

Philatelic Bulletin

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Editorial

Our forecast in the January Bulletin that we had not heard the last of the subject recently raised in our 'Letters' feature concerning the reason for the issue of our special stamps has been fully realised! Not only have we been busy in replying to particular queries but have also been engaged in the ancillary questions which readers have posed. We print this month a cross section of letters with one or two editorial asides. This type of full and frank discussion is the essence of the

stimulus for which our correspondence columns provide the outlet.

Your letters are always welcome.

The Twelve Days at King's Lynn

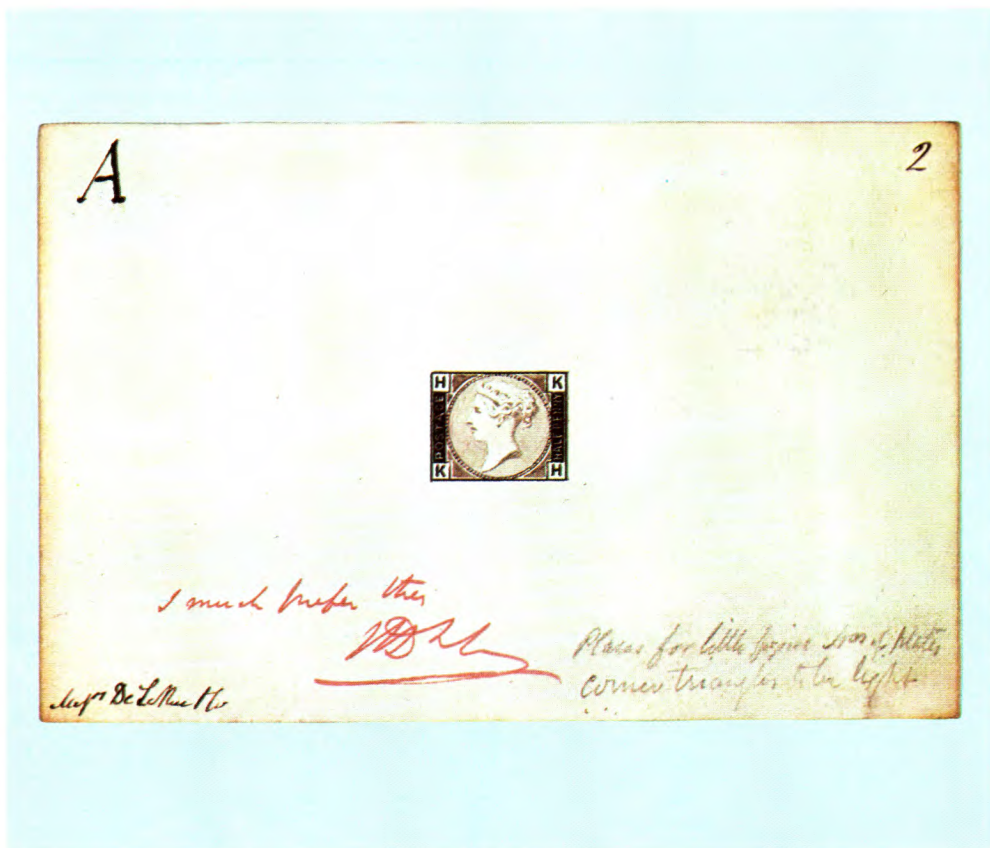


Following his earlier success with the British Wildlife stamps when he arranged for specimens of the various (stuffed!) animals to be displayed in his public office, the Head Postmaster of King's Lynn arranged for the Christmas stamp theme to be celebrated in an unusual way.

With the willing help of the Norfolk College of Art and Technology, a mobile was constructed which featured the subjects on the stamps. It was hung in the office and revolved under air pressure and was illuminated. The 'Twelve Days of Christmas' and other carols were played for customers who appreciated this novel approach.

The mobile has since been donated to the Ear, Nose and Throat ward of the West Norfolk District Hospital, King's Lynn.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection LIII Designs for the 1870 Halfpenny



Illustrated as this month's gem is one of the 12 designs prepared by Messrs Thomas De La Rue for the 1870 Halfpenny stamp (the issued design was, of course, prepared by Perkins Bacon).

