

British Philatelic Bulletin

Number 5

January 1991



Contents

- 98 Comment
- Railway Letter Stamps
- 99 1991 Special Issues
- 100 Global Tribute to the Penny Black
- 102 Stamp Books, August 1989-August 1990
- 104 British Special Issues: British Gardens
- 105 Special and Country Stamps Update
- Sussex Postal History Society
- Quantities Issued
- Post Office Stampex Awards
- 106 Posting Boxes
- National Youth Competition in Scotland
- Postal Historian Honoured
- 107 Royal Mail Exhibition Card
- Events
- Gems from the Phillips Collection
- 108 Greetings Stamps
- 110 Themes of British Special Stamps – Sport
- 113 NPM 1991 Programme
- 114 Changes in Registered Envelopes
- 115 Six Month Digest
- Scottish Aerogrammes
- GB Philatelic Society Meeting
- 116 Stampway to the World
- Pearls for Everyone
- 117 Books
- 118 Commemorative Covers
- 119 Competition
- 120 January Digest
- Royal Mail Stamps Youth Philately
- Books for School and Youth Stamp Clubs

Comment

The highlight of 1990 was without doubt the Stamp World exhibition at Alexandra Palace. Despite pessimistic predictions in some quarters, the exhibition was a great success with 95,000 visitors and almost universal acclaim in the philatelic press. Sadly the general press, television and radio almost ignored the event – it is to be hoped that this will not be so in 10 years time (dare we hope that we in Britain will not have to wait a decade for another international?). The most-expressed comment (to me) was that the exhibition had style, was a quality event. I

thought it better than 1970 and 1980 – equal to, if not better than, the Festival Hall exhibition of 1960. Not only were the venue and arrangements of a high order but the visitors seemed rather more “up market” than usual for a philatelic event. As one of my fellow editors commented “... there were less of the grubby raincoat brigade in evidence”. Let’s hope that this continues and that the image of us stamp collectors in the eyes of non-collectors is improved. I, for one, am fed up with the image of collectors as either “snotty-nosed schoolboys or dotty old men”; hopefully 1990 has laid that view to rest!

John Holman

Railway Letter Stamps

The North Yorkshire Moors Rly will issue two 25p stamps on 1 February to mark the centenary of the Railway Letter Service agreement between the Post Office and railway companies. One stamp features a 2d railway letter stamp of the 1891 design (NYMR stamp No. 38), the other the crests of the North Eastern and North Yorkshire Moors companies (No. 39). They are printed in separate sheets of eight stamps and one label. Mint stamps are available at face value, first day covers, one for each stamp, at £1.50 each. Postage 25p UK, 50p overseas. Orders/enquiries: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.



Also shown here is the new Talyllyn railway stamp issued on 10 October, detailed in the December *Bulletin*, page 95.

1991 Special Issues

Dogs, dinosaurs, sport and space are among the wide range of topics to be featured on Royal Mail special stamp issues in 1991.

The first issue of the year, on 8 January, features paintings of dogs by George Stubbs. The issue marks the centenaries of Crufts Dog Show and the National Canine Defence League and the bicentenary of the Royal Veterinary College. The stamps were previewed in last month's *Bulletin*.

The second issue, on **Scientific Achievements**, will appear on 5 March to celebrate the bicentenaries of the birth of Michael Faraday (the "father of electricity") and Charles Babbage (the pioneer of computer science), as well as the 50th anniversary of the first flight of Whittle's jet engine and the development of radar by Robert Watson Watt during the Second World War. The stamps will comprise se-tenant pairs of 22p and 37p values, vertical format, designed by Peter Till and John Harwood and printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd. They will be previewed here next month.

Europe in Space is the theme chosen by the CEPT (Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations) for the "Europa" stamps issue on 23 April. The stamps again comprise se-tenant pairs of 22p and 37p values, designed by Jean Michel Folon, vertical format, printed by Harrison.

Sport features on a set of stamps to be issued on 11 June, celebrating two major events in 1991 – the World Student Games in Sheffield, and the Rugby Union World Cup. The International Federation of University Sport, which organises the student games, hope to attract more than 6,000 competitors from 130 countries. The Rugby Union World Cup, one of the world's great sporting events, will involve teams from 16 countries competing over a five-week period. The stamps will feature Fencing, Diving, Hurdling and Rugby (value order to be decided). Of "almost square" format, the stamps have been designed by Huntley Muir and will be printed by Harrison.

Roses will provide the colour for five stamps on 16 July, to mark the World Rose Congress

being held in Belfast. The stamps will feature: 22p Rose Silver Jubilee; 26p Rosa Alfred Carriere; 31p Rosa Moyesii; 33p Rosa Harvest Fayre; 37p Rosa Mutabilis. The square-shaped stamps have been designed by Yvonne Scargon and will be printed by The House of Questa.

The days when **Dinosaurs** roamed in the UK, where their fossilised remains were first discovered, will be recaptured on stamps to be issued on 20 August. The issue marks the first time the name "Dinosaur" was used to describe these prehistoric creatures, at the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1841. The values will be: 22p, 26p, 31p, 33p, 37p; the stamps will be of "almost square" format, designed by Bryan Kneale and printed by Harrison.

Stamps featuring **Maps** will celebrate the bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey, the National Mapping Organisation of Great Britain, which is also a production organisation and publisher. The issue, on 17 September, will be associated with the International Cartographic Conference being held in Bournemouth in 1991. The four "almost square" stamps, 22p, 26p, 31p and 37p values, will feature Hamstreet, Kent – chosen as an area with many of the features for which OS symbols exist. The stamps, designed by Howard Brown, will be printed by Harrison (22p and 26p) and Questa (31p and 37p).

The year's programme will be completed with the traditional **Christmas** stamps, featuring Illuminated Manuscripts, on 12 November. These will be of horizontal format, designed by David Driver, printing by Harrison.

The values for special issues consist of: 22p inland first class and EEC basic rate; 26p European rate for countries outside EEC; 31p airmail worldwide postcard rate; 33p inland first class second weight step; and 37p basic airmail letter rate worldwide. The Christmas issue will include an inland second class rate stamp.

Ten first class (NVI) **Greetings** stamps will be issued on 5 February – previewed in this *Bulletin*. The 1991 **Prestige Stamp Book** will be issued on 19 March – containing text on Agatha Christie's life and works, with designs illustrating some of her best-known works. It will include details of a competition to win a trip for two to Paris on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. The four stamp panes will comprise 6 x 17p; 9 x 22p; 6 x 22p, 2 x 33p and 1 label; and 6 x 17p definitive stamps. The book, printed by Questa, will sell at £6.

Global Tribute to the Penny Black

Part 2

JAMES MACKAY

Worthwhile designs, including the Penny Black, were the order of the day for issues produced under the aegis of the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation which organised an eleven-country omnibus series designed by Michael Pollard. Considerable ingenuity was shown in devising designs which injected new life into the subject. Emphasis was placed on the background to the issue of the Penny Black. Thus Ghana's set of six featured alongside the Penny Black the Guildhall medal, contemporary mailcoaches, Frederick Heath's engraving of Victoria's profile and the Perkins Bacon master die, while one of the accompanying souvenir sheets depicted the flatbed press on which the stamps were printed. The \$5 of the Grenadines of St Vincent showed a negative image of the Penny Black on an engine-turned background, with a reproduction of the stamp itself, along with banknote and bond security patterns in the sheet margins. Nevis successively featured the Guildhall medal, the engine-turned background, Heath's portrait engraving and the master die with lettering added, while the miniature sheet showing the completed Penny Black depicted Perkins Bacon workmen in the sheet margin. The Turks and Caicos Islands concentrated on the problems which emerged through the use of the red Maltese Cross cancellation; the 25c showed a Rainbow trial of 1840, while the 75c depicted a Penny Red trial printing from a Black plate and the \$1 showed the Twopence Blue "with lines" of 1841.

