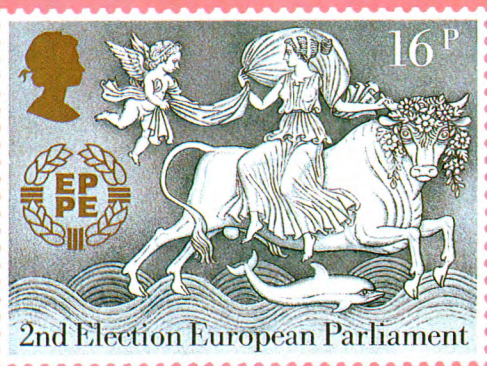


British Philatelic Bulletin

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National Postal Museum

A UPU Congress exhibition will take place in the National Postal Museum from 5 June to 27 July 1984 and a new special handstamp will be available during this period for mail posted in the Museum posting box. This is in addition to the Maltese Cross handstamp currently in use.

UPU EXHIBITION



JUNE · JULY 1984

Editorial

In this edition we are featuring one of the most important new technical developments in British postage stamp production for some time. This is the introduction, on a trial basis, of Royal Mail postage labels dispensed from vending machines. As well as improving the Post Office's out-of-hours stamp sales service, the labels (with their foreign counterparts) may herald a new phase of stamp collecting. The application of microtechnology, already affecting many other aspects of everyday life, is very much a feature of the nineteen-eighties. The success of the experiment will have far-reaching implications for future stamp-issuing policies and fashions for definitive postage stamps in years to come.

To continue in a technical vein, we are also including the article on computerisation at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, as promised in March. This will give readers an idea of the complex behind-the-scenes operations necessary to fulfil a multiplicity of customers' orders. We are also able to include in this edition, the illustrations of the new philatelic counter handstamps at Bolton and Carlisle, which we announced last month.

On a topical note, a subject that is much debated at the time of writing, is the question of a tariff increase this year by the Post Office. While we are unable to confirm or deny that this will happen in 1984, we are pleased to announce that should there be one, there will be no increase in the price of the Philatelic Bulletin. Readers can therefore look forward to receiving even better value for money!

The Urban Renewal stamps will be issued on 10 April, and the 16p value depicts the Liverpool International Garden Festival site. The exhibition itself opens on 2 May and continues until 14 October 1984. The Festival will be of considerable philatelic interest, as we have mentioned in previous issues. Further details of Post Office postcards and exhibition will be available in time for the May edition of the Bulletin, and we will be including another feature on this.

At the time of going to press, we regret that we are unable to illustrate the 'Europa' handstamps. They will appear in the May Bulletin.

CHARLES GOWEN

Legal Origins of Legible Postmarks

By L N Williams

Henry Bishop it was on 2 August 1661 who wrote of the stamp which was invented showing the day of the month that every letter came to the office, that “no letter carrier may dare to detain a letter from post to post, which before was usual”. An essential ingredient of the stamping was that the mark should be clearly legible — and so such marks were.

However, with the vast increase in correspondence that resulted from the adoption of Rowland Hill’s penny postage plan in 1840 and the following years, clarity of postmarking was not something to which great attention was obviously paid by the responsible authorities. Handstruck postmarks continued to be applied with more or less illegibility until a Lord Chief Justice of England thundered from the bench.

The thunder was reverberated by the columns of “The Thunderer”, namely, *The Times* of Friday, 27 May 1853 in the Law Report of a case heard the previous day in the Court of Queen’s Bench sitting in *Banco* at Westminster. Lord Campbell, the Lord Chief Justice, presided and had sitting with him Justices Coleridge, Crompton and Earle.

One case before them was headed *Meredith v. Lee*.

“The only question of public interest in this case,” ran the report, “was one connected with the careless manner in which post-marks are affixed in this country”.

The legal point was concerned with a cargo of clay shipped in Cornwall to Liverpool. The ship sailed on 21 April but was lost at sea on 25 April. The question was whether there had been a legal “acceptance” of the cargo by the defendant, and that depended on whether a bill of lading, which had been sent by post in the normal manner, had been received at his residence at Hanley, one of the “Five Towns” in the Potteries, on a particular day — and that was a matter in issue.

The letter bore a postmark showing that it had been posted at St. Austell, in Cornwall, on 24 April. Counsel for the defendant maintained that, as there was a two days’ post between the two places, the letter could not have been delivered before 26 April.

There was, it appeared on the letter, a postmark showing when the letter was delivered. However, the postmark “had been impressed in so imperfect a

manner that nothing could be made of it”.

Up spake Lord Campbell. He could not refrain, he said, from expressing his regret that this should so often be the case. It was often of the greatest importance, not only for the purposes of commerce, but for the administration of justice, that the post-marks should be clear and intelligible. Notwithstanding this, in a great many instances it was impossible for any one to decipher them. It was quite the reverse with respect to foreign post-marks; they could always be made out, for they were almost always clearly and distinctly marked. Post-marks in England might be marked with equal clearness, and he (Lord Campbell) trusted that the Postmaster-General would give some plain and stringent orders on the subject.

It is a matter of record that, because the arrival post-mark was illegible, the plaintiff lost his case.

Leisurely days! If Pearson Hill — Rowland Hill’s son — is to be believed, it was not until five months later that the Postmaster-General, Lord Canning, took direct action.

According to a memorandum by Pearson Hill dated 20 March 1867 [P.O. Records ref: Min. E. 13769/97 File X, No. 6673]:

“In October 1853, at the desire of Lord Canning...I undertook to devise if possible a machine which would give clear and legible impressions of the date stamp upon Letters &c passing through the post, and ensure a more thorough obliteration of the Postage Labels”.

He does not seem to have made much progress, and no real urgency seems to have been applied to the attempts. The reason why is, regrettably, not seemingly now to be discovered. His memorandum of 20 March 1867 continues:

“As I explained in my Memd. of 19th July 1858, the consideration of this question was afterwards temporarily suspended in order that I might attend to other and more pressing matters where mechanical improvements were required, but it was rapidly pushed forward in 1856, at the request of the Duke of Argyll in the consequence mainly of observations publicly made by the late Lord Campbell upon the inconvenience caused by the General illegibility of the Postmarks... So important did the Duke of Argyll consider the



Photograph reproduced by kind permission of The National Portrait Gallery, London.

attainment of the object in view, that he stated to Sir Rowland Hill that he was prepared to sacrifice something in the speed at which the stamping duties were performed should that become necessary..."

Tribute is paid to the assistance received from staff in the Post Office Records Room, and it is only to be regretted that, despite intense efforts, no trace has been found of Pearson Hill's memorandum of 19 July 1858 which might have thrown light on the details concerned with what was seemingly the second occasion on which the Lord Chief Justice of England had to thunder against the illegibility of handstruck postal markings. The first was, of course, in 1853; the second, *pace* Pearson Hill, circa 1856.