Four of the designs were submitted to Ormond Hill, at the Stamping Office at Somerset House, on 2 May 1870, including the one illustrated. They were prepared in response to a memorandum dated 21 April from Hill which specified, *inter alia*, that the new dimensions of the Halfpenny 'should be from side to side the same as the present postage label (and) from top to bottom two-thirds the size of the present [1d] stamp'. 'The stamps in the sheet to be

distinguished by corner letters as at present and the current number of the plate to appear upon each stamp.' Another of the designs submitted on 2 May was used to illustrate an article on the centenary of the Halfpenny [see *Philatelic Bulletin*, Vol 7 No 11, July 1970] but the 'A' design illustrated was endorsed by Warren De La Rue, 'I much prefer this'. The other two designs of 2 May are also in the Reginald M Phillips collection.

Messrs De La Rue prepared in 1870 a further eight designs in red and these have been recently acquired for the National Postal Museum.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

British Special Stamps

39. 20th Anniversary of the United Nations and International Co-operation Year 1965

The United Nations Organization formally came into existence on 24 October 1945, following the signing of the UN Charter by the delegates of 50 member countries at San Francisco in the

the global map, and an orange flaw appearing as a 'lake' in Russia, both ordinary and phosphor versions, and, peculiar to the phosphor stamp, the 'flying saucer' flaw, a stroke placed



previous June. Britain's 3d and 1s 6d stamps for UN's 20th anniversary were issued on 25 October 1965, and these were the first accepted stamp designs by Jeffery Matthews, who was also responsible for the Royal Silver Wedding stamps of 1972.

The 3d stamp showed the UN global emblem superimposed on the figures '20', and was coloured black, yellow-orange and light blue. The 1s 6d stamp, in a matching horizontal format, featured the 'clasped hands' emblem of International Co-operation Year with the letters 'UN' in the background, in black, bright purple and light blue. These were routine rectangular designs with the Wilding portrait of the Queen panelled on the right, the event and the figures of value neatly slotted at the foot, but Mr Matthews introduced what he called a 'free' border to the colour overlays. All sides of the designs were irregular, either concave or curving in to the subject, or having a wavy edge.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (6 × 20) on ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark multiple crowns, known inverted on the ordinary 1s 6d stamp. Several varieties are recorded for the 3d — a broken circle in the south-east segment of

diagonally across a large smudge above the 'S' of 'Anniversary'. The latter also exists in a retouched state with the smudge removed, but the stroke remaining.

Quantities issued (phosphor in brackets) were:
3d 50,598,720 (4,488,240); 1s 6d 5,476,800 (1,018,560).

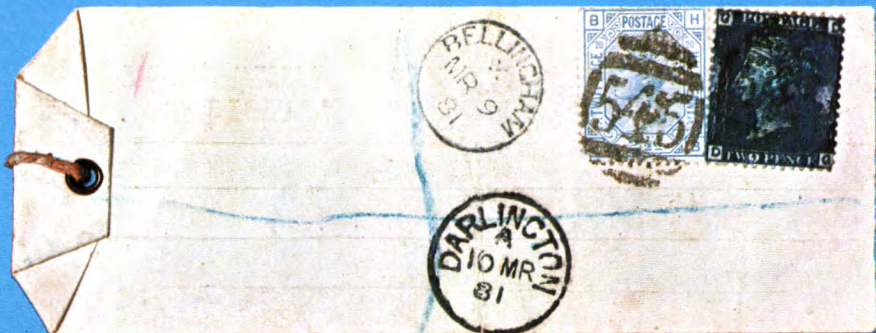
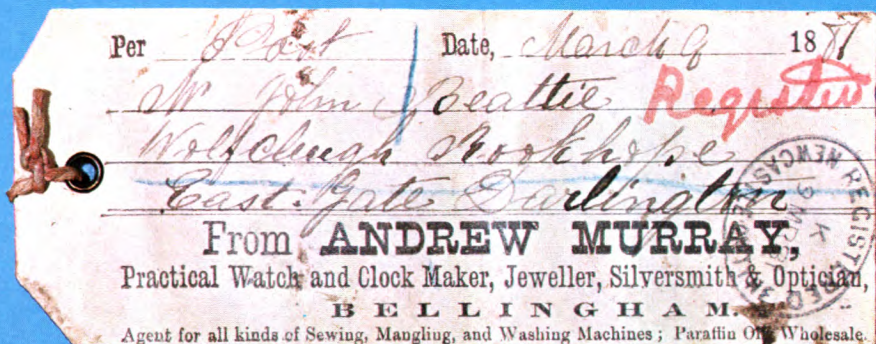
JAMES WATSON

Philatelic Weekend

Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society are arranging a further Philatelic Weekend at Wansfell College of Residential Adult Education, situated on the border of Epping Forest, from Friday evening, 7 April 1978 to Sunday afternoon, 9 April 1978. The weekend course covers a number of aspects of philately that have not been covered by any of the previous courses.

