London Justice Room

In 1869 the City of London issued a pale brown-rose stamp with the Arms of the City and the inscription JUSTICE ROOM. It exists perforated 11½, 12½, 14, 14½ and 15. It also exists in Venetian red and is without denomination.

In 1871 a series was issued printed in black with the values overprinted in words in scarlet: 1s, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s 6d and 31s 6d. The stamps are found in a variety of perforations.

Between 1888 and 1920 the denominations appeared in large seriffed figures: 1s black & scarlet, 1s 6d black & scarlet, 1s 6d green & scarlet, 2s black & scarlet, 2s blue & scarlet, 2s 6d black & scarlet, 2s 6d Indian red & black, 3s black & vermillion, 3s Venetian red & black and 10s 6d black & vermillion. Line-engraved by Perkins, Bacon, they come in a variety of perforations.

London Guildhall

In 1892 a 2s 6d black stamp with the City Arms was issued with the inscription CONSULTATION FEE/GUILDHALL/HALF A CROWN. This rare stamp prepaid the fee for persons having business at the Guildhall court to hire a private room in which they could consult their advisers.

London Mayor's Court

In 1882 a series was issued for the Mayor's Court. The stamps feature the full City Arms with supporters and motto and are inscribed MAYOR'S COURT. Denominations are: 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, 4s, 4s 6d, 5s, 9s 6d and £1, all printed in ultramarine and overprinted with values in black, perforated 14-14½. They were printed by Perkins, Bacon.

A second series was perforated 11½ in denominations of 4d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, 4s, 4s

6d, 5s, 9s 6d and £1. The 4d exists overprinted in red, black or violet, the 6d in red or black and the other values in black. The perforation was later changed to 12½ but the values remained the same with the 4d overprinted in red, black or violet, the 6d in red or black and the other values in black. The values were first of all overprinted in two words, then in one word and later in figures of various sizes. The stamps continued in use for collection of fees until 1920.

Northamptonshire

In 1870 Northamptonshire issued stamps, for collection of court fees, in the same design as those issued for Gloucestershire and the Isle of Ely. They were printed in dull blue with the name and value in red: 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1, perforated 15½ x 15.

Some provisionals were created in 1874 by cancelling the values on some denominations and overprinting them with new denominations: 6d on 5s, 6d on 10s, 1s on £1 and 1s on 5s; these are very rare. Later in 1874 further 6d, 1s, 2s 6d and 5s stamps were printed with the design and name in blue and the value overprinted in carmine.

A series for fines was also issued in 1870 with the design in brown and the name and value in violet: 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1, perforated 15½ x 15. In 1882 the series was reprinted with the name in brown and the values overprinted in mauve, perforated 14. These stamps also exist overprinted GAOL. Later in 1882 the colour of the stamps was changed to yellow-green with the values overprinted in red and 2s, 4s and 6s values were added. All except the three latter values exist overprinted GAOL.

It is reported that three values of the court fees stamps, the 1d, 6d and 1s, also exist printed in mauve and overprinted in red.

Sheffield

In 1891 Sheffield issued three stamps inscribed TOWN HALL SHEFFIELD with the value printed in the centre in a circle. They were printed in carmine and were for the collection of fees under the *Local Stamp Act* of 1869. Values were 6d, 1s and 2s 6d. Later printings were in various shades of red and the perforations were changed from the original 13½ to 11, 11½ and 12.

In 1892 a similar series was issued inscribed COURTHOUSE SHEFFIELD. They were also printed in carmine in denominations of 6d, 1s and 2s 6d, perforated 13½. Later printings were made in various shades of red and perforated either 11, 11½ or 12; all are scarce.

Southampton

In 1879 a series of stamps was issued for use in the Magistrates Courts within the jurisdiction of the Town of Southampton. The stamps were printed by Waterlow & Sons in the following values: 6d bright or yellow-green & black, 1s steel blue, 1s 6d red, 2s dull orange, 2s 6d green, 2s grey-black on pale cream, 3s 6d agate, 4s 6d slate blue, 5s sepia, 6s dull blue-green, 6s 6d dull violet, 7s 6d black on rose-red, 8s 6d ochre, 9s 6d black, 10s pale green, 10s black on bright mauve, 18s bistre, 20s black on dull green and 40s black on pale cream. The values were overprinted in words at the bottom of the stamps. One printed in deep greyish green without value is reported to have been used for the remission of fees. A 3d stamp was later created by typing "3 pence" in the value tablet in violet. The stamps come in a variety of perforations and all are scarce to rare.

