

British Philatelic Bulletin

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*Cover illustration: The Post Office Seal
drawn by Jeffery Matthews FSIAD*

In this edition of the Philatelic Bulletin we are launching a new series of articles written by Don Staddon, which will look at essays of Queen Elizabeth II commemoratives and special issues. Subsequent articles on this fascinating subject will appear in future issues at regular intervals. These will concentrate on looking at specific collecting subjects using a thematic approach including Royal issues, Flora and Fauna, Christmas and Government, as well as other themes. The articles will be well illustrated with essays taken from the National Postal Museum's collection.

Also included is an article by Jeffery Mathews FSIAD on how he went about designing the Heraldry stamps, which will be issued on 17 January. We are also looking ahead to the second special stamp issue of the year, a set depicting British Cattle, due to be released on 6 March. Both sets are extremely attractive and provide an excellent start to 1984.

In the December edition, we were pleased to report on the agreement reached between the Stampex and BPE Committees. We sincerely hope that this heralds the start of a new era in British philately where the requirements of collectors are paramount. It is all too easy to forget that without the support of the collector/reader, many philatelic institutions could no longer exist. We are grateful for the support that the Philatelic Bulletin receives, and hope that we can continue to provide a service to both individual collectors and the hobby in general for many years to come.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

A new philatelic sales counter will open on Tuesday 17 January 1984 at the Lincoln Head Post Office, 19-20 Guildhall Street, LINCOLN, LN1 1AA. The hours of business at the new counter are: Monday 0900-11.45 and 12.45-16.45, Tuesday to Friday 0900-16.45, Saturday 0900-12.30. To coincide with the opening of the new counter a special one day

only handstamp, depicting the City of Lincoln Coat of Arms, will be used to cancel mail posted at the philatelic counter.

For customers who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent in an outer envelope addressed to, The Philatelic Duty, at the above address.

College of Arms Quincentenary – Special Stamp Issue

Heraldry has interested me since my introduction to the subject as part of a broad curriculum forming a training ground for interior designers. The good sense of incorporating into this particular design course subjects such as Heraldry and Lettering I think escaped me at the time. Suffice it to say that I came to enjoy them greatly despite the difficulties encountered in trying to satisfy my tutors.

Heraldry is a great paradox in that the written description of a coat of arms is quite exact and given in specific order, yet the artist has great freedom of expression and may shape and manipulate the components of the whole with infinite variety of design and detail.

There is much pleasure to be gained from the study of Heraldry, partly I suspect because of the romantic and chivalrous aspect of knightly subjects — shields, helms, banners — and the picture conjured up of jousts and tournaments, heralds and general pageantry; and also because of the decorative quality of the motifs combined with vivid colourings and gleaming metals, and the genealogical interest of armorial bearings.

Naturally, I was very pleased when asked by Barry Robinson, Design Adviser at the British Post Office, if I would accept a commission to submit designs for a set of four stamps on the subject of Heraldry to commemorate the quincentenary of the founding of The College of Arms in London.

My first steps led me to the college itself and, with the help of the heralds, who, put at my disposal their extensive and unique archive, I began my research. From there I was 'sent to the Tower', for the ancient fortress houses the most interesting Herald's Museum.

After some deliberation I decided to explore two distinct approaches to the subject. One of these was to use reproductions of archive material such as a portion of an ancient roll of arms depicting helm, shield, surcoat and banner of a knight; a joust scene from the Westminster Roll showing Henry VIII; a page of colourful coats of arms and pictures of Herald's and Pursuivants.

The other approach, and the one I confess to favouring, was the one adopted — that of designing and painting my own interpretations of the arms deemed most significant and appropriate to the



Jeffery Matthews

occasion. This gave me the opportunity to manipulate the designs so that each of the four coats of arms would occupy a similar area of space. I was also able to choose a different format for the stamps and after some experiment settled for the square. This is the first time this shape has been used for a stamp by the British Post Office.

The choice of heraldic subjects had a logical sequence to it, in that I wished to show the arms of the founder, Richard III, and the arms of the college itself. Then the importance of the Earl Marshal and his special relationship with the Herald's in matters heraldic and ceremonial made his arms very significant and, of course, it seemed most appropriate to show the arms of the City of London wherein the college was founded and still functions.

Heraldry is one of the most comprehensive systems of sign language and symbolism, and it is interesting to observe how much present day sign and symbol design owes to the heraldic heritage.

I hope that this set of heraldic stamps will give pleasure to those who perhaps already know something of the art, even to those expert in the field, and, perhaps more importantly, serve to introduce Heraldry to those for whom it will be a discovery leading them to an interest in this fascinating and enjoyable subject.

