

BRITISH *PHILATELIC*

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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Bulletin

Carnival stamp issue • Lewis
Carroll and postal reform



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover photograph Notting Hill Carnival, by Tim Hazael. Royal Mail's Carnival stamps, its contribution to this year's Europa series, are previewed on page 324.

Issues Note some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Lombard Street, Trafalgar Square and Victoria Street), Manchester Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York.

1 July	Issue 10 × 1st class book with Win a Camcorder prize draw promotion cover. Available from about 10,000 retailers. Available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 27 August
5 July	Issue National Health Service philatelic numismatic cover. Available only from British Philatelic Bureau, price £12.95
7 July	Withdrawal All The Queen's Horses stamps, pack and stamp cards
14 July	Issue Magical Worlds stamp cards
21 July	Issue Magical Worlds stamps, pack & aerogrammes (English, Scottish and Welsh versions)
11 August	Issue High Values Pack containing £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 Castles stamps printed by Enschedé
11 August	Withdrawal Post Offices stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards; National Postal Museum Post Offices cards. <i>Note: NPM cards to be withdrawn at Bureau, will remain on sale at NPM shop</i>
18 August	Issue Carnival stamp cards
25 August	Issue Carnival stamps, presentation pack and philatelic numismatic cover. <i>Note: the PNC will be available only from the Bureau</i>
27 August	Issue Camcorder promotion book. Date of philatelic availability. See 1 July, above

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Lewis Carroll This month, as new stamps celebrate the creation of *Magical Worlds*, James Mackay tells the story of an extraordinary scholar, author and postal reformer **336**

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The designer The stamps were designed by Tim Hazael, born 1947, and educated at Ravensbourne College of Art. A freelance photographer for 24 years, he now lives in East Sussex. These are his first stamps for Royal Mail.

This month The Editor previews this issue

THIS MONTH we preview the Carnival stamps to be issued on 25 August – Royal Mail's contribution to the Europa series. Every year since 1980 we have issued stamps on the theme chosen by PostEurop, formerly the CEPT (Conference of European Postal & Telecommunications administrations), covering subjects as diverse as transport, famous women, games and toys, folklore and contemporary art. The Europa symbol appears on the 20p and 26p stamps in the forthcoming set.

We begin this month a three-part series on GB overprinted stamps by Jim Mackay, who also contributes an article on Lewis Carroll, whose characters appear on the Magical Worlds stamps to be issued on 21 July. Another regular contributor, Douglas Myall, reports on a visit to De La Rue Security Printers (formerly Harrison & Sons). JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Royal Mail news Carnival stamps • Special announcement: new Scottish definitives

Carnival Four colourful stamps commemorating the popular Notting Hill Carnival in London go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 25 August. They feature photographs taken during 'the Mas' (masquerade parade) of the Carnival and evoke its colour and spirit. The four stamps are of the following denominations: **20p** (basic inland 2nd class letter rate), **26p** (inland 1st class basic rate), **43p** (airmail basic letter rate), and **63p** (airmail letters over 10g).

The Notting Hill Carnival has been held the last weekend in August for the past 33 years. Local people, especially immigrants from the Caribbean, noted for the Carnival tradition, wanted to create a festival to bring the community together. The Carnival is now the biggest of its kind in Europe, second only to Rio in Brazil. The procession winds through three miles of streets and is attended by two million people who come onto the streets to watch, participate and enjoy.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 25 August, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or London W11 (Notting Hill) must reach the Bureau by 25 August. Price £2.20 UK (including VAT) or £1.88 overseas (no VAT).

Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London W11 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9813' (Bureau), or 'FD9814' (London W11). Collectors can post or hand in covers at main post offices for local (mostly non-pictorial) first day handstamps.

Technical details

Printers Walsall Security Printers Ltd

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 20p • two bands others

Gum PVA





Presentation pack A well-illustrated pack (price £1.85) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. It features a specially commissioned poem by Benjamin Zephaniah, one of Britain's top poets. Called *Carnival Days*, it celebrates the modern Notting Hill Carnival.



Stamp cards will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets, at 25p each.

A Philatelic Numismatic Cover (PNC) encapsulating a 50p coin will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £12.95. Early ordering is advised.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may be posted bearing just the 20p Carnival stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 25 August; the normal 1st class rule is waived for the day.



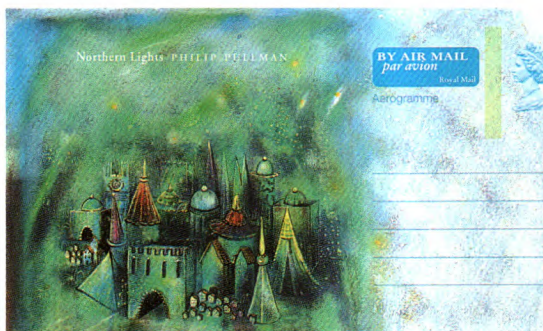
CARNIVALS ON STAMPS This is Britain's first set of stamps specifically on a carnival theme although others fall into the general category of performing arts, festivals and popular culture. The Commonwealth Arts Festival of 1965 was commemorated by two stamps showing Trinidad carnival and Canadian folk dancers, designed by

David Gentleman and the late Rosalind Dease. The Cultural Traditions set of 1976 depicted morris dancing and piping at a Highland gathering as well as aspects of the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales. Morris dancers, medieval mummers and the celebration of Lammastide featured in the 1981 Folklore issue. The varied activities of the traditional British fair were graphically depicted by Andrew Restall on the 1983 Fairs stamps. The Lord Mayor's Show – the capital's best-known, free street entertainment – featured on five stamps, by Paul Cox, in 1989.

The world-famous Llangollen International Eisteddfod was celebrated on a Welsh aerogramme issued in July 1974. The Edinburgh Festival and Scottish Folk Traditions have featured on Scottish aerogrammes ●



Magical Worlds aerogrammes Country aerogrammes will be issued on 21 July on the Magical Worlds theme, one each for England, Scotland and Wales. Price 45p each. The English aerogramme will be on sale at post offices in England and Northern Ireland; the Scottish and Welsh versions in the respective countries. Please note that these aerogrammes do not qualify for 'first day of issue' postmarks in use on 21 July. However, they may be submitted for sponsored and philatelic handstamps, as announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



The English aerogramme, illustrated by Bee Willie

The aerogrammes, printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited, bear specially-commissioned artistic interpretations of three children's books. The English version (right) features the book *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman, winner of the 1995 Carnegie Book award. The Scottish aerogramme carries a design by Allan Drummond of *The Boggart* by Susan Cooper, shortlisted for the 1993 Carnegie Book Award and the Welsh version shows Claire Fletcher's interpretation of *The Snow Spider* by Jenny Nimmo, winner of the 1986 Smarties Book Prize. The Scottish and Welsh aerogramme bears the appropriate country version of the Royal Mail logo ●

Self Adhesive stamps in sheets Following the trial sale of rolls of self-adhesive stamps, sheets of 100 1st and 2nd class self-adhesive stamps are now available at post offices in Scotland and Northern Ireland and from philatelic outlets. The stamps are in upright format and the sheets comprise five sections, one with four stamps plus Royal Mail branding; and four each of 24 stamps ●

Collectors can purchase singles or sheets from the British Philatelic Bureau. All other outlets sell complete sheets only.

New mail centre in Northern Ireland Royal Mail is to invest £40 million in a new mail centre in Northern Ireland, made necessary by a 50 per cent increase in the volume of mail handled in the Province since the mid-1980s. Expected to open in mid-2000, the new centre at Mallusk will use sophisticated equipment sorting 30,000 items of mail an hour, and an electronic services centre will enable businesses to transmit electronic data to Royal Mail for printing as conventional mail for delivery direct to customers. About 800 people will work at the centre, most transferring from existing premises at Donegall Quay ●

Camcorder promotion book The Camcorder book which went on sale at selected outlets on 1 July will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic outlets from 27 August. This contains 10 1st class NV1 stamps printed by De La Rue, price £2.60 ●

New Castles pack A new presentation pack containing the current Enschédé printings of the £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 Castle stamps will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 11 August, price £11.85 ●

Further details of this issue will follow in next month's *Bulletin*.

Special announcement: Scottish stamps On 4 June Post Office Chief Executive, Mr John Roberts, announced that four Scottish definitive stamps (20p, 26p, 37p and 63p) will be issued next summer to mark the Scottish Parliament. The public are being asked to suggest themes for the designs. Mr Roberts stated: 'The Parliament is an historic occasion for Scotland and the Post Office wanted to offer a fitting commemoration. What more appropriate than stamps whose themes are chosen by members of the Scottish public'. Themes will be selected following a BBC Scotland programme in the autumn, giving viewers the chance to nominate subjects ●

The NPM in King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, is open Monday to Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free.

The well-stocked shop offers a wide range of books, post-cards, and souvenirs. Mail handed in at the shop receives a unique Maltese Cross hand-stamp.

