

August 1993



Royal Mail

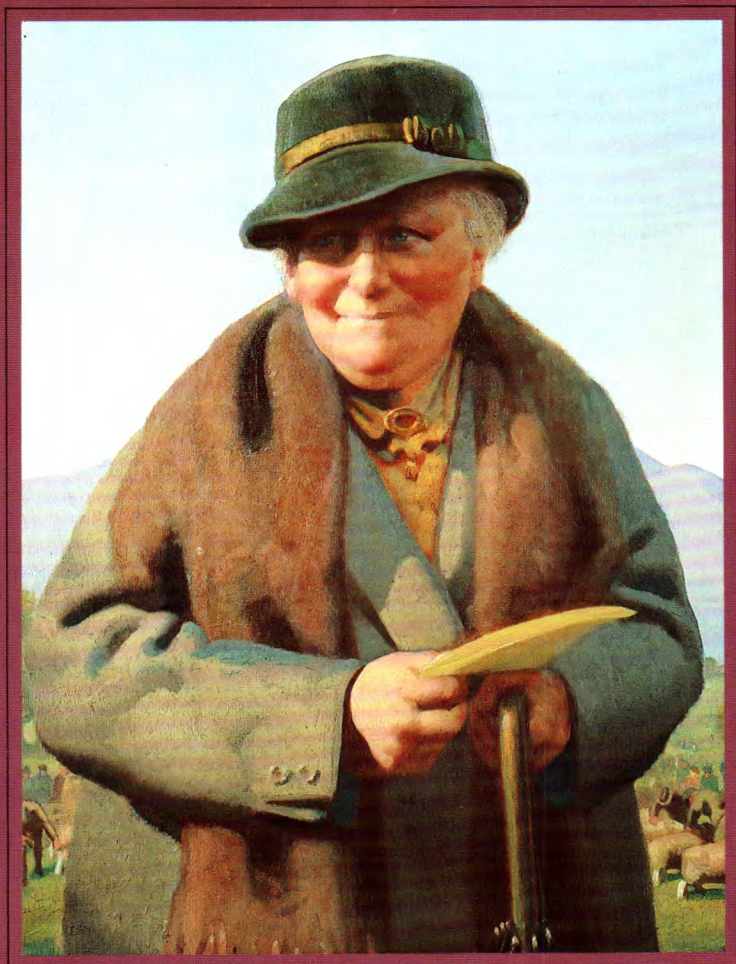
British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 30, No: 12 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 70p

Beatrix Potter 1866-1943

Peter Rabbit began life in 1893 in a letter from Beatrix Potter to cheer up a sick child.

The 1993 Prestige Stamp Book tells the tale of this remarkable lady.



This prestige book will cost £5.64 – not £6 as originally announced



The Story of Beatrix Potter

The 1993 prestige stamp book honours Beatrix Potter (1866-1943), creator of Peter Rabbit. The book contains four interesting panes of stamps – 4 x 1st class Peter Rabbit

greetings stamps; 24p and 18p country stamps, 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps and the pane shown above.

One sale from 10 August.
Price £5.64.



Royal Mail

Available from Post Offices, Collections, Post Shops Plus, Philatelic Counters and from the

British Philatelic Bulletin

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EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

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Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin** giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, Rest of World £21.75.

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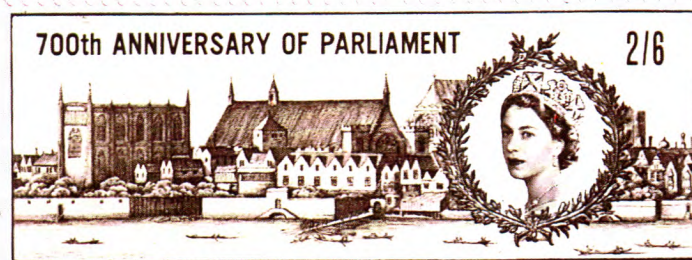
Main Feature

Thematic Collecting 284

This Precious Jewel set in the Silver Sea. Franceska Rapkin suggests a structure for a thematic collection of British stamps and related material.



Overseas trade recalled by 1969 British Ships stamps



Hollar's engraving of Westminster, 1647 on 1965 700th anniversary of Parliament stamp.

Autumn

14 September 1993



The second in Royal Mail's "Seasons" stamp issues goes on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters on 14 September. The five stamps feature familiar fruits and leaves of Autumn.

The **18p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class rate) depicts the fruit and leaves of the horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), the **24p** value (basic inland 1st class and EC rate) features the blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg). The nuts and leaves of the filbert of the Hazel (*Corylus maxima*)

Technical Details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 41 x 30mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: One phosphor band (18p),
two bands (24p-39p)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Presentation Pack: No 240, price £1.75

Stamp Cards: Nos 155 A-E, price 21p each



are shown on the **28p** stamp (covering the rate to non-EC European countries). The fruit and leaves of the Mountain Ash, or Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) feature on the **33p** stamp (world-wide postcard rate); the top value, **39p** (basic airmail letter rate), depicts the fruit and leaves of the pear, *Pyrus communis*, ('Doyenne' due Comice).

The stamps have been designed by Charlotte Knox, her first commission for Royal Mail. Charlotte Knox has studied at Brighton Polytechnic, the Ruskin School of Fine Art and Drawing, Oxford and St Martin's School of Art, London. She has for the last few years been specialising in plant illustration – and fruit in particular. Charlotte works with watercolour, crayon, ink, coloured charcoal and pastels, to produce very rich colours, and has produced a book, *Exotic Fruit and Vegetables*, with co-author Jane Grigson.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and philatelic counters around a week before 14 September, price 21p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover





ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Autumn

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS

Autumn



Squirrel

trees and red thread to gar the
"witches dance their dead."

A pleasing coincidence is that John Keats
was born on 31 October, Hallowe'en.

His poem 'To Autumn' has what must be
one of the most quoted opening
lines, 'Season of mists and
mellow fruitfulness'.

Some would claim that the first
fruits of autumn are the grains of harvest –
certainly harvest home signals the end
of summer. Yet this event is a pale
reflection of what it was in the
past when corn-filled wagons were
crowned with flowers and whole villages



Sycamore

plum jam

Also over the border –
and elsewhere – bagpipers play the
lament 'Flowers of the Forest' when
that last flower of the year, the red Flanders poppy,
blooms in button holes on Remembrance Sunday.

Yet of all the 'fruits' of autumn,
none is more familiar than
the experience of walking
in the country on one
weekend and seeing



Blackberry Pie



the trees
ablaze with scarlet and gold and
the next weekend seeing the same
colours carpeting the earth.



Football



service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or Taunton, price £2.03 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.73 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 14 September 1993.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Taunton cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed “Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark”.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial “First Day of Issue” handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail’s magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe, £21.75



Rest of World (Airmail).

The alternative “First Day of Issue” postmark is being used for Taunton in Somerset as it is the centre of the British cider-making industry. Cider is made from apples cropped in early Autumn.

Autumn Second Class Stamp

Collectors are advised that it will be in order to affix just the Autumn 2nd class stamp to covers to receive all special cancels (“First Day of Issue”, sponsored, and philatelic counter) in use on 14 September. The minimum 1st class rate rule is suspended on this day as the Autumn set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 2nd class Autumn stamp; covers bearing other than Autumn stamps must bear at least 1st class postage.



Royal Mail News

First Self-Adhesive Stamp

Royal Mail is to issue its first self-adhesive stamp on 26 October 1993. This will comprise a horizontal version of the 1st class NVI definitive in a book of 20 stamps. The books will initially be on sale at post offices and retail outlets in a trial area – the Tyne-Tees TV region. Collectors will be able to obtain the book from the British Philatelic Bureau, and post offices with philatelic service (Collections, Post Shop Plus, philatelic counters). The Bureau will provide a first day cover service. Full details will be published in a future *Bulletin*.



VIP* Danes Visit National Postal Museum

British stamps are popular with collectors in Scandinavia, and Royal Mail, through its Direct and Overseas Philatelic Sales Team, has an active programme of promotional activity to encourage collectors of all ages.

Sune Czajkowski, aged 12, of Brønshøj in Denmark won a competition run by Royal Mail

★Very Important Philatelists!



at last year's Nordia 92 Exhibition in Copenhagen, and his prize included a family trip to London. The undoubted highlight of such a holiday for any collector is a visit to the National Postal Museum. Shown here are Sune (back row, left) with his parents, brother Tue and sister Freja, enjoying the Museum's Danish stamp collection. The three young philatelists were also presented with gift memberships of the Stamp Bug Club and are shown with (left to right) Terry Brown, Museum Chief Custodian; Peter Hopson, Overseas Sales Manager; and Stan Goron, Museum Manager, shortly after the presentation.

Sherlock Holmes

World famous sleuth Sherlock Holmes is to be remembered on a set of special stamps which go on sale on 12 October to mark the centenary of the "death" of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's great fictional detective in 1893.

The commemorative Channel Tunnel stamps, originally planned for October, will now be issued next year – to coincide with the official opening.

Mr Colin Pawson, Royal Mail's Head of Philatelic Marketing, said: "Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr Watson remain the greatest fictional detective duo of all time and Royal Mail is proud to remember them on a set of commemorative stamps."

The stamps show illustrations from five of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's mysteries featuring the great detective: *The Reigate Squires*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Six Napoleons*, *The Greek Interpreter* and *The Final Problem*. Several other famous characters from the books are included in the scenes depicted on the stamps, including



Sir Henry Baskerville, the evil Professor Moriarty and Inspector Lestrade.

Although Sir Arthur decided to kill Holmes off in 1893 in *The Final Problem*, so great was the public outcry that he brought him back to life in *The Adventure of the Empty House* 10 years later.

Tennis Success

Each year the Post Office organises a tennis championship for teams from ten PO regions. This year's championship was held at Telford in June. The winning team – London region – included Royal Mail's Head of Special Stamps section Rosena Robson, shown front row left in our photograph.



Scottish Aerogrammes

We have published the numbers of aerogrammes issued since 1983 but not for the earlier issues. Some of these figures are now available – May 1974 (scenic views) – 200,000; May 1980 – (Regiments) – 117,950; August 1980 (Antiquaries) – 100,350; April 1981 (Flora & Fauna) – 104,300; April 1982 (Navy) – 80,950; August 1982 (Highland Dress) – 67,150. Figures for the 1975–79 issues have not, unfortunately, survived. The numbers issued 1983–92 have been published in the *Bulletins* of January 1988 (1983–87), January 1989 (1988), August 1990 (1989), December 1991 (1990) and July 1993 (1992). The numbers for the two 1993 aerogrammes, still on sale, will be published in due course.

Definitive & Country Stamps Update

It is some time since we last published details of new cylinders and plate numbers. The following cylinders/plates have been reported: *Definitives* (Harrison) – 18p–12, 39p – 3 and 4; £5 – 4D and 4E. Known plate numbers for the current Country stamps are as follows:

N Ireland: 18p Q1Q1 – Q4Q4; 24p Q1Q1 –

Q4Q4; 28p Q1Q1 – Q2Q2; 39p Q1Q1 – Q4Q4. *Scotland*: 18p Q1Q1 – Q10Q10; 24p Q1Q1 – Q12Q12; 28p Q1Q1 – Q2Q2; 39p Q1Q1 – Q4Q4.

Wales: 18p Q1Q1 – Q6Q6; 24p Q1Q1 – Q8Q8; 28p Q1Q1 – Q2Q2; 39p Q1Q1 – Q2Q2.

Some numbers may not yet be in general distribution.

New Postbus Services

Seven new postbus services have been introduced in Kent: Canterbury–Marshide, Canterbury–Westmarsh, Canterbury–Wooton, Sittingbourne–Hartlip, Rochester–Cooling, Gravesend–Fairseat, and Gravesend–Betsham. The three services based on Canterbury were introduced on 17 May. Collectors interested in postbus tickets may be interested to know that single and return tickets as used on the Canterbury services are available, price 50p each, from: Mark Kearnes, Customer Communications Officer, Royal Mail, Military Road, CANTERBURY CT1 1AA. Please enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope with order. Proceeds from sale of tickets to collectors will go to Royal Mail Canterbury's charitable collection fund.

Beatrix Potter First Day Arrangements

Any of the stamps in the Beatrix Potter book (10 August 1993) can be used singly or in combination on first day covers to qualify for any "First Day of Issue" handstamp in use on 10 August. The minimum 1st class rule will be waived for this day, i.e. 18p stamps from the book can be used on their own.

Air Cards for Tourists

Royal Mail International has recently issued two new sets of Air Cards, featuring views of London and Stratford-upon-Avon. Each set contains five cards, each bearing on the address side the Machin head of The Queen and "Great Britain Postage Paid" indicator as used on aerogrammes. Postage is thus prepaid to anywhere in the world. Cards are numbered 2A–E and 3A–E. The designs are:

2A – Four views of London (Big Ben, and as Nos 2C–E)

2B – Big Ben (different view to that on 2A)

2C – Buckingham Palace

2D – Piccadilly Circus

2E – Tower Bridge

3A – Four views of Stratford-upon-Avon (as Nos 3B – D and Holy Trinity Church, Stratford).

3B – Shakespeare's Birthplace

3C – Ann Hathaway's Cottage
 3D – Royal Shakespeare Theatre
 3E – Warwick Castle

100 x 2nd	£18.00
50 x 2nd	£9.00
20 x 2nd	£3.60



The cards are available from Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters, also from the post shops at Euston Centre, London NW1; Victoria Street, SW1 and Broadway, SW1 (London cards only). Price 50p per card. The cards were printed by McCorquodale Confidential Print.

NVI Stamps & Postal Stationery in Self-Service Units

From 6 September 1993 packs containing 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps, stamped envelopes, and Swiftair packs (C4, C5 and DL sizes) will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, Philatelic Counters and selected Post Shops. These packs are aimed mainly at business users who buy over 50 per cent of all stamps purchased for postal use. Some of the packs will also be of use to the general public.

For the first time NVI stamps will be available from a source other than the familiar red window books. They will be printed, in sheets of 200, by The House of Questa and supplied in packs containing 20, 50, 100 (2 blocks of 50), or 200 (4 blocks of 50) stamps. Collectors interested in stamps from different sources may want a vertical strip of three stamps to prove they originated from these sheets rather than window books.

The contents of these packs are as follows:

NVI Stamps

Pack	Pack Price
200 x 1st	£48.00
100 x 1st	£24.00
50 x 1st	£12.00
20 x 1st	£4.80
200 x 2nd	£36.00

Stamped Envelopes

Pack	Pack Price
C4 x 100(1st)	£44.00
C4 x 50(1st)	£23.50
C5 x 100(1st)	£41.00
C5 x 50(1st)	£22.00
DL x 100(1st)	£27.00
DL x 50(1st)	£14.50
C4 x 100(2nd)	£36.00
C4 x 50(2nd)	£19.50
C5 x 100(2nd)	£33.00
C5 x 50(2nd)	£18.00
DL x 100(2nd)	£21.00
DL x 50(2nd)	£11.50

Swiftpacks

Pack	Pack Price
C4 x 10	£27.00
C5 x 10	£25.00
DL x 20	£47.00
DL x 10	£23.50

The stamped envelopes differ from those issued in July 1991 in that they are produced from white laid rather than white cartridge paper (laid paper is used for the blue 1st and 2nd class envelopes in use since 1983). The DL size will not have a window (as the 1991 envelopes). The sizes are: C4 – 220 x 320mm, C5 – 229 x 162mm, DL – 110 x 220mm.

Revised Stamp Books

Five window books with revised text on the inside covers will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters from 17 August. These will be: 10 x 1st class Harrison, 10 x 1st Walsall, 10 x 2nd Questa, 4 x 1st Walsall, and 4 x 2nd Harrison. All will have elliptical perforations, as the issue of 6 April. This will be the first 2nd class by Harrison with these perforations. The Greetings book will also be available with revised text. No first day of issue facilities will be provided.

New 35p Definitive

The 35p stamp, printed by Enschedé, will be available from the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters from 17 August. This will be printed in photogravure and have elliptical perforations on the two vertical sides, as the 1p, 5p, 6p, 10p and 30p values issued earlier. No first day of issue facilities will be provided.

Decimal Stamp Books – 9

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

Single stamps

Here is the list of single definitive stamps that have appeared in decimal stamp books since the tariff increase of September 1991. The criteria for inclusion are those set out here in July. The stamps are listed in value order but the date of issue and the source are also given to make it possible to associate each stamp with the book which contained it. The dates are when the stamps were first available to the public; there was not always an official first day of issue.

To make the list more manageable, some generally accepted abbreviations are employed. These are set out below and will be used in future columns:

Printers: H = Harrison; W = Walsall; Q = Questa.

Papers: FCP = Fluorescent Coated Paper (non-phosphorised);
ACP = Advanced Coated Paper (phosphorised)
OFNP = OBA-free Non-phosphorised Paper
OFPP = OBA-free Phosphorised Paper



2p and 24p W ACP(C)/PVA PPPI (both 9.2.93).



2nd – W OFNP(C)/PVA 15 x 14(E) and 1st – H OFPP(H)/DEX 15 x 14(E) (both 6.4.93).

All Harrison's stamps were printed by photogravure on paper of their own manufacture; those from the other two firms were printed by lithography on paper made either by Harrisons (H) gummed with PVA-dextrin or by Coated Papers Ltd (C) gummed PVA.

Phosphor: 2B = one bar at left and right; CB = one centre bar; RB one bar at the right side; LB one bar at the left side.

Perforation: There are three elements here: the gauge, any straight edges and ellipses. Straight edges are described using a convention I devised some years ago. In this, P = perforated and I = imperforate and the edges are described in clockwise order. Thus, a stamp with a deliberately straight edge at the top only is IPPP while one with a straight edge at the right side is PIPP. An ellipse is indicated by (E) after the gauge.

© D G A Myall

Notes to table opposite

- 1 Archaeology Nos.1 to 4, Shrievalty and Postal History Nos.1 to 3
- 2 Punch Nos.1 to 4 and Shrievalty
- 3 Educational Institutions Nos.1 to 3
- 4 Tolkien prestige book
- 5 Questa bars are offset slightly right of centre
- 6 the phosphor bands producing these bars were 7.5mm wide
- 7 Wales prestige book
- 8 the phosphor bar is short at top and bottom
- 9 overseas postcard retail book
- 10 overseas airmail retail book
- 11 Kelloggs promotional book
- 12 the phosphor bands producing these bars were 9.5mm wide
- 13 retail (window) books of 10
- 14 retail (window) books of 4
- 15 Beatrix Potter prestige book

<i>Value</i>	<i>Printer</i>	<i>Paper/Gum</i>	<i>Phosphor bars</i>	<i>Perforation</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1p	H	ACP(H)/DEX	—	15 x 14	50p	10.9.91	1
2p	H	ACP(H)/DEX	—	15 x 14; PPPI	£1	10.9.91	2
2p	H	ACP(H)/DEX	—	15 x 14; PIPP	£1	10.9.91	2
2p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; PPPI	£1	9.2.93	3
2p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; PIPP	£1	9.2.93	3
18p	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	CB	15 x 14	£6	27.10.92	4, 5
18p	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	RB	15 x 14	£6	27.10.92	4, 6
18p	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	LB	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
18p Wales	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	CB	15 x 14	£6	25.2.92	5, 7, 8
18p Wales	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	RB	15 x 14	£6	25.2.92	7
18p Wales	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	LB	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
18p Scotland	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	LB	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
18p N. Ireland	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	LB	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
24p	H	ACP(H)/DEX	—	15 x 14	50p	10.9.91	1
24p	H	ACP(H)/DEX	—	15 x 14; PPPI	£1	10.9.91	2
24p	H	ACP(H)/DEX	—	15 x 14; PIPP	£1	10.9.91	2
24p	Q	ACP(C)/PVA	—	15 x 14	£6	27.10.92	4
24p	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	27.10.92	4, 6
24p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; PPPI	£1	9.2.93	3
24p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; PIPP	£1	9.2.93	3
24p Wales	Q	ACP(C)/PVA	—	15 x 14	£6	25.2.92	7
24p Wales	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	25.2.92	7
24p Wales	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
24p Scotland	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
24p N. Ireland	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
33p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; IPPP	£1.32	16.9.91	9
33p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; PPIP	£1.32	16.9.91	9
33p	W	ACP(H)/DEX	2B	14; IPPP	£1.32	8.9.92	9
33p	W	ACP(H)/DEX	2B	14; PPIP	£1.32	8.9.92	9
33p	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	25.2.92	7
33p	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
39p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; IPPP	£1.56	16.9.91	10
		ditto		ditto	78p	28.7.92	11
39p	W	ACP(C)/PVA	—	14; PPIP	£1.56	16.9.91	10
		ditto		ditto	78p	28.7.92	11
39p	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	27.10.92	4
39p	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
1ST	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	25.2.92	7, 12
1ST	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	27.10.92	4, 6
1ST	W	ACP(H)/DEX	—	14; IPPP	£2.40	8.1.93	13
		ditto		ditto	96p	6.2.93	14
1ST	W	ACP(H)/PVA	—	14; PPIP	£2.40	8.1.93	13
		ditto		ditto	96p	6.2.93	14
1ST	H	OFPP(H)/DEX	—	15 x 14 (E)	£2.40	6.4.93	13
		ditto		ditto	96p	6.4.93	14
1ST	W	OFNP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14 (E)	£2.40	6.4.93	13
1ST	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	2B	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15
2ND	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	RB	15 x 14	£6	25.2.92	7, 12
2ND	Q	FCP(C)/PVA	RB	15 x 14	£6	27.10.92	4, 6
2ND	W	FCP(H)/DEX	CB	14; IPPP	£1.80	11.12.92	13
2ND	W	FCP(H)/DEX	CB	14; PPIP	£1.80	11.12.92	13
2ND	W	OFNP(C)/PVA	CB	15 x 14 (E)	72p	6.4.93	14
2ND	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	CB	15 x 14 (E)	£1.80	6.4.93	5, 8, 13
2ND	Q	OFNP(C)/PVA	LB	15 x 14	£6	10.8.93	15

Thematic Collecting

Part 2 – This Precious Jewel Set in the Silver Sea

FRANCESKA RAPKIN, FRPSL

Even the most serious collectors sometimes need a little light relief; and without wishing to suggest that thematics are not a serious branch of our wonderful hobby, they can certainly represent the fun side. The only limit is the collector's imagination to find new and individual themes. On the other hand, perhaps you are an entrenched traditional collector, and what is more, have been a collector of Great Britain all your life. Perhaps you feel that now is not the time to change; or is it perhaps time to breathe new life into the collection by going off in a different direction?

In the last issue, I mentioned Captain Philippe Durand, one of the pioneers of thematic philately in Britain, and how he had developed a Canadian collection as a history of that country to stimulate and interest non-collectors. Many collectors come to the hobby by starting with the stamps nearest to home, in other words, those that can be purchased over the post office counter. There is nothing wrong with that, but a quick look through the stamp catalogue since the accession of Queen Elizabeth will show an odd assortment of stamps, whose only connecting link is that

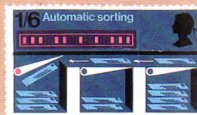
they were issued by GB and illustrate this country's heritage. Supposing, instead of laying the stamps out on the page according to their date of issue, they were laid out according to their content. If cancellations and special handstamps are introduced that expand the various subjects, and then postal stationery items are added that develop the subject further still, why then you have taken the first giant step towards a thematic collection of GB! The one thing that needs introducing now are items that have been issued by other countries that relate to the theme.

Plan of Action

As with any good idea, it is best to start with a plan of action. In this case, it will need to be a plan of the collection. If this is done *before* any stamps are bought or mounted, it will give a framework around which the whole collection can be built and developed. It will take quite a while to work out a plan that suits your ideas and with which you are satisfied. Take plenty of time over this, for the better the plan, the easier will be your task later on. It will also act as a



Trade and Finance



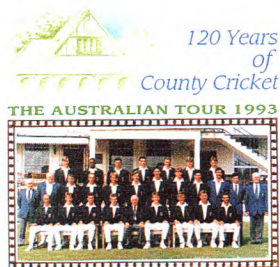
Transport and Communications

Bulletin Supplement

Commemorative Covers

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

Cricket: Benham have announced a new Cricket Series. For this summer's Australian Tour of Britain, Benham are producing a series of covers to commemorate the visit of the Australian squad to all counties. Each cover will be produced in two forms, i.e. standard cover and signed by either the captain of the county, or by someone connected very prominently with the county. Standard cover costs £3.50, signed versions £5.50. These can be bought either individually or as a whole series. A special luxury album will be produced later to house this interesting series of covers. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Limited, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD; Tel. Brian Austin on 0303 850041



Liverpool Pals. The first objective of the Pals Appeal Fund has been achieved. The Colours of the Pals Battalions have been restored. At a ceremony at the Museum of Liverpool Life on 28 June they were presented to the King's Regiment Collection by our Patron Lord Derby. A souvenir cover was produced. Printed in rubine red it bears a 1st class stamp cancelled with a special "LIVERPOOL 28. VI.93 PALS" postmark. Each cover is individually numbered and contain an explanatory insert. The covers are being sold to raise funds for placing a commemorative plaque in St. George's Memorial Chapel in Ypres, Belgium and

erecting a monument to the Liverpool and Manchester Pals at Montauban-de-Picardie on the Somme. Price £3.50 plus 35p postage and packaging. Remittances payable to "The Liverpool Pals Appeal Fund". Orders/Enquiries: D. W. Sheard, 47 Venables Drive, Spital, BEBINGTON, Wirral, L63 9LY.

Beatrix Potter. This year's prestige book commemorates Beatrix Potter and marks the centenary of the "birth" of Peter Rabbit. To coincide with its issue on 10 August, a special cover and handstamp will be available. The cover features a specially commissioned watercolour which is printed around the four outer edges of the envelope, onto which the panes of stamps will be affixed. These will receive a specially sponsored handstamp at Near Sawrey, Beatrix Potter's home for many years. Single covers with the Peter Rabbit stamps cost £7.50, the set of four covers (including Peter Rabbit) cost £24.75. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. Overseas please add £1 and remit in Sterling.



Queen's Royal Lancers. The formation of the Queen's Royal Lancers took place on 25 June. This new regiment is an amalgamation of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers and the 17th/21st Lancers. To mark the forming of the new regiment a commemorative cover is available limited to 500 numbered copies, it shows a full colour illustration of various regiments together with two colour photographs of the cap badges of the two amalgamated regiments. The special handstamp features the new cap badge. The covers bear the 1992 Happy & Glorious stamp showing HM The Queen Trooping the Colour. Price £4.75. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. Overseas please add £1 and remit in Sterling.

Flying Legends. To commemorate the Flying Legends Air Display at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford on 3 May 1993 a small

collection of special signed covers was prepared. The collection consists of two designs featuring Spitfires and Hurricanes based on original paintings by aviation artist Peter Castle. Each cover has been postmarked on 3 May and personally autographed by Battle of Britain pilots. Each set consists of 13 covers; only 19 sets are available. For further details contact: Linda Brand, Cambridge Stamp Centre, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA. Tel. Cambridge (0223) 63980.

Greatest Air Battle. During the 1939-45 War various attempts were made to test the strength of the enemy forces on mainland Europe. One such operation was undertaken in August 1942 at Dieppe. For the Royal Air Force this operation became known as the Greatest Air Battle. This raid on the northern coast of France was supported and protected by the largest array of RAF aircraft seen in the Second World War until that time. The Great Air Battle collection features about 22 covers of same design, illustrating a Hurricane of 175 Squadron from an original painting by Peter Castle. Most covers are signed by fighter pilots, numbers of whom were involved in Operation Jubilee. Only 50 complete sets issued. Enquiries: Cambridge Stamp Centre, address above.

Methodist Covers. Two covers have been produced to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the stone-laying of the Methodist Church, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, Notts (1 March 1993) and the Nottingham & Derby District Methodist Conference (23 June 1993). Both bear the 24p 1992 Christmas stamp cancelled by the Nottingham Philatelic Counter handstamp. Price £1 each, post paid. Order/enquiries: D K Jones, Treloham, 73 Berry Hill Road, MANSFIELD, Notts, NG18 4RU.



Halley's Comet. Cambridge Stamp Centre offer a set of about 20 covers, in a limited edition of 16 sets, illustrating the memorial to Edmond Halley, Westminster Abbey, and the track of the Comet when it appeared in the early part of the

20th century. The covers bear the 1986 17p Halley's Comet stamp cancelled by a special handstamp. All covers have been signed by persons connected with astronomy or personalities. Enquiries: Linda Brand, Cambridge Stamp Centre, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA. Tel. 0223 63980.

Bell's Scottish Open. The Scottish Open Golf Championship was reborn in 1986 evolving out of the Glasgow Classic at Haggs Castle. The event has been regenerated to become Scotland's largest annual public occasion. This



BELL'S SCOTTISH OPEN GOLF - 10th JULY 1993

GLENEAGLES AUCHTERHADE



Championship, sponsored by Bell's is now established at the prestigious Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire and has developed into one of the foremost occasions in international golf. It is televised each year by the BBC to over 25 countries worldwide. A souvenir cover is available, bearing a 24p Scottish Country stamp cancelled by a special 6 July handstamp. Price £3. Orders/enquiries: Scotland and N Ireland Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, George Square. GLASGOW G2 1AA.

Llanberis Lake Railway. The Festiniog Railway held a special "Hunslet Hundred" Steam festival on 1-3 May to mark the centenary of some of its locomotives. One of the LLR locomotives, *Dolbadarn*, took part in the Festival, in commemoration of which a cover is available bearing the two *Dolbadarn* railway letter stamps issued in 1992 cancelled by a special railway handstamp. The Royal Mail stamp bears the Caernarfon Gwynedd packet datestamp. Price £2.25, postage 30p. Orders/enquiries to the



CAERNARFON GWYNEDD, LLAN BELL

TO BE POSTED ON ARRIVAL AT DOLBADARN

LLR's philatelic agent: H C Creamer, Swn-y-Wylan, Cae Eithin, Minffordd, PENRHYNDEUDRAETH, Gwynedd, LL48 6EL. Mr Creamer holds stocks of LLR letter stamps and covers – please enclose stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon with enquiries.

Chester – Lord Mayor's Show. As part of the ongoing celebrations at having received the grant of the Lord Mayoralty last year, Chester City Council has commissioned a commemorative cover. Bearing a special handstamp commemorating the very first Lord Mayor's Show in Chester, 15 May 1993, the cover is available in three versions. Each features the special Lord Mayor's Show and Festival of Transport logo. The first version bears a 24p Civil War stamp, price £2.50. The second version bears the 28p Civil War stamp and is signed by the Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor John F Randall, price £5. The third special version bears



Chester City Council
The Forum
Chester CH1 2HS

a stamp issued to celebrate 800 years of Lord Mayoralty in London, and a stamp featuring an appropriate vintage car theme. Each cover is signed by the Lord Mayors of Chester and London (Sir Francis McWilliams). Limited to 100 numbered copies, price £10. Orders, accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope and cheque/postal order payable to "Lord Mayor of Chester's Charity Fund", should be sent to: Mrs Wendy Healiss, PA to The Lord Mayor, Chester City Council, The Forum, CHESTER CH1 2HJ. Proceeds will go towards aiding charities.

Stirling Rock Royal Arch Chapter. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the oldest Royal Arch Chapter in the world a special cover has been produced showing masonic symbols and Stirling Castle. The cover will bear the 1966 4d Robert Burns and 1993 Inland Waterways stamps. The latter are cancelled by a

special 30 July handstamp. Robert Burns was a freemason and a Royal Arch mason. The Inland Waterways stamp is associated with another mason, Thomas Telford, who was consulted on some of the work carried out on part of the Grand Union Canal. The covers are available in

"STIRLING ROCK" R.A.C. No.2



three signed versions: (1) by 1st Principal £2.50, (2) by First Principal and Grand Superintendent £5, (3) by Grand Superintendent, 1st Principal, 1st Grand Principal and Grand Scribe E – £10. Postage 50p extra. Orders/enquiries: A Bruce, 74 Bannockburn Road, STIRLING FK7 0BT.

Autumn. On 14 September Royal Mail issues five attractive Autumn stamps featuring pears, blackberries, rowan berries, hazelnuts and the horse chestnut. A G Bradbury has produced covers for two Livery Companies:

The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers

This cover, limited to 1000, is printed in full colour with a delicate gold-leaf border. It bears a Brogdale, Faversham handstamp, home of the fruits arboretum and gene bank and features the Fruiterers' coat of arms. Price £5.95 or £9.75 signed by the Master of the Livery Company.



The Worshipful Company of Gardeners

Featuring a Victorian engraving showing a table full of delicious looking fruit and limited to 500 copies, this cover is also partly produced in gold-leaf. The special handstamp features the Gardeners' coat of arms. Price £6.75, or £9.75 signed by the Master. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. Overseas please add £1 and remit in Sterling.



Designed by Benham Ltd
Produced by The British Waterways, 2007

Coronation Anniversary. The Talylllyn Railway issued a new, full-colour, 25p railway letter stamp to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the Coronation on 2 June 1993. The stamp, designed by Neill Oakley, reproduces a photograph of locomotive No 7 "Tom Rolt" on Dolgoch Viaduct. The printing was undertaken by The House of Questa, in sheets of 10, perforated. The first day cover, again designed by Neill Oakley, shows a view of the locomotive used to pull the train celebrating the coronation in 1953. The first day covers were conveyed on the 11.20 train from Wharf Station, hauled by locomotive No 7 "Tom Rolt". Sheets of stamps price £2.50, and covers price £2 are available from: Sara Eade, Talylllyn Railway, Wharf Station, TYWYN, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY. Postage & packing 60p extra.



Designed by Benham Ltd
Produced by The British Waterways, 2007

In addition, Benham are producing an individual set of four "Silk" covers, each with its own official British Waterways postmark, all different from the above. This set will cost £10. There will also be a set of Luxury Postcards, featuring the Canal 200 postmarks price £10. Post and packing 50p on all orders.

These covers are produced as limited editions and will be available at Stoke Bruerne, the Canal Museum at Gloucester or direct from Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD. All major cards accepted.



Inland Waterways. Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd are producing official souvenirs for Inland Waterways, to celebrate the "Canal 200" celebration of the 200th anniversary of Canal Mania. To coincide with the stamps on 20 July, two main covers are being produced. The first, for Canal 200, will have a choice of four different postmarks: for the Crinan, Brecknock and Abergavenny, Grand Junction and Stainforth and Keadby Canals. Each cover costs £5 and the set of four, all with four stamps, will cost £20.

The second cover, to commemorate the Inland Waterways Bicentenary is for the National Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire – a wonderful place to visit. This cover costs £5.



Correction. The price of the first day cover of the new Festiniog Railway stamps was wrongly given in the June Bulletin (page 243). The price is £2.75 *not* £2.25. The cover is still available from: Festiniog Railway Company (RLS Dept), Harbour Station, PORTHMADOG, Gwynedd, LL49 9NE

Wants List when the time comes to purchase items for the collection. The plan could look this:

"THIS PRECIOUS JEWEL SET IN THE SILVER SEA,
THIS ENGLAND"

1. GEOGRAPHY

A. Geology & Structure

B. Climate

C. Vegetation

D. Animal Life

2. CONSTITUTION & GOVERNMENT

A. The Crown

B. The Judiciary

C. Legislature

D. Parliament

E. The Established Churches

3. THE ECONOMY

A. Production

i. Agriculture

ii. Forestry

iii. Fisheries

iv. Mining

v. Industrial Production

B. Trade and Finance

i. Overseas Trade

ii. Currency & Banking

iii. National Finance

C. Transport & Communications

i. Inland Transport

ii. Shipping

iii. Air Transport

iv. The Post Office

v. Telecommunications

vi. Broadcasting

4. DEFENCE

A. The Army

B. The Navy

C. The Air Force

D. Civil Defence

i. The Police

ii. The Ambulance Services

iii. Voluntary Services

5. THE ARTS

A. Literature

B. Music

C. Painting

D. Architecture

On the one hand, this is a very simple plan, for it goes into little detail, on the other hand, it is far too broad and covers too wide a field. The ECONOMY, taking in Trade & Finance as well as Transport & Communications, would be sufficient to keep a collector occupied for several years! Equally, the cultural story of GB would make an interesting collection in its own right. Perhaps one of the most interesting avenues to explore would be a study of GB from the historical point of view.

The plan as shown above is only there to indicate what can be created. Obviously, each of the sections can be expanded or contracted as material or inclination allow. For instance, Shakespeare was such an important English writer that it might be advisable to give him a chapter to himself. There is plenty of material, for he has been honoured by many countries. Did anyone recognise the title for this article? It is a line from a speech in Act II of *Richard III*!

The Story Emerges

If one now looks again at the stamp catalogue, and begins to put the individual stamps, not necessarily the whole set, into their appropriate chapters, one can see the story emerging. The Coronation stamps will all come under Chapter 2.A, THE CROWN. The Castles high value definitive issues of 1955-58, 1988 and 1992 could either go under the same heading, or under 4.D ARCHITECTURE. My own preference would be



The Crown, or Architecture

to place each castle with the king or queen under whose reign it was built. A nice page could be made by using the Scottish aerogramme of 1987, which showed the ill-fated Mary, Queen of Scots, combined with Edinburgh Castle, the



stamp showing Queen Elizabeth I (SG 771) that was issued in 1968, and finally, the stamp issued by Barbuda showing King James I (SG 66). If space allows, the British stamp showing Holyroodhouse issued in 1978 (SG 1055) could also be shown here. I will leave you to make the connection between these items!

Mary would also find her place as the link between the English and Scottish thrones. If a



chapter is included on her, then the stamp showing the cathedral at Notre Dame (France SG 996) where she married the Dauphin in 1558 could be included. For a period of less than 18 months before the death of her sickly husband, Mary was the Queen of France as well as the Queen of Scotland. The Catholics also considered her the rightful Queen of England on the death of Mary Tudor in 1558 (Barbuda SG 64).

Sport & Recreation

The second set of Queen Elizabeth's reign was the World Scout Jamboree issue of 1957 (557-9). At present, there is no chapter on SPORT & RECREATION, and that could very well follow on after that devoted to the Arts. The Sixth British Empire & Commonwealth Games issue of 1958 (567-9) could also find a home in this chapter. Over the years, several stamps have been devoted to sports, so this could well become an important chapter. Britain hosted the Olympic Games on two occasions in the past; in 1908, when they were held at the newly-built White City Stadium, and in 1948, when Wembley was used as the main Olympic stadium. Manchester has been chosen to try to win the Games for this country again in 2000. The other contenders are Berlin, Sydney and Beijing. The final decision will be made on 23 September in Monaco. Although no stamps were issued to commemorate the Games of 1908, a set of four stamps was released in 1948 (495-8) for the first Games after the Second World War. Britain has always been known as a sporting nation and a great defender of "Fair Play". It would certainly therefore be appropriate to have a sporting chapter in a British thematic collection.

Until the beginning of the present reign, relatively few special stamps were issued, which is why I suggested that one could start by looking at the stamps of Queen Elizabeth II, but there is no reason at all why all British stamps could not be included if they are appropriate.

The Mother of Parliaments

Parliament is represented by the single stamp issued on 12 September 1957 (560), as well as the two stamps released on 25 September 1961 to commemorate the Seventh Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (629-30) and again in 1965 to commemorate the 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament (663-4). Winston Churchill, honoured on stamps both in 1965 to mark his death (661-2), and in 1974 to

commemorate the centenary of his birth (1962-5), could certainly find his place under Chapter 2.D PARLIAMENT. However, rather than put all the stamps together, the 8p value of the 1974 set could be shown under Chapter 4.C THE AIR FORCE, while the 4½p could perhaps be shown under Chapter 4.B, since Churchill was once First Lord of the Admiralty. The British Parliament is known as "The Mother of Parliaments", and has been a role model for the way that many other nations are governed, particularly those that were at one time a part of the British Empire.



Parliament (1961, 1965)



Churchill (1965)

Wildlife

The first stamps issued by GB that show anything of the country's wildlife was in 1963, when two stamps were released for National Nature Week (637-8). Rather than show the two stamps together, the one could go under the sub-heading VEGETATION, while the other would find its place under ANIMAL LIFE. Since 1963, Royal Mail has returned on several occasions to the theme of nature for inspiration, and they are amongst the most popular and beautiful of the stamps issued by GB.

Of course, building up a collection in this



Wildlife (1963, 1986)

manner entails a great deal more work and research than simply going out and buying the stamps, and mounting them in a printed album. However, the research is a great deal of fun. It is a wonderful way to teach a child about this fascinating and historic land that we call Great Britain and a wonderful way to instill knowledge painlessly. Almost every aspect of British life has been depicted on her stamps, and as I said at the start, with the inclusion of cancellations, stationery and items issued by other countries, the collection can become very large in a relatively short time.

© Francesca Rapkin

Diamond Jubilee of the Gumbley Iraq Air Mail Letter Card

PETER JENNINGS, FRPSL

In 1919 Englishman Douglas Gumbley was employed by Iraq as their Inspector General of Posts and Telegraphs, and Director of Civil Aviation. In April the following year the Allies assigned Britain a mandate to administer Iraq.

Normal letters carried overland, being of varying weight and dimensions, were too expensive for mass use on the newly developing air services from England to the Middle East. Gumbley perceived that a light-weight form of specific size, weight and cost, would allow considerably more letters to be carried on each flight. He set to work and invented and designed an air mail letter card weighing just four grammes which he registered at Stationers' Hall in London on 15 February 1933, under his own copyright.

Printed in dark blue by Bradbury Wilkinson, the Iraq AIR MAIL LETTER CARD included the wording "nothing must be enclosed herein". The 15 fils impressed stamp, equivalent to about three old pence, bears a striking portrait of King Faisal I, who was proclaimed King of Iraq on 23 August 1921.

The Air Mail Letter Card was first issued to

the public on 15 July 1933. At the time Gumbley wrote to government officials in London: "The economic and social advantages of quick communication are so great that it is a matter of considerable disappointment that more effective measures have not been taken by the Postal Administrations and Air Transport Companies to carry by air over long distances a greater proportion of the first class mail.

"To increase the use of the air mail three things are necessary:—

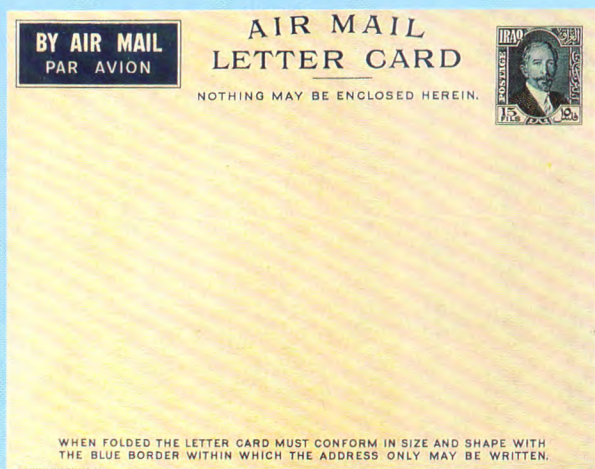
(a) The unit of weight for assessing air mail charges should be as small as practicable.

(b) The charges made by the Air Transport Companies should be as low as possible.

(c) The public should be charged by the Post office only sufficient to cover the cost of transport by air plus the internal letter rate postage of the country of dispatch.

"In pursuit of the desire to increase the volume of the mails sent by air, the Postal Administration of Iraq has introduced the Air Mail Letter Card".

Gumbley had initially ordered a 20 fils stamp. In a letter dated 19 January 1933, to E Gibbs, at Bradbury Wilkinson and Co Ltd, he writes: "I



hope this alteration will not involve any very great delay to the completion of the order but it represents an advance in our air mail policy whereby we hope to be able to despatch the letter card by air to Europe at a cost to the sender of exactly the same as is charged for a letter to foreign countries by ordinary mail, viz fifteen Fils."

Gumbley was apparently unable to do this, and consequently an adhesive stamp had to be added to the form to make up the correct postage rate. This might account for the fact that genuinely used copies are extremely rare. The author would be most interested to hear from anyone who can provide more information. Please write to him via the *Bulletin*.

Mail for Military Personnel

Before the outbreak of the Second World War on 3 September 1939, the carriage of letters by aircraft was still regarded as something of a luxury. However, the War played a significant part in the development of air mail, and the carriage of mail for military personnel increased tremendously.

During the early part of the War, the Australian Government asked Gumbley if he could provide a cheap and rapid means of communication between troops and their families as an aid to maintaining morale. He suggested the adaptation and use of his Iraq Air Mail Letter Card. This was readily taken up by the Australian command which proceeded to issue one form to each man every week.

The British postal authorities and military forces of the British Commonwealth throughout and world quickly adopted the air letter form as the most feasible method of providing troops with a fast medium of communication which was light enough to be carried by the already overtaxed capacity of military aeroplanes.

In 1935, Gumbley, the Father of the Air Letter, moved to Palestine where he was Director of Civil Aviation. In 1947 he accepted an appointment with Iraq Petroleum in charge of Aviation and Communication Branches. He retired to the Isle of Wight, where he died on 5 February 1973, at the grand old aged of 92.

The Air Letter, or Aerogramme as we call it today, stands as a tribute to Gumbley's initiative and ingenuity.

Mr Jennings's exhibit "Douglas Gumbley – From Air Mail to Air Letter" was awarded a large vermeil medal (one below a gold), and the special British Philatelic Trust Award at the Eur-Apex '93 air mail exhibition.

Forthcoming Issues

10 Aug	Beatrix Potter prestige book
17 Aug	35p Definitive, Enschedé
17 Aug	Greetings book – revised
17 Aug	10 × 1st class book/H
17 Aug	10 × 1st class book/W
17 Aug	10 × 2nd class book/Q
17 Aug	4 × 1st class book/W
17 Aug	4 × 2nd class book/H
7 Sep	Autumn stamp cards
14 Sep	Autumn stamps and pack
14 Sep	NPM PO Uniforms cards
5 Oct	Sherlock Holmes stamp cards
5 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
12 Oct	Sherlock Holmes stamps/pack
19 Oct	Self-adhesive stamp card
26 Oct	Self-adhesive stamp book
2 Nov	Christmas stamp cards
9 Nov	Christmas stamps/pack
9 Nov	Christmas stamp books (1st & 2nd)
9 Nov	1993 Collectors Pack
9 Nov	1993 Year Book
9 Nov	NPM Christmas postcards

Note: The 17 August books have revised text on inside covers.

NPM Exhibitions

Three interesting displays are currently on show at the National Postal Museum – all in the museum's main (top floor) gallery. The first illustrates the development of the George V Silver Jubilee issue, featuring about 40 items of artwork as well as proofs, colour trials and examples of the rare 2½d Prussian Blue shade. The displays includes items from the Royal and private collections, as well as from the Museum's own holdings.

The 50th anniversary of Jersey's pictorial stamps designed by Edmund Blampied is marked by an attractive display of the stamps and artworks of this and the 1948 "Vraic" Liberation issue. There are interesting photographs of Jersey during the war-time occupation, supplied by the Channel Islands Occupation Society of Jersey.