The all in charge for the weekend will be £15 (£14 for non residents). Applications, with the full fee made payable to the County Council of Essex, should be sent to: The Principal, Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex, CM16 7LF. Early application is recommended as the accommodation for the course is limited.

Victorian Business Stationery



In writing to you may I say how much pleasure the Philatelic Bulletin has given me since I first became a subscriber in 1970. The articles are very good and I always find them most interesting, particularly those appertaining to the Victorian era, for instance, the items on Victorian Business Stationery in the June and September 1977 issues.

I wondered if you were perhaps looking for further examples of these and in this connection, enclose an 1881 business label with stamps on the reverse for your consideration of publication in the Bulletin. Probably not so interesting as the two examples already published, but I was amused by the range of services offered by Mr Andrew Murray — from being a watch and clock maker to an optician and dispenser of paraffin oil. Bellingham was, and still is, a very small

town, so most probably Mr Murray was the local jack-of-all-trades.

Incidentally Mr John Beattie, the addressee, was my grandfather, just a young man at the time and the label came to light after many years in the secret drawer of an old trunk whilst I was clearing out a house after a family bereavement.

Perhaps you will find the label sufficiently interesting to reproduce within the pages of the Philatelic Bulletin, I hope so anyway?

Yours sincerely

Glasgow

Fenwick Mills

Editor's Note

Although we announced our final example of Victorian business stationery in November, we have decided, in view of the obvious jocularly attached to the label sent to us by Mr Fenwick Mills to reproduce it here.

Stamps for Pleasure

13. Fauna and Flora

The reproduction of well-known and attractively coloured flowers on stamps has an instant appeal for thematic collectors, and there is a small but select range of British special issues to establish the basic theme. Wild life — animals and birds — was 'thin on the ground' until the splendid issue of animals of the woodlands, hedgerows and meadows made a welcome appearance in October 1977. If we include symbolic birds and beasts, also the mythical creatures employed in heraldry, then the animal kingdom on stamps acquires a greater significance.

The first King George V stamps, designed by (Sir) Bertram Mackennal, ARA, and issued on Coronation Day, 22 June 1911, depicted a pair of plump 'Walt Disney' dolphins (representing 'sea-power') on the ½d, and a 'Trafalgar Square' lion couchant on the 1d. The stamps, particularly the scraggy 'British Lion', were not well received and attempts to improve the designs, notably the 'shaded lion', were apparent when redrawn stamps were issued in 1912. You may like to include the magnificent 'sea-horses' hauling Britannia's chariot over the waves on the KGV high values — just one example would suffice — and a sturdy 'Wembley' lion from the British Empire Exhibition series of 1924/25.

St George rides a handsome steed in his encounter with the unfortunate dragon on the Postal Union Congress £1 of 1929 — a rare stamp these days: there's a less expensive version on the King George VI 10s stamp of 1951, while the crowned lion and the fabulous unicorn are shown as supporters of the royal arms on the KGV 2s 6d and 5s stamps of 1939-48, and the £1 issue of 1951.

Fauna 'proper' — and I now include Gibbons' catalogue numbers — begins with the National Nature Week 4½d of 1963 (638), a charming woodland scene with the badger, *Meles meles*, in the foreground and, elsewhere in the picture, a reclining fawn, a harvest mouse, two birds — great spotted woodpecker and wood lark — and a brimstone butterfly.

The set of 'British Birds' (696/9) issued in 1966 was the first on this theme and, regrettably, the only one. It should have been a continuing

series to include some of the numerous other birds which are so familiar to us — sparrow, thrush, finches and warblers, magpie, jay and perhaps one of the Berkeley Square nightingales — to mention only a few. John Norris Wood's designs showed four indigenous birds: the robin (rarin' for a fight), blackbird (in characteristic perky pose), black-headed gull and blue tit (lunching on a caterpillar). The scientific names are, in the same order, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Turdus merula*, *Larus ridibundus* and *Parus caeruleus*. The stamps were issued together *se-tenant* in blocks of four.

