

Philatelic Bulletin

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- 1 Editorial
- Scottish Airmails 1919-1972
- 2 'The toughest job in the world' —
Fishermen's Year 1981
- 4 New Illustrated Stamp Books
Book Review
The Royal Wedding Souvenir Book
- 5 British Special Stamps
80. British Architecture
Village Churches, 1972
- 6 Posting Boxes
New Handstamps for Philatelic Counters
British Philatelic Exhibition 1981
- 7 Post Office Vesting Day, 1 October 1981
Fishing Stamps Issue, 23 September 1981
- 9 The Royal Mail Postbus Services
Part 1
- 10 Special Handstamp Ink
- 11 North Western Postal Board Postcards
Midland Postal Board Picture Postcard No 12
Forthcoming Events
- 12 Forces Covers
- 13 Commemorative Covers

In this edition we illustrate the 'Fishing' stamps to be issued on 23 September to commemorate 1981 as Fishermen's Year. When you have had the opportunity to study them we feel confident that you will agree with us when we say quite simply, 'Congratulations' to designer Brian Sanders and the printer Harrison and Sons on a superb set of stamps.

From 29 September to 2 October 1981 the sixteenth annual British Philatelic Exhibition will be held at the Wembley Conference Centre. This is the third time the exhibition is to be held at this venue. On the first occasion there were record crowds, last year the figures dropped a little from that peak, but we look forward to increased attendance this year and wish BPE 1981 every success. The Post Office will have its usual stand with Dave Gilbert and his staff in attendance; further details of the exhibition are given elsewhere in this edition.

'The Royal Mail Postbus Service' is the subject of a six point article by L F Newbery, the distinguished philatelist, which commences in this issue. Mr. Newbery skilfully traces the history of postbus tickets and their cancellations in England and Wales from the inception of the service at LLANIDLOES in 1967 until the end of the 70's.

Some of Mr Newbery's postbus material together with booklet designs and full sheets of Booklet stamps can be seen at the National Postal Museum as part of the exhibition '10 Years of the Decimal Machin Design - 1971 - 1981' which will remain open until 2 October.

JOHN MEMMOTT

Scottish Airmails 1919-1972

by Richard Beith

A review of this new work by Richard Beith was published in the September edition of the Philatelic Bulletin. In the course of the review we mentioned a Mr Field on two occasions instead of Mr Beith. This is most unfortunate and we offer out apologies to Richard Beith.

'The toughest job in the world' – Fishermen's Year 1881

From remains found in the caves of prehistoric man it seems certain that fish has been consumed in the British Isles since the earliest times. The shallow waters of the surrounding European continental shelf provide some of the richest fishing grounds in Europe, supporting a wealth of species. Cod, dab, eel, flounder, haddock, hake, halibut, herring, mackerel, mullet, plaice, skate, sole, sprats, turbot, whitebait, whiting, cockles and winkles and crabs, lobsters and shrimps: all these and many less well-known fish are part of the British diet.

So familiar is this wide variety displayed attractively on the fishmonger's slab or in convenient pre-packaged forms that few people spare more than a passing thought for the dangers and hardships suffered by the men and women whose job it is to bring this valuable source of food to our shores.

For centuries, in peacetime and in war the fishing industry has played a vital and important part in the history of this sea-faring nation and yet its inhabitants know very little about the difficult and dangerous work of the fishermen and the harsh life on the fishing vessels that land over one million tons of fish at our ports each year.

Today modern equipment and communications have gone some way towards improving conditions for these valuable contributors to the nation's economy, but in the nineteenth century the task of the fishermen in the North Sea was even harsher and largely unrecognised by the Victorian households who enjoyed the fruits of their labours. Up until 1881 this ignorance of the appalling daily hardships among the fishing fleets was shared by a man whose single-minded vision was to begin the story of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen and to pioneer a century of caring for Britain's fishermen and their families.

Ebenezer Mather was no stranger to boats and sailors. As a member of the Thames Church Mission founded in 1844 he had ministered to the spiritual needs of the vast floating population of the River Thames: a parish 76 miles long with a transient community of over 3000 souls, sailors, dockers, watermen and bargees from all over the world. Yet Mather knew nothing of the lives of

fishermen in the deep waters beyond the mouth of the Thames and had himself never ventured any further until in 1881 a friend issued him with a challenge to see for himself a floating community in even greater need of ministry and help than his own. The friend was a member of the Hewett family, owners of the Short Blue Fleet, at that time the world's largest fishing fleet with over two hundred vessels and 1500 men in its employ. Samuel Hewett had pioneered the use of ice in the fishing smacks, chilling the catch out in the fishing grounds while small cutters and steamers ferried the fresh fish back for sale. The fishing crews stayed out to follow the shoals for six weeks at a time and longer; prey to storms and ice, malnutrition and illness and bitter loneliness and isolation deadened only by violence and cheap liquor.

Unaware of what lay ahead, Mather was persuaded to join the *Supply*, a small steamer whose task it was to ferry supplies to the fleet north of the Dogger Bank and then speed back to port with the boxes of fresh fish. Buffeted by severe storms for five days, Mather saw enough on this six-hundred mile round trip to convince him that this was, indeed, 'the toughest job in the world' and that the cost of fish could only be measured in terms of human pain and misery. He came back determined to help fishermen and to make the rest of the world aware of the plight of what was, in effect, a floating village of men without home or family, medical assistance, church, village store or any form of amusement to relieve the monotony and discomfort.

The vision came to Mather to raise the money to fit out a fishing smack to take all these missing elements out to the fishermen. 'Preach the Word, Heal the Sick' was to be the motto with the emphasis on material as well as spiritual comforts. £1000 at least would be needed to fit out such a vessel and Mather had no doubt that his account of his voyage would move Christian charity to supply the necessary funds. Yet all he obtained during the first week of his appeal was one guinea! Mather sent this back to the donor explaining that he could not hold onto this small sum until he had convinced nine hundred and ninety-nine others. To his surprise the same donor returned a cheque for

£1000 as an anonymous gift, saying that the existence of one operational mission ship would be the best publicity of all for the new venture.