Peter Jennings has provided 12 sheets commemorating the golden jubilee of the air letter, including a 1933 Iraq air letter card, 1941 GB prisoner of war air letter, 1942 first civilian use to forces in East Africa (with 6d adhesive) and 1943 air letter with imprinted 6d stamp used on 6 July.

Reports on these exhibitions next month.

Mulready Self Portrait Acquired by NPM

A self portrait by William Mulready RA, designer of the infamous Mulready envelopes and lettersheets, has been acquired by the National Postal Museum. Dating from the late 1830s when Mulready was about 50 years of age, it is a small, beautiful drawing in pen and brown ink over traces of pencil on parchment. This appears to be a study for Mulready's unfinished self portrait in the National Portrait Gallery (4450).

William Mulready (1786-1863) was commissioned in December 1839 by Henry Cole to draw a design for the first postal stationery envelopes to be issued at the same time as the world's first adhesive stamps (the Penny Black and Two pence Blue). He produced a design based on Britannia very quickly and, with slight alterations, this was accepted for engraving by John Thompson. When a proof was submitted to Queen Victoria a commentary by Mulready was appended:

"This Design is intended to convey the idea that the measure it assists in carrying out, emanated from Great Britain, and that it is a very

wide spreading benefit, facilitating our friendly and commercial intercourse with remote lands, and bringing, in a manner, our separated brethren closer to the sick beds and cheerful firesides of home."

Mulready was paid £352 10s for his "highly poetic" design which was much approved by his fellow Royal Academicians. However, it was not approved by the public who laughed it to scorn and a large number of caricatures were printed making fun of Mulready's Irish origins and various political problems of the day. As a result the stationery had to be withdrawn and even Rowland Hill was forced to admit that "The conduct of the public, however, shows that although our attempt to diffuse a taste for fine art may have been imprudent, such diffusion is very much wanted."

Vast quantities of the Mulready envelopes and lettersheets remained unsold. They were eventually destroyed, a special machine having to be constructed to do so. Mulready's reputation never recovered from the fiasco but a major exhibition of his art took place at the V & A in 1986.

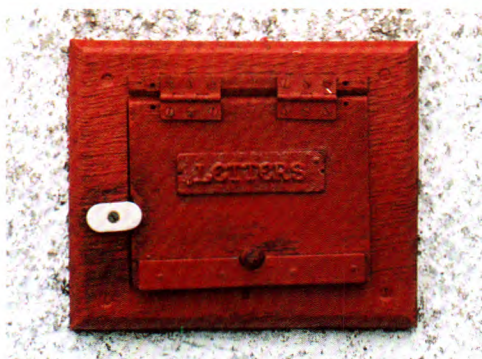
*Douglas N. Muir
Curator, Philately*



Posting Boxes

143. Scottish Island Boxes

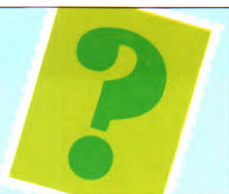
Matthew Garrey of Glasgow submits a photograph of the post office at Gravir on the Isle of Lewis. The office bears the Post Office sign in gaelic – *Oifis A' Phuist*. The posting aperture appears to have been hewn through the stone wall of the building.



The second photograph was submitted by the Rev. Alan Warrell of Shetland. It shows the posting box on Fair Isle. Mr Warrell tells us: "The island has two collections in summer and one in winter. The posting box is a 'hole' in the Post Office wall with a wooden flap and surround. To post letters the flap must be raised and, on the advice of the postmistress, one's arm inserted and the mail left well within the tunnel inside the two foot thick wall of the modernised croft. This is to minimise the effect of the wind which would otherwise blow the letters away."

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies sent in by readers for this "Posting Boxes" feature – enough to last for the next few years. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice – stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: August Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail National, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 24 September.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Sherlock Holmes stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the November *Bulletin*.

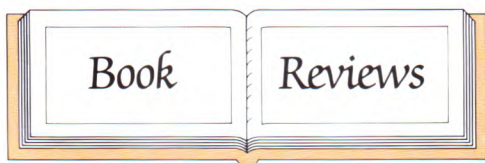
1. Who designed the Autumn stamps?
2. Who is Chief Custodian of the National Postal Museum?
3. In which country was Douglas Gumbley Inspector General of Posts & Telegraphs?
4. On what date is the 1993 Christmas Aerogramme being issued?
5. In what year was *The Final Problem* published?

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

The winners of the May competition were: A C Denton of Kent (£75 worth of philatelic products); H H Pryce of Lancashire; L Hannam of Surrey; P Sexton of Denmark; R Bostock of France; and S J Kempster of Kent (Roman Britain presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Postmaster General; 2. John Gibbs; 3. Castleford, Yorkshire; 4. Brighton & Hove Philatelic Society; 5. 6p.

Our thanks to all who entered.



The Railway Philatelic Group has recently published the 7th edition of the ever-popular **Great Britain & Ireland Railway Letter Stamps** catalogue. This new edition, compiled by Neill Oakley, covers the years 1957-92. Mr Oakley provides a brief history of the service, which began in 1891 and was continued by British Railways after nationalisation in 1948. In 1957 the Talyllyn became the first of various independent railways to issue railway letter stamps. The rates charged by BR and the independent lines are fully documented. British Rail discontinued the service on a regular basis

discovery was made – a 2s on 1s. 3d. Provisional issued by the Revenglass & Eskdale Railway in 1970; this is as yet unvalued. Details are also included of special railway cancels, used mostly on first day covers of new letter stamps, and of Post Office one-day handstamps and slogans sponsored by the railways. Neill Oakley updates this catalogue in *Railway Philately*, the quarterly journal of the Railway Philatelic Group. (Most new railway letter stamps are also announced in this *Bulletin*.) 72 pages, card covers. Price £7, postage 50p UK, from: Railway Philatelic Group, 16 Caves Lane, BEDFORD MK40 3DR. ISBN: 0901667 21 8.

Nance Fyson's **A History of Britain's Post** is a beautifully illustrated book aimed at young people with an interest in stamp collecting and the postal service. The story is familiar enough to postal historians but is well worth telling for a new audience. The origins of the post in the Royal messenger services is retold, the formal establishment of the Post Office by Cromwell in 1657 and confirmation by Charles II in 1660. In the 17th century London was very much the centre of Britain's post system. Letters came to London to be sent out again along six post-roads. Postage was charged for the whole distance. Even a letter between two northern towns like York and Manchester went through London. It seems strange now but there was no house-numbering so letters were often lengthily addressed as in the example: "To Mr Peter le Neve at his house in east Hardon Street at the end of Gunpowder Alley from Shoe Lane over against the Door in the middle of the Dead Wall". Post Offices as we know them simply didn't exist. Main post offices were the private homes of postmasters. The keepers of taverns and coffee shops helped to send and receive post. Coffee houses were especially important for overseas mail, because merchants and sea captains met there to do business, and sailing dates were listed. The introduction of mail coaches from 1784 improved the mail service but the advance of the Industrial Revolution required a complete overhaul of the post. This came about from the 1830s onwards, a major innovation being the prepayment of postage using an adhesive stamp. Amongst the many fine illustrations is one of a letter of 1840 sent to Italy bearing nine 2d blue and one 1d black stamps and used Mulready envelopes. Posting boxes were introduced from the 1850s – three historic Victorian boxes are shown. As the volume of mail increased so postal transport became more important – parcel post



in 1984. The catalogue lists all stamps, giving details of designer, printer, sheet size, number produced, etc. Some of the stamps have been issued in small quantities and now command high prices (for "cinderella" material). The first Talyllyn issue (12 stamps) is valued at £500; the first Ravenglass & Eskdale stamp (1969) at £20 and a scarce Festiniog 1p provisional of 1973 at £40. Many railway letter stamps are of pleasing design and were produced by top security printers such as Walsall, Questa and the Dolco Printing & Banknote Co of Ottawa, Canada. Just as the book was going to press a new

coaches, the famous "hen and chickens" and a 1920s bicycle are featured as are delightful postcards from the First World War period. The development of air mail services is given due prominence and the introduction of mechanised mail sorting from 1950s is recorded. We are told of the staggering amount of mail now handled – enough in five days to stretch around the Equator! This informative book concludes with a useful Glossary and Information page listing places to visit, films and videos, books and sources in information for schools and students. This is a good book for school libraries and as a present for any youngster with an interest in stamps. 44 pages, hardback. Price £9.95. Available from book shops or Young Library Limited, 3 The Old Brushworks, 56 Pickwick Road, CORSHAM, Wilts, SN13 9BX. ISBN 0-946003-99-8.

Beginning Stamp Collecting, by John Holman is the first publication by Complete Collections Limited. The book is available on its own or as part of stamp starter kits. The introduction sets out the pleasure of stamp collecting and suggests thematic collecting as a good start for young collectors. There is a short section on the early stamps before a more detailed appraisal of different kinds of stamps – definitives, special issues, greetings stamps, air mail, non-value indicator stamps, etc. The mechanics of getting started in the hobby is explained, with guidelines on how to expand your collection as you advance beyond the stamp packet stage. Most new collectors obtain stamps used on pieces of envelope. Advice is given on successfully soaking off stamps (rather than risking damage by tearing from the envelope), putting the stamps in country and set order and then finally arranging them in a presentable way in the album. The importance of early recognition of the significance of covers and post marks is explained and there is a well-illustrated glossary of stamps terms. A listing is provided of today's stamp issuing countries with date of first stamps and capital, or main town. The book concludes with concise but useful information on Stamp Clubs, Exhibitions and Fairs, and addresses of organisations which provide literature and advice for those encouraging young collectors – Royal Mail's Youth Philately section, Stamp Active and the British Philatelic Trust. 24 pages, well illustrated. Published by Complete Collections Ltd, 8 Teasel Way, West Moors, FERNDOWN, Dorset BH22 0PQ. Available from: Vera Trinder Ltd, 38 Bedford Street,

LONDON WC2E 9EU and G Barrington-Smith, Cross Street, Oadley, LEICESTER LE2 4DD. Price £1.95. ISBN 0-9521278-0-6.

A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles by Alan W Robertson, RDP was first published by the author in instalments between 1955 and 1964 in an edition of 600. A 100 copy reprint was made in 1974 by Harry Hayes. Copies have recently realised £300 at auctions. Because of the way in which the pages were distributed to subscribers over 10 years, many copies are very deficient, and the eccentric page numbering system used to identify amended and added pages makes it difficult to be sure a copy is in fact complete. This edition – over 1100 pages – is one of the largest philatelic works ever published. The reader will find a wealth of information on British Maritime Postal History not readily accessible elsewhere; nearly every page is illustrated: maps, post office notices and documents, portraits, handstamps and covers. Reduction of text and illustrations to 80% of their original size, makes this edition of manageable proportions and available at a realistic price. Bill Hagan, Contributing Editor of *Philatelic Literature Review* has provided an erudite Foreword and has also compiled a listing of Additional Works by Alan Robertson (1910–78). 448 and 688 pages two hardbound volumes in slip-case (24 × 17½cm), price £125 or US\$195 post-paid. Available from James Bendon Ltd, PO Box 6484, Limassol, Cyprus.

Stanley Newman has written a most interesting account of the **Mailboats to Lundy** – a small island in the Bristol Channel, noted for the local stamps (carriage labels) issued since 1929. The earliest known items of mail from Lundy date from the late 1830s – sent by the Island Agent to the owner who lived at Clevedon; they were postmarked BIDEFORD. Mail for the owner was carried in his yacht, letters for the lighthouse staff by the Trinity House tender. In 1886 the PO contracted the Paddle Steamer *Queen of the Bay* to sail from Cardiff every Wednesday for Lundy to deliver and collect mailbags. This was short-lived; from 1888 mail went by the *Gannet* to Instow. Each of the vessels used, including the current *Oldenburg*, are described and illustrated. Some of the vessels have featured on the local stamps and mail can be found with ship's cachets. A well-produced, informative and, in places, amusing work. 40 pages, card covers. Price £5.50 post paid. Available from: Channel Islands & Lundy Auctions, 93 Montpelier Road, BRIGHTON BN1 3BE.

August Digest

Issued in August

10 August: Beatrix Potter prestige stamp book, price £5.64.

Contents: 4 panes as follows:

1. 4 × 1st Class Greetings stamps featuring Peter and Mrs Rabbit (as in "Gift Giving" Greetings book, issued 2 February 1993).

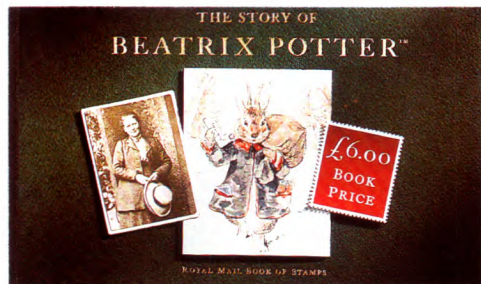
2. 3 × 18p (band left) and 3 × 24p (2 bands) Country definitives, one each for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, printed as horizontal set-tenant pairs of each country, 24p at left.

3. 3 × 2nd class (band left) and 3 × 1st class (2 books) NVI definitives, printed as horizontal set-tenant pairs, 1st class at left.

4. 2 × 2nd class NVI (band left), 2 × 18p definitive (band left), 2 × 33p definitive (2 bands), 2 × 39p definitive (2 bands) and 1 central label.

Printing: The House of Questa (except pane 1 – Harrison & Sons Ltd).

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Keswick.



17 August: 35p definitive printed by Enschedé. Sheets of 200, elliptical perfs, 2 phosphor bands. Available initially from Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters.

17 August: Stamp books with revised text on inside covers:

Greetings (Gift Giving)

10 × 1st Harrison

10 × 1st Walsall

10 × 2nd Questa

4 × 1st Walsall

4 × 2nd Harrison

Note: All stamps have elliptical perfs. This will be the first issue of 2nd class Harrison with such perfs. Available initially from philatelic outlets.

Withdrawn in August

No items are being withdrawn this month.

Events

Until Oct 93. "Forces Sweethearts" exhibition at Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1. Sponsored by Royal Mail International. Enquiries: Exhibitions Officer, Imperial War Museum, 071-416 5323.

Until Dec 93. George V Silver Jubilee, Jersey Pictorials, and Aerogramme Golden Jubilee displays at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 9.30-16.30, admission free.

14-15 Aug 93. Bristol & District Federation of Philatelic Societies Annual Convention at Somerset Hall, Portishead. Open 10.00-18.00. Dealers, displays, junior attractions, etc. Enquiries: John Tovey, 36 Northville Road, BRISTOL BS7 0RG.

8-11 Sep 93. BIPEX (British International Postcard Exhibition) at Kensington Town Hall, London W8.

17-19 Sep 93. 75th Philatelic Congress of G B at Barnton Thistle Hotel, Queensferry Road, Edinburgh. Enquiries: T Rielly, 18 Belgrave Road, EDINBURGH EH12 6NE

18 Sep 93. Preston & District PS Annual Fair at Canterbury Hall, Garstang Road, Preston. About 20 dealers present. Enquiries: P Gaywood, 7 Church Street, Kirkham, PRESTON PR4 2SE; Tel. 0772 684302.

2 Oct 93. Torquay Phil Soc Stamp Exhibition at Oldway Mansion, Paignton, Devon, 10.30-16.30. Dealers, auction, car parking, refreshments. Enquiries: R Hulland, Royal Tor, Redcliffe House, Petitor Road, St Marychurch, TORQUAY TQ1 4QE

12-17 Oct 93. Autumn Stampex (BPE) at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Westminster, London SW1. Open 12 Oct 12.00-19.00. 13-16 Oct 10.30-19.00, 17 Oct 10.30-18.00. Enquiries: Stampex Ltd, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT; Tel. 071-490 1005

28-31 Oct 93. Stampa 93, Irish national stamp exhibition, Dublin.

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DR JEAN ALEXANDER

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Notes

- (c) = Correction
- (I) = Letter to the Editor (Postbag)
- Supp = Supplement, (un) = unnumbered page
- Author's name in parentheses