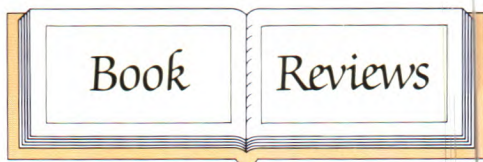


A separate series was issued around 1880 for use of the County of Southampton, featuring the County Arms, and printed in blue by Waterlow. The values were overprinted in black, denominations were: 1d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, 5s, 7s 6d, 10s, £1, £2, £2 10s and £5. Various perforations are known, most are scarce to rare. Galley 4

Winchester

In 1888 the City of Winchester issued a series of 21 denominations for collection of fines or fees under the provisions of the 1869 *Local Stamp Act*. They were printed by Waterlow in rose and were perforated 12. The design shows the City Arms and the name CITY OF WINCHESTER appears below the shield. At the left is JUSTICES COURT, at the right FINE OR FEE and at the bottom the value in words. Denominations were 6d, 1s, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, 3s 6d, 4s, 4s 6d, 5s, 6s, 6s 6d, 7s 6d, 8s, 8s 6d, 9s 6d, 10s, 14s, 18s, 20s and 40s; all are now extremely rare.

Illustrations courtesy of National Postal Museum, R M Willcocks and Roger Booth



British Stamp Booklets Series 1, Series 2 Trials and Series 2 by Jean Alexander & Leonard F Newbery. 16pp plus cover, limp binding. £3 plus postage from GB Philatelic Publications Ltd, Anso Corner Farm, Hempstead, SAFFRON WALDEN, Essex, CB10 2NU.

The first part of this projected series was reviewed here in September 1987. The second part deals with the booklets of Edward VII and the early issues of George V. In each instance details are given of the printer, contents, front and back covers, interleaves, binding and, where relevant, precancels and advertisers' voucher copies. The first of the Series 1 (2s) booklets, issued in March 1904, containing twenty-four 1d stamps, was sold for 2s 0½d, the ½d being the charge for the booklet. This charge was maintained for the next booklet issued in June 1906, but in this instance the booklet, sold at 2s, contained stamps to the value of 1s 11½d.

The first in the Series 2 (3s and 3s 6d booklets) made its appearance in 1918, the first cover advertising Glaxo – "The Food that builds Bonnie Babies". The listing ends with the 3s booklet of April 1921 which advertised Bournville Cocoa.

As well as illustrations of each of the cover designs, essays and proofs are shown. Much of the research for this work was undertaken at PO Archives and the National Postal Museum.

Introducing Postal History by Vivien J Sussex. 36pp, limp binding. Available free of charge by sending large SAE with 25p postage to: British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

This handsomely produced little book, one in a series sponsored by the Trust, deals with the topic of postal history under seven headings and includes a useful glossary, bibliography and details of places of research (all the addresses quoted are in London). Mrs Sussex defines postal history as "...the collecting of letters and associated material, studying how postal services operated, while glimpsing the lives of the people of the time".

She quotes Robson Lowe as describing collectors of philately in general as "students of science" and postal historians as "students of humanity". This reviewer would agree to some extent with the latter if not the first description.

Writing up a collection is never an easy matter; in the final section Mrs Sussex provides hints for both temporary 'rough' and final 'display' mounting. All in all a worthwhile little publication that aims to encourage stamp collectors to expand their interests into postal history. If you think postal history is stuffy and expensive remember "Postal history is not only concerned with times past – but with the present and future. Sadly, many waste paper baskets today are repositories of what should not be thrown away – it is the postal history of the future".