Later that year the first reconstructed yawl-rigged smack sailed from Yarmouth as the *M.S. Ensign* under the command of Captain Budd while Mather settled down to serious fund-raising and the establishment of his new venture on a proper footing.

By 1885 there were four ships in operation and a permanent staff of thirteen in the London headquarters at 181 Queen Victoria St. Generous donations continued to arrive to allow the conversion of more vessels and the purchase of supplies and Queen Victoria herself became a Patron of what was to become one of her favourite charities, granting it the prefix 'Royal' in 1896.

One of the first tasks of the Mission ships was to wean the men away from the 'copers', the trading ships from Holland which had previously been the only source from which the men at sea could purchase occasional necessities and tobacco. The main purpose of the copers was to tempt the men aboard and then to offer the further inducement of cheap gin. Fishermen would spend their wages and more to get drunk and violence and accidents followed in the wake of the copers. Despite opposition from some of his supporters who believed that tobacco was as great a sin as alcohol, Mather pragmatically decided to undercut the copers and to offer the men a more welcoming and agreeable environment aboard his mission ships. With the generous assistance of Mr W H Wills of the famous Bristol tobacco company the Mission ships were able to collect cost-price and duty-free tobacco from the continent and were soon putting the copers out of business. Their days were finally ended in 1887 when the International Convention at the Hague forbade the sale of spirits in the North Sea and HM Customs granted Mather his long-awaited concession on tobacco prices.

Aboard a Mission Ship the weary fishermen could buy their tobacco, collect gifts of woollen caps and mittens, books, warm food and drinks, enjoy medical attention and interdenominational religious services and above all find someone to care and listen to their problems on board and at home. As the work of the Mission progressed it became evident that land centres were just as necessary to cater to the needs of fishermen's families and to provide a focal point for the communities in the ports. By the time that the First World War broke out there were 11 shore Institutes with only four sailing smacks and three steam ship

hospitals still running out to the fleets.

British fishermen played a brave and invaluable part in both World Wars, 'the first to offer service to their country; the last to seek its aid'. Trawlers were commandeered as minesweepers and the Mission's vessels and Institutes handed over to the Admiralty. Public support and recognition increased during these terrible times for the fishing industry but after the Second World War it was decided not to re-equip the Mission ships, concentrating instead on the development of the shore-based operation. The world had changed and the days of Ebenezer Mather's white-sailed ships with their bold blue flags were gone forever.

Today, under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen operates from 20 Centres, 13 of which are in Scotland; a network stretching through the major fishing communities and ministering to the spiritual and material needs of fisherfolk irrespective of colour, creed or nationality. The Centres provide accommodation, recreation, canteen facilities, professional advice and a home from home for fishermen in strange ports. They also create a community focus for the families of those away at sea and offer practical help and caring support in the frequent disasters and bereavements that occur in this industry where loss of life is ten times greater than any other.

The war years were bleak for the British fishing industry with poverty and distress throughout the fishing communities. In 1935 the Herring Industry Board and in 1951 the White Fish Authority were set up to re-organise, develop and regulate the industry nationwide and after the Second World War fishing slowly began to regain some of the prosperity it had enjoyed at the turn of the century.

Now in the 1980's the fishing industry is again facing troubled times and hardship. Company-owned fleets are a shadow of what they were and many skipper-owned vessels are in economic difficulty. Too much catching power for the limited resources of British stocks combined with the recent escalation of fuel prices and the high cost of borrowing money, have given cheap foreign imports an advantage over the British catch, a situation aggravated by the exclusion of British ships from many of their traditional fishing grounds. Nowadays there are over 16,500 fishermen regularly employed in British ports facing economic problems as great as the sea perils and physical dangers that threatened over 100 years ago when the Mission began its role of caring and support.

1981 has been designated as Fishermen's Year as a tribute to the courage and valuable contribution of British fishermen and to celebrate the centenary of the only national charity concerned with their welfare. A year to be grateful for their efforts and to reflect on the words of the old 17th-century ballad:

'You gentlemen of England
Who live at home at ease,
How seldom do you think upon
The dangers of the seas?'

SUZANNE WOLSTENHOLME

New Illustrated Stamp Books

Number 2 in the third series of stamp books with illustrated covers will be available from 30 September 1981. The 'Folly' featured on the 50p book — again designed by Richard Downer — is Mow Cop Castle, situated on the Cheshire-Staffs border. Ronald Maddox continues the 'Museums' theme on the £1.15 book with an illustration of the National Museum of Antiquaries of Scotland, Edinburgh, and in the 'Costume' series on the £1.40 book, Eric Stemp shows costumes from 1815-1830.

Number 2 in the new 'Postal History' series, price £1.30, illustrated by John Gibbs, depicts a one penny red and a half-penny green stamp with the 'Downey Head' design, the first stamps of the reign of King George V which were issued on Coronation Day, 22 June 1911.

The £1.15, £1.30 and £1.40 books contain the same combination of stamps as the first in the series: 10 x 1½p (£1.15); 6 x 14p and 4 x 1½p (£1.30); and 10 x 14p (£1.40). The contents of the 50p book has been changed to 3 x 1½p stamps, 3 x 2½p stamps and 2 x 4p stamps giving customers a better range of options about making up the price of the postal service they use.

Issues will be available from philatelic sales counters and the Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB. The £1.15 and £1.40 books will be generally available from post offices, and the 50p books from vending machines, as current stocks become exhausted.