JEFFERY MATTHEWS

The Essays of Queen Elizabeth II

Having seen the impressive assortment of Queen Elizabeth II essays being assembled into a major collection at the National Postal Museum it seemed a good idea to draw attention to their existence by a series of articles in the Post Office Philatelic Bulletin. It would also give me the privilege of studying the material in depth, whilst selecting items for illustration purposes.

Being neither a Post Office employee nor a printer I must admit that the word 'essay' does not lend itself to a clear and distinct definition in relation to stamp production. It can easily be confused with other print terms such as 'proof' and 'trial'. Indeed, as far as I can see there is a degree of overlap between them.

Because this article is concerned with British stamps I am adopting the definition given to me by Barry Robinson, Design Adviser to the British Post Office. According to him an essay is an attempt by the printer to obtain the most faithful reproduction of the original artwork in an entirely different medium, ie. a stamp.

Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd., who produce most of the modern British pictorial and definitive stamp issues, added to this comment. They see an essay as a try or test of the photographic and hand retouching work that has been carried out by the printer in translating that original artwork into the stamp.

The House of Questa, printers of the Northern Ireland and Wales definitives, some National definitives and special stamps, for the Post Office, made the point that a stamp may be an assembly of different pieces of artwork such as the basic design, the Queen's head and the value. An essay is used to bring them together in the form of a single stamp, whereby the relationship between the various elements can be judged and if necessary adjusted.

John Waddington of Leeds, printers of the Scottish definitives plus some National definitives and special stamps such as the 1983 British Gardens set, point out that the purpose of an essay is to set an acceptable standard for bulk printing.

When a design is chosen the artwork may consist of a painting, etching, photographic transparency, flat artwork, or any combination of these. It may have been prepared in varying sizes as the subjects for



Yellow



Red



Blue



Black



Background

Essays: the plate pulled in black only

an issue may have been chosen from different sources.

Waddingtons remind us about the reproduction photographic method which reduces artwork to the correct size and breaks the colours down into standard process colours, yellow, magenta, cyan and black, or a number of special colours subject to the design requirements. Images on the films resulting



Essays: proofing at the stage of only yellow, red and blue being complete

from this reproduction process are then in the case of offset litho, which is the printing process used by both Waddingtons and The House of Questa, put down on to plates singly to be proof printed in the specified colours.

Harrisons produce essays for the photogravure process they use for most stamp production on small sheet fed presses with all the colours being etched



Yellow



Red/ Yellow



Red/ Yellow/ Blue



Red/ Yellow/ Blue/ Black



Background Black Blue Red Yellow

Essays: all colours in position

separately on one plate. The essay is then produced by changing the ink in the duct for each colour and moving the paper to register one colour on top of another. This avoids the cost of producing a proper printing cylinder and the remaking of it if the result is not satisfactory to the Post Office.

Essays may be used for a number of different purposes.



They may assist in deciding between designs from the same or different artists.

They may be used in colour trials, for example when a new series of definitives is being prepared or when optimising the translation of artwork for special stamps into the stamps themselves.

As mentioned earlier in this article they can help in the positioning of the Queen's head and the value, as well as comparing size and style of lettering or figures.

The use of phosphor bars or phosphor coated paper for British stamps has resulted in essays being used for test purposes by the quality assurance staff working for the Post Office.

Phosphorescence is affected by coloured pigments, whereby the response to UV light may fall below that required for operational purposes. In the case of second class stamps an essay printed on fluorescent coated paper is subjected to a spectrographic scan to show absorption at different wave lengths. This helps to determine the optimum position for the single phosphor bar.

Other values, particularly the multi-coloured special stamps, are also tested in essay form on phosphor coated paper to show whether the phosphor response is operationally satisfactory, especially on the design selected for the first class inland rate. If not, there may be a switch round of designs, an adjustment of the colours, a reduction of design size within the stamp border to provide a broader white surround, or a tighter tolerance during printing to ensure a sufficient white margin occurs on either side of the stamps.

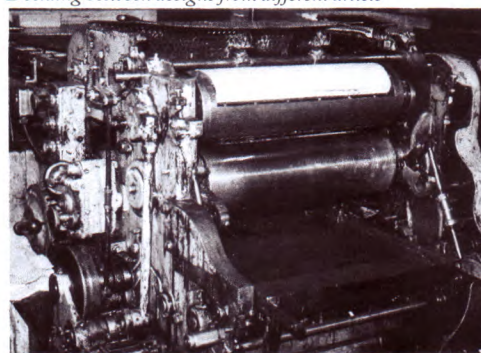
To me, the difference between an essay and a proof seems to be that the essay comes before the proof stage and is printed on non-production machines.