Other issues in this series featured the Wyon and Machin profiles in frames of 1840, 1890 and 1990 (Antigua and Barbuda), silhouette profiles of Queen Elizabeth within the outline portrait of Queen Victoria, and *vice versa* (Maldives Islands) and the Penny Black and Twopence Blue alongside contemporary writing paper (St Vincent). Dominica issued three stamps showing the Penny Black and St Paul's Cathedral with panoramic views of London from different perspectives. Sierra Leone's stamps consisted of reproductions of the Penny Black with the inscriptions suitably modified.

Many of the issues this year combined the

150th anniversary with publicity for Stamp World London '90. Samoa's stamp showed Alexandra Palace as well as the Penny Black, and this was also the theme of Anguilla's \$6 miniature sheet. Ascension's 9p reproduced both Penny Black and Twopence Blue, while the Seychelles' 10r miniature sheet paired the Penny Black with the 2.25r stamp of the Seychelles postal centenary set of 1961. St



Helena's 13p showed tweezers holding a *black* Twopence — though the 20p of the same set correctly depicted a Penny Black, cancelled by a red Maltese Cross. The self-same stamp, lettered GE, appeared on Kenya's 4.50s stamp with a First Day handstamp of the Kenya Stamp



Bureau (dated 1988) alongside. Incidentally, although they are slightly overlapped, I suspect that the very same stamp served as the basis of the designs used by Ascension and Seychelles; at least no one appears to have made the *faux pas* of reproducing a stamp with impossible corner letters. A Penny Black and one of the map definitives of 1980 graced Vanuatu's 200c value, while a slightly larger than life Penny Black was reproduced in the margin of Swaziland's 2c miniature sheet.

Barbados had the equally erroneous caption "150th Anniversary of the First Adhesive Stamp" (ignoring the fact that adhesive *tax* stamps had been used for medicine duty since 1802). The set of four reproduced the Penny Black (50c) and famous Barbadian stamps.

South Africa ignored the 150th anniversary as such, but issued a strip of five different stamps in May for National Stamp Day. Four of the 21c stamps featured the first stamps of the four provinces, but the premier position went to the Penny Black. The Cook Islands and Niue each celebrated the 150th anniversary with a set of four and matching miniature sheet. The stamps reproduced Old Master paintings with the theme of letter-writing. A stylised Penny Black appeared in the corner of each stamp, while both Penny Black and Twopence Blue were reproduced in the margin of the miniature sheets.



Final Port of Call

The prize for the most unusual treatment of the subject, however, must go to Portugal whose miniature sheet contained a single 250e stamp showing a pair of hands affixing a Penny Black to a cover. The design projected into the sheet margin revealed that the hands belonged to



young Mr Hill, seated at his desk on which lay a part sheet of the stamps. Four gentlemen standing beside him look on superciliously, obviously regarding the "bits of paper with their glutinous wash" as little more than a nine days' wonder. One of them sips a glass of liquor and lest you are in doubt as to the contents, a decanter nearby is clearly labelled "Port" — a neat plug for the national tippie!

Stamp Books, August 1989-August 1990

Part 2

L F NEWBERY

20 March 1990

The 1990 prestige book was entitled "London Life" and contained four panes — two of six 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps (on Advanced Coated Paper), one of four 20p Europa (Alexandra Palace) stamps and a most interesting mixed value pane. This contained 15p standard and Penny Black Anniversary definitives and 2nd class NVI, all with phosphor band right, and 20p standard and Penny Black Anniversary

£1.50 and £2 books contained panes of 10 15p and 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps printed by Questa; the only Penny Black stamps from that company. No plate numbers were shown.

A £1.16 book contained four 29p standard definitives, litho-printed by Walsall on phosphor coated paper from plates W2W2. The previous issue (2 October 1989) had two bands, from plates W1W1. Although this book went on philatelic sale on 17 April, some had been earlier released through post offices and retail outlets; the earliest reported date of sale being 28 February 1990.

12 June 1990

The final books containing Penny Black Anniversary stamps comprised £1.50 and £2 books containing panes of 10 15p and 20p stamps printed by Walsall. The panes had straight edges top and bottom but did not yield any new individual stamps. The plates employed were: 15p — W1W1W1, W1W2W1 and W1W2W2; 20p — W1W1. On the primary sheets these numbers are to be found opposite panes 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 in both columns 1 and 4 and in column 3 they are opposite panes 4, 5 and 6. These books were gradually replaced after 7 August 1990 by the new NVI issues.

7 August 1990

Eight Mark IV books (revised cover design) containing new 1st (flame) and 2nd (dark blue) NVI stamps went on philatelic sale on 7 August 1990. A selection of the books were available on the first day at post offices; the books went on sale at retail outlets as stocks of earlier issues became exhausted. On the front cover the stamp illustration is now reduced, the Crown Royal Mail logo is replaced with the new cruciform logo. On the back cover the old logo and recommended price captions are now omitted. There is now a Pull Open instruction on the flap. The postal rates panel on the inside is replaced with a rates notice.

Walsall printed books of four and 10 1st class and 2nd class stamps, Questa and Harrison each



definitives, 1st class NVI, 29p Penny Black Anniversary stamp and 50p definitive — all with two phosphor bands. The two 20p stamps had previously been issued in £1 books; all the other stamps in the mixed pane were new.

17 April 1990

Four new books were put on philatelic sale on 17 April. A new 80p book containing four 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps, printed by Harrison in covers manufactured by Walsall. The pane had straight edges at top, right and bottom, resulting in two new stamps — straight edge top and right, and right and bottom. The cylinders used were B7A B4B; the numbers were trimmed off and do not appear in issued books.

books of 10 of both 1st and 2nd. Harrison and Walsall books have straight edges on the top and bottom sides of the pane; Questa panes are perforated on all sides. The plate numbers used for the Walsall panes were: 4 x 2nd — W1W1W1; 4 x 1st — W1W1W1, W1W2W2; 10 x 2nd — W1W1W1, W2W1W1, W2W1W2 and

10 x 1st — W1W1. Harrison cylinders are: 10 x 2nd — B1; 10 x 1st — B3. No plate numbers were shown on Questa printings.

The books were sold at 60p, 80p, £1.50 and £2 until 17 September when prices were revised to: 68p, 88p, £1.70 and £2.20 to reflect the new postal rates.



Top: Walsall 2nd and Harrison 1st class books. Middle: Plate number pane from Walsall 10 x 2nd class book. Bottom: Questa Penny Black book (17 April 1990).

Notes:

1. All the books mentioned here are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau at the time of going to press.
2. As window books are supplied sealed, the Bureau cannot supply books with cylinder or plate numbers.

3. The dates given here mostly refer to the dates the books went on philatelic sale at the Bureau, "Collections" and philatelic counters; they went on sale at post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier issues became exhausted. This explains why some retail outlets were still selling the 22 August 1989 books almost a year after issue.

British Gardens

British Special Issues: No.163

FRANCIS KENNEDY

An Englishman's home is his castle and his garden is his estate. The latter may be small but it is important and is the pride of countless Britons. The planning and planting of gardens, large and small, goes back several centuries, each with its own favoured style, and this issue deals with four definable styles from the 20th century back to the 17th century.

Issued on 24 August 1983, the series marked the bicentenary of the death of "Capability" Brown (more formally, Lancelot Brown, born 1716, died 1783), among the best known of professional landscape gardeners who acquired his strange nickname from his repeated observation that a prospective client's garden had "capability for development" on the lines suggested by Brown.

16p – Sissinghurst Castle, Kent. Famous gardens established as late as the 20th century are comparatively few in number, that at Sissinghurst Castle being outstanding. Its originator was the poetess and novelist, Victoria (Vita) Sackville-West (in private life the wife of Harold Nicolson, biographer and historian), whose passion for Nature inspired much of her writing. Her Hawthornden Prize in 1927 for her long poem *Land* was complemented in 1946 by *The Garden*, "agriculture's little brother". The castle and garden are now National Trust property.