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 1 British Commonwealth. 1989 Edition. 1,104 pp, hardbound. £21, postage £2 UK, £3.50 overseas from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

The GB section of this standard work is complete to the Armada set of 19 July. Some renumbering of the decimal litho definitive stamps has been made: the 2p and 75p Jeffery Matthews colour stamps and the 13p, 18p, 22p and 34p stamps from the *Financial Times* book, given provisional numbers in the *Concise* catalogue in May now have full numbers which will remain until the 1990 Part 1 is published. Some 150 Machin decimal stamps are now listed.

In comparison with the 1988 *Concise* catalogue, the 1841 1d Red printings from 'black plates' are up in price as are some of the coloured cancellations on these stamps. There are further increases in price for several surface printed issues. The Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum rises from £9,000 to £12,000.

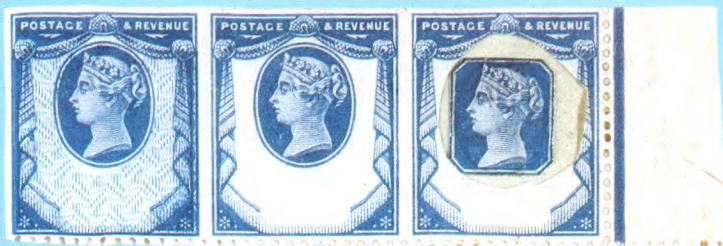
In the Machin listing, the 3½p purple-brown (light reddish brown in PO description) with centre band (X860) rises another 30p to £1.40 unused, the 1983 16p olive-drab (light mushroom) with 2 bands (X904) goes up by 25p/50p to £1.50/£1.75 unused/used. A number of booklet pane prices are also increased.

Unadopted Designs

The unadopted designs of the 1986 RAF stamps, illustrated in the September *Bulletin* (page 32), were by Collis Clement.

Gems of the R M Phillips Collection

157. 1894 Reply Stamp Essay



Arising out of the Universal Postal Union Congress in Vienna, a senior PO official looked into the possibility of reply-paid stamps for overseas mail following the lead of the reply-paid postcard. De La Rue were asked to print two sheets from the plate of the 1½d stamp but without the value tablet.

This curious essay exists in three basic forms: (1) with a moiré background in the shield around the Queen's head, (2) with the same surround blank and (3) with the Queen's head set in a transverse oblong

frame. The essay also exists with the overprints UNITED KINGDOM REPLY STAMP, UNITED KINGDOM DOUBLE STAMP, 2½d, etc. The Phillips Collection is rich in these essays and on page 50 of Volume XLI can be seen the strip illustrated here which shows two different backgrounds and two different frames for the Queen's portrait.

In the event reply paid stamps were never issued, the only result of the proposal was the reply paid letter coupon.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning a 1988 Royal Mail Yearbook. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: October Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 30 November 1988.

The senders of the first six all-correct entries drawn will be sent a 1988 Yearbook. Answers and winners' names will be published in the January *Bulletin*.

1. On what date will the 1988 Christmas stamps be issued?
2. Who opened the 1908 Olympic Games?
3. Which famous hymn writer is commemorated on the Christmas aerogramme?
4. Who is the Design Adviser to The Post Office?
5. What will be the subject of the main National Postal Museum exhibition next year?
6. At what museum is the Stampway to the World exhibition being held?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, the National Postal Museum, their agents and their families. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.



Phosphor Side Band Left

Sir,

A much greater expert on Machins than I, Peter Murray, has commented on how hazardous it is to make any general statement about Machins, with particular reference to an error which crept into my letter about phosphor bands in the May issue of the *Bulletin*. The claim that there has been no counter-sheet stamp with side band left (SBL) since the 2d Wilding is as it stands incorrect in no less than three respects. To set the record straight, the three necessary qualifications are:

1. There were two subsequent Wilding SBL examples: 2½d Type I (SG 614b from cylinder 42) and 2½d Type II (SG 614a from cylinder 50).

2. The word 'National' needs to be added to the statement in question. In 1981 the PO contracts for printing Country definitives passed from Harrisons to Questa (for N Ireland and Wales) and to Waddington (for Scotland). The process used for printing these Country definitives is now lithography instead of photogravure, and, starting with the 11½p value, the stamp for the 2nd-class rate has since then uniformly shown one SBL. To this extent they are true successors to the four Wilding SBL examples (2d from cylinders 17 and 29 and 2½d from cylinders 42 and 50).