The horse is a noble animal and will be recognised as such this coming July when the centenary of the Shire Horse Society will be celebrated with a set of stamps featuring the shire and other famous horse breeds.

Perhaps one day we will also have stamps for the Derby or the Grand National. Until then you may consider including the mounted postboy of 1660 (619), the battle scenes at Hastings (705/12), George Stubbs' delightful 'Mares and Foals in a Landscape' (749), the Roman centurion of York (888), the 'Medieval Warriors' on their 'gaily caparisoned chargers' (958/61) and Caxton's woodcut of the Squire from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1014).

A 'must' for your 'Fauna and Flora' collection is the 'Wild Life' set mentioned in my opening paragraph — superb pictures of the hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), hare (*Lepus capensis*), red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), otter (*Lutra lutra*) and badger (*Meles meles*) (1039/43). The stamps were designed by Patrick Oxenham, one of our best-known wild life artists, and were issued together *se-tenant* in strips of five.

We begin 'Flora' on a nation-wide scale — the national emblems, rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock as depicted on the 4d Coronation stamp of 1953 (533). These also appeared on the KGV and QEII (Wilding) definitives, and on some of the 'regional' or separate country issues. The thrift or 'thriving' plant, a sea-pink (*Armeria*) of the Plumbaginaceae, was depicted on two stamps of the Post Office Savings Bank issue of 1961 (823, 825), and a posy of cut flowers —

buttercups, daisies and a busy bee — on the 3d stamp of the National Nature Week issue of 1963 (637). A British Legion poppy and a red rose for our international team of the Rugby Football Union were shown on the 3p and 9p stamps in the 'Anniversaries' set of 1971 (887, 889).

The Reverend W Keble Martin's designs for the *se-tenant* block of four 4d stamps in the excellent 'British Wild Flowers' series of 1967 were adapted from drawings in his own book — *The Concise British Flora in Colour*, and included the hawthorn and bramble, larger bindweed and viper's bugloss, ox-eye daisy, coltsfoot and buttercup, bluebell, red campion and wood anemone. Mary Grierson, the official artist at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, completed the series with her sketches of dog violets and primroses on the 9d and 1s 9d (717/22).

For the centenary of the Royal National Rose

Society, the Post Office issued four attractive rose stamps in June 1976. They were designed by Kristin Rosenberg, a specialist in wild flower miniatures, and showed well-known varieties of the 'English rose' — 8½p 'Elizabeth of Glamis', named after the Queen Mother, the Society's patron; 10p 'Grandpa Dickson', a pale yellow hybrid tea; 11p 'Rosa Mundi', a shrub rose; and 13p the ubiquitous 'Sweet Briar' of the hedgerows (1006/9).

Lastly, if you include trees, there are two in a series which has seemingly petered out — 'British Trees'. The first was the oak, a 9p stamp (922) issued in 1973, the second was the horse chestnut (10p 949), perhaps better known as the 'conker tree', issued in 1974. There are some decorative trunks in the Hassocks landscape (689), and a whole forest of trees in the Beddgelert Park, Snowdonia (653). JAMES WATSON

New Stamp Advisory Committee

The fourteen members of the Stamp Advisory Committee appointed to serve until 1980 were recently announced. They are:—

Mr Nigel Walmsley (Chairman)
Mr Brian Sproat (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Peter Shrives FSIAD
Sir Brian Batsford
Mr Michael Beale
Mr Kenneth Chapman
Mr Patrick Carmack
Mr R A G Lee
Sir Anthony Lousada

Mr Richard Negus FSIAD FSTD
Mr Eric Ogden
Mrs Gabrielle Pike OBE JP
Sir Paul Reilly MA

Dr Herbert Spencer RDI

Director of Postal Marketing
Head of Counter and Stamp Marketing Division
Design Adviser — Postal Business
Vice President Royal Society of Arts
Department of Industry
Editor 'Philatelic Magazine'
MP
Past President Royal Philatelic Society
Hon Dr RCA Chairman of the Council —
Royal College of Arts
President of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers
MP
Chairman 'Womens' Forum'
Hon Des RCA Hon FRIBA Hon FSIAD Former Director
Design Council
Senior Research Fellow and Head of Graphic Information
Royal College of Art