20½p – Biddulph's Grange, Staffordshire. The 19th century saw the burgeoning of gardening as a hobby leading to the creation of clubs and societies, including the Horticultural Society of London – now the Royal Horticultural Society, the arbiter of much that goes on in competitive gardening today. In 1988, five years after these stamps were issued the fine Victorian garden passed into the safekeeping of the National Trust who are currently engaged on the largest garden restoration they have ever undertaken. It was in the Victorian era that many more overseas plants were introduced into Great Britain, including the camellia from China and the rhododendron from the Himalayas, both of which quickly established themselves here. The stamp features a "folly" cottage in the Biddulph Garden,

guarded by two sphinx-like stone figures.

28p – Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. These grounds were landscaped by "Capability" Brown in the 18th century following his experience as a gardener at Stowe under the tutelage of William Kent, another great landscape gardener. Brown dramatically altered the Blenheim garden with its formality introduced by Queen Anne's gardener, Henry Wise. One achievement was the creation of the serpentine lake (as seen on the stamp) by damming and controlling a small stream.



31p – Pitmedden, Grampian boasts one of the finest remaining Tudor gardens of the 17th century. Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, the low clipped hedges and "Knot" gardens have accurately recreated the finest features of the Tudor gardens originally laid out by Sir Alexander Seton. These, in turn, were fashioned after the classic Italian gardens of the period and gradually replaced the ubiquitous monastic gardens of herbs and medicinal plants.

The designer of the stamps was a well-known water-colour artist, Liz Butler – a newcomer to stamp designing. Exceptionally, printing was in offset lithography by John Waddington Ltd of Leeds (only the second British special issue printed by them) in sheets of 100, two panes of 50). No constant flaws, major or minor, are listed in the Gibbons *GB Specialised Catalogue*. Sales up to the withdrawal date,

23 August 1984, were: 16p – 40,620,700; 20½p – 7,571,100; 28p – 7,062,100 and 31p – 6,765,000. The PHQ cards were numbered 69a to 69d; some 190,000 sets were produced.

Post Office “First Day of Issue” pictorial cancels were provided for the Philatelic Bureau and Oxford. Amongst the many sponsored handstamps was one worded CAPABILITY BROWN 1715-1783 KEW GARDENS RICHMOND SURREY; three other handstamps featured well-known “stately homes” in their designs – Blenheim Palace, Bowood, Wiltshire and Claremont, Surrey. Details were announced at the time in the *Postmark Bulletin* and the handstamps can now be found listed in the British Postmark Society’s book *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom*.

Special and Country Stamps Update

The colours used for the 20p Gallantry stamps, not previously recorded here, were: VC – grey-black, pale stone, stone, bistre-brown and bright carmine; GC – grey-black, pale stone, flesh, grey and ultramarine; DSC/DSM – grey-black, pale stone, flesh, pale blue and ultramarine; MC/MM – grey-black, pale stone, ochre, pale blue, ultramarine, scarlet and violet; DFC/DFM – grey-black, pale stone, yellow-brown, bluish grey and purple.

The colours and cylinders for the Christmas stamps are: 17p — 1A (gold) 2B (greenish yellow) 2C (rose) 3D (new blue) 1E (grey-black); 22p – 1A (gold) 1B (greenish yellow) 3C (magenta) 1D (new blue) 1E (black); 26p – 1A (gold) 1B (olive-yellow) 1C (pale magenta) 2D (agate) 2E (new blue) 1F (dull violet-blue) 1G (black); 31p 1A (gold) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (bright rose-red) 1D (dull mauve) 1E (new blue) 1F (turquoise-blue) 1G (grey-black); 37p 1A (gold) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (rose) 2D (new blue) 4E (slate-green).

The Queen’s Award 20p stamps are reported from plates 3A3A3A3A3A and 3B3B3B3B3B in addition to those recorded in the March 1990 *Bulletin*.

Initial printings of the new 17p, 22p, 26p and 37p Country stamps were all from plates Q1Q1 and Q2Q2.

Sussex Postal History Society

A society for collectors of West and East Sussex postal history material is proposed with an inaugural meeting in the Spring; it is hoped to

hold four meetings a year and to issue a magazine. Readers interested in this proposed society should write, stating their collecting interests, to: John E O Hobbs, 12 Orphir Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 2SR.

Quantities Issued

Details can now be given of the numbers issued of the early window books:

Price	Code & date	Quantity
52p	E (4/8/87)	482,700
52p	F (4/8/87)	295,150
72p	A (4/8/87)	876,400
72p	B (4/8/87)	423,350
£1.04	I (4/8/87)	273,900
£1.04	J (4/8/87)	145,025
£1.30	G (4/8/87)	468,450
£1.30	H (4/8/87)	517,150
£1.80	C (4/8/87)	581,650
£1.80	D (4/8/87)	799,025
56p	O (23/8/88)	284,500
56p	P (23/8/88)	123,950
76p	K (23/8/88)	353,600
76p	L (23/8/88)	126,150
£1.08	S (23/8/88)	90,650
£1.08	T (23/8/88)	54,500
£1.40	Q (23/8/88)	264,800
£1.40	R (23/8/88)	311,475
£1.90	M (23/8/88)	266,550
£1.90	N (23/8/88)	297,000

Post Office Stampex Awards

The Post Office Trophy was awarded at Autumn Stampex/BPE to P G Dellar for his fine exhibit “Essays, Proofs and Issued Stamps of King Edward VII”; this included the unissued 2½d purple on blue of 1901, the 2d Tyrian Plum of 1910 (with and without SPECIMEN overprint), a colour trial of this stamp in brown and a plate proof in cerise. The Trophy was first awarded in 1969. The National Postal Museum Medal for research into the Machins was awarded to D G A Myall for the *Deegam Catalogue of Elizabethan Coil Leaders*. The NPM medal for the most promising entry in the Melville National Youth Stamp Competition was awarded to Margaret Moore for her exhibit “A Miniature World of Stamps”. Congratulations to all three.

Posting Boxes

116. George V and Elizabeth II Boxes in Hong Kong

Courtesy of Aaron Chan of Kowloon we feature this month two Elizabeth II posting boxes in Hong Kong – these boxes stand near the Star Ferry pier on the island. In addition to the posting boxes, numbered 83 and 84, are stamp-vending machines (10 cents stamps) and



an advertisement for the Hong Kong Philatelic Bureau. Beneath the boxes is the warning **STICK NO BILLS** in English and Chinese.

A photograph of another Elizabeth II box (No. 53) in Hong Kong, also submitted by Mr Chan, was published in the April 1986 issue of the *Bulletin*.

Posting Box Postcards

Featured here is card No. 11 in David Shaw's "British Postbox Series" showing a George V box at Norwick in the Shetland Isles. This is the most northerly postbox in the British Isles.



David Shaw cards are available from the National Postal Museum, price 20p each. Details were published in the February, July and October 1990 issues of the *Bulletin*. They are all offered subject unsold.

National Youth Competition in Scotland

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies is organising the 1991 National Competition for the Caledonian Jubilee Cup. Entry is free and open to any collector up to and including the age of 18 who lives, or is at school, in Scotland. The competition is divided into four age groups with prizes for each group. All entrants will receive a certificate and non-winners a consolation prize. The over-all winner will hold the Caledonian Jubilee Cup for one year. Full details, which have been circulated to education authorities, libraries, philatelic societies and youth organisations, can be obtained from the Competition organiser: D B Rossall, 15 Woodlands Grove, KILMARNOCK, Ayrshire, KA3 1TY. The closing date for entries is 1 February 1991.

Postal Historian Honoured

Readers of the Post Office sponsored history *Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840* (published 1985) will be interested to know that the author Dr Martin Daunton has recently been appointed Professor of History at University College, London. Much of his research for the *Royal Mail* book was undertaken at Post Office Archives so it was appropriate that the Post Office Archivist, Jean Ferrugia, and her deputy, Dr Douglas Fermer, were invited to Professor Daunton's inaugural lecture last October. Also attending were Tony Gammons of the National Postal Museum and Mark Richardson, the first Post Office sponsored research student.

Dr Daunton's book is still available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £18.50; it was reviewed here in November 1985.

Royal Mail Exhibition Card

Exhibition Card No. 4 will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau from 26 February with a special handstamp for the Spring Stampex exhibition in London. Price £1.50 plus handling charge. Cards sold at the Royal Mail Stamps stand at the exhibition will bear an exhibition cachet. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition can order the cacheted card from the Bureau; orders for card with cachet must be received at the Bureau by the date the exhibition closes, i.e. 3 March. Price £1.50.

Cards with the Stamp World (3 May 1990), Belgica (2 June), New Zealand 1990 (24 August), Autumn Stampex/BPE (16 October) and ASDA National 90 (1 November) handstamps are still available, price £1.50 each. Note: these cards have the relevant handstamps but not cachets. Orders to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Events

Spring Stampex will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society halls, Greycourt Street and Vincent Square, London SW1 from 26 February to 3 March 1991. A wide range of dealers will be present; there will be a Royal Mail sales counter, a Stamp Bug area for young collectors and a National Postal Museum stand where postcards, books and souvenirs will be available. A special cachet will be available for use on cards purchased at the NPM stand. A special handstamp will be used on mail posted on the Royal Mail stand. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition may obtain the postmark by sending stamped, addressed covers to: London South Special Handstamp Centre, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB. Please ask for the Stampex handstamp and state the date required.

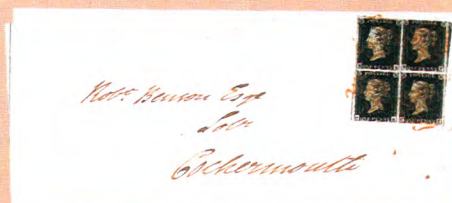
The exhibition will be open from noon to 7pm on 26 February; 10.30am to 7pm on 27 February-2 March and 10.30am to 6pm on 3 March. Admission, except on opening day, will be £1.50. Further details from: STAMPDEX, 27 John Adam Street, LONDON WC2N 6HZ, Tel. 071-930 6465.

Dr E R Clarke will give a display of the Wilding issues at the **Wolverhampton Philatelic Society** meeting on 16 January. Venue — Church Hall, United Reformed Church, Mount Road, Tettenhall Wood, Wolverhampton, 7.30pm. Details of the Society are available from the Secretary: R H Cutts, 8 Alton Close, Bushbury, WOLVERHAMPTON WV10 8ES.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

181. Penny Black Plate 9 on Cover

The cover shown here was posted 150 years ago — on 15 January 1841. It bears a fine block of four Penny Blacks from Plate 9 with corner letters BE, BF, CE and CF cancelled with a London Maltese Cross in red. The cover is addressed to a solicitor in Cocker-mouth, Cumberland (now Cumbria). A number of varieties are present on the stamps: the B of BE is doubled; the stamp lettered BF has a horizontal guide line below the bottom margin; the CE stamp shows misplaced check letters and there are vertical guide lines in the north east corner of all four stamps and in the south east corner of the stamp lettered CF. This interesting cover can be seen on page 30 of Volume 6 of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum.



Stamps from Plate 9 did not appear until November 1840 and unused multiples are rare. The Collection includes an unused block of four and used blocks of 14 and four in addition to the block on the Cockermouth cover. There are also several mint blocks of this plate in red.

The Museum in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, London EC1, is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm and Friday 9.30am to 4pm; admission free.

Greetings Stamps

5 February 1991

The third issue of Royal Mail Greetings Stamps will be released on 5 February, comprising 10 first class NV1 stamps each with a different designs making up a composite picture. The stamps will be sold in a book, including 12 Greetings labels, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and post offices, price £2.20.

The designs overflow with good luck symbols – a magical landscape where butterflies turn into hearts, a church clock strikes seven and black cats pop up all over the place. Amongst the symbols featured are a golden key for 21st and 18th birthdays, wedding bells and horseshoes, a wishing well, a nest of eggs for a new home or a new baby, a shooting star and a four leaf clover. Somewhere over the rainbow is the lucky 3. The labels bear various greetings such as Happy Birthday, Best Wishes, Congratulations, which can be used with the stamps to make them more specific.

First Day Facilities

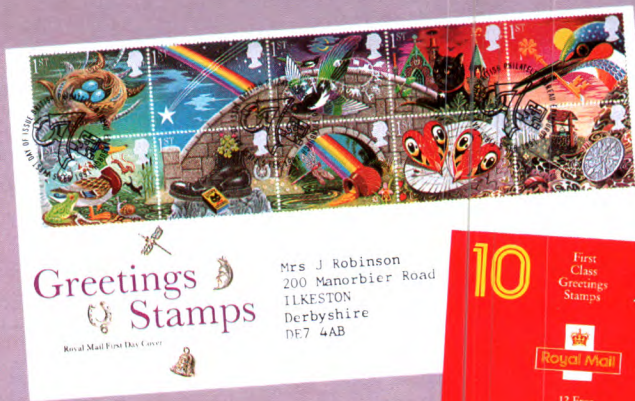
The Royal Mail first day cover, designed by

Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and most post offices, price 19p. The design features some of the charms depicted on the stamps and labels. The usual first day posting boxes will be provided at main offices and pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be available for the Bureau and Greetwell, Lincs.



Application forms, available from the Bureau, should be returned by 5 February. Customers wishing to post their own covers under the reposting facility should send them, on the day of issue, in an outer cover endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail House, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Greetwell postmark). Details of other pictorial postmarks will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.





A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" and philatelic counters from 6 February, price 19p.

Technical Details

The stamps have been designed by Tony Meeuwissen and printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited. The stamps are horizontal in format, size 41 x 30mm, perforation 15 x 14, PVA Dextrin gum. The pane consists of 10 stamps, in two rows of five

horizontally with selvege along the top and bottom only. The labels will be printed three across and four deep continuing on from the Greetings stamps, also with selvege at top and bottom. The overall size of the finished book is 69.5 x 95mm. The colours used for the stamps are: greenish yellow, bright magenta, new blue, grey-brown, blue-black and silver.

The stamps are printed on non-phosphor paper, overprinted with phosphor bars to ensure satisfactory recognition by segregating machinery.



Themes of British Special Stamps

3. Sport

G E DRABBLE

Somerset Maugham wrote somewhere that being an athlete is the only way that one can achieve real fame in England. He was perhaps overstating a case, but the issues of special stamps bear witness to the importance accorded to sport generally by the British public.

The stamps of 1948 marking the Olympic Games, and the British Empire & Commonwealth Games set of 1958 were the two first British sport issues. In 1966 we celebrated England's hosting of the World Cup and also England's victory. In 1970 Commonwealth Games was accorded another issue and Rugby Football received attention in 1971. County Cricket, Sailing and Racket Sports were all commemorated in 1973, 1975 and 1977 respectively. A reference to Sports Cycling occurred in 1978, while in 1980, 1986 and 1988 there were no less than three issues dedicated exclusively to Sport; surely a record for a single topic. The Duke of Edinburgh Award issue in 1981 under the caption "Recreation" showed a hurdler as illustrative of "track events", and the Australian bicentenary in 1988 paid philatelic tribute to tennis and cricket.

memoratives for that time although Percy Metcalf produced an incorrect version of the rings on the 2½d stamp and Abram Games' image of a head thrusting from the globe on the 3d stamp gives a hint of surrealism. But perhaps Edmund Dulac did not do himself justice on the 1s stamp with his Winged Victory, described by an unkind critic as "... a half-dressed soubrette in an old-look petticoat".



The 6th British Empire & Commonwealth Games issue of 1958 was a set of three, again using the definitive colours for the 3d, 6d and 1s3d stamps, but again there were three designers, and a resulting lack of unity. The Games took place in Cardiff and a Welsh dragon is one common theme. Some critics rather unfairly suggested associations with China.