It is, perhaps, a sobering thought that, had Pearson Hill not been diverted from attaining mechanical legibility of postmarks, not only would

Lord Campbell not have felt constrained to complain again but the result of the trial of Madelaine Smith for the murder by poisoning of Pierre Emile L'Angelier at Edinburgh in 1857 might have been different.

In that *cause célèbre* some important points turned on the dates on which certain of her letters had been posted to and received by the victim. More than 100 letters were exhibits and many of them bore the postmark of Helensborough or the "159 – Glasgow" mark.

The comptroller of the sorting office, Post Office, Glasgow was Rowland Hill Macdonald, and he was asked to examine some of the exhibits. Despite use of a magnifying glass he was unable to decipher some dates and he had to confess that some of them were illegible. "The stamp is quite illegible – very bad", he said.

An exchange took place between the witness and the presiding judge, the Lord Justice-Clerk:

"The judge. – I believe general instructions have been given to stamp letters much more legibly, and I observe you have got better stamps?

The witness. – Yes, my Lord.

The judge. – What you have seen in this case will suggest the desirableness of this; and you had better give my compliments to Mr Abbot, and tell him he had better give further instructions to the Scotch offices.

When the Lord Justice-Clerk charged the jury on 9 July he referred to the evidence about postmark illegibility given by Mr Macdonald. According to *The Times* of Saturday 11 July, the judge said:

"the attention of the Post-Office authorities had been called to the necessity of their being made more distinct by Lord Campbell in a similar case, and by himself; and, considering the importance of this point to the ends of civil and criminal justice, he trusted this would be the last occasion on which they would find these marks so carelessly impressed."

Nevertheless, the earliest recorded date of any of Pearson Hill's experimental machines is 17 September 1857. Not until several years later were handstruck post-marks replaced by machine cancellers in general use, which profoundly affected the appearances of covers in the albums of collectors.

International Garden Festival: Philatelic Activity

The International Garden Festival (IGF), opens in Liverpool on 2 May 1984, and will be featured on the 16p 'Urban Renewal' special stamp to be issued on 10 April. This presents the North Western Postal Board with its theme for this year's issue of Regional Postcards.

Because of the importance of the Festival, NWPB will produce two sets of four postcards, both to be issued on 2 May 1984. The first set: Series No. NWPB 9 features the Post Office at the Festival and is entitled "The Post Office at the Liverpool IGF". The second set: Series No. NWPB 10 is linked to the theme of the Post Office's major exhibition at the IGF and is entitled "Liverpool's Royal Mail."

Each set of four cards will be priced at 52p per mint set or £1.76 per serviced set. Serviced cards will include the cost of the card, 'Urban Renewal' 16p special stamp affixed, handling charge and cancelled with a special first day of sale handstamp. Orders for mint cards only should include a handling charge of 17p for orders under £18 and £1.17 for orders over £18. Remittances for both mint and serviced sets should be sent preferably by Giro Transfer to account number 614 3004: cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "The Post Office." Orders should be addressed to The Head Postmaster, Mails Branch, Philatelic Section, Head Post Office, Copperas Hill, LIVERPOOL, L3 1AA.

Mint cards will also be available to callers only at all North Western Postal Board Philatelic Counters, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where the above handling charges will also apply.

The postcards described above will also be sold at the Post Office counter situated on the Festival site. A wide range of philatelic items will be available at the counter including a daily Special Pictorial cancellation. It will not be possible however because of space restrictions for us to provide the normal full philatelic counter range of services.

A number of philatelic events during the Festival are being planned and it is hoped to be able to publicise them in this publication in due course. However as special handstamps will probably be produced for each of these events make sure you read the Postmark Bulletin and you won't miss them!

Normal reposting facilities will be available.

New Royal Mail Postage Labels

As part of the Post Office's plan to improve its out-of-hours stamp sales service a trial will begin on 1 May 1984 of 4 microprocessor controlled postage label vending machines. The 4 machines will be installed at the following Post Offices:

Windsor Branch Office, 38-39 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks SL4 1AA.

London Chief Office, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1AA.

Shirley Branch Office, Shirley Avenue, SOUTHAMPTON, SO9 1DQ.

Cambridge HPO, 9-11 St Andrews Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 1AA.

Machine Specification

They will accept any decimal coin excluding the new £1 and 20p coins.

There are three selection buttons on the machines.

1. Second class minimum rate
2. First class minimum rate
3. Residue Label ie in lieu of change or as a make up value

The maximum value which the machine will print is the current first class minimum postage rate.

By inserting a variety of coins and pressing different buttons it is possible to obtain 32 different value labels ie ½p to 16p.

They have an electronic display to show how much money has been inserted.

These facilities go a long way to providing what many customers may regard as the ideal stamp vending machine.

From an operational point of view the postage label can be used in exactly the same way as a stamp.

Two packs consisting of 3 labels (3½p, 12½p, 16p) price 32p and 32 labels (½p-16p inclusive) price £2.64 will be available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, and by personal application from all philatelic counters, and Shirley BO Southampton.

First Day Covers

Special first day covers designed by Ken Briggs Associates will be available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, and by personal application from all philatelic counters, and at Shirley Branch Office

price 14p each or in bulk from the Bureau only at £25 for 250 or £80 per 1,000.

The first day of issue facilities will be available only at offices with philatelic counters and Shirley Branch Office, Shirley Avenue, SOUTHAMPTON, SO9 1DQ. There will be a pictorial first day of issue handstamp available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh; London EC; Southampton; Cambridge and Windsor.

The Bureau will also provide its usual first day cover service. Covers addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing three labels to the values of 3½p, 12½p, 16p, will be cancelled 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' or 'London EC' or 'Windsor Berks' or 'Southampton' or 'Cambridge' and despatched. Customers' own pre-addressed covers will be given the three labels, cancelled and despatched.

Application forms for these services are available from the British Philatelic Bureau and at main post offices and should be returned not later than 20 April 1984.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	65p	57p
Deposit account customers	60p	52p
Service 'B'	52p	45p

Customers requiring only the special pictorial handstamp may obtain it under the reposting facility by sending, on the day of issue, and addressed envelope bearing postage labels to the value of at

least 15½p under an outer cover endorsed 'Special First Day of Issue Handstamp' to the British Philatelic Bureau, or to one of the following offices:

Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, The Drill Hall, 197 East Road, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 1AA.

PEB, Postal Inland, Western Docks Sorting Office, SOUTHAMPTON, SO9 1AB.

The Postmaster, The Post Office, 38 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks SL4 1AA.

The Philatelic Duty, EC Branch, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1AA.