Technical Details

The stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd on the Chambon Press, and the covers on the Libra book-making machine. The 2½p and 4p stamps will have two side phosphor bars. The 1½p stamps will have one phosphor bar on either the left, or right-hand side.

Book Review

Stanley Gibbons Postcard Catalogue — Second Edition

Retail Price: £4.95 (plus £1 postage if ordered direct from publishers)

The first edition — launched at BIPEX in September 1980 — received considerable press attention and public interest. Since then the compilers — Tonie and Valmai Holt — have undertaken much research and have sifted through the considerable correspondence received from readers giving new information, listings and suggestions. The members of several postcard clubs have also kindly helped in the preparation and improvement of listings. As a result the second edition of this catalogue shows a substantial improvement on the first edition which itself was described by one reviewer as 'an outstanding piece of work, superbly researched and presented...'.¹

The growth of interest in modern cards is reflected in an expanded section relating to these cards including details of recent issues, marking the election of President Reagan, and the engagement of the Prince of Wales.

The prices have been reviewed — in association with the Postcard Department of Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

At £4.95 — the same price as the first edition — this new edition with over 50 extra pages and much new information is remarkably good value for money.

The Royal Wedding Souvenir Book

Limited stocks of this beautifully produced souvenir book — incorporating both Royal Wedding stamps in a transparent slip-in folder on the front cover — are still available from most post offices, philatelic counters and the Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BB. The book contains 12 pages of information on notable milestones in the lives of The Prince and Princess of Wales. Superbly illustrated, it includes a wealth of information about previous Royal marriages, from that of Queen Victoria in 1840 to HM The Queen's in 1947. In addition, there are a number of reproductions of noted stamp issues associated with events occurring during the several reigns. The book, researched and written by Charity Boxall, and designed by Jeffery Matthews, is priced at £1.50.

80. British Architecture: Village Churches, 1972

In complete contrast to the 'matchbox' architecture of the previous year ('Modern University Buildings', September 1971), the Post Office devoted its fourth series on this subject to some attractive, quaint and historically important village churches. There were five stamps instead of the usual four, and they were all designed by a distinguished artist, Ronald Maddox, RI, FSIAD, SGA, FSAI, who later (1978) also designed the British Architecture — 'Historic Buildings' — stamps. The village churches, in uniform vertical format, were unusual in that they consisted of black line drawings set against bright colourful backgrounds — thus we have violet-blue, yellow-olive, deep emerald, orange-red and 'new blue' skies enhanced by the profile of the Queen's head printed in gold and then embossed.

On all the stamps interest is featured on the church tower — for example St Andrew's, Greensted-juxta-Ongar, Essex (3p) has a slatted tower with an unusual conical roof (like a witch's hat) — the church is partly pre-Norman, and the wall of the nave untouched, split, upright trunks of oaks, the curved outer part facing outside. The body of St Edmund is considered to have rested here in 1013, whilst being conveyed to Bury St Edmunds (St Edmund, King of the East Angles, was martyred by the Danes). All Saints, Earls Barton, Northants (4p), about six miles north-east of Northampton, has a noted Saxon tower, 68 feet high, while the battlements are a later addition. The chancel is Early English, and there is an

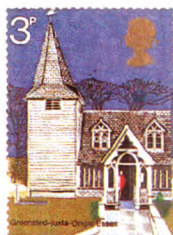
ancient piscina (for washing sacred vessels) and sedilia — seats for the officiating clergy.

St Andrew's Letheringsett, Norfolk (5p), is of Early English and 'Decorated' or elaborate Gothic origins with an unusual round tower, while St Andrew's, Helpringham, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, dates from the 12th to 15th centuries (7½p). The Church of St Mary the Virgin at Huish Episcopi (9p), some twelve miles east of Taunton in Somerset, is a Norman structure with a substantial square tower, a notable pulpit and some rare encaustic tiles — these are decorative glazed and fired tiles having patterns of different coloured clays inlaid in them and burnt with them. Huish Episcopi stands on the River Yeo.

The 'Village Churches' were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. Numerous printing varieties are recorded: 3p a broken line in the boarding of the church tower, also (not recorded, but seen) an amusing shift of the red coat of the woman entering the church — the coat appears to be hanging on the left of the portal, and gold (Queen's head), embossing and/or phosphor omitted; 4p a white spur on the parapet at the top of the tower, also violet-blue, embossing or phosphor omitted; 5p gold (Queen's head), embossing or phosphor omitted; 7½p black spots under the window in the steeple, and an extra spot on the right of the lower window in the tower, also phosphor omitted; and 9p a gap in the vertical shading on the tower, and — two flaws on one stamp — missing topmost branch on the left-hand tree, and a smaller 'bird' over the right-hand tree, also embossing and phosphor omitted.

The quantities sold were: 3p 53,929,600; 4p 7,757,400; 5p 7,834,400; 7½p 7,065,600; and 9p 5,463,700; presentation packs, 109,512.

JAMES WATSON





Posting Boxes

No 28. This example of one of the experimental boxes of 1852, once in use at St Peter Port, Guernsey, can now be seen outside the Headquarters of the South-West Postal Region at Bristol. The box was presented to the British Post Office by the Guernsey Postal Authority when the latter became postally independent in 1969. It is now preserved in the bronze-green colour generally adopted for letter boxes from 1859-1874.

New Handstamps for Philatelic Counters

From 23 September 1981, special pictorial handstamps will be available to cancel mail posted at 23 of our 39 philatelic counters.

These new handstamps incorporate an off-centre interchangeable date and will be available on all days during which the philatelic counters are open. Each handstamp depicts a building or notable landmark in the area where the counter is situated.

The first counters to have these handstamps are listed below. Similar handstamps will be introduced at all other philatelic counters as soon as possible.

Items to receive the special cancellation must be

properly addressed and bear 2p in addition to the correct postage. After handstamping, the items will be delivered with the normal mail.