Enquiries 0171 776 3636

National Postal Museum The new 'It's Only a Game' exhibition at the National Postal Museum features issued stamps, unadopted designs and sport memorabilia. Material relating to the 1966 World Cup includes seven unused designs, the programme for the England v West Germany final, and newspaper coverage of the theft of the World Cup from Stampex! Many intriguing unissued designs include a 1996 football stamp showing Bobby Moore holding the Cup aloft, abandoned 1975 Skiing and 1978 Scotland World Cup winners issues, and stills from the *Chariots of Fire* film for a 1996 Cinema stamp.

The special exhibition 'Victorian Posts' continues on the ground and mezzanine floors. Permanent displays in the main gallery include the famous R M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps, 'All-World', and thematic issues. The 'Post Haste!' exhibition of postal vehicles, letter boxes and artefacts is on the ground floor ●

Comedy of errors In our preview of the Comedians stamps (March *Bulletin*) we stated that Joyce Grenfell starred as Miss Gossage in the *St Trinian's* films. We are obliged to a reader for pointing out that the character of Miss Gossage was in the film *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. In the *St Trinian's* films, Joyce Grenfell took the part of the policewoman Ruby Gates. We are pleased to set the record straight ●

Obituary: stamp designers We regret to record the recent death of Gordon Beningfield, designer of the 1981 Butterflies and 1985 Insects stamps. Born in 1936, he was noted as an ecclesiastical artist, President of the British Butterfly Conservation Society, and author of numerous books including a pictorial autobiography. His interests were listed in *Who's Who* as 'enjoying the rural landscape, natural history, general British history'.

We are also sorry to record the death, at the age of 95, of Enid Marx who designed the 1/2d, 1d, 1½d and 2d 'Wilding' definitives, and the 1976 Christmas stamps. Miss Marx, influenced by Picasso and Braque, was a noted designer of wallpapers, calendars, rugs, menus, book jackets, utility furniture and textiles from the 1930s onwards. She taught wood-engraving at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford, and was created a Royal Designer for Industry in 1944. Philatelists will best remember her for the low-value Wildings of which *The Times* obituarist commented 'Nothing could be more typical of the decade.' ●

Stamp scene British Library • News from Societies and postal museums • De La Rue

British Library Philatelic Collections The public display of material from the Library's collections opened on 8 June at the new British Library near King's Cross station in London. A large section of the Tapling Collection is on show with countries from M to Z, including the exceedingly rare 'Post Office' stamps of Mauritius – perhaps the best-known stamps in the collection. The Tapling Collection is almost complete in basic issues and most of the rarities until about 1890. It was left to the nation by Thomas Tapling MP. Other collections on display include the Mosely Collection of British Africa, the Langmead Collection of GB & Ireland Telegraph stamps and stationery, and the Turner collection of world forgeries. Details of the display are given in the Library's Philatelic Collections Newsletter no 3 (Spring 1998) available from the address opposite •

Enquiries British Library Philatelic Collections, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Displays are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 09.30-18.00, Tuesday 09.30-20.00, Saturday 09.30-17.00 and Sunday 11.00-17.00.

Diana, Princess of Wales album Stanley Gibbons has produced a 32-page A4-size album to house the Royal Mail and Crown Agents issues. The album, featuring the central stamp from Royal Mail's se-tenant strip on the front cover, includes a three page account of the Princess's life written by John Moody, Editor of *International Stamp & Exhibition News*. Separate pages are provided on which to mount the Royal Mail stamps and Crown Agents miniature sheets from 28 territories, including Ascension, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Niue, St Helena, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tristan da Cunha, and Vanuatu. The GB page gives details of the portraits used on the stamps and includes a statement by PO Chief Executive Mr John Roberts: 'The tragic death of the Princess deeply shocked and saddened the nation. The stamps will be a beautiful and enduring tribute to her life. We hope that there will be considerable demand for the stamps so that the Memorial Fund can benefit by millions of pounds giving a boost to the charities to which the Princess was so devoted.' Each page for the Crown Agents sheets (each of four different stamps) issues includes useful historical and geographical background information about the country, shows its flag and gives a brief description of the designs of the Princess Diana stamps. The miniature sheet from St Kitts was illustrated here in May, page 265 •

Album available from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 3SH, at £4.95 or £6.95 including the Royal Mail stamps in transparent strip ready for mounting. Postage £1.50 extra.

A contribution to the NSPCC is made for each album sold.

North East Philatelic Weekend Shown here is the commemorative stamp book produced as a souvenir of the 22nd Philatelic Weekend held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead in May. The privately-produced book contains the Hong Kong label pane and Isle of Man miniature sheet for the return of Hong Kong to China. Details of the availability of this and earlier books were given here in the May *Bulletin* •





De La Rue success De La Rue were delighted that the top five Royal Mail stamps of 1997 chosen by *Bulletin* readers were all printed by the company. 'I am not surprised that Henry VIII came out as clear winner', remarked Brian Janes, DLR's Director in charge of the Royal Mail contract. 'The stamp is larger than regular issues at 41mm square and features a famous historical character which makes it very collectable. The Great Tudor set was well supported by the Royal Mail – their schools information pack made it especially appealing to younger philatelists.' The 1st class Christmas stamp came second in the

favourite individual stamp poll. 'It is always a thrill to win the contract for the Christmas issue because it is exciting to see our print work as part and parcel of everyone's Christmas', commented Mr Janes, adding 'We have just won the contract to print the 1998 Christmas issue.' All five favourite stamps required different printing techniques and DLR's High Wycombe site is one of only a handful in the world with technological expertise in the variety of complex print processes for stamp production including gravure, offset litho and intaglio. Gravure stamps are printed on the Jumelle press, the largest of its kind in the world, which is capable of running two jobs simultaneously and printing more than 6 million stamps an hour in up to 10 colours. This machine can transform a piece of paper into a finished, perforated product within 15 minutes ●

British Philatelic Trust 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT or: Stuart Rossiter Trust, 60 Tachbrook Street, London SW1V 2NA

Stuart Rossiter Lecture The fourth Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture entitled 'Amazing Wonder Stories from the Franco-German War of 1870-71' by Ernst M Cohn will be held at University College London at 11.00 on 21 November. For free tickets, send SAE to either of the addresses opposite ●

British Philatelic Trust The Trust has appointed Michael Sefi as its Philatelic Development Consultant. A former accountant, Mr Sefi, age 54, was appointed Deputy Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection in 1996. His main collecting interests are 20th century GB stamps and usage, particularly George V issues. He has been Hon Treasurer of the GB Philatelic Society for 11 years, on the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society London since 1991, and is a member of several other societies. Mr Sefi will report to Francis Kiddle, BPT Chairman; it is hoped he will become an important link between organised philately, the Trust and Royal Mail ●

Enquiries Megan Doole, Curator, Bath Postal Museum, Broad Street, Bath BA1 5LJ, Telephone 01225 460333.

Open Monday to Saturday, 11.00-17.00, Sunday 14.00-17.00, admission £1.

Bath Postal Museum The Museum, housed in the building where on 2 May 1840 the first adhesive postage stamp in the world was franked, tells the intriguing story of the post and how 18th century Bath influenced and developed the postal system. Benham have recently given the Museum a donation to overcome its short-term financial problems and assist with future work. Other donations, from dealers and collectors, are welcome ●

Exhibition Study Group Collectors interested in material associated with exhibitions, pageants, philatelic congresses are reminded of the existence of this study group which has over 100 members, publishes a quarterly journal, runs a circulating packet and holds an annual convention. The 1998 convention will be held at Wembley Park in September •

For details of membership send a SAE to: Bill Tonkin, 23 Bramley Way, West Wickham BR4 9NT.

Astro Space Stamp Society The Society has organised another of its regular competitions. To enter simply state true or false that the 200th anniversary of manned flight was depicted on six all different coloured illustrations of vehicles on Fiji stamps, face values 8, 20, 25, 40, 50 & 58c released on 18 July 1983. Entries should give name and address and send large stamped addressed envelope (UK) or two international reply coupons (overseas). Prize winners and all entrants will receive stamps supplied by the Crown Agents •

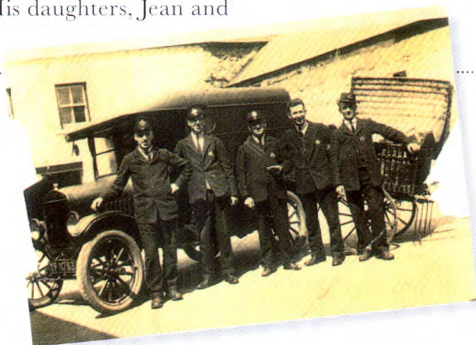
Entries or enquiries about the ASSS to: Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE.