3. The word 'normal' also needs to be added to the statement. There are instances to be found of a SBL on counter sheet stamps caused by lateral displacement of the 4mm centre band. For example specialists can distinguish between at least seven different varieties of (National) 12½p with SBL, one of which happened to come in counter-sheet form. This was an interesting print-run from cylinder 2 when the phosphor cylinder preceded the ink cylinder (which had the incidental side-effect that the phosphor cylinder number is unsynchronised – probably due to paper stretch on re-rolling). This SBL variety is quite distinct since the 4mm band does not extend across the margin of the stamp as in the case of the various booklet examples.

JIM DUTTON, Leatherhead, Surrey

Country Commemoratives

Sir,

How wrong Richard Waters (July Letters) is in stating that the commemorative stamps on the translation of The Bible into Welsh "is of relatively little or no significance to the rest of the UK"!

I am a Welshman married to a Yorkshire lass and proud to be a citizen of the UK: I am equally proud of Welsh culture and history, and instead of wanting to keep them to myself, want to share them with all citizens of the UK – and further afield in the world, too. Similarly, I want to learn as much about the culture and history of all the UK provinces: Country issues would restrict this; for example, when the 5d Declaration of Arbroath commemorative stamp was issued in 1970 I was stimulated to read all that came my way about Robert Bruce – something I would probably not have done had it been treated as a Country issue.

Rather, it would be better to discontinue Country Definitives than introduce Country Commemoratives. How parochial can one become!

KENNETH MILES, Kidderminster, Worcs

Easter Stamps

Sir,

I read with interest, because I have been thinking on similar lines, the letter (August *Bulletin*) from Miss J Beadll of Canterbury regarding the issue of Easter stamps. I would support any move to approach The Post Office with such a proposal. Better still, as there are normally four stamps per commemorative issue why not one each being devoted to: *Good Friday* – Christ's death on the Cross; *Easter Day* – Christ's resurrection; *Ascension Day* – Christ's ascension into Heaven and *Whit Sunday* – The Holy Spirit's visitation to the Disciples.

The set of stamps would then be a reminder, especially to the young, of these Christian Festivals and their real meaning as the former two are rapidly becoming just public holidays and the latter two are already lost on our calendar in the process of rationalising our public bank holidays by the introduction of the Spring Bank Holiday week.

P E SELVEY, Broadway, Worcs

I received a number of letters on this subject of Easter stamps – with only one exception all in favour of an annual issue. The letters have been passed to Mr Aazam Vesamia, Manager Special Stamps, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately. Ed.

Edward Lear Miniature Sheet

Featured on our front cover this month is the miniature sheet containing the four Edward Lear stamps, issued on 27 September. The sheet should be available from all post offices for about two months and will remain on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters for one year (unless sold out earlier).

The sheet is the first of three being issued by the British Post Office to promote the next international stamp exhibition in London, entitled "Stamp World London 90" to be held at Alexandra Palace from 3-13 May 1990. The exhibition will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the issue of the Penny Black. The cost of the sheet (£1.35) includes a premium which will be used to finance the exhibition and to assist British philately generally through the work of the British Philatelic Trust. Collectors buying the sheet not only obtain an interesting item for their collections but help promote and enrich the hobby.

The four Edward Lear stamps reproduce drawings by the master of the limerick who was also a noted painter. Full details of the stamps were given in the August *Bulletin*.

The miniature sheet includes the Stamp World logo in the surround which has been designed to resemble the marbled end-papers found in Victorian books. A facsimile of Lear's signature appears in the bottom right-hand corner. The stamps and sheet were the work of The Partners; Malcolm Swatridge of this studio wrote about designing the stamps in last month's *Bulletin*. Both stamps and sheet were printed, in photogravure, by Harrison & Sons Limited.

1989 Stamp Programme

The dates for the 1989 stamp issues are given below. Please note these dates are subject to change; any alterations will be notified in the *Bulletin*.