Special posting boxes will be provided at offices with philatelic sales counters, and Shirley Branch Office (Southampton). Covers posted in these boxes on the first day of issue only, and bearing postage labels to the value of at least 15½p, will receive the normal first day of issue handstamp. For customers who are unable to call at these offices, normal reposting facilities will apply by sending an addressed cover, on the first day of issue only, bearing postage labels to the value of at least 15½p, in an outer envelope addressed to The Head Postmaster of the town in which the philatelic counter is situated. The outer envelope should be endorsed, 'First Day of Issue Handstamp'.

Technical Details

The postage labels designed by Martin Newton, are red postage-paid impressions on white paper over-printed with a grey-green background design. Each label measures 40mm x 32mm. Labels will be printed on phosphor coated paper.



The British Philatelic Bureau's Use of Computers

Late in the 1970s a decision was taken by the Bureau to install a computer 'in-house' rather than continue to use a service centre 200 miles away in Leeds. In 1981 we started to use that computer but in 1982 it quickly became evident that an even more powerful processor would be required if plans to increase business were to be successful.

New equipment was installed in February 1983 and work commenced on converting the computer programs to suit the new processor. The new computer took over full control of our customer accounts in August last year.

Currently there are two computers used by the Bureau for processing customers' requests. A Burroughs B6900 is used for all our main processing and an IBM Series 1 to produce addressed first day covers.

The Burroughs computer consists of a B6900 processor with 4.5 million characters of memory, eight large fixed disks with a total capacity of 1600 million characters of information, three high speed magnetic tape drives and two 1200 lines-per-minute printers. The IBM computer consists of a Series 1 processor, one small fixed disc capacity of five million characters, one magnetic tape unit and 10 printers.

The Burroughs computer is housed in a purpose built, air-conditioned computer room to keep the equipment at a regulated temperature and humidity, and also to minimise the amount of dust and dirt.

Protection of the computers and the Bureau's data base – the customer accounts – is of the utmost importance. If the computers do not 'run', the Bureau functions on only one cylinder instead of four; so we try to safeguard all areas that could be at risk. Dual air-conditioning units are used in case one breaks down. The whole computer room is protected by a smoke detection system that turns off all electricity and 'floods' the room with an inert gas, Halon, if smoke is detected.

More important than protection of the computer is the protection of the computer programs, the data base and other vital information. As all our programs and data are held on fixed discs – discs that cannot be removed – we copy our programs weekly and the data base daily onto magnetic tapes. These magnetic tapes are then stored in a fireproof safe. The safe is manufactured to take a fall from the second or third floor, while the building blazes around it, without damaging the contents – but we don't worry too much – our fire safe is on the ground floor!



Bureau staff using terminals to enter remittances.

The computer system handles all work which is concerned with our customers deposit accounts. This work is in two main areas; customer account update and interrogation using visual display units (VDUs) – ‘on-line’ work; and issue processing – batch work.

Account update and interrogation

There are thirty VDUs stationed around the Bureau, so that during the day, staff can immediately change (update) or interrogate any customer's account. While some staff change an address, alter a standing order, make a cash deposit, make a miscellaneous order debit, or even open a new account; other staff are able to interrogate accounts to answer customers' written or telephone enquiries. The average time it takes the computer to update an account or reply to an interrogation is under 5 seconds.

The result of containing all of this work within our own premises rather than using a computer 200 miles away has been to improve our service, cut down on the amount of filing and reduce our costs.

Issue processing

Issue processing is the matching of each account's standing order requests against the products in a stamp issue, or preparing for the despatch of the Philatelic or Postmark Bulletins. For stamps we start

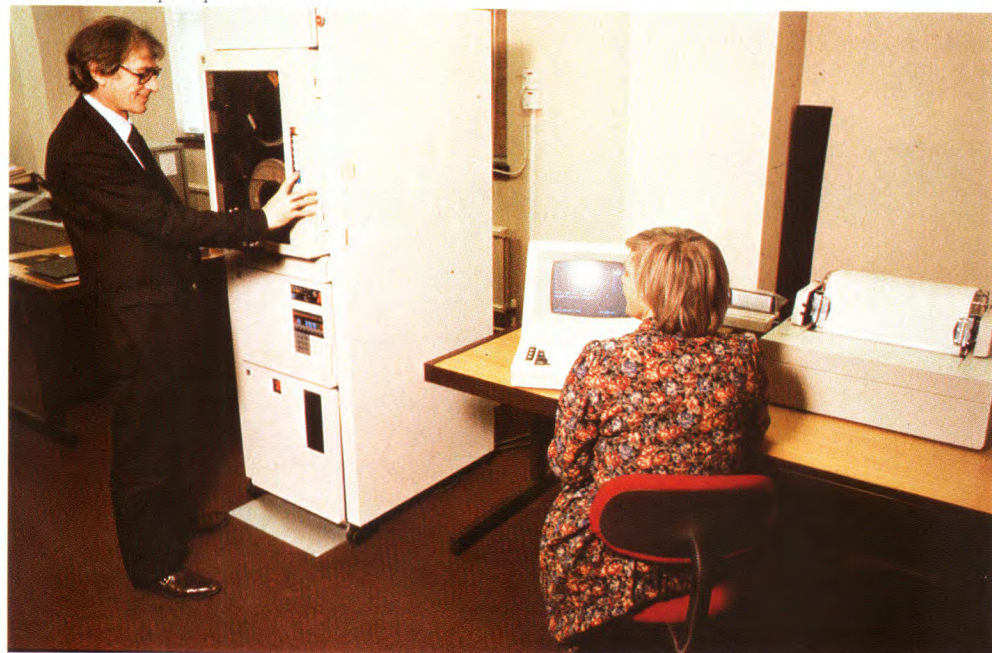
to process an issue about six weeks before issue date. The computer matches requests against an issue, and for all customers with sufficient cash in their account a statement is printed. Four weeks later we check through the files to see if those customers who were short of funds, have in the meantime sent in a remittance. If so a statement is printed – if not a reminder is produced which shows the balance in the account, the shortage for the issue and also the amount of money needed over the three months following the issue.

For those customers who react to the reminder further checks are run on the computer after issue date. If money is there a statement is printed.

No statement is provided by issue processing for those customers who only receive first day covers. A record of the address for the first day cover is output to a magnetic tape. The magnetic tape is transferred to the IBM Series 1 computer where it is used to print the customers address – in upper and lower case – directly onto the first day cover. The first day cover is then cancelled with the correct cancellation and despatched through the postal system to the customer.

The statement printed has a dual purpose. It is initially used to prepare the customers' orders, and is then sent with the order so that the customer can use

IBM Series 1 computer processor and control consol.



it to check he receives the required stock. The statement also shows the customer the state of his account and as with the reminder, the statement tells him the cost of the issue and also how much money the account will cost over the following three months.

The label that went on the envelope to get this Bulletin to you was produced by our computer. Once a month we print out on computer listing paper all the names of those people who have a paid up subscription. The list of addresses and Bulletin envelopes are taken to a labelling machine which cuts up the listing paper and applies the label to the envelope.

The envelopes plus the Bulletins and leaflets are then loaded onto an inserting machine which inserts one Bulletin, and one of each leaflet, into an envelope before sealing it. Using two inserting machines it takes approximately one week to despatch each month's Bulletin.

We have been operating a computer 'in-house' for two and a half years. Progress must go on – we have recently started to analyse our systems in order to improve and bring them up to date. We will consider the developments in the business, the changes in our services, the new products and also all those suggestions made by our many customers from all over the world.

The timescale for completion is 18 months. We look forward to being able to improve our service and offer our customers more information about their account to help them with trouble-free collecting. This is part of our program for the 1990s.

Postcard Stories

12. Self-Portrait

Of all the hundreds – even thousands – of painters whose works have appeared on picture postcards, perhaps none were so talented and so attractive as Louise Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun (1755-1842). She was born in Paris, the daughter of a pastelists named Vigée, and in 1776 she married the dealer, J B P Lebrun, a grand-nephew of Charles Lebrun, the historical painter.

The vivacious Elisabeth was trained by her father and was much influenced by the portraiture of J -B Greuze, evident in the rounded limbs and



Portrait of Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun, 1789. Musée de la Ville de Paris, Paris. (The artist is shown painting a portrait of her daughter, Marie Antoinette's portrait, and formed a lasting friendship with her. She was appointed Painter to the Queen and painted numerous portraits of the royal family. In 1783 she was elected to the Academy and for the next few years maintained a famous salon in Paris, but at the outbreak of the Revolution in 1789 she went to Italy and thereafter made a kind of triumphal progress through Europe, visiting Vienna, Prague and Dresden, and staying several years in Russia before returning to Berlin and Paris in 1802. On a visit to London she painted portraits of the Prince of Wales, Lord Byron and others; finally, in 1805, she went to Switzerland and so back to France.)

glowing texture of her child portraits. In 1779 she was summoned to Versailles to paint Marie Antoinette's portrait and formed a lasting friendship with her. She was appointed Painter to the Queen and painted numerous portraits of the royal family. In 1783 she was elected to the Academy and for the next few years maintained a famous salon in Paris, but at the outbreak of the Revolution in 1789 she went to Italy and thereafter made a kind of triumphal progress through Europe, visiting Vienna, Prague and Dresden, and staying several years in Russia before returning to Berlin and Paris in 1802. On a visit to London she painted portraits of the Prince of Wales, Lord Byron and others; finally, in 1805, she went to Switzerland and so back to France.

Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun enjoyed great success as a portraitist, excelling in portraits of women and children. My postcard, published by Misch & Stock in the 'World's Galleries' series, shows her self-portrait, the original of which is in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence. Another of her self-portraits, which includes her daughter, can be seen in the Louvre, Paris.

MALCOLM JAMES

Europa Stamps Issue

15 May 1984

The Post Office will issue four special stamps on 15 May commemorating two European organisations which have, in their own quite separate ways, played a part in developing the concept of a United Europe.

The stamps are printed as two se-tenant pairs and each consists of one stamp for the second election of members to the European Parliament, EPPE and one for the twenty fifth anniversary of the Conference of European Post and Telecommunications Administrations CEPT. They carry the symbols of the European Parliament and the CEPT as appropriate. The EPPE 'Bull' stamp is designed by Fritz Wegner, while the CEPT 'Bridge' stamp is drawn by Fritz Wegner from a design by MJ Larniviere.

The subjects and denominations are as follows: two se-tenant pairs of stamps, each consists of one stamp for the second election of members to the European Parliament, depicting 'Europa' riding on the back of a bull, and one for the twenty fifth anniversary of the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations depicting a symbolic bridge linking the CEPT nations. Each pair of stamps is 16p each (total 32p), and 20½p each (total 41p) respectively.

Printing Details

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

Values and Colours

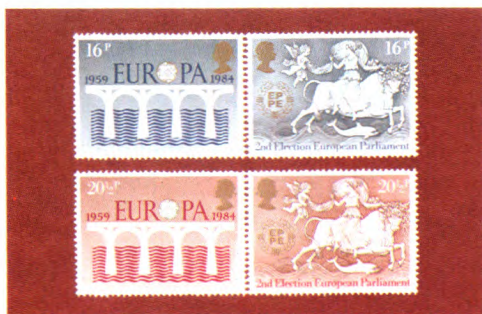
16p — Bluish grey, dull ultramarine, black, gold.
20½p — Chestnut, deep magenta, black, gold.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'London SW' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover — price 14p — addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'London SW' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', as requested and despatched.



SERVICE 'B'

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.13	98p
Deposit account customers	£1.07	93p
Service 'B'	99p	86p

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 4 May 1984.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 1 May 1984, price 13p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 153, designed by Forth Studios Ltd, containing all four stamps will be available from 15 May 1984, price 93p.

Souvenir Covers

Souvenir covers — price 14p each — designed by Forth Studios Ltd, will be available from all philatelic counters only on the day after the stamps issue, 16 May 1984.

For those customers who wish to send their stamped and fully addressed covers in an outer envelope to London SW for cancellation, the address is as follows: Philatelic Duty, SWDO, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON, SW8 5BB.

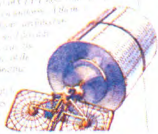


CEPT 25th Anniversary The Second European Election
Royal Mail Mini Stamp



For example, in the case of a simple pendulum, the period of oscillation is given by $T = 2\pi\sqrt{L/g}$, where L is the length of the pendulum and g is the acceleration due to gravity. This formula is derived from the principles of Newtonian mechanics and is valid for small angles of oscillation.

The central bank, responsible for the monetary policy of the eurozone, is the European Central Bank (ECB). The ECB is the central bank of the eurozone, which is the group of countries that use the euro as their currency. The ECB is responsible for maintaining the stability of the euro and for ensuring that the euro is used as a unit of account.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

108. Social Reformers, 1976

The work of four pioneers in social and industrial reform in Britain during the 19th century formed the theme of the four stamps issued on 28 April 1976. The stamps, designed by David Gentleman, paid tribute to Thomas Hepburn (8½p, hands hewing coal), leader of the first Trade Union of Northumberland and Durham Coal-miners at Hetton in the Tyne and Wear area in 1831; Robert Owen (10p, hands amid mill-wheels), who established a 'model industrial system' in his New Lanark mills; Lord Shaftesbury (11p, hand sweeping chimney), for his contributions to the reform of 'slave labour' by women and children; and Elizabeth Fry (13p, hands clutching prison bars), who stimulated and organised prison reform. The designs, in sombre black with overtones of pale lavender, slate-grey and dull green, individually acknowledged the reformers by name.

Thomas Hepburn was probably the first trade unionist ever to call a strike — it was in protest over the bond of service whereby men could be sacked and evicted from their homes for trifling offences. After a lifelong struggle during which he won shorter working hours for the miners in the north-east, Hepburn lost his own employment when the strike failed and got it back only when he gave up his union activities.

Robert Owen, a saddler's son, was born in Newtown, Montgomeryshire, and at the age of 19 he became the manager of a large cotton-mill in Manchester. As manager and part owner of the New Lanark Mill, Glasgow (he married the owner's daughter), he greatly improved conditions for the operatives, rebuilding their houses, improving sanitation, reducing hours of work, introducing sickness and old age insurance, and providing educational and recreational facilities. Later he founded several communal villages, including one at New Harmony, Indiana, but all were unsuccessful, though his ideas inspired the modern co-operative movement.

Lord Anthony Shaftesbury, the seventh Earl, philanthropist and evangelical Tory M.P., entered Parliament in 1826 and was a Lord of the Admiralty in Peel's ministry of 1834. He promoted numerous Acts of Parliament, such as the Mines and Collieries Act of 1842, which excluded women and boys

under 13 from working in the mines, and the Better Treatment of Lunatics Act (1845), which called for greater tolerance towards the mentally sick. He was instrumental in the exclusion of the employment of young boys sweeping chimneys, and assisted Florence Nightingale in her projects for army welfare.



Letters to the Editor



Mrs Elizabeth Fry, the Quaker philanthropist who was born in Norwich, devoted her life to prison reform and the rehabilitation of criminals as well as other benevolent enterprises. In 1813 she visited the notorious Newgate Prison in London, and found 300 women living in squalor and filth—she introduced women supervisors, arranged for the segregation of petty offenders and hardened criminals, and provided prison education and employment, reforms which were eventually adopted throughout Britain and the world.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. The one listed variety occurs on the 8½p stamp—it comprises two small white patches on the piece of coal above the pick in the upper left-hand part of the design. Major shifts of colour were common in this issue.

JAMES WATSON

Urban Renewal Stamps Issue

We were unable to give details, in the March edition of the Philatelic Bulletin, of the cylinders and colours used for the printing of the 'Urban Renewal' stamps issue, they are:

Cylinders

- 16p : 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.
20½p: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.
28p : 2a, 1b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 1f.
31p : 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.

Colours

- 16p Greenish yellow, rose, light blue, light green, salmon pink, black, silver.
20½p greenish yellow, bright orange, slate blue, yellowish green, pale blue, black, silver.
28p greenish yellow, rosine, dull blue, blue green, black, silver.
31p greenish yellow, carmine rose, slate blue, bright green, new blue, black, silver.

Dear Sir,

The Christmas Discount Stamp Booklet I.XI.82, the Discount Stamp Booklet 10.VIII.83 and the recent Christmas Stamp Booklet 9.XI.83 all had devices, 'Stars' or 'D' on the reverse printed in non-toxic ink. This ink is totally fugitive, thus making it impossible to collect good used copies. Is there any reason why these interesting devices should not be printed in ordinary permanent ink? Philatelists would be much obliged.

Yours faithfully,
C K Varton

Poole,
Dorset

These devices are in fact primarily used by the Post Office for accounting purposes and stock control. Because definitive stamps are printed on pre-gummed paper, these devices have to be printed over the gum. Because of this, the ink used for the 'Stars' and 'D' has to be both non-toxic and totally fugitive. This does, as you say, make it impossible to collect good used copies of the stamps off cover. However, because of the operational need for these devices, this cannot unfortunately be avoided.

EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I refer to the most interesting article on Harrison & Sons in December 1983 issue of BPE. What a splendid sentiment, I quote:—

"A country depicts in its stamps examples of its heritage, achievements in the arts and science, and its culture. Every stamp is therefore an ambassador. What more exciting work could any printer be privileged to undertake?"

What a paradox and a pity that the British Post Office, in all its wisdom is seemingly unable or unwilling to devise postal cancellations to complement rather than ruin the beauty of British stamps so that those who receive them will perceive them as ambassadors!

How all the artists and craftsmen involved in their design and manufacture must weep to see "BE PROPERLY ADDRESSED" sploshed and sprawling across the stamps they have so skilfully created. That slogan will surely go down in history as one of the most vulgar of all postmarks.

Not only collectors of British stamps appreciate

their artistic beauty and the scientific skill and ingenuity used to produce them, and I therefore feel sure that the millions of other people receiving them on letters and parcels would join us in bidding farewell to "The Great Stamp Mockery" as it sails off into the sunset forever!

Claremont
RSA

Yours faithfully,
MJ Lennox

A postmark serves two purposes, to cancel the stamp and to show the office and date of posting for our performance monitoring and control. For the latter reason, the date stamp needs to be clear for easy reading, and the stamps are cancelled by means of wavy lines or slogans.

I appreciate that the cancellation of stamps, and especially commemorative stamps, by a postmark slogan is not always acceptable to philatelists. For this reason we provide special philatelic quality handstamping facilities at over 200 offices on the first day of issue of new stamps, and also permanently at 60 offices.

We do try to meet the needs of philatelists as far as possible, but I hope you will understand that priority has to be given to the proper management of postal services. We have made considerable efforts to see if the problems of 'defacement' can be overcome, and I am sorry that we have not been entirely successful.

EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I should be grateful if you will allow me further entry to your columns in order to adjust what it now seems may have been a somewhat unhappy reading of the letter from Mr P Alastair Barter of Godalming, printed in your October 1983 issue.

One genuinely took his final paragraph — "I do not believe the British people want a large stamp to have to lick for the everyday mail — has not the Jersey Postal Authority discovered that?" as a rhetorical question, and therefore critical rather than complimentary. However, having since heard from Mr Barter personally, I accept that he was in effect saying "as the Jersey Postal Authority has discovered" which, of course, is entirely in line with the facts as I expressed them in your January 1984 issue by way of reply, in what must have seemed to him as unfortunate a letter as his original had seemed to us.

It may be of interest to Mr Barter and your other readers that the Jersey Post Office has for some time planned to bring out a new Definitive issue over three years beginning 1985 or 1986, replacing the present "Jersey Arms" set whose size, as you so kindly demonstrated in January, is the same as the Post Office Machins. However, in view of the cost to

the collector of the very high number of stamps involved in bringing out such a new issue, the impact on the normal stamp programme if setting aside, as we have always done, one or more commemorative issues to compensate, but above all the great popularity of the present small and colourful "Arms" Definitives, we have decided to maintain this issue instead of attempting to replace it. We are confident that this change of policy will be well received by our collectors.

Department of Postal
Administration
Jersey, CI

Yours faithfully,
MD Orbell

Withdrawn Items

The 50p stamp book featuring the Gloucester Old Spot Pig, the £1.25 stamp book showing the LMS Class 4 loco, the £1.46 'Postal History' book illustrating the 'Seahorses' high value stamps and the £1.60 'Birthday' book will all be withdrawn on 4 April 1984.

The Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme issued on 13 April 1983 celebrating the 400th anniversary of the University of Edinburgh and the 200th anniversary of The Royal Society of Edinburgh will be withdrawn on 12 April 1984.

The 15½p, 19½p, 22p, 29p definitive stamps and all 15½p, 19½p, 22p 'Country' definitive stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 29 April 1984.

Philatelic Counter Handstamps

The following handstamps will be operational from 9 April 1984 at Carlisle and Bolton Philatelic counters.

Full details appeared in the March edition of the Bulletin.



The 1887 Issue – Later Issues, Colour Trials and Colour Changes

Of the set of stamps generally referred to as the 1887 Issue, ten (½d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 9d and 1/-) were issued in January 1887. The 10d was issued in 1890 and the 4½d in 1892, additionally the ½d was subjected to a colour change from vermilion to blue-green in 1900 and in the same year the 1/- was reissued in bi-colour, green and carmine.

The R M Phillips Collection contains a number of examples of the colour trials of these later issues and colour changes. The 1890 colour trials of the tenpence include seven perforated examples affixed to a sheet of paper and seven others, once cancelled 'Bedford St Jan 27 90' (XL130), a marginal pair imperforate vertically, six perforated marginal copies on yellow paper in various colours (31) and nine marginal copies on blued paper (32).

The 1892 fourpence-halfpenny include eight perforated pairs in different colours and a single with the side pillars in a different colour to the stamp (27), five singles mounted on a sheet, some with the trial cancellation 'Strand July 7 92' (28) and five vertical pairs on paper watermark crown, imperforate horizontally to show the effect of the colour border (29).

Later colour trials included eighteen of the perforated tenpence applied to an official document and dated 3 February 1892 (33). There are twenty-four perforated colour trials of the twopence on watermark paper in deep purple or in green with different coloured value tablets which were made in 1899 when the new colour for the one shilling was being considered (23, 24). There is also a set of eighteen perforated colour trials for the one shilling dated 9 November 1899, mounted on small cards and with the heads printed in the doubly-fugitive green



or purple inks posted on (35-37).

The R M Phillips Collection is on permanent display at the National Postal Museum, London, and can be seen during normal Museum opening hours 10am-4.30pm Monday to Thursday; 10am-4pm Friday.

JOHN MEMMOTT

New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the introduction of the first scheduled UK inland air mail service between Inverness and Kirkwall.

A new Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme will be available on 29 May 1984. The aerogramme illustrates the aircraft and a map of the route.

Price 30p, of which 26p is for postage, the aerogramme will be available from Post Offices in

Scotland, philatelic counters throughout the United Kingdom, and by Post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The aerogramme is designed by Ruari McLean Associates with illustrations by Dugald Cameron, and printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd. A phosphor bar is printed on either side of the Queen's profile.

National Postal Museum News

Several readers have written in to us pointing out that we do not always include details of new Museum postcards and exhibitions in the Bulletin. Previously we have not always been able to include full details, and to overcome this problem, we are introducing a new regular monthly column. In this we intend to keep readers in touch with all aspects of Museum news including details of new postcards and exhibitions, which for the rest of 1984 are as follows:—

- i 'Cattle' exhibition 6/3/84-4/5/84.
Postcard No. SS22 issued 6/3/84, depicting a plan of the showground at Cambridge 1894.
- ii National Stamp Day exhibition 8/5/84-22/6/84.
Postcard No. SS23 issued 8/5/84, depicting 6 stamps.
- iii UPU Congress exhibition 5/6/84-27/7/84.
Postcard No. SS24 issued 5/6/84 depicting 1949 3d UPU stamp.
- iv Greenwich Meridian exhibition 26/6/84-31/8/84.
Postcard No. SS25 issued 26.6.84 depicting 1/9d value from 1970 anniversaries issue.
- v Royal Mail exhibition 2/8/84 onwards (no closing date available). Postcard No. SS26 issued 31/7/84 depicting painting of Mail Coach.
- vi R M Phillips collection, new presentation for 1984/5 season opening on 15/10/84.
Postcard No. SS27 issued 15/10/84, details to be announced later.

Perforation Changes for Definitive Stamps

The next definitive stamps to be produced by The House of Questa using their new perforating dies will be the 12½p and 16p Northern Ireland Country stamps. The stamps became available initially from philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau from 28 February 1984. Dates of issue of the remaining National and Country Definitives printed by The House of Questa using the new dies will be announced as the stamps become available.

These stamps are not regarded as new issues and no official first day facilities will be offered.

Posting Boxes



No. 58: This charming photograph of a QE11 posting box situated in the wall of a small Post Office at Great Bircham, Norfolk, was sent to us by Mr J Fletcher of Solihull. Thank you Mr Fletcher.

Forthcoming Events

The British Philatelic Federation 66th Congress 25-30 June 1984 Douglas, Isle of Man

Members of the British Philatelic Federation and affiliated Societies will shortly be receiving their booking forms for attendance at the 66th Annual Congress to be held at the Palace Hotel in Douglas, Isle of Man. This is the second time that the selected venue has been a British island and the success of the 1981 Congress at Guernsey has given the Organising Committee the confidence to select a similar venue for 1984.

All business sessions except the Signing of the Roll will be held in the Conference headquarters, the Palace Hotel, and the assembly of members will begin on Monday 25 June preparatory to the Opening Ceremony on the Tuesday morning.

The final programme is not yet complete but apart from two papers, one morning session will be taken up by a lecture and slide show by Mr W F Rodgers, from the House of Questa on the printing of stamps. Outings will include a trip by steam train to Port Erin (including the first TPO on the island)

and an electric train to the summit of Snaefell. The banquet will be held on the Friday evening 29 June, and members and delegates will disperse on the Saturday morning.

All details can be obtained from the Honorary Organising Secretary, Mrs H A Wellsted, 513 Ben Jonson House, Barbican, LONDON, EC2Y 8DL.

Leytonstone, Wanstead and District Philatelic Society

The Society will hold its annual Stamp Fair (with displays and dealers) from 11 am on Saturday 14 April 1984, at Christchurch Hall, High Street, Wanstead, London. All stamp collectors in the area are invited to attend.

Bolton Philatelic Exhibition

Bolton Head Post Office in conjunction with Bolton Philatelic Society are holding a two day philatelic exhibition at the Central Library, Bolton on 27/28 April 1984.