Unreal Scenes

In 1966 England was the host for the World Cup football competition – and won! Yet again three designers produced the three stamps, of which the 4d designed by David Gentleman was the best; a very lively action-shot of two players. This was selected from hundreds of action photos of players. The 6d and 1s3d designed by William Kempster and David Caplan, both portrayed somewhat unreal scenes suggestive of poster advertising; the 1s3d in particular suggests a most unlikely huddle of three players, with a white silhouette of the Queen's head looking on impassively. The English victory in



The four stamps of the Olympic Games issue of 1948 were designed by four different designers — rarely a good augury for a harmonious set. They were printed in the appropriate definitive colours, and make much use of the globe, the Olympic rings and laurel leaves. The three lower values were fairly conventional com-

the final on 30 July was marked by a special printing of Gentleman's design with the simple added legend ENGLAND WINNERS as it was impossible to produce a new design in time.

The first unified set of "Sports" stamps from one designer, Andrew Restall, appeared in 1970



when Britain hosted the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. The stamps show running, swimming and cycling, but the technique used was a superposition of cine-film images, with a not entirely happy result; there is a general atmosphere of overlap and blurring. One must concede that the designer made a praiseworthy attempt at a difficult task – to portray motion through the medium of a still picture.

Better were his "Racket Sports" stamps of 1977; printed by lithography, using the "Delacryl" process – described in the *Bulletin*, of October 1969.

County Cricket

The second unified set to appear was designed by Edward Ripley in 1973, commemorating the

centenary of County Cricket. It consisted of three contemporary drawings of W G Grace by the *Punch* cartoonist Harry Furniss on plain ochre, green and blue backgrounds. The designer played a fairly safe bat, resisting any temptation to elaborate on Furniss's drawings by cluttering the background, and including just the simple legend "County Cricket 1873-1973", with the happy result of a pleasing, if not exciting design.

Andrew Restall produced two more designs, both sets of four: "Sailing" in 1975, and "Racket Sports" in 1977. The first set makes a powerful impact on the album page, due in part to the arresting colours used, and to the printing, a combination of photogravure and recess printing. Emphasis is on the sails themselves, especially a red-striped spinnaker on the 8p value. The recess-printing dealt with the black lining of hulls, rigging and waves and was highly effective although there were problems with some of the black colour coming away. Dinghies, racing keel boats, yachts and multi-hulls were illustrated, and the cheerful appearance of the set contrasts with the same designer's rather dull set of 1970.



His portrayal of lawn tennis, table tennis, squash and badminton in 1977, under "Racket Sports" are arguably some of his best designs. Each stamp features a whole court, with two players in silhouette, with dotted trajectories of the flight of ball or shuttle. The silhouettes, particularly table tennis (10p) are very evocative and one would like to know more of the technicalities of obtaining the flight paths; they seem too accurate to be matter for mere guess-work.

Extracts

Four of the "Sport" issues are extracts, so to speak; only one stamp depicts sport in a set dedicated to some other event. The first of these is a set of Anniversaries designed by Fritz Wegner in 1971; the 9p marked the centenary of Rugby Union. The three stamps conformed to a pattern with a picture flanked by coloured bands bearing the subject title on the left, and the value, the Queen's head and an emblem on the right band. The picture shows players running, one holding a *round* ball. The first impression is of four players, but the presence of too many legs betrays a fifth player apparently being run over. The designer cannot be held too responsible as the picture is based on a painting by W B Wollen. History is a little coy, but the legend is that the game originated in a soccer match when one of the players picked up the ball and ran with it "with fine disregard for the rules". The same designer produced "Cycling" in 1978. Of

In 1981 the Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrated its 25th anniversary, and four stamps illustrating Expeditions, Skills, Service and Recreation were produced by Philip Sharland. The pictures are poster-style, lacking detail but effective. Recreation is illustrated by a hurdler, justifying inclusion in a "Sports" theme. The printing, by offset-litho, was remarkable in that no printing flaws have been recorded in Gibbons' catalogue. The last sporting "extract" is



from the Australian Bicentenary issue of 1988. W G Grace makes a second appearance — on the 34p stamp along with a tennis racket. The four stamps, in two se-tenant pairs, suffer unfortunately from the much-dreaded "clutter"; everything seems to be thrown in together, and nothing is seen clearly. A green and orange band for which there appears no immediate reason runs across both pairs. The issue has some extra interest in that the same designs were issued concurrently in Australia, with values of 37 cents and \$1.

Sporting Action

Three issues, all titled "Sport" (although each issue was linked with various anniversaries and events), appeared in 1980, 1986 and 1988. Robert Goldsmith illustrated running, rugby football, boxing and cricket in the first set. The use of cyan gives all the pictures a somewhat dark appearance. Uniformity is obtained by showing just two people in each scene, although the cricket field, with a single fielder only on the leg side, does look rather bare! There are no captions.

Nick Cudworth, in 1986 showed sprinting, rowing, weight-lifting, shooting and hockey in a colourful issue of five stamps marking the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh and the Hockey World Cup in London. Apart from shooting, only the lower part of a body appears, and the designs all feature horizontal lines, resulting in a very good effect when all five stamps are mounted side by side, as on the first day cover.



four stamps showing types of cycle, the 13p, showing a modern road-racing cycle, may legitimately be included in a "Sports" theme. The set again has a pleasing uniformity of style and layout, each showing two riders, riding left-to-right on a token "ground" of a coloured panel, with the Centenary indicated along the left hand edge. Cycle racing as a sport was revived in 1942 with the starting of the annual Tour of Britain (the "Milk Race").

NPM 1991 Programme

Exhibitions

1 January - 26 April: "Postal Reform and the Penny Black" (continuing from 1990)

14 January - 30 August: Display about the Post Office at work during the Edwardian period

14 May - April 1992: "Stamping the Mail" - display about postal markings.

17 September - 31 December: "Maps and the Post Office" - a display to coincide with the Maps stamps to be issued on 17 September.

Postcards

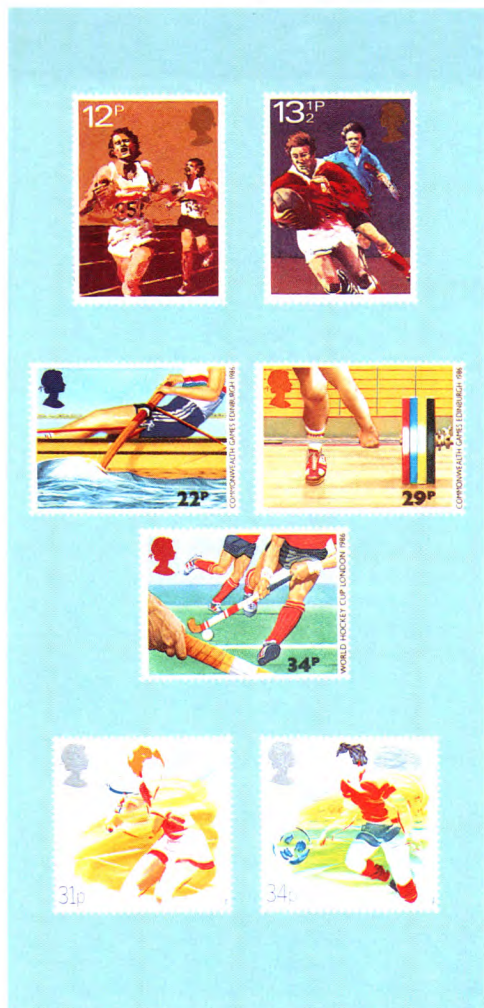
14 January: The Post Office in Edwardian times. Four cards based on contemporary photographs.

14 May: Stamping the Mail. Four cards marking the exhibition.

17 September: Maps. Four cards showing postally relevant maps.

12 November: Old Christmas cards. Four cards depicting Post Office Christmas cards of the Victorian era.

The "Post Office in Edwardian times" cards can be ordered now from the National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP, price 20p each plus handling charge - 22p on orders up to £22, £1.97 on orders over £22 (sent by registered post). Minimum order 80p. A special handstamp will be used on 14 January; cards/covers to receive this cancel should be sent to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City & International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.



Jake Sutton produced the 1988 set of four, and broke new ground in the matter of colour and style. His controversial use of light blue, bright red and yellow, with "small jewels of smudged brilliant colour" was a brave attempt to convey action, but possibly failed to succeed so well as a less stylised design may have done. One requires some effort to determine exactly what his gymnast is actually doing. Skiing, tennis and football were clearer. His designs, intended by him to "brighten up one's mail", earned some warm tributes in the stamp poll for the year.

Sport is featured liberally on British stamps. Perhaps the marking of specific events such as record scores, in addition to mere anniversaries, might give designers scope for imagination.



Artwork for one of the NPM cards, showing an Edwardian postman delivering the mail

Changes in Registered Envelopes

There have been two changes in the current G size registered envelope and three changes in the H size; these changes include a change of printing method.

The original issue of registered envelopes with a rectangle on the flap with the wording "Royal Mail/1/GREAT BRITAIN/MINIMUM POSTAGE AND/REGISTRATION FEE PAID", was made on 23 September 1986. The G and H sizes were printed by flexographic letterpress and the K size was printed by lithography. The lithographic process gives a clearer impression with slightly thinner lines and lettering. Under a good magnifying glass the lines on the litho printings have a straight clean edge whereas the flexographic letterpress have ragged edges to the lines. Collectors of aerogrammes will remember the 4 June 1985 Waddington lithographic printing of the 26p definitive which showed the same clearer characteristics.

For the G size envelope, the first change was a one millimetre reduction in the size of the rectangle on the flap, from $30\frac{1}{2} \times 26$ mm to $29\frac{1}{2} \times 25\frac{1}{4}$ mm, but with no change of printing process. The second change was to lithography with very minor change to rectangle size but distinguishable, in addition to the appearance, by the overall height of lettering on front top centre of the envelope which was reduced from 31mm to 30mm measured from the top of the "R" of "Registered" to the bottom of "obtained".

For the H size the first change was a one millimetre reduction in the size of the rectangle from $30\frac{1}{2} \times 26$ mm to $29\frac{1}{2} \times 25$ mm but with no change in printing process. The second change was a dramatic increase in size of the rectangle to $34 \times 28\frac{3}{4}$ mm but again with no change of printing process. The rectangle is so large and so

bold on this printing that it is unmistakably different from the others. The third change was to lithography with a small reduction of rectangle size to $33\frac{1}{2} \times 27\frac{3}{4}$ mm. This change also entailed a reduction in the overall height of the lettering on the front from top of "R" of "Registered" to bottom of "obtained" from $37\frac{1}{2}$ to $36\frac{1}{2}$ mm. For ready reference the dimensions are tabulated below.

No change has been found in the K size envelopes.

At the time of writing, mid-October, the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh only have stock of issues G1, H1 and K1. All main post offices and the vast majority of sub-offices have stocks of G3, H4 and K1, so no collector should have difficulty in obtaining these. G2, H2 and H3 are still available in a very few of the smallest sub-offices and so persistent collectors with plenty of time should be able to obtain these also.

Dates of issue of the changes are unknown and readers with clearly dated used envelopes are invited to report their earliest postmark for each printing. Please write direct to Andrew A Whitworth, 1 Prizet House, Helsington, KENDAL, Cumbria, LA8 8AB.

These notes were supplied by postal stationery dealer, Andrew A Whitworth, to whom we extend our thanks. Please note that the issue numbers, G1, H1, etc — are Mr Whitworth's numberings and not Royal Mail order references. None of the changes mentioned were commissioned by Royal Mail and we cannot confirm the details. Collectors should be aware that there may be variations of at least 1mm with every printing.

Size of envelope	Issue No.	Printing Process	Width of Box on flap, mm	Height of Box on flap, mm	Overall Height of lettering on front, top centre, mm
G	1	Flexo L/P	$30\frac{1}{2}$	26	31
G	2	Flexo L/P	$29\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{4}$	31
G	3	Litho	$29\frac{3}{4}$	$24\frac{3}{4}$	30
H	1	Flexo L/P	$30\frac{1}{2}$	26	$37\frac{1}{2}$
H	2	Flexo L/P	$29\frac{1}{2}$	25	$37\frac{1}{2}$
H	3	Flexo L/P	34	$28\frac{3}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$
H	4	Litho	$33\frac{1}{2}$	$27\frac{3}{4}$	$36\frac{1}{2}$
K	1	Litho	$30\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$46\frac{1}{4}$

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until June 1991. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall, printers
NVI = Non-Value Indicator stamps

10 Jul	Thomas Hardy stamp (AS418)
10 Jul	Thomas Hardy pack (AP088)
17 Jul	Scot aerogramme (Glasgow) (QS026)
23 Jul	Queen Mother stamp cards (AQ124)
2 Aug	Queen Mother stamps (AS419)
2 Aug	Queen Mother pack (AP089)
7 Aug	4 x 2nd NVI book, W (UB021)
7 Aug	4 x 1st NVI book, W (UB022)
7 Aug	10 x 2nd NVI book, W (UB023)
7 Aug	10 x 1st NVI book, W (UB024)
7 Aug	10 x 2nd NVI book, H (UB025)
7 Aug	10 x 1st NVI book, H (UB026)
7 Aug	10 x 2nd NVI book, Q (UB027)
7 Aug	10 x 1st NVI book, Q (UB028)
24 Aug	New Zealand exh. card (EQ023)
28 Aug	Gallantry stamp cards (AQ129)
4 Sep	10p definitive – lt. tan (DS103)
4 Sep	17p definitive – dark blue (DS170)
4 Sep	22p definitive – flame (DS222)
4 Sep	26p definitive – stone (DS262)
4 Sep	27p definitive – mauve (DS271)
4 Sep	31p definitive – ultramarine (DS312)
4 Sep	33p definitive – emerald (DS330)
4 Sep	New Definitives pack (DP013)
4 Sep	50p book (3 x 17p) (TB005)
4 Sep	£1 book (3 x 22p, 2 x 17p) (TB006)
11 Sep	Gallantry stamps (AS424)
11 Sep	Gallantry pack (AP090)
11 Sep	NPM Postal Reform cards (NQ905)
17 Sep	£1.24 book (4 x 31p) (UB029)
17 Sep	17p UL (500) roll (DC043)
17 Sep	17p UL (1,000) roll (DC045)
17 Sep	22p WL (500) roll (DC044)
17 Sep	22p WL (1,000) roll (DC046)
1 Oct	Astronomy stamp cards (AQ135)
16 Oct	Astronomy stamps (AS430)
16 Oct	Astronomy pack (AP091)
16 Oct	Autumn Stampex exh. card (EQ025)
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ140)
30 Oct	Our World Book – 2 (PA117)
1 Nov	ASDA National exh. card (EQ027)
13 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS435)
13 Nov	Christmas pack (AP092)
13 Nov	Christmas stamp book (UB030)

13 Nov	Christmas aerogramme (QX012)
13 Nov	1990 Collectors' Pack (AR020)
13 Nov	1990 Year Book (AY020)
13 Nov	NPM Xmas Posters cards (NQ906)
27 Nov	Mixed Value Roll (DC849)
4 Dec	N Ireland 17p (IS170)
4 Dec	N Ireland 22p (IS220)
4 Dec	N Ireland 26p (IS260)
4 Dec	N Ireland 37p (IS370)
4 Dec	Scotland 17p (SS170)
4 Dec	Scotland 22p (SS220)
4 Dec	Scotland 26p (SS260)
4 Dec	Scotland 37p (SS370)
4 Dec	Wales 17p (WS170)
4 Dec	Wales 22p (WS220)
4 Dec	Wales 26p (WS260)
4 Dec	Wales 37p (WS370)
4 Dec	Country stamps pack (CP009)
24 Dec	Dogs stamp cards (AQ146)

Forthcoming

8 Jan	Dogs stamps & pack
14 Jan	NPM Edwardian PO cards (4)
5 Feb	Greetings stamp book
18 Feb	Science stamp cards
26 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card
5 Mar	Science stamps & pack
19 Mar	Prestige stamp book
8 Apr	CEPT/Space stamp cards
23 Apr	CEPT/Space stamps & pack
14 May	NPM Stamping the Mail cards (4)
27 May	Sport stamp cards
11 Jun	Sport stamps & pack

Note: The eight books issued on 7 August contain Non-Value Indicator (NVI) stamps in new colours – flame (1st) and dark blue (2nd).