British Architecture

Historic Buildings Stamp Issue 1 March 1978

Royal palaces and castles are the subjects of the British Architecture — Historic Buildings Stamp issue. A miniature sheet featuring the same stamps will be available, simultaneously. The values of the stamps are: 9p; 10½p; 11p; and 13p and illustrate: The Tower of London; Holyrood House; Caernarfon Castle and Hampton Court Palace. The cost of the miniature sheet is 53½p, and, although it is being sold in 1978, is linked with the 1980 International Philatelic Exhibition and bears the 'logo' of the Exhibition as part of the marginal inscription.

Printing Details:

Designer: Ronald Maddox RI FSIAD SGA FSAI

Process: Photogravure. *Format:* Horizontal.

Paper: Unwatermarked, coated.

Phosphor: All over. *Adhesive:* PVA Dextrin.

Sheet size: 100. *Stamp size:* 41 × 30 mm.

Perforation: 15 × 14.

Colours and values:

9p: black, green, red, brown, blue, stone.

10½p: black, green, mauve, stone, orange.

11p: black, green, mauve, blue, stone.

13p: black, green, brick-red, stone, orange.

The miniature sheets are printed on machine sheets comprising nine miniature sheets in 3 by 3 format.

A presentation pack, price 53½p, containing the four stamps, and first day cover, were designed by Ronald Maddox.

The miniature sheet and first day cover were designed by Jeffery Matthews MSIA.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available by mid-February from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters, and selected main post offices, price 7p each.



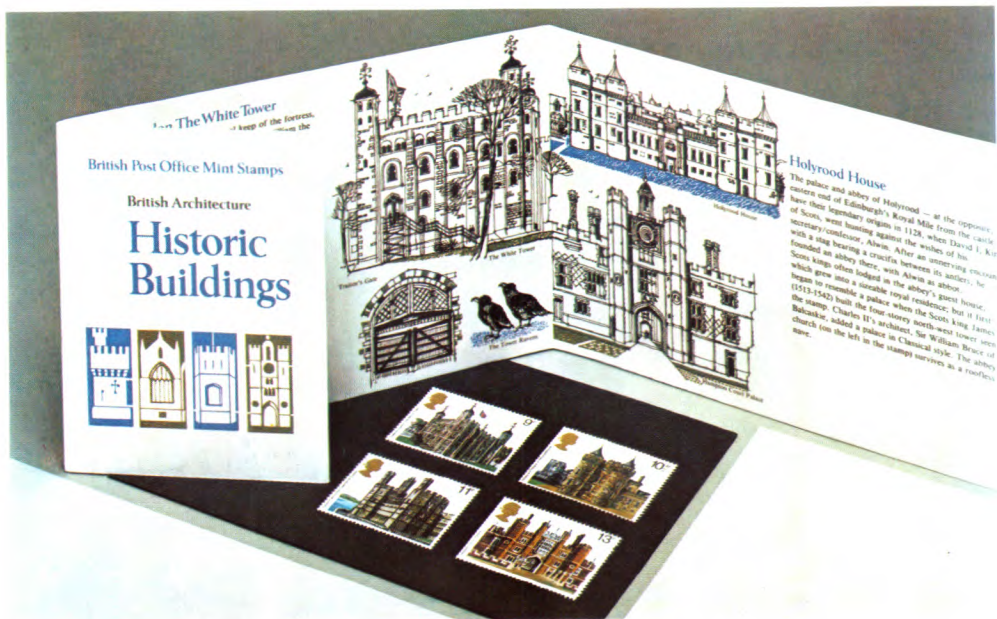


British Architecture
Historic Buildings



Post Office First Day Cover





London 1980

The London International Stamp Exhibition planned for 1980 and to be called 'LONDON 1980' will be held at Earls Court from 2-10 May that year.

Active preparation is under way to make this the largest and best Stamp Exhibition ever staged in the United Kingdom with over 4,000 frames of stamps including many superb invited displays, and over 200 trade stands including a large number of overseas post offices. A brochure giving more information about the exhibition will be available in the New Year and details of this and the address to which all enquiries should be sent will be announced soon.

Forces Covers

RAF cover HA20 commemorates the 40th anniversary of the first flight of the production Hurricane, and depicts Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader, the Battle of Britain Ace who commanded 242 Squadron equipped with Hurricanes. The cover, bearing an 8p definitive postage stamp, has been cancelled with a special handstamp, BFPS 1593, and is available from: Sgt A Newton, RAF Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Salop, SY4 4DZ, at 40p plus 7p postage.

RAF cover HA21 commemorates the 60th anniversary of RAF Hendon and depicts Major Edward Mannock, VC. The cover, bearing an 8p Northern Ireland definitive stamp, and cancelled with a special commemorative handstamp BFPS 1594, shows the Caudron C111 flown by Mannock when at Hendon in 1916, and is available from Flight Lieutenant A Wilkinson, RAF Hendon, London NW9 5LL, at 35p plus 7p postage.

RAF cover C52, bearing a 7p Christmas

stamp, commemorates the last voyage of high speed launch RTTL 2757 which took part in the Battle of Britain. The cover has been cancelled with special commemorative handstamp BFPS 1542 and is now available from Flight Sgt O Constantine, Defence NBC Centre, Winterbourne Gunner, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 0ES, at 40p plus 7p postage.

All proceeds of these covers will be devoted to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

Book Reviews

TPO A History of the Travelling Post Office of Great Britain — Part 3 — Scotland and Ireland

This volume, covering Scotland and Ireland, completes the series on the History of the Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain, by H S Wilson and published by the Railway Philatelic Group. Among the features of this publication are 15 half-tone reproductions of TPOs and 400 black and white illustrations in addition to the excellent and informative text. It is obtainable from the Publication Officer (RPG), Mr A J Lowe, 'Stable Becks', Grasmere, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9PX, price £3.75p.

Part 1 is out of print but is available as a revised second edition; Part 2 is still available, and both are priced at £3.25 per copy from Mr A J Lowe.

Collect British Stamps.

Twenty-first Edition

This new edition of the useful CBS checklist and guide includes new GB issues up to the 'Wildlife' issue of 5 October. It contains complete and detailed listings of all stamps issued since 1840, and incorporates the latest prices at the time of going to press. The tabulated lists of the 'Wilding' and 'Machin' Elizabethan definitives will be of particular interest to the growing band of specialists in these stamps, while the sudden interest in the Post Office presentation packs — and the consequent scarcity of the earlier items — are reflected in the latest prices.

Since 1973 the Post Office has produced a

regular series of picture postcards showing the designs of the GB special issues, and these are now listed in CBS for the first time. The cards make excellent display material and, although not priced, the numbers printed are given.

'Collect British Stamps' is published by Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, price 90p.

New Stamp Book Covers

Our illustration shows the the four new stamp books, values 10p: 50p: 70p: 90p, which became available from 8 February 1978.



One Minute to Six at the General Post Office 1860



This busy scene in the portico of the old General Post Office in St Martin's-le-Grand, by the Victorian painter George Elgar Hicks, shows the last, mad rush to catch the Post a few minutes before the clock struck six and the huge Post Office windows were slammed shut to all further letters and newspapers for the Night Mails.

One of the sights of London, it was such a strange, exhilarating scene that as many as a

hundred people gathered here every night — just to witness it and to share in the excitement. But for the confused and anxious there was always a kindly Letter Carrier, in a smart top hat and scarlet coat, ready to offer a helping hand. And every night, too, a police constable stood on duty here — to try to keep order in the last few moments as the Post Office clock measured out the hour of six.

1978 Philatelic Weekend at Beamish Hall

It is very much regretted that the Philatelic Week-end due to be held at Beamish Hall during May 1978, and mentioned in the July 1977 Bulletin, has been postponed until 11-13 May 1979. The college will now be closed from April to August 1978 for extensive alterations. Further details can be obtained from:—

Mrs D M Martin
46 Briardene Crescent
Kenton Park
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
NE3 4RY

1978 Melville Junior Stamp Competition

The next Melville Junior Stamp Competition will be held in March 1978, and now is the time to start preparing your exhibit. The winning entries will be on show at the National Postal Museum in London during the Easter Holidays and then at the 1978 Festival of Stamps and during Congress in Worthing. As in previous years the entries will be divided into four age groups as follows:—

- A. For those aged 18 years and under 21 years.
- B. For those aged 16 years and under 18 years.
- C. For those aged 13 years and under 16 years.
- D. For those aged under 13 years.