Llangollen Postal Museum This museum is located in the post office at the famous Welsh town of Llangollen. Sadly the post office and museum were badly damaged by fire last December and the post office moved temporarily to the Seion Chapel across the road. The museum was officially reopened on 2 April by Stuart Sweetman, Managing Director of Post Office Counters Ltd. A special cake and second opening plaque were provided by the Area Manager of POCL at Bangor. The reopened museum is acquiring additions through the goodwill of the Post Office and individuals. The museum is a non-commercial project and the nominal admission charges (£1 adults, 50p children & senior citizens) assist with the running costs. The objective is to provide a suitable centre for the display and encouragement of postal material in the north west and the support of philatelic and postal history societies is central. The museum was first opened in 1995 (see *Bulletin* July 1995, page 327) •

Enquiries Postal Museum, Llangollen Post Office, Llangollen LL20 8RU. Telephone 01978 860230.

Obituary: Fred Myers Fred Myers (1920-98) developed collections of West Indies and aerogrammes and played an important role in the philatelic life of Yorkshire and the North East. He gave many displays to local societies, was President of the Bradford and Leeds societies and Secretary of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association. He will be best-remembered as an active supporter of the Philatelic Congress, being Organising Secretary on four occasions and a member of the Congress Committee from 1959 to 1975. He received the Congress Medal in 1966. His daughters, Jean and Susan, continue his good work for Congress •

Postal van postcard The North of Ireland Philatelic Society has produced the 13th in its series of postcards. This reproduces a photograph of the first Post Office van purchased for the Newry Post Office in 1925. Price 25p or 60p with first day postmark. Add 35p for postage. Orders and enquiries to Norman Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ •



Overprinted British stamps A new series by James Mackay begins with the Colonies

BETWEEN 1880 and 1966 British stamps were overprinted for use in more than a score of territories round the world. There are three reasons why British stamps should have been treated in this way: for use in colonies, protectorates and dependent territories, offices and postal agencies maintained in various parts of the world before control of postal services passed to the local authorities, and in former enemy territory in time of war.

The use of ordinary, unoverprinted British stamps overseas arose out of the old-established system of post offices and consular postal agencies which had gradually evolved in many parts of the world. The postal services in the British colonies were, for the most part, under the control of the Post Office in London at the outset, and it was logical, if stamps were going to be used at all, that British stamps should be employed. When the colonial governments assumed responsibility for their own postal administration, control was handed over to them and distinctive stamps introduced. As late as 1922 Ascension was using ordinary British stamps, distinguishable only by their cancellation, before St Helena stamps, suitably overprinted were introduced. Unofficially, British stamps were used on Tristan da Cunha as late as 1952, and are even recorded (in 1929) with a completely unauthorised typewritten overprint!



Overprinted stamp (top) on Cyprus's 1980 Stamp Centenary issues (SG536-MS539)

Cyprus and Bechuanaland The first place to have overprinted British stamps was Cyprus, the administration of which had been allocated to Britain by the Congress of Berlin in 1878. British post offices were opened at Larnaca, Famagusta, Kyrenia, Limassol, Nicosia and Paphos, as well as two military bases, in the late summer of 1878 and used ordinary British stamps at first. When civil administration, under the Colonial Office, was established in 1880, control of the postal services

was transferred to it on 1 April and five denominations, from ½d to 1s, were overprinted CYPRUS by De La Rue. Penny stamps were later surcharged 30 paras in Turkish currency. These stamps were superseded by the prevailing colonial key plate design in July 1881.

What is now the northern part of Cape Province, South Africa was occupied by a British expeditionary force late in 1884 and declared a British possession, under the name of British Bechuanaland on 30 September 1885. At first fiscal stamps from the unappropriated dies were overprinted 'Military Telegraphs'. In December the first stamps for ordinary postage were introduced and consisted of Cape of Good Hope stamps overprinted 'British Bechuanaland'. On 1 November 1887 a consignment of the unappropriated die stamps, from 1d to £5, with an inscription signifying use in British Bechuanaland for postage and revenue, was brought into use.

Simultaneously the ½d vermilion was released overprinted **BRITISH BECHUANALAND**, there being no ½d value in the unappropriated series. This constitutes the only ordinary British stamp to be overprinted for use in this territory up to December 1891 when British stamps from 1d to 1s were introduced. On 16 November 1895 British Bechuanaland was absorbed into the Cape of Good Hope whose stamps were used thereafter.

The large district to the north of the Molopo River was not taken under British colonial rule, but declared a British protectorate on 30 September 1885. No postal service existed in this area till August 1888 when the Rev J S Moffat organised a system of post-runners between Gubulawayo and Mafeking. The stamps of British Bechuanaland (including the ½d vermilion) were overprinted 'Protectorate' by P Townshend & Co of Vryburg as a temporary measure. The ½d stamp was surcharged in August 1889 for use as a 4d stamp – a curious case of a British stamp overprinted on two separate occasions and then surcharged for good measure! Overprinted stamps of the Cape were also used till 1897, but in October that year the British 'Jubilee' series from ½d to 6d was overprinted **BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE** in two lines.

Thereafter various British stamps of Edward VII and George V similarly overprinted continued in use until the introduction of distinctive stamps in December 1932. Ten of the British stamps of British Bechuanaland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate were additionally overprinted **MAFEKING BESIEGED** in 1900 and surcharged with new denominations. There was even a spoof overprint **LLEWELLYN BEFOOLED**, said to have been run off when one of Baden Powell's officers of that name requested a supply of stamps for his collection.

When Dinizulu, paramount chief of the Zulus, began negotiating with the Germans and offered them a naval base at St Lucia Bay, British troops promptly ejected the settlers and declared Zululand a British possession. By a postal agreement with the governor of Natal, a postal service was organised with effect from 1 May 1888, using British stamps, from ½d to 5s overprinted **ZULULAND**. These were replaced by the colonial key plate stamps in April 1894 but following the annexation of Zululand to Natal on 30 December 1897, the stamps of Natal superseded the Zulu issues.





NIGERIA

OIL RIVERS

GULF OF
GUINEA

British East Africa and West Africa In 1887 the Sultan of Zanzibar granted concessions to the British East Africa Association, chartered the following year as the Imperial British East Africa Company. The administration of what is now Kenya by this Company was terminated in 1895 when it was transferred to the Colonial Office and re-named the East African Protectorate. The Company established a postal service at Lamu and Mombasa in May 1890 and procured British stamps overprinted **BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY** in three lines and surcharged in Indian currency in values of ½ anna on 1d, 1 anna on 2d and 4a on 5d. These stamps were superseded the following October by a distinctive series recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson.

That part of Nigeria lying between the Benin River and the Rio del Rey was known as Oil Rivers, from the trade in palm oil. A British consulate was established in Old Calabar in 1873 and a protectorate proclaimed in 1884. In 1891 the territory was placed under the control of Sir Claude Macdonald who brought out from England with him a consignment of stamps and stationery overprinted **BRITISH PROTECTORATE** at the top and **OIL RIVERS** at the foot. They were superseded by an intaglio series produced by Waterlow and Sons in November 1893. Subsequently, however, there was a rash of provisional surcharges on the obsolete overprinted stamps, including 1s, 5s, 10s and 20s. These Old Calabar provisionals of 1893 were highly suspect at the time, but with the passage of the years they have acquired both respectability and a staggeringly high catalogue value £230,000 for the basic set of eight, not counting double, diagonal or inverted surcharges.

Irish Free State The British stamps overprinted for use in the Irish Free State in 1922 were the subject of an article by Fred Gee in the March 1998 *Bulletin*. I should only like to add that the use of unoverprinted British stamps in the Free State ceased in March 1922. Thereafter, any mail bearing such stamps was treated as unpaid and surcharged accordingly. As distinctive Irish postage due labels were not produced till February 1925 it meant that British postage due labels were used in the interim – to treat as unpaid mail bearing British stamps! It should also be noted that the British *po* permitted the use of these Irish overprints in Britain itself (because the overprint did not alter the face value), as well as in those colonies still using British stamps. Technically, therefore, they could be briefly used in Ascension, though I imagine that if any covers exist they must be exceedingly rare. The British also instructed postmasters to ignore surcharges raised by the Free State on mail bearing unoverprinted British stamps so long as they were of the correct face value.

Tristan da Cunha Mention has already been made of the unofficial type-written overprints of Tristan da Cunha in 1929. Only about half a dozen covers are known with these stamps, cancelled on arrival at London on 18 March 1929. A cover from the George Crabb collection sold for £12,000 at auction in London in May 1985.



There was, however, a previous attempt at overprinting stamps in Tristan. In 1921 Sir Ernest Shackleton embarked on his last expedition, financed by John Quiller Rowett. Prior to departure, Shackleton contacted the Post Office, requesting a stock of overprinted stamps, along the same lines as those of New Zealand which he had used in 1908 on his expedition to King Edward VII Land. The PO obliged him with a supply of ordinary British stamps, together with a steel circular date stamp inscribed *S R ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1921* and a set of three small rectangular steel handstamps inscribed *Tristan da Cunha*, *Gough Island* and *Enderby Land*, the three places at which the yacht *Quest* was scheduled to call. The PO would not sanction an overprint, so these handstamps were intended as cancellers, tying the adhesives to their covers; but Shackleton and his crew neatly circumvented this by applying the handstamps to horizontal pairs of stamps and then adding the date stamp in the centre for good measure.