The proof comes from the production machine, using the production cylinders or plates to 'prove' that the end result is satisfactory printed in its present form, on each of the images reproduced on the sheet. *(to be continued).*

D. W. STADDON



Deciding between designs from different artists



The L&M7 proofing press



Essays: can help in the positioning of the Queen's head or deciding the size and style of the value

The 1881 Issue – Artists Drawings

The Unified stamps issued in April 1884, to obviate the need for separate stamps for Postage and Inland Revenue duties, were the subject of complaints from both the Public and the Post Office, practically from the day of issue. The Public considered them to be the most commonplace series of designs for postage stamps that had yet been seen in the British Empire. The Post Office complained of the difficulties experienced by their sorters under adverse operational and lighting conditions to differentiate between the denominations. A factor made all the more important by the introduction in 1883 of the Parcel Post service.

All the parties involved agreed that the designer's attempt to marry the needs of the Inland Revenue, for the use of double fugitive inks, to the Post Office's needs, for easy identification of denomination, by varying the internal configuration of the stamps, had not been successful. Accordingly, in June 1884, a stamp committee, including both Post Office and Inland Revenue Officers, was formed to consider new designs for the stamps. Some idea of

the extent of the design and technical difficulties involved can be appreciated from the fact that during the five months the Stamp Committee sat, the staff designers from the printers De La Rue, submitted no less than 350 designs for consideration.

In volume XLI of the R M Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum, there is an interesting series of drawings, dated 24 June 1885, for the ½d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 9d and 1/-, all in the colours in which these values were subsequently issued. There are similar drawings of the values issued later, the 10d in blue, yellow and mauve, dated 15 March 1889 and the 4½d being in the issued red and green, dated 1 February 1892 (pages 1–7). There is a foolscap sheet, dated 9 November 1885, part of which is illustrated here, bearing the ten new designs and the current one penny, handpainted in the issued colours (page 8). Below the 2d there is a manuscript notation "Red background to be in lines," and there are detailed instructions on the colour of the stamps and paper.

JOHN MEMMOTT



Cattle Stamps Issue

6 March 1984

The art of selective breeding to improve and fix the characteristics of domestic cattle first began in England around 1770. Today, exports of British breeds form the cornerstone of beef and dairy herds throughout the world.

To remind us of these facts the Post Office will issue a set of five special stamps depicting British cattle on 6 March 1984.

The subjects and denominations are as follows:

Highland Cow (16p), Wild Chillingham Bull (20½p), Hereford Bull (26p), Welsh Black Bull (28p), Irish Moiled Cow (31p).

First Day Cover Services

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

SERVICE 'A'

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

SERVICE 'B'

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

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.68	£1.46
Deposit Account		
Customers	£1.63	£1.42
Service 'B'	£1.54	£1.34

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 24 February 1984.

For customers who wish to send their stamped and fully addressed covers in an outer envelope to Oban for cancellation, the address is as follows: Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, Albany Street, OBAN, Argyll, PA34 4AA.

Posting Boxes



No. 55 This month's illustration of an unusual posting box, situated in the corner of a post office window in BLANCHLAND, Northumberland, has been sent to us by Mr J R Elwen of Sunderland. Thank you Mr Elwen.

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale in January 1984.