17 January	Birds
7 March	Food and Farming
11 April	Anniversaries
16 May	Games and Toys
4 July	Industrial Archaeology
25 July	Ind Arch Miniature Sheet
5 September	Microscopes
17 October	Lord Mayor's Show
14 November	Christmas

Commemorative Covers

HMS Leamington. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the launching of HMS *Leamington*, a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp will be used on 27 September on commemorative covers. The covers will depict the ship with crest and flags of the UK, Canada, USA and USSR (in which she served). Covers will be available with 19p Lear stamp at £2 (signed by officers and ratings) or £.50 unsigned, with full set of Lear stamps or miniature sheet, signed at £4. Orders/enquiries to: Cdr R G D Williams, FAA Museum, RNAS YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8NT.

First High Flyer Entry. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the start of "adult" special and direct entry as opposed to "boy" entry for officer cadets, the British Forces Postal Service has produced a commemorative cover and a special handstamp will be used on 15 September. The cover design features HMS *Highflyer* and other training ships. Covers with 18p Victorian Britain stamp and 1p definitive or 22p Victorian Britain cost £2 signed (£1.50 unsigned), covers with 31p Victorian Britain stamp £3 (signed). Orders/enquiries to: Cdr R G D Williams, FAA Museum, RNAS YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HT.

Royal British Legion. To commemorate the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 1988, a special cover has been prepared showing Poppy Sellers at the Royal Albert Hall. A special handstamp will be used on 12 November. Prices: single 19p Edward Lear stamp £1.50, full set of Lear stamps £2.75. Remittances should be made payable to "The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal" and should be enclosed with orders to: Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion Village, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME20 7NX.

40th Anniversary of NHS. The Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital this year celebrates its 150th anniversary and a special appeal has been launched to raise funds to equip a new day surgery. Local organisations have been asked to help and the Coventry Philatelic Society has produced a cover commemorating both the 150th anniversary of the hospital (17 September) and the 40th anniversary of the National Health Service (5 July). Covers bearing the Coventry Philatelic Counter handstamp are available for both dates, price £2 each. Orders/enquiries to: Coventry Philatelic Society, 6 Stoneleigh Avenue, COVENTRY CV5 6BZ.

Dundee & Arbroath Railway. To mark the 150th anniversary of the oldest operating railway in the east of Scotland, the Angus Railway Group are producing two special covers and a special handstamp for use on 6 October. One of the covers commemorates the railway itself whilst the other highlights the station at Broughty Ferry where the last remaining example of original station buildings are to be found. The Mallard stamp will be used on the covers, only 1,000 of each will be produced. Price £1.75 each, plus SAE if required sent under cover. Remittances to "Angus Railway Group"; orders/enquiries to: Blackness Road Post Office, 192 Blackness Road, DUNDEE DD1 5PL.

Festival of London. A souvenir cover was produced for sale at the Festival of London at Alexandra Palace and a special handstamp commissioned for mail posted at the Festival. Unfortunately the Festival closed after only a few days and relatively few covers were cancelled. Covers bearing the opening day handstamp (23 July) are available, price £1.85, from: J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL.

Colchester Searchlight Tattoo. The commemorative cover produced for the 1988 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo bears a representation of an Armada scene prepared as a backcloth for the Tattoo performance and one single 18p Armada stamp cancelled with a British Forces Postal Service No 2167 handstamp. Price £1.65 postpaid UK (overseas add 50p). Orders/enquiries to: R A M Light, Colchester Forum Rotary Club, 12 Parsons Hill, COLCHESTER CO3 4DT.