Ages to be reckoned as on 1 January of the year of the Competition.

A Cup will be awarded to the best entry in each Class (to be retained for one year) as well as silver, bronze/silver and bronze medals to all entrants who achieve a sufficiently high standard. In addition, the Cartwright Medal will be awarded to the entry in Class C or D which shows the most promise, and the National Westminster Bank Prize to the most promising entry in Class A.

Interested juniors should write (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope) for the rules and entry forms to: Mrs F Rapkin, Eaglewood,

Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Middx HA5 4AL, who can also put intending entrants in touch with their nearest philatelic societies. Completed entry forms and exhibits should be sent or given to the secretary of a Society, Federation or Association affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation, so that it can be sent to Mrs Rapkin at the above address, to arrive no later than Saturday 4 March 1978.

Letters to the Editor

Sir,
Mr Finlay in his article 'Great Britain's Stamp-Issuing Policy' (November, page 6) states the criteria applicable to present-day issues. He refers en passant to the change in stamp-issuing policy but does not make clear either how the present day policy developed or when it was evolved.

The evolution of that policy — which doubtless was not precisely formulated until the appearance of the first adhesive commemorative postage stamps issued by Great Britain in 1924 — is not without interest, and the emergence of the increasing stream of commemoratives can, perhaps, be better understood by reference to that evolution.

As my late brother, Maurice, and I described in our book (Arco Publications, 1967), in which the development of the stamp-issuing policy was traced, the first British postal commemoratives were the envelope and cards marking the 50th anniversary of Uniform Penny Postage, put on sale by the General Post Office in connection with the celebrations at the Guildhall and the South Kensington Museum in 1890. So restricted was the policy in those days that a commemorative adhesive postage stamp was unthinkable, as it had been unthinkable some 39 years earlier for the Great Exhibition of 1851. In 1924 the Post Office pounded the big drum of publicity with two feathers — the Wembley Exhibition domestic rates issue of that year and 1925 — to be followed by the Postal Union Congress stamps of 1929 and the Silver Jubilee

issue of 1935; and the commemoratives to that date exemplified the events on which the evolving stamp-issuing policy was based, 'issues marking important events of national, international or of Post Office significance'.

The policy was reviewed in 1956 and was found to be basically sound, needing modification only to the extent that, deliberately, subjects should be looked for so as to ensure that at least one commemorative series a year was issued. A slight but not insignificant modification was made in the criteria. They were redefined as 'current events of outstanding national or international importance, and historic dates of Royal or postal significance'.

In 1961 the policy was again reviewed. It was liberalised, but only to the extent that two issues a year, instead of one, should be the aim. Not even the Shakespeare issue of 1964 could break through the rigid confines of that policy: the stamps were officially stated to have been issued to mark the Shakespeare Festival with its extensive programme constituting an event of outstanding national importance — not, certainly not, an issue commemorating the man or the fourth centenary of his birth.

It was under the Postmaster-Generalship of Mr Wedgwood Benn in 1964 that the stream of commemoratives became, comparatively, a torrent. He expressed the feeling that the criteria had been too restricted in the past, and the announcement of the modern criteria (as set out in Mr Finlay's article) was made on 15 December 1964. Within a year no fewer than nine commemorative issues appeared, and the revised criteria opened the way for issues that would not fall squarely within the definition of a commemorative postage stamp as being 'a stamp linked with a date, having been issued to mark the occurrence of an event or an anniversary, in bearing facial indication of that reason for issue, and in being on temporary sale'.

You, Sir, take to task your correspondent Mr R D Wadsworth (November, page 14) for suggesting that the issue of such stamps is not inspired almost entirely to raise money from philatelists, and you state with emphasis that

'our policy is NOT inspired to raise money from philatelists'. Perhaps, Sir, policies like motives are more often than not mixed and have a background element which might be described as expedient, for it is on record that on 3 November 1966 the then Postmaster-General, Mr Edward Short, when opening the British Philatelic Exhibition, revealed that £500,000 worth of special stamps would have been sold to collectors that year, thus 'providing a valuable addition to postal revenue'.