For those customers wishing to obtain these cancellations but who are unable to visit the offices, normal reposting facilities will apply.

Please note that the pictorial handstamps currently in use at Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, London Chief Office and Trafalgar Square Branch Office will be withdrawn on 22 September 1981.

Philatelic Counter Handstamp depicts

London Chief Office, London EC1 Trafalgar Square, London WC2 Belfast Birmingham Blackpool Bournemouth Brighton Bristol Cambridge Cardiff Colchester	St Paul's Cathedral
Edinburgh 'Glasgow Leeds Liverpool Manchester Newcastle upon Tyne Norwich Oxford	Nelson's Column City Hall The Rotunda The Tower Corfe Castle The Pavilion Cabot Tower Trinity Fountain St John's Tower St John's Abbey Gateway St Giles City Chambers Town Hall Liver Building Town Hall Cathedral Castle Tom Tower, Christchurch Town Hall Bottle Kiln Gladestone Bargate Minster
Sheffield Stoke-on-Trent Southampton York	

British Philatelic Exhibition 1981

As in other years BPE Ltd will produce a souvenir sheet to be sold at the exhibition, and from philatelic dealers, price £1. The sheet on this occasion is a little different in as much as the subjects are two stamps which in fact were never issued. They are the 3d and 4d King George V stamps which included the Downey Head from a portrait by the court photographers W & D Downey. Only two stamps were issued on Coronation Day, 22 June 1911, the ½d and 1d, but they were greeted with great disfavour and withdrawn. The souvenir sheet commemorates 70

years since the introduction of the Issue, and is printed in ultra-marine by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd from the original dies presented to the National Postal Museum by the Royal Mint.

The souvenir will be supported by a display of the Downey Head material in the Court of Honour of the Exhibition. This material is supplied by the National Postal Museum.



A special handstamp will be applied on Friday 2 October only, to all mail posted in the special posting box situated on The Post Office stand during the course of the exhibition.

The times of opening are: 11 am – 8 pm Tuesday 29 September; 10.30 am – 8 pm Wednesday and Thursday 30 September and 1 October; and 10 am – 5.30 pm Friday 2 October. Further details are available from: The Secretary, BPE Ltd, PO Box 329, LONDON SW1A 2HE. Telephone 083 482 433.

Post Office Vesting Day 1 October 1981

To mark The Post Office Vesting Day – the day when the postal business and British Telecoms go their separate ways – a set of six picture postcards will be available at post offices and from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh. The postcards depict various methods used by The Post Office for transporting the mails. Under the title, 'Carrying the Royal Mail' the postcards will illustrate, in colour, a postbus in the Dorking/Reigate area of Surrey; a mail van in the rural setting of the Black Mountains, Wales; 'Expresspost' motor cyclist in the City of London; TPO, exterior of a travelling post office at Paddington Station; Airmails, British Caledonian and British Airways aircraft with loading containers at Gatwick Airport; The Post Office Railway, a view at the Mount Pleasant Depot.

The postcards will be sold in sets only, contained within a decorative wallet, price 66p per set. There will be no first day of sale handstamping facilities.

Fishing Stamps Issue 23 September 1981

To commemorate Fishermen's Year, designated by the fishing industry and the Royal Mission to Seamen, and also the centenary year of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, the Post Office will issue on 23 September 1981 a set of four special stamps. The subjects and values are as follows: cockle dredging (14p); hauling side trawl (18p); lobster potting (22p) and hauling Seine net (25p).

The stamps are designed by Brian Sanders who also designed the 'Police' stamps in 1975. Printed by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd on photogravure phosphor coated unwatermarked paper, they are horizontal in format, size 41mm x 30mm, printed 100 to a sheet. The perforations are 15 x 14 and PVA dextrin is the adhesive.

The presentation pack (No 129) is designed by Collis Clements.

Values and Colours

- 14p: Greenish-yellow, bright crimson, new blue, red-brown, black, grey-olive, grey-black.
- 18p: Greenish-yellow, bright crimson, bright blue, grey, black, grey-black.
- 22p: Greenish-yellow, bright crimson, dull ultra-marine, reddish-lilac, black, grey-black.
- 25p: Greenish-yellow, bright rose, new blue, black, grey-black.

Cylinders used:

- 14p – 2A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G
- 18p – 1A, 1B, 2C, 1D, 1E, 1F
- 22p – 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F
- 25p – 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E





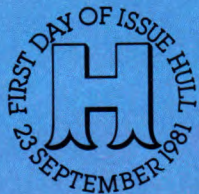
Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

FISHING



BRITISH POST OFFICE MINT STAMPS

FISHING



The Royal Mail Postbus Service – part 1

The stamp affixed tickets and their cancellations

L F Newbery

As an experiment, the first postbus service in the United Kingdom – Llanidloes-Llangurig – went into operation on 20 February 1967. The vehicle, a 7-seater Morris J2 minibus KVB 103D (alas no longer in the Post Office service), was driven by postman Stanley Owen on the inaugural run from Llangurig to Llanidloes with a full load of mail and passengers (three adults and seven schoolchildren).

The fares for the journey were 1s 8d single 2s 11d return and for children between 5 and 14 half the adult fare. Today the single adult fare is 25p. Use was made of a secondhand Mycalex, roll fed, self printing omnibus ticket issuing machine. This machine, B136, in its case and original instructions, now somewhat tatty, is in the National Postal Museum, London.

Since that memorable day some 170 postbus services throughout the United Kingdom have gone into operation. Of these only thirty one (23 in England and 10 in Wales) use preprinted card tickets to which postage stamps amounting to the appropriate fare are affixed and cancelled with special cancellations at time of purchase.

In the main these articles are concerned with the tickets and cancellations of the thirty three postbus services.