York Minster. On 4 November HM The Queen will reopen the South Transept of York Minster, rebuilt after the fire in 1984. To mark this historic occasion, CoverCraft, in association with York Minster, has produced a commemorative cover featuring an exterior view looking up to the famous Rose Window and the South Transept and also a boss depicting the Mary Rose. The cover will be available with the 1974 3½p Christmas stamp (showing roof boss in York Minster) and definitive cancelled by a special handstamp, price £2.50 or £5.75 signed by the Dean & Chapter of York. The cover will also be available with the set of 1988 Christmas stamps cancelled by a special York handstamp dated 15 November, price £5 or £7.50 signed by the Dean & Chapter. Overseas orders should include £1 extra per cover for postage. Orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

New Country Definitives

8 November 1988

New 14p, 19p, 23p and 32p Country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be issued on 8 November. The designs will be the same as previous issues, the colours of the new stamps being the same as for the national definitives: 14p dark blue, 19p flame, 23p light green and 32p dark turquoise. Printing will be in offset litho by The House of Questa in sheets of 200, PVA Dextrin gum, perforation 15 x 14. The 14p stamps will have a single phosphor band, the 19p, 23p and 32p stamps will be on Advanced Coated Paper.

First day covers, 17p each, will be available from the Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices in the respective countries. Pictorial First Day of Issue handstamps will be provided at the Bureau, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. First Day Covers will be provided in sets of three – one set with the Bureau handstamp, the other with the handstamps of the three capitals. Either set will cost £3.99 (inland, including VAT), £3.48 (overseas). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main offices, should be returned by 8 November. Collectors preparing their own covers may send them for first day postmarking to the Bureau or to the Special Postmark Duty at: LDO, 20/22 Donegall Quay, BELFAST BT1 1AA; LDO, 220/228 Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA or Royal Mail House, Brunswick Road, EDINBURGH EH7 1XX. First day posting boxes will be provided at all offices which normally provide them in each of the three countries and at philatelic counter offices in England.

A presentation pack, No. 17, containing all 12 stamps will be available, price £2.85.

Royal Mail Exhibition Card

The Royal Mail Exhibition Card, bearing two Edward Lear stamps cancelled with a handstamp marking the FILACEPT exhibition in The Hague (18-23 October) will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau from 18 October, price £1.20 plus usual handling charge. Cards on sale at the exhibition will bear a Filacept cachet. Collectors unable to visit the

exhibition can obtain cacheted cards from the Bureau; orders must be received by the day the exhibition closes, ie 23 October. Price: £1.20 plus handling charge, as for uncacheted cards.

The card will also be available from the Bureau from 20 October with a handstamp for the ASDA exhibition in New York (20-23 October), price £1.20 plus handling charge. Cards with the exhibition cachet can be obtained from: Interpost, PO Box 378, Malverne, New York 11565, USA, price \$1.78 (£1.06) plus \$1.32 (79p) airmail postage. Orders must be received by 23 October.



October Digest

Issued in October

- 11 October **Window Stamp Books**
See page 55 for details
- 18 October **High Value Definitives – Castles:**
£1 Carrickfergus
£1.50 Caernarfon
£2 Edinburgh
£5 Windsor
designer: HRH The Duke of York
printing: Harrisons, recess in sheets of 100 on non-phosphor paper, PVA Dextrin gum. Size 41 x 30mm
Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Windsor
presentation pack: £9.50

Withdrawn in October

- 12 October **Studio Pottery issue** – all items

Exhibitions

Stampway to the World. Readers are reminded that this exhibition at the Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN continues until 20 November. Included in the 100 frames will be material from the Natio-

nal Postal Museum, the British Library and many noted collections. The exhibition, sponsored by the Stamp Publicity Board, is aimed at collectors of all ages and levels. Further details were given in last month's *Bulletin* (page 35).

Bath Postal Museum. A special exhibition entitled "War Time Mail" will open at the Museum during the second week of October; the exhibition will be based on reminiscences of personnel of the Army Postal Service during the Second World War. Amongst the material on display will be items from the occupation of the Channel Islands. The Museum is located at 8 Broad Street, BATH BA1 5LT, telephone Bath (0225) 60333.

Royal College of Art. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Illustration Dept of the RCA and the 150th anniversary of the College, an exhibition entitled "Breakthrough" of work of staff and graduates will be staged from 19 October to 13 November. Included will be the stamps and some of the artwork of the 1982 British Theatre and 1985 Christmas issues by Adrian George and the 1987 Christmas issue by Michael Foreman. The exhibition will be held in the Henry Moore Gallery at the RCA, Kensington Gore, LONDON SW7. The Post Office are one of the sponsors of the exhibition.

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