A special pictorial handstamp bearing the words 'Philatelic Exhibition Bolton 28 April 1984' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated at the exhibition. For customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to visit the exhibition normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent to the Head Postmaster 124 Deansgate BOLTON, BL1 1AA.

Basildon Philatelic Society

The Basildon Philatelic Society will hold its fourteenth annual exhibition and course on Saturday 7 April 1984 in St Martins Church Hall, Basildon, from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. Apart from members' displays there will be a number of dealers' stands.

Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies

As no society came forward to host the 1984 Spring Convention, the Association has arranged the event. The Convention will be held at Southover Grange, Lewes on Saturday 14 April and the officers of the ASPS will be giving the displays.

The programme will commence at 1.30 pm.

Andover Stamp Club

The ASC will hold its annual stamp fair on Saturday 28 April in St Anne's Hall, Suffolk Road, Andover, Hampshire, from 10.30 am to 5 pm. Admission is 20p (children and OAPs 10p).

Telford and District PS

The T&DPS will hold a stamp fair on Saturday 28 April 1984 in the Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford,

Shropshire, from 10 am to 4 pm. The attractions include dealers' stands, refreshments and a Post Office philatelic sales stand. There are adjacent free car parking facilities.

Swansea Philatelic Society

To celebrate its Golden Jubilee this year, the Swansea Philatelic Society will host the Annual Convention of the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies to be held in the Brangwyn Hall at the Guildhall, Swansea, on Saturday 28 April 1984. The programme will include a joint meeting of the Postal History Society and the Welsh philatelic Society; displays of stamps and postcards; a Junior Corner; a Private Treaty stall; a special philatelic cover and a Post Office philatelic sales stand.

Solihull Philatelic Society

The Solihull Philatelic Society is holding its annual Spring Stamp Fair and Exhibition on Saturday 14 April 1984, in the Exhibition Hall at Solihull Central Library Homer Road, Solihull from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm.

The exhibition of stamps, postal history and thematics is being staged by members of the Society, which in addition to the winning entries from the Society's Annual Competition will include major displays of Belgium, France, Morocco, Saar and thematics.

In addition to a Post Office sales counter, many of the country's leading philatelic dealers will be in attendance.

Forces Covers

50th Anniversary of the Swordfish Aircraft

On 17 April 1934 the Swordfish aircraft flew for the first time. By 1936, the aircraft carrier, HMS 'Glorious' was equipped with the first squadron.

To mark this event a commemorative cover is available illustrating the aircraft dressed in Fleet Air Arm colours. The cover bearing a 16p 'Cattle' stamp, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, BFPS 1836, depicting the badge of the Royal Naval Air Station, Yeovilton, will cost 90p.

Alternatively, the cover with the 28p 'Cattle' stamp affixed, cancelled as above and signed by Vice Admiral Sir Richard Janvrin KCB DSC, Aircrew, Taranto 1940 (Swordfish aircraft), and Lieut. Comdr. K N Patrick RN, Swordfish Display Pilot, 984, RNAS, Yeovilton, the price is £2.10.

In addition, the cover with a 20½p 'Cattle' stamp affixed, signed by Lieut. Comdr. Patrick only is

available price £1.35.

Orders with remittances made payable to the Fleet Air Arm should be sent to The Philatelic Officer, RNAS Yeovilton, YEOVIL Somerset BA22 8HL accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

All covers were flown from RNAS Yeovilton to London for handstamping, and a cachet denoting this was applied.

Commemorative Covers

The National Trust for Scotland

The National Trust for Scotland is introducing a new series of Philatelic covers. The purpose of this new series is to celebrate notable anniversaries and important occasions of the Trust and to raise funds.

These official covers will be printed in full colour on hand-made envelopes with illustrations by the Trust's own studios in Edinburgh. Only a limited number will be produced for each issue, and they will be individually numbered on the reverse.

SPECIAL PHILATELIC POSTMARKS

Before posting at the featured event a suitable postage stamp will be affixed to be cancelled by the Post Office using an NTS designed one day only pictorial postmark. An insert card will give details of the event being commemorated.

THE COVERS FOR HERITAGE YEAR 1984

The six covers planned for the start of the series are as follows:

1. 28 April — Opening of Museum of Farming Life at Pitmedden, Aberdeenshire.
2. 24 May — Opening of the City of Aberdeen Maritime Museum at Provost Ross's House, the third oldest house in the city, built in 1593.
3. 1 June — The 15th Anniversary of Scotland's first country park, The Culzean Country Park, Culzean Castle, Ayrshire.
4. Late June/Early July — Opening of the new Culloeden Visitors Centre at the Batterfield site which has been returned to its original moorland state.
5. 28 June-1 July — The Falkland Palace Festival. Medieval players, Royal Tennis, and street stalls. Mary Queen of Scots spent much of her childhood in this historic Palace.
6. 3 September — The 30th Anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland's acquisition of Fair Isle. The most isolated inhabited island in Britain and famous Bird Sanctuary.

WHERE TO ORDER

For those who are unable to visit these events, all covers may be ordered by post at £2.00 each, or as a complete set for 1984 priced at £11.10p for the six, from the Philatelic Agent appointed by the National Trust for Scotland, Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd, 33 St George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX. Access and Barclay Visa Cards welcome.

A NTS Album to compliment these high quality covers will be made available later in the year.

RSPB

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds can still offer a limited number of their signed Christmas First Day Covers. Because the Christmas 1983 stamps depicted birds, the RSPB asked the artist, Tony Meeuwissen to sign a limited number of covers for sale in support of their Woodland Bird Survival Campaign.

These special covers are available at £10 each plus 25p to cover postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to the RSPB should be sent to: Lindsay Derry, Appeals and Funding, The RSPB, The Lodge, SANDY, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Northumbria Police

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the formation of Northumbria Police, a special souvenir cover has been produced and will be available from 2 April 1984. The cover will be illustrated with a symbol relating to the 10th Anniversary of Northumbria Police and will also depict the force logo.

Bearing a 20½p Chillingham Cattle Stamp, the cover will be cancelled by a special Ponteland handstamp depicting a police officer's helmet, dated 2 April 1984. A special filler card has also been produced, giving a brief history of Northumbria Police.

The cost of the cover is £1.00, and a limited number signed by the Chief Constable are also available at a cost of £2.00 each. Orders with remittances made payable to 'Northumbria Police Authority' should be sent to the Press and Public Relations Department, Northumbria Police Headquarters, Ponteland, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE20 0BL, accompanied by a 10" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Urban Wildlife Group, Birmingham

To mark the issue of the Urban Renewal Stamps on 10 April, the Urban Wildlife Group of Birmingham is sponsoring a souvenir cover.