DEFINITIVES

14p	PCP
15p	PCP
18p	PCP
25p	PCP 14 January

COUNTRY DEFINITIVES — WALES

14p	PCP
15p	PCP
18p	PCP 14 January

British River Fishes Stamps and presentation packs
26 January

COUNTRY DEFINITIVES — SCOTLAND

14p	PCP
15p	PCP
18p	PCP 14 January

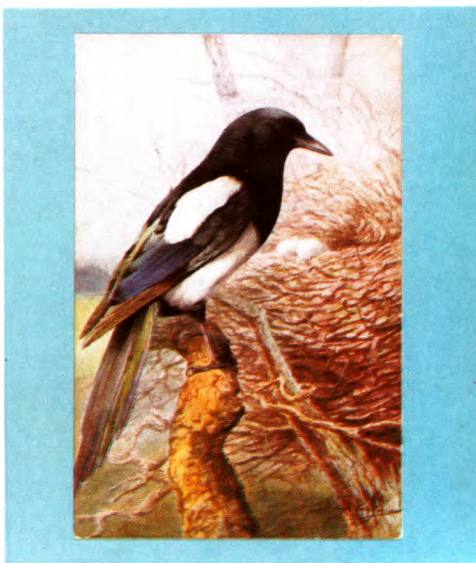
COUNTRY DEFINITIVES — N.IRELAND

14p	PCP
15p	PCP
18p	PCP 14 January

9. The Controversial Magpie

Beautiful and interesting or destructive pest? Friend or foe? The magpie (*Pica pica*) is a familiar bird whether we live in town or country, and yet, because of a widespread superstition, an alleged connection with witchcraft and an old rhyme which begins 'One's sorrow, two's mirth' etc., it is not generally a welcome creature. The magpie is a member of the crow family and is similar in length and silhouette to the carrion crow — some 18 inches — though it has an exceptionally long tail. It has contrasting black and white 'pied' plumage — the scapulars and under parts white, the remainder black, glossed blue, green and purple. It builds a large domed nest of sticks and twigs lined with hardened mud in tall trees, bushes or hedgerows, and usually announces its arrival with a hoarse 'kraak' rather like that of the crow.

The magpie is indisputedly a fiercely predatory bird taking much of its food, animal and vegetable, on the ground. It raids the nests — eggs and young — of other bird species, and has been known to harass and injure sheep, in which event it runs the gauntlet of the farmer's shotgun (it is not a protected species). It is a lively, handsome bird with 'mischievous propensities' and a reputation in common with the jackdaw for thieving and hoarding.



My postcard is one of a long series of wild birds drawn by George Rankin for the publishers, J Salmon Ltd. of SEVENOAKS, Kent. Birds are a popular subject with postcard collectors, especially those signed by Rankin, Roland Green, Winifred Austen, Mary Golay and others. They form a very attractive and colourful collection.

MALCOLM JAMES

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

With reference to Mr P Alistair Barton's somewhat gratuitous side-swipe in the final paragraph of his letter in your October 1983 edition, if he were to examine the relevant catalogues, or Jersey Stamp Bulletins he would observe, contrary to his under-informed assertion, that Jersey learned long ago of the desirability of smaller stamps for what he terms 'everyday mail.' Jersey's 1976 Definitives were deliberately produced to smaller size than their fore-runners, and the subsequent 1981 Definitives are in fact of the same size as the existing British Post Office Definitives. Perhaps you would be kind enough to display the enclosed specimen alongside a current Machin, to prove the point?

Yours faithfully

M D ORBELL

Director of Postal
Administration

JERSEY CI



Change in Perforations for Definitive Stamps

New perforating dies are now used by The House of Questa for the printing of British definitive stamps. The stamps affected will be 2p, 5p, 75p National definitives and all Country stamps for Wales and Northern Ireland.

The new dies, which were introduced in November 1983 will mean a change in perforations from 13½ x 14 to 14 x 15. This is consistent with the perforation pattern of definitive stamps produced by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

Decimal Booklet Pane Printings—Technical Details

by L Newbery

Section III — Booklet pane printings for Specially Commissioned Books — Stitched Covers

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
£1 Wedgwood Book								
DP17	12x3p	B25 B11	Two	L & M 4	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	Mar 72 5 May 1972	
DP18	6x3p 3x2½p 3x2½p	B21 B8 B14	Two 1 bar R 1 CB	L & M 4	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	Mar 72 5 May 1972	
DP19	3x2½p 3x2½p 3x2½p 3x½p	B20 B10 B30	1 bar L 1 bar R 1 CB Two	L & M 4	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	Mar 72 5 May 1972	
DP20	2x2½p 3x½p 1x½p	B25 B9 B14	1 bar L Two 1 bar L	L & M 4	Grover	FCP/ PVA1	Mar 72 5 May 1972	
DP20A	2x2½p 3x½p 1x½p	B22 B9 B14	1 bar L Two 1 bar L					
£3 Wedgwood Book								
DP40	9x12p	B4 B26	Two	Rembrandt	Grover	FCP/ PVAL/ Dex	1.2.80 18 Apr 1980	
DP41	9x10p	B12 B27	1 CB	Rembrandt	Grover	FCP/ PVAL/ Dex	29.1.80 18 Apr 1980	
DP42	6x2p	B13 B28	Two	Rembrandt	Grover	FCP/ PVAL/ Dex	24.1.80 18 Apr 1980	
DP43	4x12p 3x10p 1x10p 1x2p	B2 B29 B11 B14	Two 1 CB 1 bar L Two	Rembrandt	Grover	FCP/ PVAL/ Dex	25.1.80 18 Apr 1980	
£4 Gibbons Book								
DP55	6x15½p	B12 B45	Two	Rembrandt	Grover	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	22.1.82 22 Jan 1982	
DP56	3x12½p 3x12½p	B12 B46	1 bar R 1 bar L	Rembrandt	Grover	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	12.1.82 13 Jan 1982	
DP57	3x12½p 3x12½p 1x12½p 1x3p 1x2p	B13 B48 B18 B42	1 bar R 1 bar L 1 CB Two Two	Rembrandt	Grover	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	19.1.82 19 Jan 1982	