The expedition was aborted following Shackleton's death, so that only the Tristan 'overprint' die was actually used, and is recorded on covers dated 25 May 1922. Tristan celebrated the 50th anniversary of this ill-fated expedition in June 1971 with a set of four stamps (right, SG 149/52). Tony Gammons wrote about this expedition in the *Bulletin* of June 1989 •

Sir Ernest Shackleton, left, and the handstamps supplied to his expedition by the Post Office. Top, a handstamp on a pair of George V 2d stamps.

1971 commemorative of the expedition showing overprint across a pair of British 6d KGV stamps – a curious case of stamps not issued in the true sense being reproduced on a commemorative.



Lewis Carroll Author, mathematical scholar and postal reformer, by James Mackay



Charles Lutwidge Dodgson or Lewis Carroll, a portrait by an unknown photographer.

The characters he created in his books are immortalised by Sir John Tenniel's illustrations for the first edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Below, the dormouse and the Mad Hatter on a new British postmark.



IF THE MAN IN THE STREET were asked to name a children's writer the chances are that he would opt for Lewis Carroll, the creator of Alice in Wonderland. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, to give the book its proper title, was first published in 1865 but has remained in print ever since and has been translated into every major language.

The literary life of Lewis Carroll and the characters he created may be familiar to generations of readers worldwide; but the private life of the man himself was virtually unknown in his own lifetime, and even today, in the centenary year of his death, it is still imperfectly understood.

Lewis Carroll was, in fact, the *nom de plume* of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, one of the outstanding mathematical scholars of his day. He was born in 1832, the son of the Rev Charles Dodgson, vicar of Daresbury in Cheshire. After four years at Rugby, Dodgson matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford in May 1850. He took a first class honours degree in mathematics in 1854 and the following year was appointed mathematical lecturer at Christ Church, a post which he continued to occupy until 1881.

He was a prolific writer on mathematical subjects, beginning with *A Syl-labus of Plane Algebraical Geometry* (1860). Among his later works, his reputation as a mathematician rests mainly on *Euclid and his Modern Rivals* (1879). *Curiiosa Mathematica* (1888) deserves to be better known.

The mind of the mathematician and logician, however, was brought to bear on a completely different medium, children's literature. Late in 1865 he published, under his pen name, the story inspired by Alice Pleasance Liddell (1852-1934), daughter of Henry George Liddell, Dean of Christ Church. Overnight, Lewis Carroll became a household name. Other books in the 'Carroll' series were *Phantasmagoria* (1869), *Through the Looking Glass* (1871), *The Hunting of the Snark* (1876), *Rhyme and Reason* (1883), *A Tangled Tale* (1885) and *Sylvie and Bruno*, published in two parts (1889 and 1893). He also produced a number of pamphlets, leaflets and circulars on Oxford life, published between 1861 and 1896.

Disclaimer The retiring bachelor don was mildly embarrassed and surprised by the success of his Alice books. On several occasions he issued a statement that 'Mr Dodgson neither claims nor acknowledges any connection with the books not published under his name', although they made for him and his publisher Daniel Macmillan (grandfather of the prime minister) immense fortunes. Dodgson's hobby was photography, and the fact that little Alice Liddell was one of his favourite models has given rise over the years to many different conjectures regarding his feelings towards her.

Alice later married Reginald Gervis Hargreaves (1852-1926) of Hampshire, and had a decidedly ambivalent attitude towards her literary fame. In April 1928 she sold the manuscript of *Alice in Wonderland* (which Dodgson had given her) for £15,400 (about £1.5 million in modern currency).

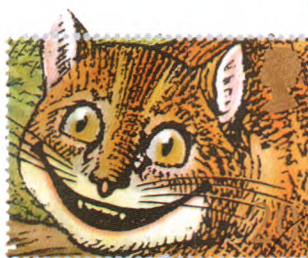
Alice, the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat depicted on the 13p stamp in the set of July 1979 for the International Year of the Child.

The Lewis Carroll Society sponsored a pictorial first day handstamp for this issue, at Daresbury, near Warrington, Dodgson's birthplace (below). A special handstamp was also used at Llandudno in north Wales, which claims to have been the setting for *Alice in Wonderland*.

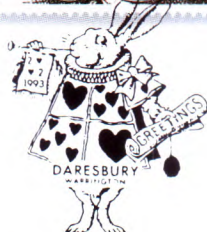


13p

Right The Cheshire Cat was the subject of the 20p and first class stamps in the Smiles greetings book of February 1990 and March 1991. On each occasion a pictorial handstamp (below) was applied to souvenir covers at Hartford, Cheshire.



Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found there, the sequel published in 1871, was also illustrated by Tenniel. The twins Tweedledum and Tweedledee appeared on a stamp in the Gift Giving greetings book of February 1993 (right, with Daresbury handstamp). Alice was shown on an Oxford handstamp.



Above Lewis Carroll is honoured on the 63p stamp of the *Magical Worlds* series. Designer Peter Malone has adapted Tenniel's dramatic scene of Alice with the Red Queen, from *Through The Looking Glass*. Dodgson died at Guildford, Surrey on 14 January 1898, and the stamp is a tribute to the centenary of his death.

Lewis Carroll and brother on stamps Lewis Carroll has as yet only been shown in close-up on a single stamp, one in a set of three from Mali in 1982 (SG905/7). However several countries have issued stamps featuring characters from his books, including some in the form of illustrations from Disney films. His younger brother, the Rev Edwin H Dodgson, was commemorated by three stamps (see opposite above) and a miniature sheet from Tristan da Cunha in 1981 (SG300-MS303).

Edwin Dodgson served on the island from 1881 till 1884 and again from 1886 to 1889. When he arrived in March 1881 the schooner *Edward Vittery* which brought him from St Helena was wrecked and most of his luggage and valuable collection of books were lost. Apart from spiritual ministrations, Dodgson laboured long and hard to put communications between this remote island and the outside world on a regular footing, and as a result of his efforts the annual visit of a British warship was instituted in November 1886.

Brother Charles likewise played a modest part in postal improvements, and it was on his recommendations that the Post Office eventually introduced registration of parcels in June 1891. Post Office Archives preserve a letter of 30 December 1889 from Dodgson to the Postmaster General, Henry Raikes. After a New Year greeting, he asked Raikes, 'Am I right in thinking that my old friend Alice is married? And if so, who is she, and where is she? My child-friends are so constantly getting married, that it's

Left Alice was portrayed on a Messages greetings stamp of 1994 in the act of penning a letter. A pictorial handstamp showing the Mad Hatter was applied at Daresbury.

Right Lewis Carroll on 1982 Mali stamp, the only stamp to show him in close-up. Stamp courtesy of Roger Allen.



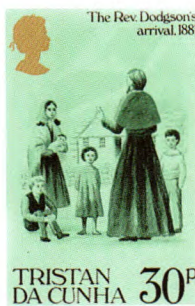
Below centre Tristan da Cunha 30p 1981 stamp, showing (I gather) the Dodgson family including young 'Lewis' outside the rectory at Croft, Yorkshire. Their father was Rector there from 1843 until 1868.

The 10p stamp reproduced a rather stiffly posed portrait of Edwin as a young man, perhaps photographed by his famous brother. The 20p shows him arriving at Tristan as resident missionary in 1881.



Above On 27 January 1982 Blackwell's, the world-famous Oxford bookshop, inaugurated an exhibition devoted to Lewis Carroll, and sponsored a special handstamp applied on that date to souvenir covers.

Far right One of a pair of privately produced labels marking the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's birth in 1882.



not easy to remember who is and who isn't. This Alice is Alice Theodora Raikes (1862-1945) daughter of Henry Raikes the PMG.

He then went on to propose raising the compensation payable on the loss of an insured parcel (then limited to £10) or introducing the registration of parcels. This arose because he frequently had occasion to send artwork to his publishers; because the dimensions exceeded the nine-inch maximum for a letter, they had to be sent parcel post, but without the protection of registration. This matter was given serious consideration and was eventually conceded on 1 June 1891. Dodgson also suggested that the PO should publish a directory of the telegraphic addresses of businesses, and this too was implemented in due course.

Lewis Carroll was also the promoter in 1890 of the *Wonderland Postage-Stamp Case*, with spaces for the 1887 Jubilee series from halfpenny to the shilling, accompanied by a humorous booklet on the art of letter-writing, (shown on page 323 of this *Bulletin*).

The characters created by Lewis Carroll were used for a series of privately produced fantasy labels, covers and postmarks created in 1965 to celebrate the centenary. The Wonderland 'stamps' were denominated in winks, 40 winks making one golden slumber. Tweedledum and Tweedledee (as on the Greeting stamp) appeared on the 2+1 winks Health stamp, while the subject of the new 63p stamp appeared (in reverse) on the 24 winks Express Delivery 'stamp'. Some 33 labels were produced. •

De La Rue stamp books D G A Myall tells the story behind

History In the last few months books of stamps bearing the De La Rue imprint have begun to appear while those with the Harrison imprint have ceased. The two events are connected, for the old-established De La Rue firm acquired the even longer-established Harrison & Sons in February last year. Following a re-branding exercise affecting the whole group, the trading name of the Harrison company was changed to De La Rue Security Print last September. The name was well-chosen, for many kinds of security printing have been and will continue to be undertaken at the factory in High Wycombe. Not only postage stamps, but tax discs, passports, TV licence stamps; gift vouchers and even banknotes have come within their remit. Value bearing paper is still their specialty.