The cover carries an attractive design featuring Urban Wildlife and a full set of Urban Renewal

Stamps, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. A limited number of covers will also be available, signed by David Bellamy, the television Wildlife personality.

Founded in 1980, the Urban Wildlife Group has played a major part in persuading Local Authorities to give full consideration to the importance of saving space for nature and people in Urban renewal schemes, and has been particularly successful in the West Midlands.

The covers will cost £1.90 each or £3.00 each if signed. Orders with remittances made payable to the 'Urban Wildlife Group' should be sent to: The Development Secretary, Urban Wildlife Group, 11 Albert Street, BIRMINGHAM, B4 7UA.

Arnolfini/Bush House, Bristol

To coincide with the issue of stamps celebrating Urban Renewal, Arnolfini arts complex, which is housed in Bush House, Bristol, and featured on the 28p stamp, is producing a commemorative cover with a full-colour illustration of the building floodlit at night. Covers bearing the 28p stamp and a special cancellation designed by the City of Bristol will be available from 10 April, price £1.80 including package and posting. Orders with remittance (cheques payable to 'Arnolfini') should be sent to Louise Cogman, Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, BRISTOL, BS1 4QA.

Sealink — Britain's Bridge with Europe

Two covers will be available from 15 May 1984.

One will feature a photograph of the 'St Anselm', one of Sealink's British ships, and will be cancelled at Dover. The second will depict one of Sealink's French ships with a Calais Paquebot.

For further details please write to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

The cost of these 'silk' covers with the 'Europa' stamps affixed will be £3.00 each or £9.00 for the set of three, plus 30p postage and packing.

Darlington Philatelic Society

To celebrate its Diamond Jubilee in 1984, Darlington Philatelic Society will be hosting the 35th North of England Philatelic Association's Convention. This will be held on 7 April 1984 at the College of Technology in Darlington.

A special souvenir cover and two postcards, depicting the Diamond Jubilee locomotive have been produced for the occasion. The cover is available in one design, either printed in four colours or one colour: it costs 30p if unserviced, or £1.00 and 45p respectively for four colour or one colour covers

serviced with a 15½p definitive stamp. A special one-day handstamp has been sponsored by the society for 7 April.

The two mint postcards, one depicting the Diamond Jubilee locomotive, and the other depicting a horizontal diamond motif are available at 25p each. Serviced cards, bearing a 15½p definitive stamp and cancelled with a special handstamp are available at 40p each.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Darlington Philatelic Society' should be sent to: P F Lyons, 1 Polam Lane, DARLINGTON, Co. Durham, DL 1 5DT. Postage is extra on all orders.

Royal Institute of British Architects

A special cover is being produced to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). This depicts a full colour version of Eric Gill's adaptation of the Institute's official badge, and will be cancelled with a special handstamp on 10 April 1984, the date of issue of the Urban Renewal stamps.

A second cover is also being produced for the Yorkshire Region of the RIBA. This depicts a painting by the architect and artist Colin Verity, winner of the competition organised by RIBA amongst local architects to design a cover. It will also be cancelled with a special handstamp on 10 April 1984, and a limited number are available signed by Lord Scarborough, who was made an honorary member of the RIBA in 1982, in recognition of his services to and patronage of Architecture.

Further details of both covers can be obtained from Cotswold Covers Ltd, Liege House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wiltshire, SN14 8LZ.

London Docklands Development Corporation

To coincide with the issue of the Urban Renewal stamps on 10 April 1984, a special cover has been produced to commemorate the work of the London Docklands Development Corporation. A special 'Isle of Dogs' postmark has also been commissioned for use on the same day.

The covers are available at £1.50 each, bearing a single 16p Urban Renewal stamp or £3.25 with a full set of stamps. In addition, covers bearing the full set of Urban Renewal stamps and signed by a member of the London Docklands Development Corporation are available at £5.25 each. (All prices are inclusive of postage and packing.)

Orders with remittances made payable to Havering Covers Ltd should be sent to: Havering Covers Ltd, Bates House, Church Road, Harold Wood, ROMFORD, Essex, RM3 0JA.

The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry

To celebrate the Society's coming-of-age (which coincides with the 500th Anniversary Year of the College of Arms), it has been granted Armorial Bearings.

At a special ceremony to be held on 5 May 1984 in Birmingham, Sir Colin Cole, Garter Principal King of Arms will officially hand over the Letters Patent to the Society.

To commemorate this event a special cover will be available featuring the new Arms, together with the 16p 'Heraldry' stamp which depicts the Arms of the College of Arms. Since the Society is based in Birmingham, one of the special pictorial Birmingham handstamps will be used for cancellation.

A limited number of covers bearing the full set of 4 'Heraldry' stamps and signed by Garter, Principal King of Arms will be available.

The surcharge for this special set will be donated to the College of Arms for the purpose of the College's Restoration Appeal Fund.

The covers will cost £3.00 each for the single value issue, and £8.00 each (ie £5.00 to the College Appeal) for the full set signed by Garter.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'BMSGH (covers)' should be sent to: The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, c/o 1 Wash Lane, Yardley, BIRMINGHAM, B25 8SB.

Ellesmere College

Ellesmere College is one of the 27 schools founded in the nineteenth century by Canon Nathaniel Woodard, and celebrates its centenary in 1984. As part of its Centenary Celebrations, the college will raise funds for the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry.

As part of the fund-raising, a special souvenir cover has been produced, depicting an etching of the college. A limited edition of the cover, bearing a 16p Heraldry Stamp, and cancelled with a special handstamp, will be available from 18 May 1984. The college is dedicated to St Oswald, and the filler card for the cover describes the College Coat of Arms and its relationship to St Oswald, who died in nearby Oswestry.

The cost of the cover is £1.50, and orders with remittances made payable to the Bursar, Ellesmere College, should be sent to: The Bursar, Centenary Office, Ellesmere College, ELLESMERE, Shropshire, SY12 9AB.

City of Durham

The City of Durham is producing a four-colour illustrated souvenir cover to coincide with the issue of the Urban Renewal Stamps on 10 April 1984. The covers will bear the 20½p Urban Renewal Stamp depicting the Milburngate Centre, Durham and will be cancelled by a special handstamp based on the Seal of the City. A cachet indicating that the cover has been posted in a special posting box will also be applied. The covers will have an illustrated stiffener depicting the past, present and future of Milburngate.

A limited number of the covers will be signed by the Mayor of Durham, to whose Charity Appeal the proceeds of the sales will be donated. Orders for the covers priced at £1.50 and £2.50 if signed should be sent to the Mayor's Officer, Durham City Council, Town Hall, DURHAM DH1 3NW. Remittances should be made payable to 'The City of Durham,' and 50p should be added if orders are required to be returned under separate covers.

Philatelic Bulletin

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