Scottish Aerogrammes

Two Scottish aerogrammes are planned for 1991 – Rugby World Cup and Centenary of An Comunn Gaidhealach — the Gaelic society whose annual Mod is the Highland literary and musical festival, the equivalent of the Welsh Eisteddfod. The dates of issue are to be announced; expected to be in March and July respectively.

GB Philatelic Society Meeting

The meeting on 19 January (British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11am) will include a display of "Usages of the Victorian Surface Printed Issues" by G J Wheat, an auction and competition.

Stampway to the World

The Stampway to the World exhibition, sponsored by the Stamp Publicity Board, opened at the Museum of Transport in Glasgow on 30 October and will run until 13 January. This popular exhibition, which has previously been shown in Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne and London, has something to interest the serious philatelist, the beginner, and even the non-collector. The displays on the Museum's ground floor feature stamps from Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands, Europe and the rest of the World together with Thematic and Postal History sections and an extensive area devoted to "How to Collect".

On the balcony can be seen the specially prepared "The Post in Scotland" display, assembled by John Sussex with the help of the National Postal Museum, other organisations and numerous collectors of Scottish stamps and postal history. This display includes photographs of historic letters and covers from the 16th century to date. These include a proclamation by Mary, Queen of Scots, a very early commercial letter sent by the Edinburgh Merchant Post to London (1593), a Edinburgh Bishop Mark in the first year of use (1694) and documents relating to the Reformation, Covenanters, the Civil War and the postal act of union (1711).

Perhaps the most impressive item is the famous "Buckleuch Find", a fabulous block of 48 twopenny blues, discovered in 1945. Unadopted designs for Scottish regional (country) stamps and for stamps with a Scottish theme make an interesting display. Airmails, within Scotland and to overseas, are well represented. The material in the exhibition reflects the economic and social history of Scotland.

A book entitled *The Post in Scotland* by James Grimwood-Taylor has been published to complement the exhibition; available at the Transport Museum shop or from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, price £15.

A special handstamp is being used on mail posted at the exhibition. Collectors may send covers for handstamping to: Scotland & N Ireland Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Glasgow, George Square, GLASGOW G2 1AA. A special exhibition cover has been produced, available at the exhibition or by post from J & M Arlington, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL, price £2.

Pearls for Everyone

To celebrate 150 years of adhesive postage stamps the Swedish Postal Museum in Stockholm opened an exhibition entitled *Pärlor för alla* (Pearls for everyone) on 28 September. The exhibition, which will continue until 27 January 1990, contains a wide variety of philatelic exhibits from specialist displays of Swedish stamps to individual items of special significance to their owners.

Pride of place goes to the Penny Black and the Mulready stationery of 1840. Britain's National Postal Museum has provided material specially selected from its collections including a letter bearing a strip of 10 Penny Blacks.

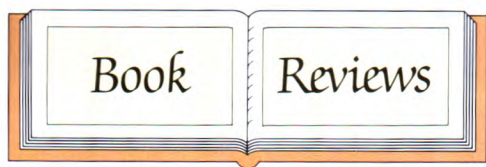


The Mulready display from the National Postal Museum, London

But the exhibition is not just about rarities, it is about the enjoyment of stamp collecting. Displays borrowed from well-known collectors sit side by side with material from young collectors and beginners. For example a selection from an internationally renowned collection of the first Swedish stamps can be seen a short distance from seven Bhutanese stamps sent in by a 12 year old boy.

The exhibition is well presented with many of the individual items being displayed under attractive plastic "bubbles". The Postmuseum is situated in Gamla Stan, Stockholm's old town, at Lilla Nygatan 6. Opening hours are: Tuesday-Saturday 11.00-15.00, Wednesday 11.00-20.00, Sunday 11.00-16.00. Entrance is free.

Stan Goron, Manager NPM



Phila Publications of Calcutta has recently published Volume 1 of **The Imperial Post Offices of British India, 1837-1914** by Mohini Lal Mazumdar. This is a thorough account of the workings of the postal service, arranged in three parts: The Reforming of the Post Office System; The Personality; and The Personnel and The Postal Operations. The third part will probably be of most interest to philatelists and postal historians, dealing with such matters as the General Correspondence Mail; Official Correspondence; Dead Letters, and the Parcel, Registration, Insurance and Value Payable posts. The chapter on the Postal Runners and the Mail Carrier provides insights into social history as well as postal administration. Throughout the author provides many useful statistics. In 1857/8 the Imperial Postal lines were mainly operated by human forces — runners and boats carried mails over some 31,152 miles compared to just 273 miles by railways. By 1913/4 the railway mileage amounted to 33,486 with mailcarts and sea and river vessels accounting for 11,568 and 20,211 miles respectively. Any collector of Indian stamps and postal history will find much of interest in this work. 460 pages, hardbound, with dust jacket. Available from: Phila Publications, 1 Moti Seal Street, Calcutta, 700 013, India, price 300 rupees.

Collectors interested in First World War "cinderellas" will be interested in David Stirling's account of **The Lord Roberts Memorial Stamps, their Albums and Associated Ephemera**, first published by the author in 1985 and now made more widely available. The stamps (or labels if you prefer) were published on behalf of the Fund by Fawcett & Co of London. They appeared in two series, the first (1916) comprised 144 stamps — 12 sheets of 12 stamps at 1d per stamp. The second series was cut short after only eight sets of 12 stamps had been issued. They portray War leaders and persons of notable achievement in the Great War and a series of biographical notes were also produced, in stamp form, to complement the series. The stamps are illustrated and described in this interesting work. 60 pages, card covers.

Available from: Glass Slipper, PO Box 62, YORK YO1 1YL, price £6 postpaid (overseas by airmail £7.80).

The 42nd edition of the Stanley Gibbons **Collect British Stamps** checklist was published on 30 November; it includes all British stamps from 1840 to the 1990 Christmas issue. Illustrated in colour, it is the ideal guide for the collector who wants to go beyond the most basic listing in the *Stamps of the World* catalogue but who does not want the detail of the standard *Part 1* or *Concise* catalogues. Listed here are stamps with different perforations and watermarks but not specialist material such as different gums, watermark sideways or inverted.



Prices are given for first day covers of special issues and QEII definitives and regionals (country stamps), PHQ cards, presentation packs, gutter pairs and traffic light gutter pairs. Card covers. Price £2.95. Available from stamp dealers, book shops, the British Philatelic Bureau, some "Collections" centres, Stanley Gibbons Strand shop and Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

The British Philatelic Trust has recently reprinted **Introducing Thematic Collecting** by Alma Lee (1983) and **Introducing Postal History** by Vivien J Sussex (1988). These useful guides are available from the BPT, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, price £1 each postpaid. Also available is the Trust's Report and Accounts for 1988/89.

Commemorative Covers

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

Coin Event Covers. G Eldridge is producing a number of Coin Event covers — first day of new size 5p coin; last day of legal tender of the shilling (31 December 1990) and last day of legal tender of old size 5p coin. Details from: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD (stamp appreciated).

Colditz Castle. In conjunction with the Colditz Reunion Association, the Cambridge Stamp Centre is producing a special collection of autographed covers to mark the 45th anniversary of the liberation. Each envelope will be signed by two of the veterans and each of the covers will be individually franked with a special postmark. The covers were flown from Stanstead Airport to Leipzig on the first charter flight from the United Kingdom to East Germany and taken to Colditz. Full details available from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA.

Queen Mother. C A Boylett has available a commemorative 90th birthday post card produced by PH Topics, bearing the 20p birthday stamp cancelled with a Clarence House or Glamis Castle handstamp, price £1.80 each. Orders/enquiries: C A Boylett, 2 Park Farm Close, Ludpit Lane, ETCHINGHAM, E Sussex, TN19 7DQ.

Astronomy. The National Maritime Museum issued a special cover on 16 October to mark the centenary of the British Astronomical Association. The cover, in full colour, depicts an aerial view of the Old Royal Observatory in Greenwich Park. Only 1,000 covers were serviced with the full set of Astronomy stamps, price £4.50; 2,000 covers were serviced with the 31p stamp, price £2.95. Orders/enquiries: J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL.

Airborne Forces. A Forces cover has been produced to mark the 50th anniversary of Airborne Forces; this shows a parachute with crossed torches and is the second in a series of eight covers commemorating major Airborne anniversaries. A special Forces handstamp, No. 2241, was used on 11 November to cancel the Gallantry stamps used on this cover. Price £5.25 signed by Brigadier Pearson, £3.75 Red Devil Parachute Team signed and £2.75 unsigned.

Orders/enquiries: Philatelic Officer, Parachute Regiment Headquarters, Drowning Barracks, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2SU.

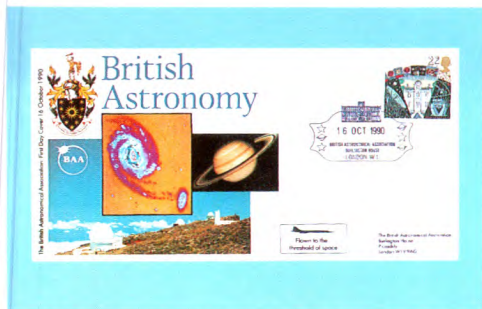
Christmas. Mr Boylett has available a postcard designed by Rosalind Wicks (David Shaw No. 56) with Christmas stamp(s) cancelled with a First Day of Issue pictorial postmark. Price £3.50 with full set, £1.50 with first class stamp only. Orders/enquiries: C A Boylett, address above.

Christmas/Holy Island. An attractive cover has been produced showing the ruins of Lindisfarne Priory on Holy Island off the coast of Northumberland. The illustration is set within the letter L as seen in the famous Lindisfarne Gospels. The cover bears the five Christmas stamps cancelled with the HOLY ISLAND BERWICK ON TWEED operational datestamp of 13 November 1990. Price £4.75. Orders/enquiries: S Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 8JJ.



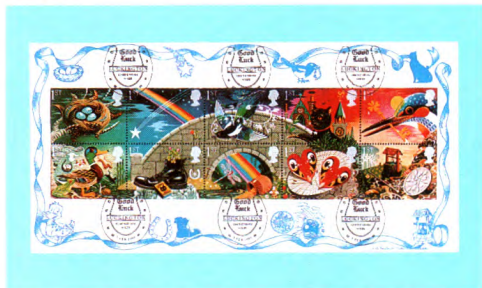
National Canine Defence League. The NCDL, founded in 1891, has for 100 years been caring for stray and abandoned dogs. There are some 14 rescue centres run by the NCDL throughout the UK totally reliant on voluntary contributions. The NCDL's exclusive first day cover for the Dogs stamps features a cartoon by Mike Payne and the stamps will be cancelled by a special handstamp incorporating the "Dog is for Life" slogan. The covers cost £4.95, signed by the League President Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, £7.50. Overseas customers add £1. Orders/enquiries: CoverCraft (NCDL), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Worthing Post Office Anniversary. Royal Mail Worthing produced a limited edition (500) special cover to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Chapel Road office. The cover features a picture of the office and bears a special 60th Anniversary handstamp dated 19 November 1990. Price £1. Orders/enquiries: Letter Manager, Royal Mail Worthing, Chapel Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 1AA.



British Astronomy. The British Astronomical Association produced a souvenir cover to mark its centenary meeting held at Burlington House on 24 October. The cover bears the 22p Astronomy stamp with special handstamp. Covers are available signed by the Astronomer Royal, the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Patrick Moore and the science fiction writer Arthur C Clarke. Details from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA. Tel. 0223 63980.

Greetings Stamps. A G Bradbury is producing a cover showing good luck symbols around the border with the ten Greetings stamps to be issued on 5 February, cancelled with a special, horseshoe-shaped, handstamp for Luckington, Chippenham, Wilts. Price £6.75. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



Covers raise £12,000 for Charities. Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd raised some £12,000 on signed covers for their Battle of Britain project, combining with the Royal Mail Gallantry stamps. The charities which benefitted were: Cancer Research, Leonard Cheshire Housing Trust, Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust and the Forces Charities – Reach for the Sky. The Biggin Hill cover, reproducing a Frank Wootton painting, was sold out well before the day of issue. Details of Benham covers from: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.



Win £50 Worth of British Stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £50 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers to some will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: January Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 28 February.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will each be invited to order £50 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Scientific Achievements stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the April *Bulletin*.

1. The gardens of Sir Winston Churchill's birthplace were shown on which value stamp in the 1983 British Gardens issue?
2. On what date does the 1991 Spring Stampex open?
3. What is the colour of the 27p definitive issued on 4 September 1990?
4. Who is the Manager of the National Postal Museum?
5. Which famous crime writer is being commemorated with a prestige book this year?
6. Where in Glasgow is the "Stampway to the World" exhibition on show until 13 January?

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

The winners of the October competition were: V Gradwell of Lancashire (first prize); G Bon Enfant of Montreal; Mrs E Luscombe of Berkshire; J Cloutier of Quebec; M Evans of Devon and P Holmes of Essex (Christmas presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. 1966; 2. John Gorham; 3. 18 June 1990; 4. Henry Fawcett; 5. Forth Railway Bridge.

Our thanks to all who entered.

January Digest

Issued in January

8 January: Dogs stamps – 22p, 26p, 31p, 33p, 37p.

Designer: Carroll Dempsey & Thirkell Limited
Printing: Harrison & Sons Limited, photogravure, 37 x 35mm, perf 14½ x 14, phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum.
Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Birmingham.

Presentation Pack: No. 215, price £1.80.

9 January: Dogs stamps souvenir cover, price 19p (available from “Collections” and philatelic counters).

14 January: National Postal Museum “Edwardian Post Office” postcards – 4 designs, 20p each. Available from Bureau, NPM and some “Collections” centres.

Withdrawn in January

22 January: RSPCA stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

29 January: Penny Black Anniversary stamp books, 50p, 60p, 80p, £1 (Harrison), £1.50 & £2 – all issued 30 January 1990. Note: Stocks of the experimental £1 Walsall book are now exhausted at the Bureau.

Royal Mail Stamps Youth Philately

Some 16,000 people visited the Stamp Bug Club's “Stamp Land” at the Stamp World London 90 exhibition last May. Over 800 new young collectors were recruited to the Club which now has 70,000 members – 31 per cent of whom are in the “target age group” of 7-11 years. Subscription to the Club, including six issues of the colourful *Stamp Bug News* each year, is £3 for a two-year membership and £5 for five years. Subscriptions should be sent to: Stamp Bug Club, Freepost, NORTHAMPTON NN3 1BR.

Royal Mail Stamps educational material designed for primary schools continues to be welcomed by 18,000 schools. Two of the 1990 mailings proved particularly popular – the Mail Bag academic year desk calendar and the Trees mailing for the Kew Gardens issue which was

chosen for display in the Design Museum. Schools not yet on the mailing list should contact: The Manager – Youth Philately, Royal Mail Stamps, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

Books for School and Youth Stamp Clubs

The British Philatelic Trust's scheme for school stamp clubs, was started in 1986 to provide such clubs with basic reference material in the form of catalogues and handbooks. In 1989 the scheme was extended to include stamp clubs run by youth organisations. Over 400 clubs have been assisted to date and the Trustees are pleased to announce that they will provide similar assistance to the first 150 clubs (not previously assisted) which apply. Interested teachers or persons in charge of a stamp club run by a school or youth organisation based in the UK should enquire in writing to: J D B Littlebury, Secretary, British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN — 0953-8119

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by The Post Office.

Compiled and typeset by John Holman at:
National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £6
Rest of World (Airmail) £9.25

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Single copies from “Collections” and philatelic counters: 55p

Binders, to hold 24 issues, are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £6. Also available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum sales counter.

Printed in Great Britain by Moore and Matthes (Printers) Ltd for The Post Office.