Four postal regions are responsible for the services in question – SEPR: South Eastern Postal Region, Brighton (17), NEPB: North Eastern Postal Board, Leeds (4), WMPB: Wales and the Marches Postal Board, Cardiff (10), and SWPR: South Western Postal Region, Bristol (2). Each region has its own types of tickets and cancellations.

South Eastern Postal Region

The first ticket used was of upright format 2" x 3" and printed by Hewitt & Sons (Printers) Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, twelve up on their Rotaprint press.

The white card ticket was divided into two sections with a single line, the lower 2" x 1½" for the postage stamps was also divided into two sections with a single vertical line. In the upper part occupying most of the space was the silhouette of the Bedford CF 9-seater Dormobile PSV

conversion postbus with the windows, wheel hubs and logo – EIIR Royal Mail Post Bus – left unprinted. Above, the heading in Post Office two line lettering – Royal Mail Post Bus – and below, just above the dividing line in block lettering – TICKET. The text and design was printed in red.

It is strange the Bedford design was used when only one Bedford was ever worked on English routes (XUF 902K – SEPR 1 Canterbury-Crundale) with a further five in Scotland. All the English routes work Commer PB2000 11-seaters (recent replacements carry the Dodge insignia).

(25) SEPR 2 Dorking-Coldharbour-Ockley 2 August 1973.

This service, the twenty fifth in the UK and the first in Surrey has the honour of being the first to use the stamp affixed tickets and special cancellation.

The tickets were cancelled at time of boarding by the driver and unless stated otherwise were struck in violet.

The cancellation consists of a single line oblong frame approx. 2¾" x 1¼" with a four line text reading: DORKING / COLDHARBOUR / OCKLEY / DATE / ROYAL MAIL POSTBUS.



It is interesting to note the tickets are headed with Post Bus as two words whilst on the cancellation POSTBUS is one word.

(30) SEPR 3 Oxted-Lingfield 24 September 1973.

This service (the second in Surrey) and Dorking-Ockley both under the control of the Head Postmaster Redhill, were the only services that used this ticket – later printings were without the vertical dividing line in the lower panel.

The cancellation was similar to that for Dorking-Ockley but with the text in three lines reading: OXTED – LINGFIELD / DATE / ROYAL MAIL POSTBUS.

The second ticket, also printed by Hewitts, was identical with the first except the vertical line dividing the lower panel was omitted.

There were numerous printings with differing shade of card and ink depending on availability at time of printing. The card varied from white through cream to a pale green, the ink from red to deep crimson. Those printed with the deep crimson ink had an additional logo on the foot of the passenger door of the postbus design reading: The Post Office South Eastern Region.

The tickets were supplied to the local postmaster from Brighton.

Generally the stamps used were the definitives though occasionally commemoratives were pressed into service, the latter being very popular with the older passengers who save them for their grandchildren.

Those services with very few fare stages carry a supply of tickets already made up, others have a supply of blank tickets and an assortment of stamps to enable tickets to be made up at time of issue. Those in the Reading district have tickets made up as follows: 1p to 10p in 1p steps and to £1 in 10p steps, though they don't all carry the full range. Some stages would require several tickets to make up the amount.

The following fifteen services used the second ticket:

- (25) SEPR 2 Dorking - Coldharbour - Ockley.
- (30) SEPR 3 Oxted - Lingfield.
- (40) SEPR 4 Sittingbourne - Wormshill. 4 March 1974.
- (41) SEPR 5 Petworth - Bignor. 4 March 1974.
- (43) SEPR 6 Tunbridge Wells - Wadhurst - Mayfield. 1 April 1974.
- (44) SEPR 7 Heathfield - Waldron. 4 June 1974.
- (49) SEPR 8 Lambourn - Hungerford. 2 July 1974.
- (50) SEPR 9 Hungerford - Great Shefford. 2 July 1974.



- (51) SEPR 10 Hungerford - Kintbury. 2 July 1974.
- (58) SEPR 11 Hailsham - Bodle Street Green. 14 September 1974.
- (65) SEPR 12 Newport (IOW) - Newtown. 21 January 1975.
- (66) SEPR 13 Newport (IOW) - Brightstone. 21 January 1975.
- (67) SEPR 14 Froxfield Green - Petersfield. 11 February 1975.
- (77) SEPR 15 Newbury - West Ilsley. 18 August 1975.
- (78) SEPR 16 Newbury - Chaddleworth. 18 August 1975.

Special Handstamp Ink

It was noticed in our sorting offices when cancelling covers bearing the 'Sports' stamps issued in October 1980, that the special handstamping ink did not dry as quickly as is required.

After a full investigation by the Quality Assurance Division of The Post Office, it was discovered that the ink used at the time was not as compatible with the off-set litho printing process – the process used to print the 'Sports' stamps – as we would like.

Following tests to determine the drying times of various inks on several stamp printed surfaces, including litho printed stamps, we are now using an ink of a new formulation which has proved to be more compatible with all the surfaces tested.

North Western Postal Board Postcards

The 2nd of three sets of four picture postcards depicting Victorian pillar boxes will go on sale from 23 September 1981.

On the split of the Postal and British Telecom businesses – Vesting Day – 1 October 1981, a full colour postcard illustrating the NWPB hot air balloon will be issued.

Orders for fully serviced cards, including a 14p 'Fishing' stamp affixed to each of the pillar box cards, and a 14p definitive stamp affixed to the balloon card, with special handstamping, should be sent to: North Western Postal Board, Philatelic Manager (Mk. 99), St James's Buildings, 79 Oxford Street, MANCHESTER, M60 1AA. The cost is 37p per card.

Orders for mint and serviced cards sent to NWPB will be accepted up to first day of sale, and the following postage and packing charges will apply:

1-10 cards: 25p

11-49 cards: 45p

50-99 cards: 75p

100+ cards: 100p

Mint cards will also be available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and all philatelic counters from the first day of sale. Bulk orders should be sent to: The Manager (Postcards), Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BB, where normal discount facilities and handling charges will apply.

Midland Postal Region Postcard

A new postcard, price 11p, featuring an artist's impression of the Head Post Office Building, Tontine Street, Stoke-on-Trent, will be on sale at all philatelic offices from 1 October 1981.

The issue of the postcard marks the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the building by the then Postmaster General, The Rt Hon S C Buxton MP.

Although over the years many internal changes have been made, the imposing facade remains virtually unaltered and few would deny its claim to be one of the most handsome buildings in the Potteries.

A special handstamp featuring the Hanley Office Duplex number and bearing the words, 'Picture Postcard MPB 12, 75th Anniversary, Head Post Office Building, First Day of Sale 1 October 1981, Stoke-on-Trent', will be applied on that day only to mail posted in a special posting box situated in the Head Post Office Counter, Stoke-on-Trent.

Serviced cards including the special handstamp will cost 37p each, charges include the cost of the postcard, postage, handstamping and service charge. Orders should be sent to: The Head Postmaster, 75th Anniversary, HPO Tontine Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AA, not later than 25 September 1981. Normal reposting facilities will be available, stamped addressed cards or covers should be forwarded to the Operations Branch at the above address, marking the cover 75th Anniversary Handstamp.

Mint cards may be ordered from: The Manager (Postcards), Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BB, where normal handling charges will apply.

Forthcoming Events

Camberley and District Stamp Club

On behalf of the Surrey Federation of Philatelic Societies, the Camberley and District Stamp Club will play host at the Annual Inter-County Federation Trophy Competition, stamp exhibition and fair to be held on Saturday 10 October 1981 in the Civic Hall, CAMBERLEY, Surrey GU15 3SY.

The programme will commence at 10.30 am until 4.30 pm including prize winning exhibits, local postal history, dealers stands and a Post Office philatelic sales counter. Ample car parking facilities are near the Hall. Price of admission is 20p, children under 16, 10p.

Coventry Philatelic Society

The Coventry Philatelic Society is holding its Annual Stamp Fair and Exhibition at the Sibree Hall, Warwick Row, COVENTRY CV1 1EX, on Saturday 7 November 1981, from 10 am to 5 pm.

The main exhibit will be a very impressive

display, illustrating the Fascination of Printing Errors on QE II British commemoratives.

Refreshments will be available continuously during the hours of opening, and there will be a Post Office Philatelic Sales Counter.

The exhibition hall is within easy reach of Coventry railway station, and local bus services stop nearby.

Hinckley and District Philatelic Society

The annual stamp exhibition and fair of the Hinckley and District PS will take place on Saturday 3 October 1981 in St John's Hall, Brunel Road, HINCKLEY, Leicester, LE10 0AA. Hours of opening are 10 am to 5 pm. There will be a number of dealers' stands and The Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter. Ample free car parking is available adjacent to St John's Hall. The price of admission is 20p – children 10p.

East Midlands Federation of Stamp Clubs Convention 1981

The 31st Annual Convention of the East Midlands Federation of Stamp Clubs will be held on Saturday, 10 October 1981 between 11 am and 5 pm at the Youth House, St Mary's Road, LUTON, LU1 3JA under the auspices of this year's host, the Luton and District Philatelic Society.

The main attractions at the Convention will be the Federations annual competitions to be judged by members of the Middlesex Federation, displays by the host society and dealers' stands.

Waterlow Study Circle

This recently formed study circle consists of members of a number of One Country Study Circles who decided to form a specialised Multi-Country Study Circle. The object is to investigate specialised subjects relating to the stamps printed by Waterlow and Sons Ltd and Waterlow Bros and Layton, for all countries.

Membership of the newly formed study circle will be opened to other study circles or individuals interested in Waterlow. So far the following study circles have joined: Belgium, Belgium Congo, Rhodesian and Sarawak Specialists Society, and it is hoped that all study circles, whose countries include stamps printed by Waterlow will join.

Full details may be obtained from: Mr. Colin Hoffman, 9 Oaker Avenue, West Didsbury, MANCHESTER, M20 8LH. Please include a sae for reply.

Postal History Weekend at St. Andrews

The 37th Annual Conference of the Postal History Society takes place this year in the historic Scottish town of St. Andrews, renowned for its university

and golf courses, on the weekend of Friday 25th September to Monday 28th September.

The programme includes a talk on the mails between Great Britain and India in the days of the clipper ships by the noted expert, Colonel C N M Blair, CMG, OBE, and a reception at the University which will provide a rare opportunity to glimpse items from the archives. The Scottish Postal History Society will be giving a group display on the Saturday morning and other subjects to be discussed during the weekend include the postal history of Madiera and of China.

All the sessions are open to non-members, including the Conference Dinner on the Saturday evening, and copies of the conference Programme and Booking Forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Lower Street Farmhouse, Hildenborough, TONBRIDGE, Kent TN11 8PT.

All enquiries to J G S Scott 01-588 4545 ext 2169.

Forces Covers

The Royal Tournament

The Royal Tournament took place at Earls Court, London during the period 15 July – 1 August 1981. To mark this annual event, a commemorative cover depicting an early 19th-century naval gun and crew is currently available price 80p. A 14p 'National Trust' postage stamp was affixed during the first week, and from 22 July until the close of the Royal Tournament a 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp was used, cancelled by a BFPS changeable handstamp – including Royal Wedding Day 29 July. In addition, the cover bearing both 'Royal Wedding' stamps can be purchased, price £1.25.

Orders with remittances made payable to the: 'Philatelic Officer, PCD RE', accompanied by a 10" x 6" sae, should be sent to: Philatelic Officer, Postal & Courier Depot RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON NW7 1PX.

Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo

The Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo took place from 5-15 August 1981. To mark the occasion, a commemorative cover is now available depicting some of the uniformed military participants with Cardiff Castle providing a backdrop, together with the figures '1981', the name 'CARDIFF', the City of Cardiff Heraldic Arms, and the Welsh Plumes with the letters 'C' and 'D' enclosed in a circle. The cover has a 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp affixed, cancelled by a BFPS 1747 changeable datestamp. The cost is £1.00 each. A limited number of covers have been signed by the Mayor of Cardiff, price £1.50 each. Orders with remittances made payable

to the 'Philatelic Officer, PCD RE', accompanied by a 10" x 6" sae, should be sent to: Philatelic Officer, Postal & Courier Depot RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON NW7 1PX.

Trooping The Colour

The Annual Trooping The Colour Ceremony which took place on Saturday 13 June 1981, was marked by the issue of a commemorative cover depicting the Ensign with the Colours, and members of 1st BTN the Welsh Guards on parade; included also is the Badge of the Household Division. Bearing a 14p Welsh 'Country' definitive stamp cancelled with a BFPS 1915 handstamp, the cost of the cover is £1.

In addition, 500 covers were carried by members of RAF Scampton on the fly-past over Buckingham Palace immediately following the Trooping Ceremony. The cost of each cover, signed by the OC of the Flight, is £2.

A few of these covers are still available.

Orders with remittances made payable to the 'Philatelic Officer, PCD RE', accompanied by a 10" x 6" stamped-addressed envelope, should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, Postal and Courier Depot RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON NW7 1PX.

Royal Navy

The 40th anniversary of the shooting down of a Focke-Wulf by aircraft from *HMS 'Audacity'* occurs on 19 September 1981. A commemorative cover will be available from that date depicting *HMS 'Audacity'* and her aircraft in action, plus the red and white Ensign and the badge of 802 squadron. A 14p 'Fishing' stamp will be affixed cancelled with a pictorial BFPS 1756 handstamp. The cost is 70p.

The cover as above, but bearing a 22p 'Fishing' stamp and signed by Vice-Admiral Sir Donald Gibson KCB DSC, Commanding Officer 802 Squadron, and Captain E M Brown CBE DSC AFC RN will be available price £1.95. In addition, the cover signed by Captain Brown only with an 18p 'Fishing' stamp affixed costs £1.15.

Orders with remittances made payable to the 'FAA Museum', should be sent to: RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS, Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset BA22 8HL, accompanied by a 7" x 5" sae.

Royal Wedding Cover

A commemorative cover depicting the Prince and Princess of Wales seated in their carriage, embarking on the journey from St. Paul's Cathedral to Buckingham Palace after the wedding

ceremony, is now available.

Price £3.50, the cover bears both 'Royal Wedding' stamps cancelled with a BFPS 1753 handstamp illustrating the Prince of Wales feathers, dated 29 July 1981. The cover may be obtained by post from: C F Kitts & Sons Ltd, 49-53 De Beauvoir Road, LONDON N1 5BR. Part of the profit from sales will be donated to the Fleet Air Arm and British Forces Postal Services charities.

Commemorative Covers

Swansea City AFC Special Cover

In recognition of the promotion of Swansea City AFC to the First Division of the Football League for the first time in its history, the Club in conjunction with Wales and the Marches Postal Board has produced a special cover to commemorate the City's first home match on 29 August against Leeds United. The serviced cover bearing a 14p 'Welsh' definitive stamp is now available to callers at main post offices in South West Wales, the Swansea City Club Shop, and the Swansea Philatelic Counter, The Kingsway Post Office, 35 The Kingsway, SWANSEA, SA1 5LF. A special handstamp used to cancel the stamp bears the legend, 'Division One 1981/82 Swansea City v Leeds United 29 August 1981'. The cost is 80p by personal application, or £1.00 for orders by post which should be sent to the Swansea Philatelic Counter at the above address.

Manchester Weather Centre

Two covers marking 21 years of service to the Fishing Industry by Manchester Weather Centre, will be available from 23 September 1981 to coincide with the issue of the four 'Fishing' stamps. The first cover is designed to have a single 'Fishing' stamp affixed, cancelled and despatched through normal postal channels, price 50p. The second cover, a little larger in size, bearing all four 'Fishing' stamps, cancelled and despatched in an outer envelope, price £2.00. Both covers depict fishing areas around the British Isles and will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp including the message, 'Manchester Weather Centre Commemorate 21 years of Service to Fishing 23 September 1981 - Manchester'. The larger cover will be signed by a member of the television weathermen team.

Orders with remittances made payable to Mr S Renshaw (Cover Account) should be sent to: The Manchester Weather Centre, 55 Royal Exchange, MANCHESTER, M2 7DA.

Swindon Town Football Club

On 29 August 1981 a commemorative cover was produced to mark the centenary of Swindon Town Football Club.

The cover, depicting the Club centenary logo and bearing a 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, is priced £1.00. Alternatively a limited number of covers are available signed individually by members of the 1981/82 first team squad, priced at £1.50 each.

The covers are available, at the prices quoted, to personal callers at the souvenir shop in the County Ground, Swindon.

Orders by post, with remittance payable to 'Swindon Town Football Club', should be sent to: Mr K Morford, 18 Howard House, Howardgate, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PA, accompanied by a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope, or, with an additional 15p for return postage and packing.

Stoke Mandeville Games

A special cover was issued on 12 August 1981 on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Stoke Mandeville Games. The cover bears a portrait of Jimmy Savile and illustrations of sports for disabled persons. The cover has a full set of 'Duke of Edinburgh's Award' stamps cancelled with a special handstamp, '30th Year Stoke Mandeville Games Aylesbury Bucks'. It is available from: Hawkwood Stamps, 60 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, LONDON, E4 7PJ, price £2.50 plus 15p return postage and packing. Remittances should be made payable to 'Hawkwood Stamps'. Part of the profit will be donated to Stoke Mandeville Games.