The firm of Harrison & Sons and its predecessors have been in business since 1537 when Richard Harrison was granted a licence to print Tyndal's translation of the Bible. In 1562 he chose his rebus trademark consisting of a hare, a sheaf of rye and a sun (hare-rye-sun is a pictorial pun for Harrison). A system of trademark registration did not exist in this country until the passing of the first Trade Marks Act in 1876, but Richard registered his distinctive mark with the Stationer's Company when it was incorporated in 1577. Now that famous mark has all but disappeared; to be replaced by the silhouette of another famous printer, Thomas De La Rue. The new owners are resolute that the company's reputation will be maintained and enhanced. Over £1 million is being spent on upgrading the 200,000 square metre site, demonstrating their commitment to these objectives.

Printing presses For well over 20 years now the heart and pride of all stamp production at High Wycombe has been the Jumelle press. Installed circa 1970, this was conceived by Harrison from components made by a number of firms; it was not a ready-made machine needing simply to be bought and installed. It had 10 units, seven gravure and three intaglio. It has been called the



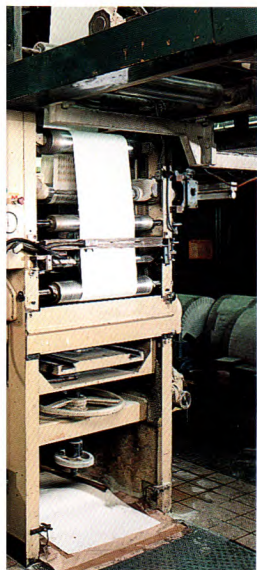
Richard Harrison's trademark rebus of 1562. The hare, rye and sun are a pictorial pun for Harrison. This famous mark is now to be replaced by the silhouette of another famous printer, Thomas De La Rue.



Concorde of the stamp printing world. The comparison is well made for the Jumelle technology is still so far advanced that nothing better exists or is in prospect.

After more than twenty years service it was time for some refurbishment. This was undertaken last year and every part of this giant has been reviewed and updated, including a new perforator and the installation of modern electronic control systems. But the biggest change was the removal of the intaglio capability. The Jumelle still has 10 units but the three intaglio units have been replaced by three additional gravure units. The word 'Jumelle' is French for twin and is an allusion partly to its former dual capacity to print in gravure and intaglio simultaneously. It also refers to its capacity to print from both ends at once. It still has that capacity and it is commonplace for stamps to be printed at one end and, say, gift vouchers at the other, although, since the press is an incredible 50m long, one almost needs a telescope to appreciate it. It is a truly wonderful sight to see this giant machine producing stamps at a rate of 25,000 post office sheets an hour.

the stamp books produced by this prestigious printing firm



De La Rue's Jumelle press, the *Concorde* of the stamp printing world.

Of course, the Jumelle is not the only printing press on the premises. Another gravure capability is that little workhorse, the Chambon, which has been used to print stamps for GB booklets in the past. The intaglio facility is retained by Giori machines. Of interest to collectors of Royal Mail's decimal stamp booklets are two Miller off-set presses. These have eight units and print the multicoloured outside covers and the black and yellow inside covers in a single pass.

Bookmaking methods The bulk of the firm's bookmaking contract with Royal Mail concerns retail (window) books which are available from more than 60,000 retail shops, garages, etc. Other printers making booklets to Royal Mail's specification use a 'cut and paste' method which involves cutting both covers and stamps into small matching units and pasting them together. De La Rue has a different approach; the stamps are offered to the covers in a continuous stream. Before describing this process let us go back a bit and see how both stamps and covers are prepared for it.

Preparing the stamps Every stage in the making of cylinders for printing stamps is digital these days. The original artwork is scanned and the image is edited as necessary with the aid of a computer software program. It is no longer true, if ever it was, that the camera cannot lie; contrast and colours can be changed and parts of an image can be removed or added at will. When all concerned are satisfied with it the digital image is passed direct to the computer which will control the diamond engraving tools in the Klischograph machines. These operate largely unsupervised and can prepare a cylinder in a few hours; there is no intermediate film stage.

Cylinders for gravure stamp printing are mounted on the Jumelle and printed 'in the reel' as already described. These jumbo reels are then taken to the bookmaking room. The first step is to examine the reels to detect any mishaps such as imperforate sections. This is done by re-reeling on a Hurley-Moate machine and corresponds to the manual examination carried out on sheet stamps by dextrous, sharp-eyed ladies in the examining room. The speed of the machine is controlled by the operator. If anything untoward is detected, it can be stopped and the offending portion removed. The ends are then re-connected with transparent tape to preserve the integrity of the reel. (This is the source of what collectors call printer's mends which are sometimes seen in a booklet.) At this stage, the reel intended for books of 10 stamps has four columns of panes. It is then taken to the slitting machine.

Here, a series of cutters slits the reel into four mini-reels, each one pane of stamps wide, and removes the excess margins at the same time. This is a crucial stage for maintaining the quality of the product since this is where the state of the fore-edge perforations (the right-hand edge of the panes in the finished books) is determined. Much depends on the skill of the operator who can adjust the location of the cutters or the tension of the reel as required. The mini-reels are then taken to the Libra bookmaking machine.



Preparing the covers De La Rue presently prints books of 10 × 1st class and 10 × 2nd class Non Value Indicator (NVI) stamps. The covers are printed in large sheets. The layout is six columns of 12, known to the printers as '72-up'. (The same layout would be used for books of four stamps since the covers would be the same size.) The card used is quite heavy, 230gsm (grams per square metre).

After printing, the cover sheets are varnished on the side which will form the outer covers of the finished books. The next operation is 'cut and crease'. Here the thumb tabs are cut and the crease made which will eventually form the fold. Finally, the two rectangles of adhesive are added which will enable the books to remain folded during packing, transportation and sale until the customer is ready to open them for use. The adhesive is rubber based and, unlike the products of other suppliers of retail books, can be used to re-seal them, at least for a time. More importantly from a collector's point of view the books can be opened without damage, a factor which is also of some importance to Royal Mail since such damage almost always removes some of the printed information they have asked to be placed there. De La Rue's gum can also be rubbed off, leaving a pristine book worthy of a place in anyone's collection.

Piles of the large cover sheets are then taken to the bookmaking room. They have a margin all round in which some important information is printed. This includes the word 'sidelay' in the right-hand margin and enables the operator to ensure that the pile of sheets is correctly positioned for guillotining. The 72 covers comprising a single sheet are cut into 12 gangs (columns) of six covers. It is a fearsome thing to see, and hear,

this powerful cutter slicing through a six inch pile of sheets to make the more easily transportable gangs. These are then taken to the Libra book-making machine.

The Libra machine This is the secret of the firm's speed and accuracy of book production. In the days when booklet covers carried illustrations, these were actually printed on the Libra. Today, the covers arrive already printed. These are fed into a chute in such a way that each gang almost, but not quite, overlaps the one underneath. This means that only a single gang presents its foredge to the grippers which carry it into the subsequent processes before being followed immediately by the next one.

At the other end of the Libra, the mini-reel of panes is loaded and fed over a series of controls (reminiscent of loading a film in a projector) so that it eventually is travelling in the same direction as the stream of covers. A scanning head ensures that the foredge of each cover gang meets the stamp reel in exactly the right place. The stamp panes are affixed to the covers by the selvages on their left-hand side. A wheel revolves through a reservoir of water which has a sponge to prevent excess take-up and this is positioned to moisten a thin line down the pane margins. This is why De La Rue panes are affixed their whole length rather than by additional glue spots as used by other suppliers. This is more economical since it uses the gum which is already there. Almost immediately, the gangs are cut into six individual books. In the process, a small sliver of combined stamp paper and cover card between each book is removed as waste.

The next stage takes place while the conjoined stamps and covers are still flat and travelling along the 'conveyor belt'. A camera with a small monitor mounted above continuously looks at one of the long edges of the panes to check whether the perforated edges have been cut correctly.

Ideally, this will have been done down the centres of the holes. A small tolerance is allowed but if the indentations are either under- or over-sized the spine of the cover is marked with black ink-jet so that the affected book can be removed at the

end of the process. Only one side need be examined as the other will be correspondingly affected.

All books in the stream are then folded at the crease made in the original uncut cover sheet described earlier. They then travel down a chute with their spines at the top. The operator can easily see any which have been marked as unacceptable and remove them. A small black marker bar is added to every 25th book to facilitate extraction of the right number of books to make up a pack for bundling. Each pack contains 50 books, with 25 facing each way. Any rejected books which have been removed are replaced from a pile of good books kept for the purpose so as to maintain the correct number of books between marker bars. This is why cylinder books, which normally appear regularly every fifth book may sometimes be out of sequence in a pack.

Finally, 20 packs are boxed and labelled. The labels are printed by a small computer-operated dot matrix. They carry information about the contents of the box for easy identification at Hemel Hempstead where all completed warrants go for checking and distribution to cash remittance units. Among the information included is a stock code determined by Royal Mail. (The codes for Disney books were mentioned in my regular column here in April.) The most recent code I have seen is SB10F D0498 which refers to stamp books of 10 × first class, printed by De La Rue for April 1998, when books with a revised validity notice were required following a revision of the 20g rate for letters to Europe which came into effect on 6 April 1998.

Other bookmaking methods Not all De La Rue books are assembled on the Libra machines. Prestige books have several interleaves and, usually, four stamp panes, all of which have to be assembled in the correct order and sewn into the covers. The contracts for printing prestige books are allocated individually. Last year's book celebrating 75 years of the BBC was a De La Rue product and the expertise acquired by Harrison in making the first ever prestige books is still there, although the components are no longer assembled manually.

The future One of the great strengths of the set-up at High Wycombe is that almost everything is in-house. The firm coats and gums its stamp paper; it makes its own inks including the phosphor inks with added blue fluoror; it created the Jumelle and modernised it; it makes its own APS perforating tools; it has its own Klischograph machine for making its printing cylinders. While this approach may be a little more expensive than outsourcing some of the processes, it does mean that everything is under the printer's own control.

Just as important, in my view, is the fact that the company recruits and trains its staff so well that many of them stay with them their whole working life. Such accumulated experience is one of the company's most valuable assets.

For a firm whose roots go so far back one might think that they would have a very conservative attitude toward new technology. Not a bit of it; they remain at the forefront of new developments and have initiated many of them. They pioneered rotary intaglio printing. Together with Royal Mail, they developed the technique of incorporating phosphor into paper coatings. Today, the requirement is for the phosphor to be over-printed, a practice which the printers, with an understandable pride in their product, feel rather spoils its appearance. More innovations are in the pipeline and De La Rue are fully geared to meet whatever demands Royal Mail may make of them. Indeed, they like to think that they can make suggestions for improving the specification. Judging from what I saw during my visit I am convinced that the claim is well founded.

I am very grateful to Royal Mail for making my visit possible and to my hosts at High Wycombe: Andrew Blundell, Director of Security Print and especially Brian Janes, Director, Post Office •



Exhibition news Report from Stamp '98 • Worthing Fair • Singpex '98 • Praga '98

Stamp '98 This proved yet another successful and well-attended exhibition at the Wembley Exhibition Centre. Opened by ornithologist and tv presenter Bill Oddie, the show included the 'Birdpex '98' exhibition organised by the Bird Stamp Society, some fine material shown by distinguished collectors, interesting displays by stamp printers, and numerous dealers' stands catering for collectors of all kinds. These Wembley exhibitions are noted for their friendly atmosphere and are a somewhat curious yet successful mixture of serious exhibits, trade stands, entertainments and other activities. There is emphasis on attracting young and new adult collectors and evidence that this approach is appreciated and paying dividends.

BIRDPLEX This was not simply a thematic exhibition, but included entries in traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenues, Cinderella, Open, 'One Frame Adult', Youth, and Literature classes. Judging was by a panel headed by Dr Alan Huggins, with the Grand Award (a silver salver donated by Stanley Gibbons Ltd) going to Leif Rasmussen for his entry 'Homo-Aves coexistence' in the Thematic class. Runner up was Francis Kiddle's 'Western Australia Revenues' (Revenue class), with the British Thematic Award to Damian Lage (Australasian Birdlife), Wildlife Habitat Trust Award to David Cox (Issued for Conservation, Cinderella class), and Best One Frame Award to June Williams for 'Penguins on Parade'. The Best Entry other category award went to Jeff Long for 'New Zealand First Kiwis', the Best Youth award to Heather Wansborough (Birds in New Zealand) and One Frame Special Award to Lynn Nicholl for 'The World of Owls'. Francis Kiddle's 'Western Australia Revenues' also received the Best in Cinderella/Revenue Class Award donated by the Cinderella Stamp Club.

The stamps shown at Birdpex would grace any exhibition, including many rarities and everything from classics to latest new issues. Particularly interesting were the displays of us and other bird hunting licence and conservation issues (popularly known as 'duck stamps'), studies of the Bolivia Condor and Guatemala Quetzal issues and birds depicted on pictorial telegram forms. Jeff Long's 'New Zealand First Kiwis' included some beautiful essays for this issue and Peter Basterfield's 'DLR Surface Printed Stamps of Western Australia' included some fine shades, blocks, perfins and proofs that made for a more enjoyable exhibit.

Members of the Bird Stamp Society manned an information stand where the well-produced 12-page Birdpex '98 exhibition catalogue was available free and there were a number of souvenirs for sale, including a flown pigeongramme. A Birdpex cachet was also available for application to covers and postcards. The Bird Stamp Society's journal *Flight* includes the latest information on new bird stamps as well as regular and special features. The Society's logo of a Bewick's swan was originally designed by Sir Peter Scott. It features on the Birdpex '98 exhibition medals and cachet.

For details of the Bird Stamp Society, formed in 1986, write to the Secretary, Graham Horsman, 9 Cowley Drive, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2QW.

The annual subscription is £12 UK, £15 Europe, £18 air-mail elsewhere (£16 surface mail). Under 16s can join at half the above rates.

DISTINGUISHED DISPLAYS Top collectors provided pages of gems from their collections: GB 1929 Postal Union Congress (Dr Jean Alexander), Pictorial Envelopes (John Bohn), USA 19th century postal history (Derek Bolton), GB George V (Lady Mairi Bury), British Guiana (Simon Greenwood), Kenya, Uganda & Tanganyika plus Sierra Leone high value revenues (David Springbett), and Bird Illustrated Envelopes (Hassan Shaida). The displays by Dr Alexander and Lady Mairi were of particular interest to GB collectors and included many scarce items. Mr Greenwood's exhibit included the rare British Guiana 'Cotton-reels' and an example of the 4c stamp of 1856 in the same set as the 1c generally regarded as the world's rarest stamp. It is to be hoped that further displays of the same high quality will be part of future 'Stamp' exhibitions.



Souvenir model Stanley Gibbons produced a limited edition model van commemorating Stamp '98, a black 1933 Austin taxi. Limited edition of 1000; supplied with numbered slip.

Available from the Stanley Gibbons shop in London or by post from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 3SH, price £7.95. Mail order Freephone 0800 611622.

PRINTERS' STANDS Each of the printers of current British stamps – De La Rue, Enschedé, Questa and Walsall had interesting stands at the exhibition. A souvenir cover, bearing the Comedians stamps, was available at the Walsall stand and visitors to the De La Rue could buy a special FDC of the Queen's Beasts stamps signed by the designer Jeffery Matthews who was on the stand to talk to collectors. One of the printing cylinders used for the Diana, Princess of Wales stamps was on show and attracted considerable interest.

The House of Questa provided a Design-a-Comedy-Stamp competition which was popular with the many young visitors. Last year over 600 of the 1700 children who visited the exhibition took part in the Design-a-Horror-Stamp competition and the winning entries were produced as a souvenir sheet given free in last August's *Bulletin*.

On the Enschedé stand visitors could vote for one of five stamps selected by Enschedé staff from the 500 stamps printed by the company in 1997. These included the Royal Mail 26p Enid Blyton stamp as well as issues from Guernsey, Jersey, Latvia and Namibia. The winner of the draw will spend a weekend in the Netherlands; the Namibia stamp was voted top.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS The new-look Royal Mail stand offered pre-packaged blocks of stamps, books and other philatelic products in a self-service area as well as a more traditional counter service. Mail posted on the stand received a special exhibition postmark. David Harrop once again provided an interesting display from his ever-growing postal memorabilia collection – wherever does he get it all from! The dealers' stands offered a wide range of material from postal history to current issues and not surprisingly stamps honouring Diana, Princess of Wales and World Cup issues were much in evidence.

All visitors were given a free good bag including a Stamp '98 issue of the new Gibbons magazine *International Stamp & Exhibition News*. All adult visitors were asked to fill in a registration form which included free entry to a draw to win a trip to the Australia '99 international exhibition in Melbourne next March. The prize was donated by Australia Post and Harry Allen.

For details of these future exhibitions telephone 01425 461353.

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS Stanley Gibbons, organisers of Stamp '98 have announced a 'Collect '98' exhibition at Olympia, London on 23-25 October following the success of the 1997 exhibition which attracted some 8000 collectors of coins, medals, banknotes, books, cigarette cards, models and other material as well as stamps and postal history. In October 1996 Gibbons staged a 'Stamp' exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham; they now plan an exhibition at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester in November •

Enquiries John Hobbs, 12 Ophir Road, Worthing, BN11 2SR. Telephone 01903 237440

Worthing Exhibition and Stamp Fair The birth of Princess Amelia, the 15th child of George III, in Worthing on 31 July 1798 helped to regularise a postal service to the town. To commemorate this event, the East Worthing Community Centre will be holding a Stamp and Postcard Fair together with an exhibition of 'Worthing Post Offices, 1798-1998' by John Hobbs, FRPSL. On display will be photographs, items posted and postmarks from most of the 77 offices past and present in the Worthing area during the last 200 years. The exhibition and fair will be held at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane (next to MFI) on 25 July, 10.00-15.00 •

Singpex opening hours

23 to 25 July	10.00-19.30
26 July	10.00-17.00

Singpex '98 The 12th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition, Singpex '98, will be held at the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, 23-26 July. The Centre was the venue for the success Singapore '95 exhibition. Singpex, organised by the Association of Singapore Philatelists and sponsored by Singapore Post Pte Ltd, will house some 800 frames of world-class exhibits. Eighty top dealers and postal administrations are expected to attend •

Praga '98 This exhibition organised by the Czech Post Administration together with the Union of Czech Philatelists, will be the first international stamp exhibition in the new Czech Republic. It continues the tradition of Praga exhibitions in the former Czechoslovakia in 1938, 1962, 1968, 1978 and 1988. The exhibition, under Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) and Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) patronage, takes place 10-13 September in the Trade Fair Palace and Prague Postal Museum. Many rare items from the Postal Museum will be on show along with competitive exhibits from leading collectors worldwide. A mail-carrying balloon flight is planned and two days of the exhibition have been designated Olympic and Postal History days with relevant events. The Czech PO has issued stamps, a miniature sheet, postcards, and postal stationery in support of Praga '98 •

Magical words Royal Mail's sponsorship of the UK's top children's book awards, outlined by Philip Parker

WORLD BOOK DAY was celebrated with Prime Minister Blair addressing a packed cockpit of children at the Globe Theatre in London. He cited his favourite childhood authors as C S Lewis and Tolkien (honoured on the forthcoming Magical Worlds stamps) and at the suggestion of his son he recited The Post Office-commissioned *Night Mail* by Auden. Thank the citizens of Barcelona for World Book Day: Saint George is the patron of the Catalans, and in Barcelona his day is marked by the giving of books. Inspired by this, the UK has deemed every 23 April World Book Day.

Fittingly, on 23 April at the London office of the Library Association, a dozen experts were discussing what could become the classic children's literature of tomorrow. These experts were children's librarians from all corners of the country. Their subjects for discussion were the 90 books chosen on their merits of excellence for two annual awards: the Carnegie Medal for literature, the Greenaway Medal for illustration. Royal Mail is sponsoring the awards this year.

After long debate a shortlist was agreed: seven novels and eight illustrated books. The two winning titles were later arrived at: their identities remain a closely guarded secret until the awards ceremony on 15 July at the new British Library where Royal Mail will launch the new stamps and three related pictorial aerogrammes.

The medals are the country's most prestigious children's book awards. The Carnegie is deemed 'the Booker of the playground' and was first won by Arthur Ransome in 1936. Subsequent winners read like a library of top children's authors including Rosemary Sutcliffe, Alan Garner and Richard Adams. The Greenaway has been won by artists with philatelic connections: C Walter Hodges (Shakespeare's Globe, 1995), Quentin Blake (Greetings, 1993 and A Christmas Carol, 1993); Michael Foreman (Christmas, 1987 and Greetings, 1993); Raymond Briggs (Greeting, 1993); Victor Ambrus (1984 aerogramme); and Janet Ahlberg (Greetings, 1994).



Royal Mail's Adam Novak (left) presents the sponsorship cheque to the Library Association's Ross Shimon.

The awards are run by the Library Association (the professional body representing librarians) which is celebrating the centenary of its Royal charter. The stamps were inspired by two other centenaries: Lewis Carroll's death and C S Lewis' birth. In 1956 C S Lewis won the Carnegie for his final Narnia tale. Mary Norton (also featured in the stamp issue) won her Carnegie for *The Borrowers*. With stamps featuring past winners, there was opportunity for collaboration with the awards. With Royal Mail as the largest conveyor of text in the country, and literacy at the core of the business, the sponsorship was logical and timely.

The medals complement Royal Mail's creative activities: excellence in visual literacy as exemplified by the stamps; excellence in written literacy such as the Presentation Pack written by best-selling fantasy writer Terry Pratchett (short-listed for the Carnegie last year). And as past classics are honoured, the awards keep the literary flame alive. The aerogrammes explore Magical Worlds created by contemporary authors. The English aerogramme features the Carnegie-winning *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman, which catapults the reader between parallel worlds.

The new issues are also timely as the UK National Year of Reading is soon to be launched. So, why not follow the example of the good people of Barcelona? Give a book on World Book Day – and some literary stamps •

Competition Win Deegam books worth £85



For more information and prices etc, write or phone for a complimentary leaflet to: D G A Myall, 2 Elizabeth Avenue, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5BA. Telephone 01308 425399.

1st prize Complete set of all Deegam Publications mentioned, a measuring magnifier (essential for identifying value settings and useful for many other purposes), and a year's supply of Deegam Reports, together worth over £85.

2nd prize The Deegam Machin Handbook, a measuring magnifier and a year's supply of Deegam Reports, worth over £50.

3rd prize The Deegam Se-tenant and Leader Catalogues and a year's supply of Deegam Reports worth over £35.

articles on printing processes, phosphor development and varieties, perforations, etc as well as unique methods for identifying unknown Machin singles. The author has spent many years classifying value settings and head types. It covers pre-decimals, national and Country definitives and high values and is profusely illustrated. The book deals with Machins at three levels, leading the reader gently from beginner, through moderate collecting to specialist. Many of the Deegam conventions used in the Handbook are used, with permission, in other Machin catalogues and by specialist dealers.

Collectors who find it difficult to follow all the intricacies of the Machin design find that se-tenant pairs make an ideal alternative. Most of these come from booklets and their colour combinations look very attractive on an album page. Now in its third edition, the *Deegam Catalogue of Machin Se-tenant Pairs* lists and illustrates all horizontal and vertical pairs from 1968. The *Deegam Priced Catalogue of Elizabethan Coil Leaders* is the only book dealing with this subject. The fourth edition contains an account of roll production and lists and prices all leaders issued in the forty years from 1954. There is an account of the packaging of the decimal rolls as well as advice on how to display leaders.

Others in the range are: *Deegam Profiles* (stamp-sized graphic and text outlines for every level 2 and 3 stamp in the Handbook designed to be mounted alongside the stamps) and *Deegam Reports*, issued five or six times a year with articles of topical interest and details of all new issues.

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: July Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 21 August. Entries must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

The winners of the April competition were: N Partyn of Anglesey, R Jacquet of France, and J Choppen of Essex.

The answers 1) Richard Dykes; 2) 23 June; 3) *Stamp Collecting*; 4) Bill Oddie; 5) Robert Stevenson. Our thanks to all who entered.

- 1 How many covers are known with 1929 Tristan unofficial overprints?
- 2 Who designed the forthcoming Carnival stamps?
- 3 Who won the Grand Award at Birdpex?
- 4 When was Richard Harrison granted a licence to print the Bible?

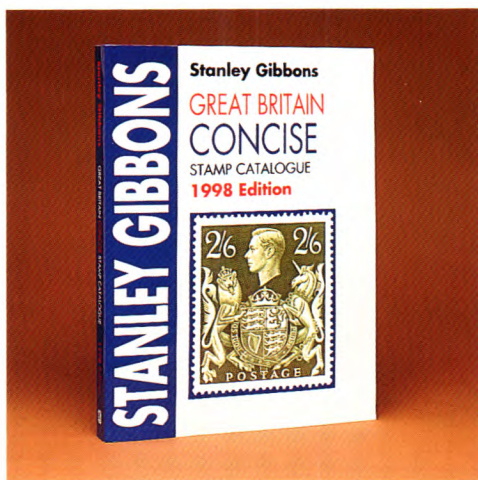
The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Deegam Publications •

Book review New edition Stanley Gibbons GB catalogue

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue The 13th (1998) edition of this well-known work was published to coincide with the Stamp '98 exhibition at Wembley. It lists all British stamps from 1840 to The Queen's Beasts set in February. It is aimed at collectors who want more detail than is provided in the standard SG catalogue (Part 1) but not so comprehensive as the five-volume *GB Specialised* catalogue. It includes regional, postage due, official and postal fiscal stamps, plus first day covers, presentation, collector and gift packs, stamp cards (PHQ cards), booklets, gutter pairs, yearbooks, and Channel Islands wartime issues. Also included are errors, such as missing colours, embossing, or phosphor and uncoated paper. The pre-decimal and decimal Machin sections differentiate between stamps with side band at left or right and major gum variants. First day of issue postmarks for the Bureau and the alternative office are illustrated and FDCs priced with these postmarks and standard local first day or, for older issues, operational postmarks.

The Machins are listed in two sections – issues with standard perfs, issued 1971-96 as nos x841-1058 and stamps with elliptical perfs, issued since 1993 as nos y1667-1759. The listings are subdivided by printing process and, where necessary, printer. The 1st and 2nd class NV1 stamps and self-adhesives are listed separately. The commemorative label panes are now detailed in a footnote although the listing only distinguishes between panes with label at left (1666l) and label at right (1666la). The 'Boots' label or pane is now listed with roulette 8 or 10 across the top corners of the pane (1666m/ma). One of the most useful features of the *Concise* for the Machin collector is the Decimal Machin index, giving source for each variety and the diagrams showing the make up of the booklet panes.

There have been some price revisions since the *Collect British Stamps* was published in November, for example the 1981 Royal Wedding pair is now more realistically priced at £5 mint/£4 used as opposed to £8 mint or used and the 1990 50p ochre coloured definitive with 2 bands from the



336 pages, card covers. Available from SG London shop or by post from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Price £14.95 postpaid UK, add £6 overseas.

London Life book is increased by 75p to £4.25 mint or used. Some scarce modern stamps listed in the *Concise* (and *Specialised*) have increased in price since the 1997 edition, notably the Northern Ireland 17p Type II (N143Ea) now £45 used and the Scottish 22p and Welsh 17p Type II (S48Ea, W44Ea) are now £50/£28 and £30/£20 as opposed to just £12/£3 and £16/£10 a year ago!

A number of recent discoveries are listed for the first time, including three watermark varieties on Victorian and George V issues and several errors on Elizabeth II issues such as the 1997 Christmas 2nd class imperf. It is good to see the 1965 Post Office Tower and 1966 Christmas 3d stamps now listed in pairs with phosphor bands at left and right, also the attractive George VI 2s6d Royal Arms stamp gracing the front cover ●

Correction Some text was omitted from the review of volume 5 of the SG GB *Specialised* catalogue in May's *Bulletin*. The commercially used copy of the 26p Dracula stamp referred to is imperf. The stamp is footnoted but not given a catalogue number. We regret any confusion caused ●

Postbag

The UK and Israel I fear that some errors have crept into my article on UK-Israeli Links (May *Bulletin*). Lord Balfour was a Conservative, and not a Liberal as stated. To be sure, it was while serving as Foreign Secretary under the great Liberal leader Lloyd George that he issued his famous Declaration; but this was in the wartime Coalition government, and previously (in 1902) Balfour had succeeded his uncle Lord Salisbury as Conservative prime minister. Referring to Lord Samuel, I may have conveyed the impression that Mount Carmel was in Jerusalem when, in fact, it is on the outskirts of Haifa. Incidentally, at Daliyat el Carmel is the house once occupied by the 19th century Scottish Zionist, Lawrence Oliphant and his lovely wife Alice – not yet honoured by Israeli stamps.

The Hebrew letter aleph is a guttural with no sound of its own. Consequently it takes its vowel sound from the vocalisation (often indicated by points below the letter). The word for 'land', on its own, should have been rendered phonetically as Eretz. The word changes vocalisation when compounded with the definite article (ha'Aretz) or prepositions, as in ba'aretz or la'aretz (in or to the land).

I take this opportunity to mention one other stamp with a UK-Israel connection. In 1996 St Vincent celebrated Jerusalem 3000 and depicted on the \$1 the giant bronze menorah (candelabra) sculpted by Benno Elkan and presented by the British Parliament to the Knesset as a gesture of friendship. Unfortunately the stamp is erroneously captioned SHRINE OF THE BOOK. Conversely, the \$2 stamp, showing the Shrine of the Book, is captioned THE KNESSET. Well, they do say 'to err is human'. DR JAMES MACKAY, GLASGOW ●



Stamp poll I do agree that the results of the choice of 1997 stamps (April *Bulletin*) was a surprise. I too had voted for the Post Offices set higher up, also the Queen's Horses which I thought were beautiful and majestic. I was surprised that the Architects of the Air came so high. I am sending you a postcard of the Norwegian Olympic stamps – they won a design prize. PHILIPPA T BAGKE, OSLO, NORWAY ●

Queen's head Looking back at the special stamps of the past few years I notice that a more detailed head was used on the Robert Burns stamps in 1996. This shows The Queen's features rather than simply a plain silhouette. Can you tell me when this detailed head was first used? MORRIS TAYLOR, LONDON

A profile head of The Queen was first used on the Landscapes stamps of May 1966, replacing the three-quarter Wilding portrait in use on all, except the Coronation 1s3d, stamps since The Queen's accession. There are several variations of the profile used as a silhouette, and on some stamps the head was embossed in gold. A more detailed halftone head was first used on the 1968 Bridges stamps and subsequently on: 1968 Anniversaries (except 9d), 1969 Ships (except 5d), Concorde, Anniversaries 9d & 1s9d, 1970 Commonwealth Games, 1971 Ulster Paintings, Anniversaries and University Architecture, 1973 European Communities, 1975 Turner Paintings, 1976 Christmas, 1978 Coronation Anniversary, 1984 Greenwich Meridian, 1986 Parliamentary Conference, 1987 Europa/Architecture, 1989 Anniversaries, 1995 Cats and 1996 Robert Burns stamps. For further information see the letter from J K Bird published in the April 1993 Bulletin, page 192. ED ●

Machin shades Mr Coates (April Postbag) points out various shades on current Machin values. I too have found some good shades on the 20p green and the 2nd class NV1 stamp. I particularly like the shades of crimson found on the humble 1p litho stamp (SG Y1743) in the £1 machine-vended books. Shades vary depending on the plates used and even on different printings from the

same plates. This little stamp may in the future be quite scarce used; I recently carefully examined nearly 20,000 used *Machins* from kiloware, office and home mail, and found just three examples of this stamp. Happily all three were good used and without the blue dot or pink bar coding marks! PETER NEWELLS, LEEDS •

Special Handstamps I read both *Philatelic* and *Postmark Bulletins* as I have an interest in first day covers and postmarks. For each new issue of special stamps the *Postmark Bulletin* now announces

30-45 special handstamps. Some of these are used regularly but most are 'one-offs' and vary considerably in shape, size and quality of design. Am I alone in thinking that perhaps there are now too many of these handstamps and that Royal Mail should restrict the number to a maximum of 20 per issue? What do other collectors think? SUSAN TURNER, TAUNTON •

The Editor is always pleased to receive contributions for 'Postbag', especially letters adding information to that already published, so benefiting fellow philatelists. He regrets that he is unable to reply personally to letters.

Cover corner

THIS MONTH'S ITEM is a postcard rather than a cover – a 1d pre-paid foreign postcard sent a century ago from London to Berlin. The imprinted stamp bears the LONDON W/47 datestamp of 11am, 31 May 1898; and the postmark at bottom left tells us that the card was delivered from post office 21 in Berlin between 7.45 and 8.45pm the next day! The stamp features the full-length portrait of Queen Victoria by Heinrich von Angeli, completed in 1885. This, as Colin Baker recorded, was the only occasion when British postage stamps showed Victoria as anything but very young – all other issues being based on the Wyon engraving of her in 1837. This particular foreign postcard was issued in 1892, other similar ones from 1889 and 1893 were shown in Mr Baker's article here in January 1995. We are obliged, once again, to Geoff Isherwood, for sending this interesting item for Cover Corner •



Events

Now showing Sports, Post Haste! (vehicles & artefacts), and Victorian Posts exhibitions at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. **Enquiries** 0171 776 3636.

3 July GB 1890 Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage – display by Francis Kiddle to The Hale Phil Soc, St Lawrence Church Hall, Whitchurch Lane, Little Stanmore, 19.30. **Enquiries** J Corscaden, 01923 673347

4 July Weston-super-Mare Phil Soc Stamp Fair at St Paul's Church Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston, opens 10.00. Dealers, refreshments, nearby parking. **Enquiries** N Handley, 01934 712641

23-26 July Singapex '98 – 12th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition at Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre. 800 frames of exhibits, dealers & postal administrations. **Enquiries** Association of Singapore Philatelists, Jurong Point PO, PO Box 492, Singapore 016417

25 July Stamp and Postcard Fair and exhibition of Worthing Post Offices 1798-1998 at East Worthing Community Association, Pages Lane, Worthing (next to MFI). Open 10.00-15.00. Admission free, dealers, refreshments. **Enquiries** John Hobbs, 01903 237440 •

THE ROYAL MAIL LUXURY STAMP ALBUM RANGE



Royal Mail's Luxury Stamp Album provides spaces for all basic stamps issued since decimalisation: definitives (low & high values and NVIS), country stamps, specials, greetings stamps, miniature sheets, commemorative and promotional stamp panes/labels, and To Pay labels. The pages for definitive stamps are arranged in chronological order with the stamps identified by printing process and phosphor characteristics so they can be easily placed in the correct position within protective stamp mounts. The pages are housed

in a handsome blue leather-look binder with the Post Office crest on the front cover.

The first album covering all issues from 1971-1989 costs £119.95; 1990-1997 is £99.95.

Supplements (continuation pages) are published annually. For existing users the 1993-97 supplements are available at £11.95 each. Additional empty binders cost £49.95.

British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT