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
DP58	9x15½p	B10 B44 Two	Rem-brandt	Grover	FCP/PVA1/Dex	4.1.82	4 Jan 1982	

Regional Postcards

Eastern Postal Region is to issue a set of 4 Regional postcards on 15 February 1984 illustrating picturesque post offices in Oxfordshire. The subjects are:

Great Tew post office
Dorchester-on-Thames post office
Swalcliffe post office
Wytham post office

Orders for serviced cards, to include the cost of the card, First class postage and handling charge, bearing a special First day of sale handstamp, should be sent to The Philatelic Counter, Oxford Head Post Office, 102/4 St Aldates, OXFORD OX1 1AA.

The cost is £1.76 per set (in wallet) or 44p singly.

Mint cards, either in sets priced at 52p (in wallet) or 13p singly, will also be available from Oxford Philatelic counter. Remittances should be sent, preferably by Giro transfer, to account number 216 8014; cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'The Post Office.'

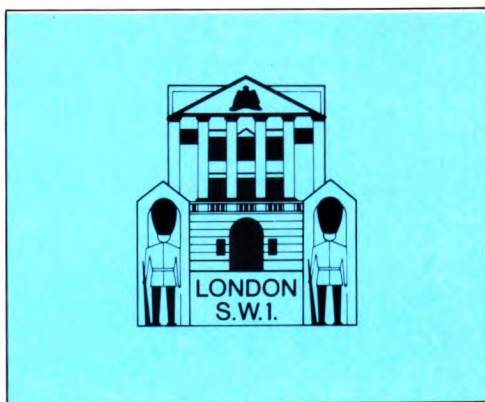
Bulk orders for mint cards only are obtainable from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT where normal handling charges will apply. Mint sets and single cards will also be available for personal callers only, at the philatelic counters in Cambridge, Colchester, Milton Keynes, Norwich and Southend-on-Sea.

Special Handstamps

A new permanent pictorial handstamp will be introduced at South West District Office on 17 January 1984. The design will be rectangular in shape and depicts Buckingham Palace complete with soldiers on sentry duty.

For reposting facilities, covers should be sent in an outer envelope to: Philatelic Duty SWDO, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB, marking the outer envelope, 'Pictorial Handstamp.'

Personal callers should take their covers to: District Postmaster, SWDO, 9 Howick Place, LONDON SW1P 1AA where the special posting box is situated.



Heraldry Stamps Issue

We were unable to give details, in the December edition of the Philatelic Bulletin, of the cylinders used for the printing of the 'Heraldry' stamps. We are pleased to do so now.

16p: 1a, 1b, 1c, 2d, 1e, 3f.

20½p: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 3e.

28p: 1a, 2b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.

31p: 1a, 1b 1c, 1d, 2e.

105. Birth Bicentenary of Jane Austen, 1975

Nostalgia must have been the uppermost emotion evoked by Barbara Brown, the designer of the four exquisite 'period pieces' commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen, the novelist, and illustrating some well-loved characters from her books. Those featured — and tastefully posed — were Emma (8½p), the beautiful and talented heiress who, after seeing her match-making attempts go astray, finds herself in love with her principal critic, Mr Knightly; Emma is depicted with her father, Mr Woodhouse (*Emma*); the prim Catherine Morland from *Northanger Abbey* (10p): the attentive Mr Darcy who successfully pursues and woos Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (11p): and sister and brother Mary and Henry Crawford from *Mansfield Park* (13p).

Jane Austen, 1775-1817, was born in Steventon, Hampshire, the seventh of eight children of the rector, the Reverend George Austen. She took an active part in the social life of the county, became a prolific letter-writer, and travelled a great deal (although she described her life as 'completely uneventful'). She began writing stories to amuse the family and her first great novels — *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey* — were not intended for publication and, though written between 1796 and 1798, did not

begin to appear in print until 1811, and then were published anonymously. In 1801 the family moved to Bath where her father died in 1805, and it was not until 1809, when she settled at Chawton, near Alton (and later at Southampton), that she began writing again. *Mansfield Park* was published in 1814, *Emma* in 1815.

Jane, who never married, died of Addison's disease at Winchester in her forty-second year, and it was not until the posthumous publication of *Persuasion* (written in 1815) and *Northanger Abbey* (completed in 1803 but neglected by a publisher) in 1818 that her identity was revealed. Like Charlotte and Emily Brontë (who both died before they were forty), Jane Austen achieved so much — ten novels — in her tragically short life. She is remembered as the 'gentle writer' in a gentle age.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 5 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. Listed varieties include frame breaks on the 8½p (top and bottom) and 13p (bottom) stamps, magenta dots left of the Queen's head on the 10p, and a dotted line of print running through the top of the pedestal on the 11p. Barbara Brown also designed the 'Famous Authoresses' issue of 1980 and the 'Carol' stamps for Christmas 1982.

JAMES WATSON



National Exhibitions

As announced at the Bath Congress, the British Philatelic Federation is setting up an Accreditation Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Ronald Lee to examine and agree acceptable standards to be met by exhibitions organisers in respect of size, display space, judges and awards before the title 'National' can be applied. This is a necessary step as this Federation is the only British philatelic body recognised by the Federation Internationale de Philatelie as representing the interests of British collectors. The qualification for exhibits to be shown at any International Exhibition is the receipt of a Vermeil Medal at a National Exhibition: it is thus essential that a 'National Exhibition' be subject to certain criteria, and this Federation will be undertaking such a task for exhibitions staged after September 1984.

Book Reviews

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue

Vol 1 Queen Victoria — 7th Edition

This 7th edition benefits from the complete reset undertaken for the 6th edition (December 1979) and includes further improvements to the presentation and layout. The results of research by leading specialists have also been included in this volume. In the Historical Introduction the note concerning Benjamin Cheverton has been revised and a previously unknown fourth type of Buchanan lettersheet has been recorded. This new edition continues the tradition started by the previous volumes and should appeal to all specialist collectors of British Victorian stamps. As with previous editions there is a wealth of detail and philatelic research which gives a fascinating picture of the philatelic intricacies of these stamps. Also, following the general fall in prices over the last four years, the pricing has been adjusted to reflect the market.

Priced at £9.95, this catalogue can be obtained from most reputable stamp dealers and bookshops, or from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 391 Strand, LONDON, WC2R 0LX.

The Raflet Stamp Club Silver Jubilee Book

This extremely interesting book celebrates 25 years of philatelic activity by the Raflet Stamp Club. Following the demise of the RAFA Philatelic Society which folded in 1957, the Raflet Stamp Club was born. It caters for RAF orientated philately, and the book touches on a surprising variety of collecting areas in this field. Copies of the book can be obtained for £2.50 (post free) from the Honourable Secretary of the Raflet Stamp Club, A G Groom, 6 Grove Court, Falkland Grove, DORKING, Surrey, RH4 3DL.

Collect Post Office Cards (3rd Edition)

Published by B B P Publications Ltd

The 3rd edition of Collect Post Office Cards reflects the continuing and growing interest in this collecting area. The catalogue is clearly laid out and well illustrated, including a comprehensive section devoted to Air Letters and Presentation Packs, as well as the postcard details. Priced at £2.50 it is excellent value for money and can be obtained from all Philatelic Counters and most reputable bookshops, or direct from B B P Publications Ltd, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent.

Collect British Stamps (33rd Edition)

The latest edition of Stanley Gibbons popular publication is now available from the usual philatelic outlets and all Post Office philatelic counters at £2.00. It includes all issues up to and including the 'British Fairs' stamps. A full listing of modern first day covers bearing Philatelic Bureau and other Special Post Office cancellations appears again in this edition, replacing the listing of booklets. (This will appear again in the Summer 1984 edition). All the postmarks used by the Bureau and specially designated offices since 1963 are listed and illustrated. As in the previous edition, all stamps, presentation packs, First Day Covers, PHQ postcards and gutter pairs are listed.

This checklist, with all stamps illustrated in full colour, remains the ideal guide for collectors of GB stamps who want easy-to-follow listings. This new edition comprising 100 pages with over 600 illustrations is also available from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 391 Strand, LONDON, WC2R 0LX at £2.00 plus 30p extra for postage and packing as well as the Philatelic Bureau, EDINBURGH, where normal handling charges will apply.

The Private Post 1984

This is the 7th edition of this informative annual handbook produced by the British Private Post Study Group of the Cinderella Stamp Club. It again

contains nine articles covering several of the different kinds of private posts including island locals, railway and bus parcel stamps, Christmas charity post issues and 19th century carrier stamps. In addition, John Holman's Bibliography lists no fewer than 199 books and articles on British private postal service and stamps published during 1982.

Published by the Cinderella Stamp Club, this well produced handbook on some of the lesser known aspects of postal services. Priced at £3.00 (post free) it can be obtained from the Membership Secretary: G M Dorman, 35 Smith Street, LONDON SW3 4EP.

A New Modern History of the Post Office

The last major history of the Post Office was Professor Howard Robinson's "Britain's Post Office", published by the Oxford University Press in 1953. This book is long out of print and so we are delighted to be able to report that a new modern history is being planned for publication in 1984 by the Athlone Press.

This will cover the period 1840-1980 and will concentrate on the development of postal services during that time, with particular reference to post-war developments. The author is Dr Martin Daunt of University College London, who has been doing his research in the Post Office's Archives Unit in St Martins le Grand. Readers will be kept informed of the book's progress, and further details including the publication date will be announced later.

Forthcoming Events

Medway Stamp Bourses

Six stamp bourses are due to be held in the Medway area in the next few weeks. All have free admission, and the relevant details are as follows:

RAINHAM: To be held on 6 January and 3 February at the White Horse (Functions Room), High Street, RAINHAM, Kent, from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm.

SITTINGBOURNE: To be held on 14 January at the Carmel Hall (Off High Street), SITTINGBOURNE, Kent, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

GRAVESEND: To be held on 21 January at St George's Hall (rear of Shopping Centre), Church Street, GRAVESEND, Kent, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

EAST HAM, LONDON: To be held on 28 January at the Hartley Centre, 267 Barking Road, East Ham, LONDON, from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.

SIDCUP: To be held on 11 February at the Emmanuel Church Hall, Hadlow Road, SIDCUP, Kent, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Essex Stamp Fairs

Two Stamp Fairs will be held by K C Fairs on 7 January and 3 March at the following location:

UPMINSTER: To be held at the St Laurence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, UPMINSTER, Essex, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, admission free.

Ray Watts Stamp Fairs

Fairs will be held by Ray Watts Stamp Fairs at the following locations:

CHINGFORD: To be held on 7 January at St Edmunds Church Hall, Mount Road, CHINGFORD, Essex.

ILFORD: To be held on 21 January and 18 February at the Ilford Labour Hall, 400 High Road, ILFORD, Essex.

BRENTWOOD: To be held on 28 January at the Cathedral Social Centre, Ingrave Road, BRENTWOOD, Essex.

ROMFORD: To be held on 11 February at Wykeham Hall, ROMFORD, Essex.

Further details can be obtained from R F Watts, 157 Chelmsford Road, SHENFIELD, Essex, CM15 8RU.

Southern Fairs

A stamp, coin and postcard fair will take place in the Crystal Palace Football Club new hall (above Sainsbury's) Whitehorse Lane, LONDON SE25 on Saturday 14 January 1984. The fair will open from 10 am to 4.30 pm. Admission is 25p

Society News

The Caledonian Philatelic Society has changed the venue for its meetings. Unless otherwise notified, these will now be held in Room 10, Fourth Floor, Stenhouse Buildings, Strathclyde University, Cathedral Street, GLASGOW. (A lift is available).

Commemorative Covers

The City of York

A commemorative cover will be available from 17 January, depicting in full colour the Arms of the City of York and bearing all four 'Heraldry' stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The handstamp will illustrate the Arms of the City surrounded by the legend, '400th Anniversary of the Granting of the Arms of the City of York' '17 January 1984'.

The charge is £3.50 including postage and packing. In addition the cover bearing a single 'Heraldry' stamp cancelled as above, the cost is £1.50.

Part of the profit from sales will be donated to The Lord Mayor of York's Benevolent Fund.

Orders with remittances should be sent to: Hawkwood Stamps, Freepost, LONDON, E4 7BR.

Richard III Society

One of the stamps being issued on 17 January 1984 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the founding of the College of Arms by Richard III, will in fact feature his coat of arms. To coincide with this stamp issue a special commemorative cover is being produced for the Richard III Society. Each cover will be lavishly gold-foiled and will feature the Royal Arms at the time of Richard III's reign. A special handstamp depicting Richard III's badge, the White Boar, will be applied to all covers. Leicester was chosen for the handstamp because it was at Bosworth Field, Leicestershire, that Richard III was killed.

Covers bearing the full set of stamps and franked with the special postmark will be available in a limited edition at £3.25 each. Covers bearing the single Richard III stamp will cost £2.00 each. (These prices are fully inclusive of postage, packing and VAT). Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to A G Bradbury, should be sent to him at 2 Fairholme Road, West Knighton, LEICESTER LE2 6GL.

Captain James Cook — Posthumous Granting of Arms

A special commemorative cover has been produced to mark the 199th anniversary of the posthumous granting of arms to Captain James Cook. The cover will be released to coincide with the issue of the Heraldry stamps on 17 January 1984. It depicts

Captain Cook and his ships HMS Resolution and HMS Endeavour, along with his coat of arms. Bearing a single 16p Heraldry stamp the covers will be cancelled in his birthplace county with the Cleveland Philatelic Counter handstamp. The cost of the cover is £1.25 including return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to Travers Publications should be sent to Travers Publications, 64 Corporation Road, REDCAR, Cleveland, TS10 1PB.

Heraldry

A commemorative cover will be available from 17 January, depicting in colour heralds at a state function. All four 'Heraldry' stamps will be affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The cost of the cover is £2.25 including return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to K & D Covers, addressed, Freepost, LONDON SE17 2BR.

The College of Arms

To mark the Quincentenary of the College of Arms a commemorative cover will be available from 17 January 1984 bearing all four 'Heraldry' stamps. The cover has been especially designed by Portcullis Pursuivant of Arms. All proceeds from the sale of these items will be donated towards the Quincentenary Appeal. These charges will apply:

Commemorative cover — £3.50

as above but signed by:

The Earl Marshal — £10

Three Kings of Arms — £10

The Lord Mayor of London — £10

Signed covers are offered strictly subject to availability. Order forms and further information can be obtained from: College of Arms Covers, Liege House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8LZ.

Marks & Spencer Centenary

To commemorate the start of their centenary year in 1984, Britain's leading High Street store, Marks & Spencer, have commissioned the production of a special commemorative cover and handstamp to coincide with the 'Heraldry' stamps being issued on 17 January. The cover illustrates in full colour a delightful montage comprising the portrait of both Michael Marks and Tom Spencer, the original Penny Bazaar, and a modern store. It also depicts the Marks & Spencer coat of arms, designed and granted to them by the College of Arms, and symbolizing the many aspects of the company.

Covers are available with the full set of 'Heraldry' stamps affixed at £3.25, or with the single 16p stamp at £1.50. All the covers are cancelled

with a specially designed handstamp. Marks & Spencer will donate all their profits from the covers to the NSPCC and RSSPCC who also celebrate their centenaries in 1984. Prices include postage and packing (U.K. only) and despatch in a protective outer envelope. For overseas orders please add £1 extra. Orders made payable to 'Marks & Spencer First Day Cover Account' should be sent to Marks & Spencer First Day Cover Offer, Michael House, Baker Street, LONDON W1A 1DN.

NSPCC Centenary

To celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1984, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will produce a commemorative cover.

The covers bearing a 16p 'Heraldry' stamp and cancelled with a special handstamp on the 17 January will be available price £1 each from: Philatelic Officer, PCDRE Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON NW7 1PX. A limited number of signed covers will also be available for £5 each. One hundred covers will be signed by each of the following:

- a. Dame Mary Donaldson GBE, The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of London.
- b. His Grace the Duke of Westminster.
- c. The Prime Minister.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'PCD No 9 account' should be sent with a 9" x 4" sae to the above address.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A few of these covers produced in 1981 by the Duke of Edinburgh's Devon County Award Committee, are still available at the reduced price of 50p each. The covers have all four commemorative stamps affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp dated 12 August 1981. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Office', should be sent to: The Devon YFC Centre, Amory Building, The Cattle Market, Marsh Barton Road, EXETER, Devon EX2 8LH.

Centenary of the Diocese of Southwell

The Parochial Committee of the Cathedral and Parish Church of St Mary of Southwell is sponsoring a special cover bearing the Arms of the Diocese printed in colour, and a specially designed Postmark to commemorate the Centenary of the Establishment of the Diocese, by an Order in Council on 2nd February 1884.

The covers will bear the 16p 'Heraldry' stamp and cost £1.50 each. A limited edition of 50 covers will be signed by both the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Southwell and will cost £5.00 each. Both prices are inclusive of postage and packing in

an outer envelope.

Orders, with remittances payable to 'Southwell Minster 1984 Centenary Fund', should be sent to Centenary Envelope, Minster Office, Bishops Drive, SOUTHWELL, Notts. NG25 0JP.

Lord Mayors Show

To mark the inauguration of London's first ever lady Lord Mayor, a commemorative cover is currently available bearing a portrait of Dame Mary Donaldson GBE, the 656th Lord Mayor of London. A 16p 'British Fairs' stamp is affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The cost is £1 each. Alternatively the cover as above but bearing all four 'British Fairs' stamps, is available at £2.50. In addition the cover with all four 'British Fairs' stamps affixed and signed by Dame Mary is also on sale at £5 each.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'Lord Mayor's Charity Account' should be sent to Public Relations Office, Guildhall, LONDON EC2P 2EJ and marked 'FDC'.

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