Otley Parish Church Restoration Appeal

A philatelic cover is currently available commemorating the 1350th anniversary of the coming of Christianity to Otley. The cover depicts the parish church, and has all five 'National Trust' postage stamps affixed, cancelled with a special handstamp on the day of issue - 24 June 1981. The cost is £2.00 plus 20p postage and packaging. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Mrs L Watson, Newall Post Office, Weston Lane, OTLEY, West Yorkshire, LS21 2DD.

The First Solar-powered Flight from Pontoise, France to RAF Manston

To commemorate this unique event, two covers have been sponsored by the Dupont Company. They depict 'The Solar Challenger', the solar

powered aircraft flying over the English Channel.

One cover has a 2 franc stamp affixed while the second cover has an 11½p British definitive affixed. Both are handstamped 7 July 1981 and are available for £3.80 the pair. Signed by the inventor, Dr Paul MacGready, or the pilot, Steve Ptacek, the covers are £6.00 the pair. For both covers signed by the inventor and pilot, the cost is £8.00.

Part of the profit from sales will be donated to future research into the study of this unique aircraft. The above charges include return postage and packing. Orders should be sent to: J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON, N14 4RL. Telephone 01-886 6744.

Langley Grammar School

To commemorate the Silver Jubilee (1956-1981) of Langley Grammar School in September 1981, a special philatelic cover is being issued. The cover bearing the full set of 'Fishing' stamps cancelled by a commemorative handstamp on the first day of issue, 23 September, will be available for £2.75 including return postage and packing. Orders with remittances payable to 'Langley Grammar School P A', should be sent to the Philatelic Officer, Langley Grammar School, Reddington Drive, Langley, SLOUGH, Berkshire, SL3 7QS.

Kent County Constabulary

To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Special Constabulary, The Kent County Constabulary Sports Club are offering a philatelic cover on 15 October 1981, depicting past and present constables.

The cover will bear the stamps from the 'Police' issue cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp.

The following services are available:

SERVICE 'A'

A limited number of 100 covers signed by the Chief Constable of Kent, and bearing all four stamps, the price is £3.00 each.

SERVICE 'B'

The cover with a full set of stamps affixed, price £1.50.

SERVICE 'C'

The cover with one stamp only, at £1.00.

Orders accompanied with remittances made payable to: 'Kent County Constabulary Sports Club', should be sent to: Postal Covers, County Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME15 9BZ.

Essex Police

1981 is the 150th Anniversary of the Essex Special Constabulary, and to mark the event the Essex Police will produce a philatelic cover depicting the

Police crest and bearing the 13p 'Police' stamp. The cover will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp including the date – 15 October 1981. A limited number will be signed by The Chief Constable of Essex and they will have the 15p 'Police' stamp affixed. The following charges will apply. Unsigned covers are £1.00 each, and signed covers are £1.50 each; return postage and packing 20p extra. Orders with remittances made payable to R E How, should be sent to PC R E How, Essex Police, Police Station, Great Oaks, BASILDON, Essex, SS14 1EJ.

All profits from sales will be donated to The Special Constabulary Benevolent Fund and Widows and Orphans Fund.

The Transporter Bridge, Newport, Gwent

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Transporter Bridge, Newport, a limited number of covers bearing the 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp, cancelled with a special handstamp will be available from 12 September until 10 October 1981. The cover, price 75p, depicts the Bridge, which is unique amongst the few transporters still in use throughout the world.

In addition, the cover posted in the moving gondola of the Bridge on the anniversary date – 12 September – will also be available with a cachet to this effect, applied to the cover. The cost, £1.00.

For collectors who wish to send their own private covers, with the appropriate postage stamps affixed, a fee of 25p must accompany the cover for the cachet to be applied. Collectors should note that the cachet will only be applied on 12 September.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Newport Borough Council', should be sent to: Director of Technical Services (Stamp Offer), Newport Borough Council, Civic Centre, NEWPORT, Gwent, NPT 4UR.

Twinning – East Cambridgeshire/Orsay, France

On 12 September the East Cambridgeshire District Council will issue a commemorative cover to celebrate the Twinning of East Cambridgeshire with the District of Orsay, France, thereby completing a trilateral link with Stadt Kempen, West Germany.

The cover, bearing a 14p 'Royal Wedding' stamp, illustrates in colour the coastlines of England and France using the flags of both countries and badges of the three districts. Cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting a Charter it will be available price 90p.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'East Cambridgeshire District Council' should be addressed: Twinning Cover, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, ELY, CB7 4PL, with a 9" x 6" s.a.e.

Billingsgate Fish Market, London

A colour illustration of Billingsgate fish market, together with an inset of an old print of a 17th century fishwife will illustrate the front of a special cover bearing all four 'Fishing' stamps. It will be available from 23 September 1981 cancelled with a handstamp which includes the message, 'Centuries of Service Billingsgate'. The cost is £2.50 plus 15p for return postage and packing. Proceeds from sales will be donated to Billingsgate Christian Mission. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Hawkwood Stamps', should be sent to: Hawkwood Stamps, 60 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, LONDON, E4 7PJ.

'Catch '81'

The International Fisheries Exhibition, 'Catch '81' will take place at Falmouth, Cornwall, between 23–26 September 1981. To mark the event, a commemorative cover will be available bearing all four 'Fishing' stamps, cancelled with a special handstamp including the 'Catch '81' logo, price £2.50. The cover can be obtained at the Exhibition, or ordered by post from: Miss Carol Stone, Eagle Exhibitions Consultants Ltd., 129-141 High Street, EPPING, Essex, CM16 4AG. Orders should be received by 16 September with remittances made payable to 'Eagle Exhibitions'.

Philatelic Bulletin

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