As a propagating philatelist I am in favour of issues which attract the attention of non-collectors and so may bring them within the philatelic ranks. But, Sir, I am not, and you must not expect me to be, so ingenuous as to believe that your policy is in no way influenced by the existence of collectors to buy the stamps which are issued as a result of it. As a philatelist, as a student, as a collector, I am grateful indeed to the Post Office for having over the years increasingly afforded facilities for research and provided information and services to extents only dreamt of by philatelists in pre-war years. Nevertheless, I take leave to doubt whether such numerous issues would have been made had there been no certainty that their sale to collectors would provide a valuable addition to postal revenue.

Yours faithfully

London NW11

L N WILLIAMS

Editor's Note

We are very grateful to Mr Williams for reminding readers of the historical details of the stamp issuing policy.

We have never sought to hide that, in common with any other business enterprise, we welcome the revenue which accrues from the sale of our goods. That does not mean that we deliberately set out to produce stamps exclusively to extract money from collectors. While we hesitate to cross swords with an expert as eminent as Mr Williams it seems only fair to point out that the total sales of our special stamps in 1966 was, in very round figures, £15,000,000. A philatelic revenue (not profit) of £500,000 hardly indicates that the Post Office is obsessed by a desire to issue stamps specifically for the philatelic market.

Sir

Please allow me to continue Mr Wadsworth's letter, in Bulletin 3 of November 1977, about current policy on commemorative postage stamps, by asking how far, if at all, HM the Queen is concerned in approving both the subject and design of these stamps, other than the representation of her head on them.

I am etc,

Rye, Sussex

Juxon Barton

Editor's Note

Her Majesty has no part in the selection of subjects. The designs suggested by the Stamp Advisory Committee are submitted by the Post Office to the Queen for approval.

Sir

I would like to make a few comments in response to the letter from Mr K D Wadsworth published in the Philatelic Bulletin for November 1977.

I cannot feel that Mr Wadsworth has any justification for comparing Britain with the so called 'postage stamps' republics. The British stamp issuing policy is, and I believe rightly so, conservative and well balanced.

However I, like Mr Wadsworth, would like to know why so few commemorative stamps appear on mail. Perhaps the move to issues, like the recent Wildlife or the forthcoming Christmas, in which most of the stamps are of the internal postal rate, will increase the number of stamps actually used on letters.

Finally I wish to endorse Mr Wadsworth's call for a pictorial definitive issue. I have no grudge against the Machin design but it is time for a change and to take the opportunity of promoting Britain, through views etc, throughout the world.

Yours faithfully

Maidstone, Kent

Robin Mellor

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be

forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the Town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

3 January-28 October 1978

'Oldham for Industrial Development 061-678-4000'. To be used at Oldham. 1st and 2nd class.

'Ring 061-678-4000 THE Industrial Number'. To be used at Oldham. 1st and 2nd class.

9 January-4 February 1978

'Operation Gatepost Help Emergency and Public Services Put A Number On Your Gate'. To be used at Derby. 1st and 2nd class.

23 January-1 April 1978

'1978 Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition Olympia March 7-April 1'. To be used at the following Offices:

EDO (E17), Paddington DO, SWDO, NDO, ECDO, Mount Pleasant, NWDO.

28 November UFN

'Norwich Is A Mechanised Letter Office Please Use Postcodes'. To be used at Norwich.

1 December 1977-31 March 1978 (P)

'Great Yarmouth Wish You Were Here'. To be used at Great Yarmouth. 1st class machine to be used for full period.

5 December 1977-3 June 1978 (P)

'Skegness Hoteliers Association Skegness Passport To Pleasure'. To be used at Skegness. 2nd class.

23 December 1977-28 April 1978 (P)

'The Fermoy Centre the Best in Music Drama Films and Art'. To be used at King's Lynn. 2nd class.

Repeat Campaign

27 December 1977-13 April 1978

'Llandudno Wonderland of Wales'. To be reused at Llandudno. 1st and 2nd class.

3 January-30 April 1978 (P)

'Sun, Sea Sand Hastings Is Grand'. To be reused at Hastings. 1st and 2nd class machines.

P denotes Pictorial

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The annual subscription to the Philatelic Bulletin for 12 issues a year is £1.25 including postage by surface mail to anywhere in the world, or air mail to anywhere in Europe. For airmail to countries outside Europe the subscription is £2.15.

Subscriptions should be sent to the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB.