

BRITISH *PHILATELIC*

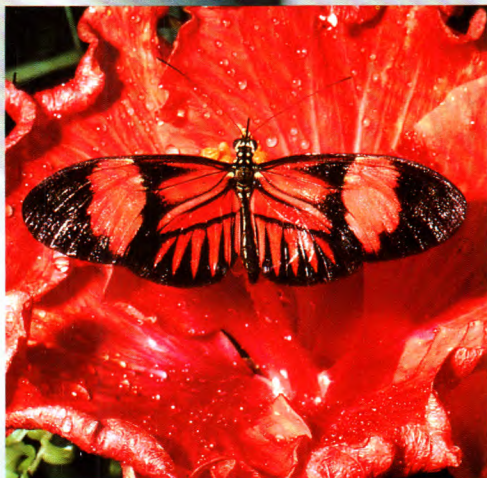
The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 37 Number 7

MARCH 2000 • 85P

Bulletin

The pre-decimal Machins •
Air mail to Europe, 1935-39



Strands from the web of life:
the fourth set in Royal Mail's
Millennium series for 2000

Previewed this month: Life and Earth, on sale 4 April

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The Postman Butterfly, (*Heliconius Melpomene*) from the Web of Life exhibition at London Zoo. The Web of Life features on the 1st class value of Life and Earth, previewed on page 208.

Postman Butterfly, and Lion Tamarins p209, © Zoological Society of London

7 March

Issue Millennium Water and Coast stamps and presentation pack.

14 March

Issue Stamp books: 4 × 1st and 4 × 2nd (Walsall), 10 × 2nd (Questa), 10 × 1st Millennium definitives (Questa and Walsall) with revised telephone number in Postcode details. Available initially from Bureau and philatelic outlets and from post offices and retail outlets as earlier stocks exhausted.

15 March

Withdrawal Walsall 4 × 1st and 10 × 1st and Questa 10 × 2nd stamp books issued 5 May 1998.

21 March

Issue Millennium stamp book: 4 × 1st class Millennium definitives and Postman Pat label. (Unfolded panes available only from Bureau).

28 March

Issue National definitives: 8p, 33p, 40p, 41p, 45p, 65p and presentation pack • Country stamps: N Ireland 1st NVI, 40p, 65p; Scotland 65p, Wales 65p. Also available in presentation packs. Note: N Ireland 1st NVI was included in the prestige stamp book of 15 February; this will be its first issue in sheets • Millennium Life and Earth stamp cards.

3 April

Issue Stamp books: £1 (3 × 1st, 1 × 2nd), £2 (6 × 1st, 2 × 2nd); £1.60 (4 × 40p), and £2.60 (4 × 65p).

4 April

Issue Millennium Life and Earth stamps and presentation pack; Botanical Garden of Wales: commemorative label book and coin cover. Coin cover available only from Bureau and at Stamp Show 2000.

25 April

Issue Millennium Art and Craft stamp cards.

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

New printings: high value stamps De La Rue have been awarded the contract to print the high value stamps instead of Enschedé. New printings of the £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 stamps by DLR will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 11 April and at post offices as stocks of Enschedé-printed stamps are used up. There will be no first day facilities on 11 April.

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The Machin pre-decimal definitives On 5 June 1967, the first Machins appeared. This month, Tony Walker looks at changes introduced prior to decimalisation just under four years later **202**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe, £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address as above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright is attributed to a specific author, any article or feature may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce any copyright articles should be addressed to the Editor, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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This month The Editor previews this issue

SPRING STAMPEx will be held at the Business Design Centre in London, 1-5 March. The theme of the exhibition will be the 150th anniversary of the first Spanish stamps showing Queen Isabella. One of these classic stamps features on the exhibition postmark. Details of the attractions at this important national exhibition were given last month. This time we include further information about the Stamp Show 2000 international exhibition at Earls Court in May. Details of the miniature sheet and other souvenirs produced for this exhibition will be announced in next month's *Bulletin*.

Machin collectors will be pleased to read this month the second part of Douglas Myall's report of his visit to the new printing works of The House of Questa, and the first of two articles, by Tony Walker, on the pre-decimal Machin stamps. Richard Beith writes on the Imperial Airways service of 1935 and there are the usual features including our prize competitions.

Next month we will be announcing the results of our 1999 Stamp Poll. Meanwhile enjoy this month's magazine. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene Stampex • GB societies news • Young collectors • 71st Scottish Congress

Stampex opening hours

1 March	Noon-19.00
2-4 March	10.30-18.00
5 March	10.30-16.00

Admission £3 on the first day and £1 other days. Free tickets for any days are available from the Stampex office, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Telephone 0171 490 1005. A free entry ticket was included in last month's *Bulletin*.

Spring Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1, 1-5 March. The theme of the exhibition will be the 150th anniversary of the first Spanish stamps, and visitors will find themselves surrounded by 'things Spanish', including displays of Spanish stamps by prominent overseas collectors and members of the Spanish Study Circle. The two Courts of Honour show highlights from the superb Afinsa collection of Spain No 1 and the British Library's Tapling collection. The Spanish Tourist Authority will provide information on holidays in Spain, and there will be a chance to taste Spanish wines arranged by the Cultural Department of the Spanish Embassy.

There will be 100 or so dealers' stands offering stamps, postal history, philatelic literature, accessories, etc. Royal Mail will provide a Stamp Show 2000 stand where you can register for free tickets. Mail posted at the exhibition will receive a special Stampex handstamp.

David Harrop will provide one of his very popular displays of artefacts from the Manchester Postal Museum, and at Kids Corner, organised by the National Youth Stamp Group, young collectors will be given a free packet of Spanish stamps.

The Ship Stamp Society, under the auspices of the British Philatelic Trust, will mount a 100 frame 'Ships 2000' exhibition covering Thematics, Traditional Philately, Maritime Periphery: Postal History & Postal Stationery, Maritime Covers, Cinderellas, Maximaphily and Open Class, Adult One Frame, Youth Entries, and Literature. Judging will be carried out according to UK National Regulations •

THE GB JOURNAL

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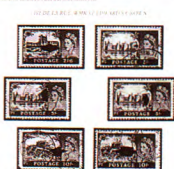
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The Mutation of Postage Stamps for the Pre-payment of Telegrams

See LATERPAGE 187N

The mutation of postage stamps for the pre-payment of telegrams is a subject which has long interested philatelists. The first such stamps were issued in 1870, and since then the subject has been the focus of many studies. This article examines the development of the subject from its origins to the present day, and also considers the impact of the subject on the philatelic market.



THE MUTATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE PRE-PAYMENT OF TELEGRAMS

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See LATERPAGE 187N



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THE MUTATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE PRE-PAYMENT OF TELEGRAMS

GB societies The January/February issue of the GB Philatelic Society's *GB Journal*, edited by Mike Jackson, has a new look together with a bright new front cover design. As always it contains a number of features of interest to specialist collectors: Victoria Government Trial Perforation 14 and Re-use of Line-Engraved Plates; George V 1924 Wembley issues and 1934 photogravure definitives; Elizabeth II stamps used for the pre-payment of telegrams; and airmail etiquettes. There is an appreciation of Alfred J Kirk, a noted GB collector, especially of London postal history, who died in November, and reviews of several new works of value to GB specialists. Accompanying the *Journal* is the Society's illustrated *Newsletter*, now edited by Tony Walker, with details of meetings, auctions, etc.

The latest journal, *Rundbrief* No 118, of the German-based GB society, Forschungsgemeinschaft Grossbritannien, contains several detailed articles of interest to collectors of GB stamps and postal history. These include features on the Edinburgh 'Brunswick Star' and Maltese Cross postmarks; Victorian Board of Trade perfins; Machin self-adhesive stamps and recent stamp book panes; a review of new commemorative issues; 1847 Post Office Mauritius stamps; Sheffield Scouts Christmas post issues of 1981-98; and book reviews ●

National Youth Stamp Group Erere Greve and Anne Dummer have joined the team. Erere, who will liaise with schools on how to start and run a school stamp club, has been involved in setting up 16 junior clubs. Anne takes over from Matthew Clough as press officer; she has run a successful stamp club in Kettering for five years. The NYSG will have its usual stand, Kids Corner, at Spring Stampex where there will be a Childrens' Auction on Saturday. The Group has been allocated a large area at Stamp Show 2000. There will be plenty of activities for the juniors to participate in and earn points; these can be added together to enable them to win free gifts.

The NYSG is a voluntary group and can only carry out its work with the help of sponsors and patrons interested in promoting the hobby to youngsters. Stamps, covers, etc are always welcome – however small or large the donation ●

GB Philatelic Society details

A Lajer, The Old Post Office,
Davis Way, Hurst, Reading
RG10 0TR. UK membership
is £20.

Secretary of this Society is
Bernhard Weiss, Florianweg
57, 47574 Goch, Germany.

Donations Collectors and
dealers able to help should
contact Anne Dummer on
01536 519959.

Available from Publications Service, International Bureau of the UPU, Case Postale, 3000 Berne 15, Switzerland. Price 40 Swiss francs.

Guide for Development of Philately This book has recently been published by the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), an organisation set up by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Federation of Philately (FIP), International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Associations (IFSDA), International Association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP), and the International Association of Editors of Postage Stamp Catalogues, Albums and Philatelic Publications (ASCAT).

The Guide sets out best practices for 'the philatelic industry', encompassing all aspects of the business. It covers: what is a postage stamp; the emergence of philately and its development; structure of the philatelic industry and market; philatelic policies and codes of practice, strategic planning, philatelic programme and issue planning, philatelic products, marketing and promotion, developing new customers, interaction with philatelic agents, roles and functions of key organisations, case studies; and sample communication tools •

GBFDC enquiries Derek Williams, 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY.

GBFDC welcomes young collectors Philately is a great hobby, first day cover collecting is a fascinating branch of it. There are hundreds of different FDCs for every stamp issue, many of them very beautiful with interesting stories to tell. Royal Mail sells excellent ones for little more than the cost of the stamps they bear, and many other people produce them for all sorts of different reasons, and of course all sorts of different prices. The best way of finding out more about FDC collecting is to join GBFDC – the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers. The Association is eager to recruit young members and offers an annual fee of only £5 instead of the £10 paid by older members. For that you receive a magazine every other month packed with articles and illustrations of FDCs. There is a Readers Column in which you are guaranteed your say, and free advice is readily available. GBFDC has members in many countries, but most of them are in the UK and we have meetings in various parts of the country with one informal meeting every two months in Central London •

Enquiries Terence Woods, 32 Bryan Street, Hamilton ML3 0JW.

Scottish Philatelic Congress The 71st Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies takes place at the Town Hall, Falkirk on 18-19 March. It will be hosted by the Alba Stamp Group – a club specialising in all philatelic material relating to Scotland. The Group will present a 60-frame display of members' material; the entries for the National Exhibition (competition) will also be on display. Many of the country's major stamp and postcard dealers will be present. The opening and awards ceremonies will take place at 11am on 18 March with guest speaker Sir Malcolm Innes of Edinburgh, the Lord Lyon King of Arms. Sunday 19 March will be Collectors' Day with displays by local societies and meetings of specialist societies. Parties of school children will be most welcome. Refreshments will be available on 18 March only. Admission is free and there is ample free car parking. Open 09.00-17.00.

For details of a special Congress postcard and handstamp see *Commemorative Covers Review* •

Royal Mail news

New stamps and pictorial label books • Stamp Show 2000

New definitive and country stamps New postal rates are scheduled to come into effect from 3 April. The 2nd class basic rate will remain 19p but 1st class will rise by 1p to 27p. There will be increases on heavier weight letters, eg 33p and 41p for 2nd and 1st class letters between 60 and 100 grams. The new basic letter and postcard rate for Europe will be 36p (covered by the E rate stamp), airmail postcards will now cost 40p and the two lowest airmail letter rates will be 45p (up to 10g) and 65p (to 20g). This will be the first increase for the basic 1st class rate since July 1996; the basic 2nd class rate was reduced by 1p last April.

Six new definitive stamps will be issued on 28 March: 8p old gold, 33p slate blue, 40p grey blue, 41p red, 45p rhododendron, and 65p dark turquoise. The stamps will be printed in gravure by De La Rue in sheets of 200. A presentation pack containing one of each of the new stamps will cost £2.65. There will be no new 27p stamp for inland 1st class letters; the Millennium 1st class definitive will be used for this purpose. The existing 1st class and E rate NV1 stamps will now sell for 27p and 36p respectively.

The proposed rate changes had not been confirmed at time of going to press. Readers should, therefore, check with their local post office shortly before 28 March to see if the new definitives are to be issued that day. The stamps may not be available if implementation of the rate changes does not come into effect from 3 April. This may affect the values of the Life and Earth stamps due on 4 April.

FIRST DAY ARRANGEMENTS First day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets, price 25p. Serviced covers with Bureau or Windsor pictorial postmarks can be ordered from the Bureau, price £3.15 UK, £2.68 overseas. Collectors can send stamped covers for these postmarks to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (postmark ref FD DEF 0003) or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (FD DEF 0004). A non-pictorial Windsor postmark will also be available from the Handstamp Centre (FD DEF 0004 NP). Details of sponsored postmarks for 28 March will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

NEW STAMP BOOKS New printings of five stamp books will be available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 14 March and at post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier books are used up. The books, which contain a revised telephone enquiry number in the text relating to postcodes, are: 4 × 1st and 4 × 2nd printed by Walsall, 10 × 2nd Questa and 10 × 1st Millennium definitives by Questa and Walsall.

Four entirely new stamp books will be available from main post offices, the Bureau and philatelic outlets from 3 April. The £1 and £2 vended books will contain 3 × 1st flame (orange) and 1 × 2nd class and 6 × 1st flame and 2 × 2nd class NV1 stamps. The books are printed in gravure by Questa. New £1.60 and £2.60 books, printed in gravure by Walsall, will contain 4 × 40p and 4 × 65p stamps for overseas postings.

Other books containing 1st and 2nd class and E rate stamps will remain on sale with revised prices for the 1st and E books – £1.08 (4 × 1st), £2.70 (10 × 1st) and £1.44 (4 × E).

NEW COUNTRY STAMPS New 40p and 65p stamps for Northern Ireland will be available from 28 March. They will be printed in grey blue and dark turquoise and printed in gravure by Walsall in sheets of 200. Instead of a new 27p stamp, there will be a Northern Ireland 1st class printed in flame (orange). This was included in the Special by Design prestige stamp book (15 February). However this will be its first issue in sheets. A first day cover service will be available from the Bureau with covers bearing the three stamps cancelled by pictorial Bureau or Belfast postmarks. Price £1.97 UK, £1.68 overseas.

New 65p stamps for Scotland and Wales will also be available from 28 March, in the same designs as the 64p values issued on 8 June 1999. The new Scottish stamp will be available on FDC with Bureau or Edinburgh postmark; the Welsh stamp with Bureau or Cardiff postmark, price £1.19 each UK, £1.01 overseas. The existing 1st class and E rate NV1 stamps will now sell for 27p and 36p respectively.

Presentation packs containing the new 65p Scottish and Welsh stamps will cost £1 each; a pack for the new Northern Ireland stamps costs £1.70.

WITHDRAWAL OF OBSOLETE STAMPS The current 7p, 26p, 31p, 38p, 39p, 44p, and 64p definitives, also 26p, 38p and 64p Northern Ireland and 64p Scotland and Wales country stamps will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on 1 April.

The current £1 and £2 vended books and books of 4 × 38p and 4 × 64p stamps will be withdrawn at the same time. All remain on philatelic sale until further notice.

All remaining stocks of the £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 Castles stamps, the presentation pack and stamp cards will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and philatelic outlets on 4 August. Remaining stocks of the £10 Britannia stamp will be withdrawn on 30 December •

New pictorial label books A new £1.08 stamp book will be available from philatelic outlets from 4 April. This will contain four 1st class Millennium definitives and a pictorial label commemorating the opening of the National Botanic Garden of Wales (Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru), at Middleton Hall, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire. The label was designed by Rose Design Associates of London, using photography by Fleur Olby, and the book printed by Walsall Security Printers. The label features Allium and Echinops.

A coin cover will also be available at the same time. This bears the label pane cancelled by a special postmark and has the new £1 Welsh Dragon coin encapsulated. The cover should be ordered from the Bureau, price £12.95 •

Stamp Show 2000 The first international stamp show in the UK for 10 years will be staged at Earls Court, London SW5 on 22-28 May 2000. The show will be open each day 10.00-18.00 except Thursday 25 May when it will stay open until 20.00.

Each day has a theme, associated with the Perspectives on Britain displays on the Royal Mail stand. The themes are: Art & Entertainment (22 May), Royalty (23rd), Environment (24th), Transport (25th), Technology (26th), Sport & Olympic (27th), and Youth (28th).

As well as the customary philatelic and self-service retail areas on the main stand, there will be a collectibles area selling prints and framed stamps of the 1999 Millennium Collection, a selection of limited edition posters, plus collectibles taken from a range of Post Office sources.

The main stamp printers will have stands at Earls Court and there will be displays of stamps from the Royal Collection, the British Library, and Post Office Heritage. The last-named display will feature British definitives from Victoria to Elizabeth II, including stamp artwork and registration sheets, together with artefacts of the time.

There will be a chance to personalise your mail with your own portrait. Sheets of 10 stamps, each attached to a label with a personalised portrait, will be available to visitors.

A different exhibition postmark will be available each day, together with a general postmark and a cachet for use with the Stamp Show passport •

Ticket enquiries should be made on 0845 072 2000 from within the UK, or +44 (0) 20 7253 9900 from overseas.

Information is available on the exhibition's website: www.thestampshow2000.co.uk

Post Office Heritage Collections This month, we feature

Penny Black trial cancellations

THE REGINALD M PHILLIPS Collection, housed in Post Office Heritage, is noted for its many fine examples of the Penny Black, mint, used and on cover. Especially interesting are the trial cancellations of 1840.

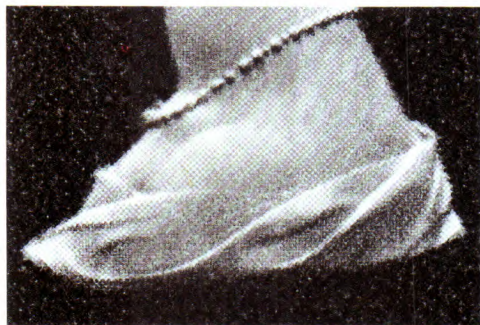
Shown here are two horizontal pairs of 1d black from plate 1a. In both cases the left-hand stamp has been cancelled by the Maltese Cross hand-stamp in red ink. The right-hand stamp in the first pair (corner letters QG-QH), bears a circular datestamp, applied in black ink, inscribed 'EX/13 MY 13/1840'. The corresponding stamp in the second pair (corner letters TK-TL), bears a similar circular datestamp inscribed 'E/14 14/1840'; this time applied in the same red ink as the Maltese Cross. Both are affixed to paper, one including the words 'Obliterating Stamp/dated stamp/black composition'.

These pairs are in Volume X1 of the Phillips Collection which can be seen by appointment at Post Office Heritage Collections, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Enquiries 020 7239 2570 •



Machin pre-decimal definitives

In the first of two articles, Tony Walker FRPSL looks at changes before decimalisation



Head types A, left, and B. The introduction of type B improved the appearance of The Queen's portrait on dark backgrounds, and began to replace type A from early in 1968.



Opposite: se-tenant pane from *Stamps for Cooks*, the first 'Special Booklet' issued on 1 December 1969. Panes of 15, as opposed to 4 or 6 stamps, broke new ground.

WHEN ARNOLD MACHIN submitted his portfolio in 1965, in competition with other designers for the commission to design a new definitive, the simplicity of the 'Machin Head', as it is now known, won him the job. He readily acknowledged his inspiration came from the first ever adhesive postage stamp, the 1d black of 1840.

Perhaps it is this simplicity that has contributed to the widespread admiration of the design, and indeed its longevity, 33 years old in June this year. It was on 5 June 1967 that the first three values were issued, and some 13 months later on 1 July, 1968 when the basic set of 14 values was completed. However, as with many new introductions minor design and technical changes were made during the period of use, which for the pre-decimal currency of £sd ended on 25 November 1971 when they were withdrawn from sale from the Bureau and philatelic counters, having been withdrawn from post offices in January 1971 due to the postal strike.

This article deals with the normal and intentional changes introduced in the relatively short period of around 53 months the issue was on sale, and seeks to demonstrate how these are of considerable philatelic importance and give rise to exceptional varieties and rarities, comparable (longevity apart) with Arnold Machin's 1840 inspiration.

A significant change was the introduction of head type B, which improved the appearance of The Queen's portrait on the dark or solid background stamps, and began to replace head type A from early in 1968. This coincided with another important technical improvement with PVA gum replacing GA (gum arabic) which tended to curl the stamps. In considering these two changes alone one immediately has four possible combinations on any one stamp: head A + GA; head B + GA; head A + PVA; and head B + PVA. The 3d violet, 4d sepia and 4d vermilion all have these four variations, with the 4d sepia head B on GA paper being extremely scarce with perhaps less than a dozen cylinder blocks (14 and 14.) known.

Also in 1968 postage rates were increased from 3d and 4d to 4d and 5d for second class and first class post respectively. This required changing the single centre phosphor band on the 3d value to two side bands, and the reverse change on the 4d sepia. As it has been a consistent policy of the Post Office to produce booklets and coils largely in the values representing first and second class postage rates, these phosphor band modifications appeared there, as well as on sheet stamps.

To the head A or B and GA or PVA combinations, a phosphor band variety is now superimposed, and in the 3d violet value for instance the 's' coil and 'AD' coil are both head A with PVA

Stamps for Cooks

Baked Stuffed Haddock

- 2 Fillets of fresh haddock (about ½ lb each)
- 2 large sliced tomatoes
- 2 skinned and chopped tomatoes
- 2 level tbsps chopped parsley
- 2 level tbsps chopped celery
- 3 oz melted butter
- ½ lb fresh white breadcrumbs
- ½ level tsp salt
- Milk



gum, but one centre phosphor band on the 's' coil, and two side bands on the 'AD' coil. Similar combinations exist with the head B/PVA gum 3d value, and in the PVA/head B in the 4d sepia.

It was during the pre-decimal Machin period (on 1 December 1969) that the first 'Special Booklet' was issued, *Stamps for Cooks*, at a cost of £1. Subsequently as collectors of the decimal issues will know, this series has continued with a number of special editions. *Stamps for Cooks* contained 1d, 4d red and 5d stamps, but more particularly in the context of phosphor bands, two unique 4d stamps on the se-tenant pane, one with a single phosphor band on the left side, the other with a single band on the right. *Stamps for Cooks* also broke new ground with panes of 15 stamps (3x5) as opposed to the normal panes of 4 or 6 stamps, with the se-tenant pane comprising three different values. This latter pane was necessary to bring the total value of stamps in the booklet to exactly £1. As one could anticipate such a complex booklet gave rise to some rare errors, which will be referred to in the article next month.

Phosphor screens There remains one other feature which compounds yet further the combinations of head type, gum and phosphor bands found on the pre-decimal issues, and this is phosphor screens. Of the features described so far it

is probably the most technical to describe and the most difficult to see; yet in comparison to the fine plating studies on the line engraved issues of the 19th century it is no less significant.

The phosphor bands are applied to stamps as part of the normal printing process by one of the cylinders in the press. Two pieces of carbon tissue were used on the 21-row cylinder, creating two butt joints, but in the cylinder used for the centre phosphor band on the 3d, 4d sepia and 4d red booklet panes, the two pieces of carbon tissue were different. One comprised of a very fine 250 screen mesh, and the other a more coarse 150 screen mesh. Stamps arising from this cylinder can therefore display a 250 phosphor screen or a 150 phosphor screen, or less commonly the point where the 250/150 screens join. Other phosphor cylinders were either 250 or 150 screen, with the 150 screen predominating on sheet stamps and the 250 screen on booklets and coils, but not exclusively so.

On the 1d value for instance, the head B, PVA gum and two phosphor bands stamp exists with either 250 screen from se-tenant booklet panes or 150 screen from cylinders 4 and 6 of the sheet stamps. The 2d value with two phosphor bands, head B and PVA gum only occurs in the 'v' and 's' coils with a 250 screen, the sheet stamps from cylinders 5 and 6 and part of the 'v' coil being



From top: multi-value se-tenant coil of August 1969, despatched from machines with a 1s or 5p piece; the exceptionally rare coil 6d head B, PVA gum, 2 phosphor bands from J coil, 250 screen; and 2d V coil with 150 phosphor screen – only eight of these rolls are known.

150 screen. Similar combinations occur on the 3d, 4d sepia, 4d red, 5d, 6d (very scarce), 10d, 1s, 1s 6d and 1s9d.

The phosphor screen mesh often became clogged on the cylinder, and differentiation between the finer and the coarser screens can be extremely difficult. On a clean cylinder however, under modest magnification ($\times 10$), with the stamp viewed horizontally to a light source, the screens can be readily identified.

Towards the end of the period of use a phosphor cylinder 'Ph 1' appeared on five values (2d, 5d, 6d, 7d and 9d), in the right hand margin at no fixed point. The 9d is extremely scarce.

On 6 January 1969 the colour of the 4d value changed from sepia to vermilion (red) to overcome colour recognition problems by automatic sorting machines and under certain artificial light. This necessitated the 8d red changing to a pale blue. Although these colour changes occurred a year after head type A and gum arabic were replaced, the 4d vermilion with these characteristics appeared briefly in some booklets during 1969. Phosphor screen joins on these panes are very scarce.

Coil issues Brief mention has been made of coil stamps, an area of collecting that deserves greater attention. In August 1969 the Post Office issued a multi-value se-tenant coil, consisting of 2d+2d+3d+1d+4d vermilion, despatched from vending machines through a 1s or 5p piece. The 'gs' coil had 300 strips and the 'GL' coil 600 strips. The coil strip, consisting of four colours and phosphor bands was printed by the same five-unit Thrissell machine as the se-tenant pane from the *Stamps for Cooks* £1 booklet. Whilst utilising the improved head B, technical reasons concerned with perforation brought back GA on these coils.

Seven values of the pre-decimal series appeared in coil format (including both the sepia and vermilion 4d), and embraced a number of the combination of features outlined in this article, giving rise to an exceptionally rare coil, the 6d head B, PVA gum, 2 phosphor bands from the 'J' coil with a 250 screen. The 150 screen was more common. Another example of comparable rarity is the 2d 'v' coil with 150 phosphor screen, only discovered after decimalisation on the remnants of coils used in receipting wireless licence accounts at the Post Office in Birmingham.



Left and above: the scarce 5d sheet cylinders 13 and 13, were on sale for a very short time before they were withdrawn upon decimalisation.

Before concluding this essay, mention must be made of one or two other scarce items caused by the switch to decimalisation in 1971, which was delayed by a postal strike on 20 January 1971. The 4d red 'H' coil head B was sold briefly in Birmingham before the strike started, and was withdrawn before returning on sale due to decimalisation of the currency. Very few of these coils are known. A similar situation arose with the 5d sheet cylinders 13 and 13, which went on sale for a very short time before being withdrawn upon decimalisation.

There can be little doubt the 'modern classics' tag given to the Machins is well deserved, with the rich field of technical modifications introduced in the comparatively short period of 53 months providing excellent opportunities to the serious modern collector for philatelic study, without recourse to so-called flyspeck varieties.

In this article, unintentional varieties and errors have not been examined, and despite modern printing technology and electronic checking they do exist in no small measure. Next month these anomalies will be addressed in a further article ●

Bookmakers to Royal Mail

D G A Myall concludes a visit to The House of Questa

Books of stamps take many forms, and Questa are capable of meeting requests for unusual formats as well as the usual types well-known to collectors of GB. To help readers understand the processes involved, I will describe how the three main types of GB books are made at Questa. These are: retail (window) books of 10 stamps, machine-vended books and prestige books.

Retail (window) books Questa presently have the contract to produce all Royal Mail's books of 10 × 2nd class stamps and share the much larger production of books of 10 × 1st class with another firm under Royal Mail's policy of diversifying their sources. The stamps are printed in four columns on the web on the ATN press and split into reels one pane wide. The covers are printed in three columns on the same press and split into reels one cover wide. A reel of each is mounted on the bookmaking machine, also made by ATN.

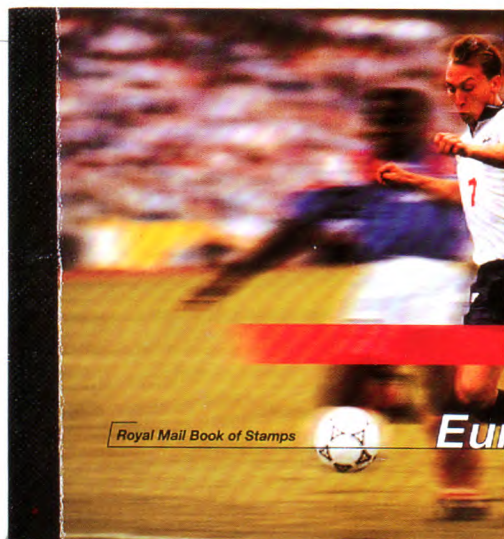
The reel of stamps is fed into the machine above the reel of covers and folded over to fit the final cover size, exposing the back of the pane margin. Two spots of glue are added here to affix the panes to the covers. At the same time two dabs of a different glue are placed on the yellow edge of the inside covers to provide temporary closure before sale. The thumb tab, used to close the book, is cut on-line. To help ensure that the pane of stamps is affixed squarely to the cover, the latter has a thick black bar printed on the inside. This is positioned so that, when the pane of stamps is correctly placed, an electronic eye on the machine can detect that the single perforation hole in the centre of the margin is 'filled' (see p207). The line of covers, with the panes inside, is then folded. Finally, the stream is cut into individual books. The multiple stamp design on the front does not repeat; a .8mm line in the background colour separates each image and the aim is to cut the books across its centre.

The finished books pass in front of operators who examine them to ensure they are the correct size (if in doubt a book can be fitted into a template which is part of the machine) and any defective ones are removed. I was amazed to note that the edge of each book is scrutinised to see if the pane perforations are clipped and any with a quarter of a perforation hole or less are rejected. This results in some wastage and is a requirement of Royal Mail purely in the interests of collectors, a service for which we are truly grateful. Every 20,000th good book is sampled and numbered and the rest proceed to the packing operation.

Retail books are first gathered into 50s and weighed as a check. They are then turned 25 in each direction and a rubber band put round them. The bundles are then ready for flow wrapping. Rolls of clear film already printed with a barcode appropriate to the contents, ie, 50 books of first or second class, are machine-wrapped around the bundle and cut. This stage was introduced because the former method of shrink-wrapping was so tight that it caused some distortion in the books. It was the subject of field trials before being approved by Royal Mail. During this interim period, separately printed barcode labels were affixed by hand. The wrapped bundles are boxed in 1,000s (20 bundles), weighed and labelled with the contents and control information. The boxes are weighed as a final check that they contain the correct number of books. The last operation is to wrap coloured tape around the boxes; blue for 2nd-class books and flame for 1st-class ones.

Machine-vended books Public enthusiasm for retail books has led to a decline in demand for machine-vended books. As a result, it is not so economical to automate all bookmaking operations and some are done manually. The following is a description of how Royal Mail's £1 and £2 books are produced today.

The stamps and covers are web-printed in gravure on the ATN press and slit into reels one pane or cover wide. Unlike the retail books, however, the bookmaking machine does not deal with a continuous stream of unsevered covers and panes. Instead, both panes and covers are sepa-



rated into gangs of seven and stacked for feeding into the machine. In preparation for this, the reel of panes is fan-folded into seven consecutive pane pairs and then manually torn at the folds from bottom to top, ie, across the binding margins. It is here that so-called 'v margins' occur (October *Bulletin*, page 54) At this stage also, the stamps are examined for blemishes before passing them to the bookmaking machine.

This machine is of Questa's own manufacture. It takes up the gangs of panes and covers one at a time in a separate travel, and the operation is quite fast. A toothed wheel slot-perforates the gang of covers along its length to form the spines and ensure the finished books lie perfectly flat when loaded into the vending machines. The panes are glued along their margins and affixed to the covers. The combination is then folded and cut into individual books. These are assembled into packs of 50, all facing the same way so they leave the vending machines uniformly. As with the retail books, the bundles are rubber-banded, weighed, flow wrapped, boxed and labelled.

Prestige books Questa have produced several of these for Royal Mail. Sometimes, more than one firm is responsible for a single book. The recent Profile on Print book, still available from the Bureau, is an example. This contained five panes of stamps printed by five different firms by five



Far left, a 1996 prestige book. These are now the only books with stitched covers, the best method of binding a variety of leaves and panes. Above, 10 x 2nd class retail book (note the 'filled' perforation holes, as described on p205). The popularity of retail books has led to a decline in demand for machine-vended books (left).

different methods. Questa printed one pane, the covers and interleaves, and were responsible for assembling the book. This co-operation was not unique, except in its extent; the 1993 Beatrix Potter book contained a pane printed by Harrison although Questa printed everything else.

Questa have used both gravure and lithography in the production of prestige books. Often, the stamps will be printed gravure and the covers and interleaves lithography, using whichever of the firm's presses is most suitable for the task. The layout is usually what printers call '12-up' in a layout of three by four. Even if constituent parts are web printed, they are sheeted and guillotined into columns for the final assembly operations.

Questa use a 15-station collator which is enough to cope with any Prestige book commissioned so far by any administration. (Their Waterbirds souvenir book for South Africa had only seven units; the Millennium Tapestries book for Guernsey had 14; the 1999 Profile on Print book contained 13 plus a folded reply-card insert.) The component parts are placed in the bins in the correct order. Collation is done automatically by suction. The sets are sewn off-line (although on-line facilities are also available) and cut into single books. The spines are taped on a back stripping machine. The finished books are packed as other books except that, because of their large size, the boxes usually contain no more than 400 books.

Wastage No matter how expert a printer is, there is inevitably some wastage, especially in high-volume production, and I have already mentioned the rejection of perfectly good books because they do not meet Royal Mail's specification for perforation condition. The disposal of wastage has to accord with the requirements of the authority which placed the order and Royal Mail's are probably the most stringent. Waste material is shredded and baled. The bales are then compacted and recycled, perhaps to appear again at the factory as cardboard boxes to contain a thousand stamp books.

Other capabilities This account of operations at Byfleet affords just a brief glimpse of the width and scope of Questa capabilities. Although not used so far in production for Royal Mail, this modern and forward-looking firm can produce self-adhesives with die-cut perforations, and stamps in coil or single reel form. Questa are part of the Ashton Potter group in the USA and have access to their resources, including a Stephens combination machine for intaglio printing.

Conclusion I came away from the factory full of appreciation for the friendliness and openness of my reception. I am indeed grateful to Steven Winton and all at Questa for making my visit possible and for permitting me to share it with you •

ECOS On the 61 hectare site of this project on Ballymena's River Braid, the principles of biodiversity and the development of renewable energy sources can be seen in action.

Web of Life Visitors to this exhibition at London Zoo encounter more than 100 species in their natural habitats, as well as venturing into a rain forest and exploring the ocean's depths.

Earth Centre Exploring the potential of sustainable development on a 25 acre site, the Earth Centre features a Planet Earth Show, organic gardens, and Europe's largest solar canopy.

Project SUZY At the hydroponics facility of the environmental centre at Nature's World, plants grow without soil in liquid nutrients, and pests are controlled by plant-friendly insects.

The Life and Earth issue goes on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 4 April.



Andy Earl



Lorentz Gullachsen



Tim Flach/Tony Stone Images

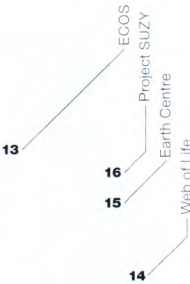


Fleur Olby



The Earth Centre, Doncaster, photographed by Lorentz Gullachsen, and right, Golden Headed Lion Tamarins at the Web of Life exhibition, London Zoo.

Life and Earth is the fourth of 12 sets of Millennium issues for 2000, inspired by Millennium projects throughout the UK. The 2nd class stamp marks the ECOS project on the River Braid flood plain in Ballymena • The 1st class represents the Web of Life building at London Zoo, which provides a window on a unique collection of endangered species • The subject of the 45p value is Doncaster’s Earth Centre, where the possibilities for a green and sustainable future are explored • The 65p stamp depicts Project SUZY (short for sustainability) at Nature’s World in Middlesbrough.





A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £1.95) and stamp cards (price 25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Size 37 x 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 x 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p; two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

2nd 1A silver ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E black ● 1F grey

1st 1A silver ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E black

45p 1A silver ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C magenta ● 1D blue ● 1E black

65p 1A silver ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E grey-black

Phosphor numbers P92 2nd class, P93 others.

At the ECOS Millennium Environmental Centre, visitors can interact with exhibits which explain alternative technologies, and enjoy the newly-developed habitats which increase the number and diversity of plants and animal species. The main building is being designed to provide two-thirds of its own energy requirements – using solar panels, a wind turbine and the burning of wood chips from a willow coppice – and reed beds will act as a natural filtration system to purify waste water.

Britain's most sophisticated barn is how the Zoo describes the building housing this exhibition, a glass pavilion with environmentally-friendly heating and cooling systems. Magnified screens give a close-up on the Micrarium, which offers a glimpse into the tiny and normally hidden worlds of some of the Earth's smallest insects, such as leaf cutter ants.

Opened in 1999, the Earth Centre's mission is 'to inspire understanding of sustainable development and to help people become involved in the process of achieving it in their own lives and for the world'. Sustainable development is defined as 'a process which enables all people, particularly those disadvantaged, to realise their potential and improve the quality of their lives in ways that protect and enhance the resources and life support systems of the planet for the benefit of current and future generations.' Visitors can stand by a Kaki tree grown from one that survived the Nagasaki atomic bomb – an evocative symbol for the future of our planet. The ecology park demonstrates the benefits of water conservation for wildlife and habitat management, and shows how the landscape can be an integrated place of education, enjoyment and food production.

Visitors to Project suzy at Nature's World in Middlesbrough can learn about food production. The environmental centre includes a hydroponics facility where plants will grow without soil – in liquid nutrients – and where plant-friendly insects will be used to control pests. A two-storey Earth House – part glass bubble and partly built underground – demonstrates that wind, solar and geothermal power are viable and sustainable energy sources for the next century. Virtual-reality tours will show a world in which fossil fuels have finally run out, as well as a home for the future where all waste and water is re-used.



Future Millennium issues

Art and Craft	02.05.00
People and Place	06.06.00
Stone and Soil	04.07.00
Tree and Leaf	01.08.00
Mind and Matter	05.09.00
Body and Bone	03.10.00
Spirit and Faith	07.11.00
Sound and Vision	05.12.00

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 4 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Doncaster must reach the Bureau by 4 April. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA (Doncaster postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0007' (Bureau), or 'FD0008' (Doncaster). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Doncaster postmark. A non-pictorial Doncaster postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FD0008 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 4 April will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. Covers may bear just the 2nd class Life and Earth stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 4 April.



MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A Life and Earth pack and stamp cards will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. Each of the Millennium packs this year includes a specially commissioned poem. The Life and Earth poem is by Tobias Hill who was born in 1970 and lives in London. He has received numerous literary awards; his collections are *Midnight in the City of Clocks* (1996) and *Zoo* (1998). In 1998 he was London Zoo's poet in residence. While on vacation in Brazil he developed the idea for his poem, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Cat* – a warning about extinction and the finely-balanced ecological web of life.

Next month The fifth set in the Millennium 2000 series will be issued on 2 May. Entitled Art and Craft, this features Ceramica, Stoke-on-Trent; the Tate Gallery, London; Cycle Network Artworks; and the Lowry Centre, Salford. Details next month ●





IMPERIAL AIRWAYS
INAUGURATION
SERVICE APRIL 1



A. PHILLIPS ESQ
THOMAS STR 23
LEIPZIG
GERMANY

FLY

IMPERIAL
AIRWAYS



IMPERIAL AIRWAYS
INAUGURATION
SERVICE APRIL 1



A. PHILLIPS ESQ
VARSAVSKA 18
PRAGUE
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA



Central European air mail routes of Imperial Airways and British Airways, 1935-39 by Richard Beith

MENTION THE ACTIVITIES of Imperial Airways (IA), the British national airline of the 1920s and 30s, and most philatelists will think of those trans-continental routes which carried air mails to the distant parts of the Empire such as South Africa and Australia. In Europe, Imperial Airways were smaller players when compared with airlines like Air France, KLM and Deutsche Lufthansa.

At the start of 1935, IA's only European routes were London-Paris-Zurich and London-Brussels-Cologne plus a seasonal service to Le Touquet. On 1 April 1935 they opened a new, unsubsidised, Central European service from London (Croydon) to the Hungarian capital of Budapest via Cologne and Halle/Leipzig in Germany, Prague and Vienna. At this time IA were chronically short of planes and they had to operate this route with the de Havilland 86, a four-engined biplane of modest performance. As far as Cologne, the service was operated in conjunction with the Belgian airline SABENA. Captain J T Percy piloted the first mail carrying DH86 as far as Cologne, the flight later being delayed by bad weather.



Souvenir covers from the first flights In a duplicated memorandum from IA dated 25 March 1935, the company regretted that 'No special souvenir envelopes will be issued by the company and it is regretted that it has not been found possible to make arrangements for the handling of collector's own covers. Collectors who wish to send covers must, therefore, make their own private arrangements.' Nevertheless, plain first flight covers can be found, the majority being prepared by air mail dealer Mr A Phillips of Newport, Monmouthshire.

Imperial Airways continued to operate this service until summer 1937, when the route changed to London-Brussels-Frankfurt-Nurnberg-Prague-Vienna-Budapest. By the winter of 1937-38, the line terminated at Cologne, not going anywhere near central Europe!

On 9 August 1937, the application of the 'All-up' principle of unsurcharged air mails was extended to many more European countries including Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Flown covers are known commemorating the reduction of the basic European letter rate to two and a half old pence, but on this route the first covers carried at the reduced rate were probably flown by the Anglo-German night air mail to Berlin for onwards dispatch by train.

This 1935 poster for Imperial Airways' service to Budapest features the de Havilland 86 G-ADCM Draco. The poster's designer is not known.

Opposite page: two typical Phillips covers, to Leipzig and Prague, both franked with the attractive KGV photogravure stamps to make up the then combined European surface and air rate of 4d for the first ounce.



A first return flight cover from Budapest to Croydon for onward carriage to Huddersfield. It bears a fine example of the official Hungarian Post Office cachet, correctly dated for 2 April 1935, the date of the first return flight. Incoming mail to Budapest also received this cachet.

time, was not constrained by government regulations. British Airways were allowed to buy American, choosing Lockheed as their supplier, introducing the 10A Electra in 1937 and the Lockheed 14 in 1938. It was to be 1939 before IA received a handful of the elegant *Frobisher* class land planes, the four-engined DH91.

The continuing development of this story can be told with the aid of a few quotations from some of the fascinating files held in the Post Office Archives.

By September 1937, IA were writing to the Air Ministry stating: '... we do not propose to operate the London-Budapest service during the coming winter. The last service will operate on Saturday 2 October in each direction. ... As you know, weather conditions in Central Europe in the winter are very bad, and traffic is not very encouraging. Our regularity in the past has been poor, and we have at the moment only DH86 aircraft that could be used for this service, and they do not compare very favourably with the aircraft being employed by foreign Companies in this area.'

However, in March 1938, it was revealed at a meeting at the Air Ministry that: '... the intimation that Imperial Airways had abandoned their intentions of resuming the Budapest service this summer has come as a surprise.'

It seemed that unless they obtained a subsidy for this loss-making route IA had no option. By May 1938 the different parties were still in debate, IA noting that a combined subsidy and mail payment of £29,000 would be required to operate a DH86 service from them to October. The Air Ministry noted: 'It cannot be said that the operation of the service with DH86 aircraft would serve the purpose of upholding British prestige on the route.'

By June 1938 it was proposed that BAL should reactivate the passenger and mail service on the route London-Brussels-Frankfurt-Prague-Vienna-Budapest with a possible twice-weekly extension to Belgrade, Istanbul and Ankara. They would use their fast, modern Lockheed 14 with its 241mph cruising speed (compared to the DH86's speed of 145mph). The European political crisis continued to affect the discussion.

Imperial Airways retires from the route In 1937 IA were still short of modern planes for their European routes. They were still required by the government to buy British planes, so it was bad luck that their need coincided with British aeroplane factories gearing up to provide more and more war planes for the rapidly expanding RAF. Hence the contrast between the obsolescent DH86 and the more sophisticated and faster machines used by foreign airlines had become ever more noticeable. The Dutch airline KLM had introduced the American-built Douglas DC2 monoplane into regular service in 1935, to be followed by the larger DC3 in 1936-37. However, the original British Airways Limited (BAL), an independent airline at the

By August 1938 it was noted: 'British Airways have been strongly advised from Budapest that their forthcoming line London-Budapest would gain greatly in popularity if it omitted any stops in German territory owing to the strict insistence on customs formalities which German officials are applying at the present time to all aircraft passengers – even those in transit. They propose therefore that the line should run London-Brussels-Prague-Budapest and should omit Frankfurt and Vienna.'

The Air Ministry, The Post Office and BAL were still talking in January 1939; the possibility of BAL operating the Budapest service in pool with the Hungarian airline Malert now being raised. By early April 1939 the Post Office's plans for their summer air mail services to Europe were coming together. Hungary was to be served by BAL, their line 724 leaving London (Heston) at 11.05 and reaching Budapest at 17.20 with only one stop, Frankfurt. The first flight was on 17 April. In the week of 5–11 June, some 172kg of mail was carried from London to Budapest by BAL, but, of course, by September the European air mail network was to change out of all recognition •

References PO Archives

File POST 24302/38 (old ref)
London-Prague-Budapest
(IA, BAL)

File POST 122/0767 1939
Airmail despatching arrangements

Acknowledgements

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The author would be pleased to receive comments and corrections via the Editor.

Eminent early collectors C W Viner, by Ron Negus FRPSL

THE SMALL BAND of men and women who collected stamps in the infancy of the hobby in the 1860s were only able to refer to a limited amount of philatelic literature, but to these collectors the name of Dr Viner became very well-known. In 1862, when Mr Mount Brown had compiled one of the earliest stamp catalogues to be published in the United Kingdom, he was assisted in his task by Viner.

In the following year, Viner took the post as editor of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, one of the pioneer philatelic journals. He held that position for the next four years, and during this spell contributed most of the contents himself. After giving up the editorship, he became the editor of another new philatelic journal in 1867. This was *The Philatelist*, and he remained in the editorial chair of this magazine until it was closed down as a monthly in 1876. He continued to edit its successor, which appeared under the title *Philatelic Quarterly* for the next three years, and also edited the final publication in 1881, which was called *The Stamp Collectors' Annual*.

Whilst still working on the *Magazine* he started his next venture into philatelic journalism when, in 1865, he was approached by the proprietor of



Royal Philatelic Society London

*Yours sincerely:
C. W. Viner.*

Oppen's Postage Stamp Album to act as editor for future revisions. *Oppen's Album* was then the most popular, and had reached its seventh edition when Viner took charge. He continued to supervise the subsequent publications until the last issue, which appeared in 1891.

Charles William Viner was born in Bath in April 1814, the only son of the founder of a boys' boarding school in that city. After completing his own education in Europe, and acquiring both a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degree at German universities, he joined his father in running the school. The continental travel during his academic training led to him becoming a distinguished linguist. When his father died, in 1842, Charles took over as headmaster. He filled this role until 1854, when he sold the school, moved to London, and set up as a private tutor in mathematics to 'sons of good families'.

A hundred stamps A year after his move, he was asked by a friend to help form a stamp collection, and the Doctor gave his assistance for the next five years. In 1860, however, he decided to start collecting in his own right, and soon built up a respectable holding of the limited number of countries for whom issues then existed. He wrote at the time 'I remember counting my stamps with much glee when they reached a hundred!' In these early days, before stamp dealers had really started, collectors in London used to meet together in the City in a road called Change Alley, near the Stock Exchange.

Viner continued his recollection of these times by saying '... the trade was chiefly in the hands of the office-boys, where high, low, rich and poor congregated for sale or exchange. We were often raided by the police. I myself was taken to the police office on the charge of collecting a crowd and obstructing traffic. The scene was interesting and amusing – an assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, youths and small boys, each with a book or books full of stamps, as intent on business as the regular stock jobbers of the neighbourhood. One of Her Majesty's Cabinet Ministers was seen there, and ladies with their albums carried by liveried servants!'

His own and his friend's collections were used by Viner for reference purposes when he helped Mount Brown with his famous catalogue mentioned above. It was natural for Viner to seek the company of like-minded individuals who were also early collectors, and Brown introduced him to the rectory at All Hallows, Staining, a parish in the City of London. The incumbent at the time was the Reverend FJ Stainforth, and he invited his philatelic friends each Saturday afternoon to meet and discuss the latest stamp issues that were appearing with increasing frequency from around the world. These friendly gatherings continued until Stainforth died in September 1866.

In an early edition of *The Philatelist* in the following October, Viner published a letter from a reader suggesting the formation of a philatelic society. The idea was supported by further letters in November and December, and in April 1869, when the inaugural meeting of the (later Royal) Philatelic Society, London was held Viner was present and with seven others formed the first committee.

Announcements of the formation of the Society attracted further members, but their enthusiasm soon waned. No meetings had been held for 12 months when Viner invited all members to his house in Denbigh Street, London in May 1871 'for the purpose of consultation on the future of the Society'. This meeting led to a revival of interest and under his enthusiastic leadership, and his appointment as Hon Secretary, membership began to grow again. He remained as Secretary until 1874 and stayed on as a committee member for another 18 years. Finally, in 1892, at the age of 78 he returned to Bath and resigned from the Society, but was immediately elected an Honorary Life Member.

Despite his advanced age, Dr Viner retained a keen interest in his collection and did not part with the bulk of it until 1896. It was sold to G Hamilton-Smith & Co, the London dealers, who auctioned it over a period of time. One section was reported as having realised a sum equivalent in today's money to about £75,000. He kept a few albums until his death in 1906, aged 94, and these were willed to the son of his nephew ●

Book reviews Two new catalogues of first day covers

Essential Guide to British First Day Covers This new work is published jointly by Stanley Gibbons and Benham, and compiled by Tony Buckingham, founder and owner of Benham until 1997. With 30 years experience in cover dealing, Buckingham's introduction is worth reading, giving useful information on different types of postmarks from the philatelic to the operational, eg TPOS and counter datestamps. He warns about the values placed on some signed and official covers. The number of official covers (produced by the postmark sponsor) has grown enormously – from just nine in 1971 to 136 in 1981, and likely over 450 in 1999. The main listings are chronological beginning with the pre-stamp period from the Bishop mark of 1661 to the Houses of Parliament envelopes of January 1840. One is left wondering just how many collectors would recognise such items as first day covers! Then on to the Penny Black and Twopence Blue. A 1d black on a 6 May cover is valued at £20,000, a 2d blue used on 9 May (probable first day of use) at £25,000. Each set of stamps is illustrated in colour, together with selected postmarks. Up to the end of 1979 the listings are as complete as possible but thereafter pictorial postmarks are lumped together under one price with the number of such postmarks given in parentheses – for example 16 for the 1980 Birds issue, 21 for 1995 Cats and 48 for 1999 Travellers' Tale. This gives a clear indication of the rapid growth in postmark sponsorship. Relevant CDs postmark covers are priced together, with indication of places, eg Marston and Naseby for the 1992 Civil War issue and Holy Island and All Saints, Canterbury for the 1997 Religious Anniversaries set. Prices are included for PHQ cards used on day of issue and Benham luxury 'silk' sets. The book, reminiscent of *Collect British Stamps*, will be of value to any collector who does not want to be dazzled by the sheer number of cover variations produced in recent years ●

Essential Guide to British First Day Covers Price £9.95, postage £1 UK. From Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. 200 pages, card covers.



Collecting First Day Covers
Available from A G Bradbury,
3 Link Road, Leicester LE2
3RA. 168 pages, card covers.
Price £10, postage £1.50.

Collecting First Day Covers The 2000 edition of this well-established work is compiled by N C Porter and designed, edited and published by cover producer Adrian Bradbury. Those familiar with the catalogue will immediately notice the change in format. Each page is now printed in two colours with virtually every relevant special handstamp and many FDCs illustrated. The main sections, General Notes, Commemoratives, Definitives, and the advertisements are easily identifiable by the second colour. The General Notes section merits careful reading: it deals, concisely and clearly, with prices and condition, types of postmark (very detailed), types of cover, and permanent handstamps. This last is a useful reference listing of numerous, mostly pictorial handstamps, used by Royal Mail over the past 30 years. All are illustrated small size, and dates of introduction and withdrawal (where relevant) given. The Commemoratives section lists covers from the British Empire Exhibition stamps of 1924 to the Millennium Timekeepers miniature sheet. The names of the sponsors of special handstamps are given. Until the end of 1998 prices are quoted for each ordinary and sponsored cover; from 1999 a price guide is given. In the Definitives section there are separate listings for self-adhesives, commemorative labels, stamp coils, To Pay and Frama labels, booklet panes, varieties, and covers for first days of new services such as Recorded Delivery in 1961 and the Two-tier Post in 1968. The varieties list includes changes to perfs, papers and phosphors – where the issue dates are known ●

Greetings stamps labels 1996 Cartoons, by Lionel Jones



THE EIGHTH SERIES of greetings stamps went on sale on 26 February 1996. They feature a mixture of cartoons – four by the late Mel Calman, three by Charles Barsotti, and one each by Leo Cullum, Larry (Terence Parkes), and Jack Ziegler – to coincide with the issue an exhibition on Greetings Stamps opened at the National Postal Museum. Included in the display were the winning entries in the Young Cartoonists of the Year competition organised by the British Cartoonists Association and *The Times*. Calman's cartoon *More* on the first stamp in the pane was reproduced on the front cover of the book. Accompanying the 10 stamps were 20 colourful labels attached by an inter-panneau gutter. The label

lettering was by Mel Calman. The entire book, including the stamps and labels was designed by Michael Wolff and printed in litho on a sheet-fed Roland press by Walsall Security Printers. A comb perforator was used, gauge 14.5 × 14. As well as being sold in books at post offices and some retail outlets, the stamps and labels were also issued, for collectors, in a presentation pack. The stamp designs were also issued as stamp cards. The original printing had a phosphor screen on the stamps; a second printing, issued on 11 November 1996, had two phosphor bands per stamp. At the time of writing, both printings of the book, the pack and stamp cards are all still available from the British Philatelic Bureau •

Posting boxes 192

TWO OVERSEAS BOXES THIS MONTH. The first photograph, submitted by Roberta Hanson, is of the box at the entrance to Gibraltar Post Office. Miss Hanson points out that the posting apertures are labelled for ABROAD and LOCAL mail. The manufacturer's name, MACHAN ENG/SCOTLAND, is clearly visible at the base.

The second photograph, from Mrs M Bland, shows a British George VI wall box in Koblenz, Germany. It is in use, complete with collection time plate showing daily collections except Saturday. Mrs Bland wonders how this British box came to be in use in Koblenz •



For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces many interesting publications and postcards.

The Richard West column Honouring the 'great and good'

THERE has been a growing tendency to honour the 'great and the good' in the philatelic world with memorial lectures. The trend started some ten years ago with the Kay Goodman Lecture, now held each year as part of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Kay had been an active supporter of Congress, but was particularly remembered for her work with the Middlesex Philatelic Federation and in encouraging young collectors.

The first Kay Goodman Lecture was given in 1989, at the Congress held in Brighton: the lecturer on that occasion was the late Robson Lowe.

More recently the Stuart Rossiter Trust has inaugurated the Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture. Stuart was a keen philatelic student, and also editor of *The London Philatelist*, the magazine of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Having not married, he bequeathed his estate to the establishment of a trust fund to work to the promotion of postal history.

The Stuart Rossiter Trust has already published several notable works. The annual memorial lecture is often aligned to a recent publication by the Trust. In this way, those who attend the lecture can be reminded of its contents at their leisure. Equally, those unable to attend, do not entirely miss out: they may not have seen the performance, but at least they can read the book.

Last year the National Philatelic Society recognised its founder by holding the first Fred Melville Memorial Lecture. The plan is that such lectures should now become annual. Fred Melville, apart from being an accomplished journalist, was another fine philatelic student with a wealth of articles and handbooks to his credit. Finding himself too young when he tried to join the Royal Philatelic Society, he established the Junior Philatelic Society, later to become the 'National'.

The first lecture, held as part of the NPS centenary celebrations last November, was given by Stephen Holder, who painted a fascinating picture of the life of Fred Melville.

These memorial lectures are always highly instructional, but naturally only limited numbers

can personally enjoy them. Clearly those presenting these lectures expend a great deal of time and thought on their subjects. It would therefore be good if the text of all these worthwhile lectures were published, in the way that the Stuart Rossiter Trust invariably does.

Of course, as a way of honouring the great collectors, the memorial lecture must have its limits, possibly now reached with three such lectures a year.

Are there ways found of ensuring that other notable names are not forgotten? There are, of course, the various awards systems, such as the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit from the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) and the Scottish system of honouring its outstanding philatelists. Plus, there is the highest accolade of them all: the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, signed each year by a handful of worthwhile international philatelists at a special ceremony during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

Nevertheless, there will be some who escape the net. The Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society has an annual award for outstanding service. At the end of last year it was awarded posthumously to Michael Elliott. Michael played a major part in British philately, not only in Brighton, but also with the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society and the ABPS. Ironically, he always said that he did not favour awards, yet perhaps here is someone who should be remembered in some way; perhaps a posthumous Congress Medal.

Some are remembered through awards, such as the R A G Lee Trophy presented at Stampex. But how do we honour the fine work done by such outstanding philatelic students as Ritchie Bodily, Robson Lowe and Angus Parker? Medals, rolls, memorial lectures – they are all in danger of being over-played. However, perhaps some record in a place like the British Philatelic Centre might not be a bad form of recognition.

I have twice mentioned the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. At one time it was thought this

might take place during The Stamp Show 2000. With such a tight schedule for the exhibition, this has proved impossible. However, London will still be the venue, (8-10 September), with the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and presentation of the 2000 Congress Medal at Camden Town Hall, and the Kay Goodman Lecture being staged at the British Library. If you are within reach of London, why not try to attend? I will give more details once these are finalised.

Richard West is Editor at Large, Stamp Magazine ●



The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on a rare appearance at an overseas stamp exhibition: shown in Singapore in 1998.

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Commemorative denominations Like so many collectors I am disappointed with the Millennium issues. This is not just because of their often unattractive designs, but also because there is no denomination suitable for Europe or international postcards. I hope these failings will be resolved very soon. JOHN HOWE, CARDIFF ●

Encouraging young collectors It has been a real pleasure to be able to actually use the special 19p and 26p stamps and to see them on envelopes. What a pity the special Millennium sheet consisted of 64p stamps – few people will receive mail using these. Had they been 19p and/or 26p they would have appeared on Christmas mail and the children would have enjoyed spotting and collecting all four. Youngsters need to see interesting stamps on envelopes and be able to collect them free of charge in reasonable numbers if they are to be stimulated to start collecting. A great opportunity missed. TIM WEBB, SOMERSET ●

Best of the year I have had considerable doubts about each of the all-too-many stamp issues of 1999 and to see them all laid out in the December *Bulletin* confirmed my view that they are a collective disaster. Once again, in my opinion, the best 'stamp' of the year was the label issued in such a poorly promoted book of four 1st class definitives. Exactly why the subject of the British contribution to the Berlin Airlift and this partic-

ular design could not have been issued as a proper stamp is beyond my comprehension. But then it can be seen for what it is, rather than as a mystery wrapped up in an enigma, as so many of the stamps actually issued seem to be. I take the view that membership of the Stamp Selection Committee is in need of a drastic review or, perhaps, the members should take a trip to the Isle of Man and pick up a few pointers from the Manx team. S G JONES, LLANGOLLEN ●

Millennium Machin I am pleased to send you this short message to congratulate Royal Mail for its Millennium definitive – the striking white background gives the celebrated Machin head a stunning appearance allowing to hope that this series will be continued in the next century. No pictorial definitives could reach the high grade of this design, and, besides, they have no place in monarchy. Unfortunately I cannot praise the boring, plethoric and ghastly Millennium commemoratives for which not a single European rate stamp has been issued. ETIENNE PEREMANS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM ●

Dating the Millennium I'm afraid P H Warne (January) has made the common mistake of confusing age with dates. He is correct in stating that a baby is one when it becomes a year old. Dates are not ages, but they are used for calculating age. The first year of the first Millennium was 1AD

(the first year of the Lord). There was no year OAD. If there had been, logic would dictate that the preceding year was OBC. Two years os! I don't think so! IBC is followed by IAD. Dates are for pinpointing days, months, years in time. Following Mr Warne's thinking, the first day of January 2000 would have to be o January (abbreviated o.o.2000). No, Messrs Parker and Bowman got it right. JOHN V SWINFELD, CHEAM ●

Too arty! The Millennium stamps, shown on pages 116-117 of the December *Bulletin*, are an utter disgrace. None has any connection with the others except for the miniature sheet. It is just as well that Tracey Emin did not win the Turner Prize otherwise the 'arty' members of your Selection Committee would have insisted having it on a stamp: *My Bed* indeed. G IZMIDLIAN, SPALDING ●

Country stamps With reference to your question on the idea of 'country' definitives in Postbag in December, I have already written on this subject – my letter was published in September. My plea was for new pictorial definitives for Northern Ireland along the lines of the Scotland and Wales issues. This would be in line with the devolution of political power to the new Assemblies, and would be welcomed as part of this process. I suppose this implies separate definitives for England also. I am second to none in my appreciation and admiration of the Machin definitives, a classic design that has stood the test of time, but I believe they should now be consigned to history. May I repeat my request for more 'country' identity as the symbols probably mean little abroad, and also maybe some concession to Scottish and Irish Gaelic as has been done for the Welsh. W J MURPHY, MALAHIDE, CO DUBLIN ●

English regionals The subject of English regional stamps has been raised again. I must say that having written on the subject a couple of years ago, I still believe it would be a good idea, especially if the opportunity was taken to produce non-Machins as has been done for Scotland and Wales and could also be done for Northern Ireland. ERIC GREEN, MAIDENHEAD ●

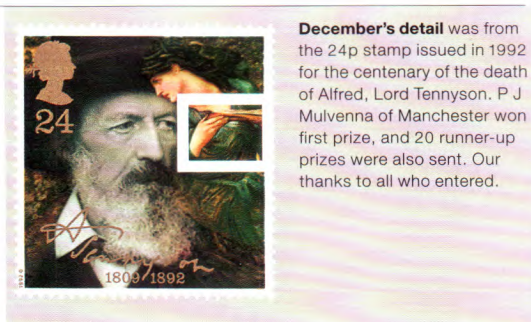
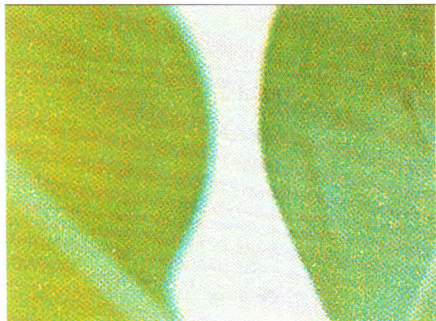
Unified series I am against separate issues for the different constituent parts of the United Kingdom. We should have a single definitive series showing scenery, buildings and landmarks in all parts of our beautiful country. The designs could be changed as postal rates change and new stamps are necessary. MARION ARNOLD, SWANSEA ●

English country stamps It would be a joy to have English stamps, though I doubt that the various 'equality' commissars would allow England to be represented on stamps, as this would put the nation on a par with the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland nations and thus would be unfair. However as a collector from childhood (I am now in my late 60s), I have long wished that Britain issued pictorial definitives as policy. The landscape format of many of the bygone Empire and Dominion issues permitted representation of many wonderful scenes from overseas areas. I believe that similar stamps showing views of Britain would be welcomed by overseas collectors. T P SHELFORD, NORTHAMPTON ●

New definitives Like Miss Thulborn (December), I am getting rather tired of the never-ending series of Machins as a definitive set. I would like to see something more interesting, such as pictorials showing some of our finest buildings – York Minster, Tintern Abbey, Castle Howard, Wembley Stadium to name but a few; there are plenty more, of all kinds. Or pictures of our beauty spots, of which there are more than enough to constitute a definitive set. In this respect, I was sorry to see the demise of the Castles high values which have been replaced by more of the infinitely boring Machins. Let us have more interesting and colourful stamps, worthy of the inventor of postage stamps! ROBERT W RUSH, ACCRINGTON ●

Perhaps a solution to the Machin v pictorial definitives problem would be to have both. Belgium has definitives featuring King Albert II, the Belgian lion, and a most attractive birds series. Denmark, Norway, and Sweden also run different definitive designs concurrently, one series depicting the reigning monarch. ED ●

Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



December's detail was from the 24p stamp issued in 1992 for the centenary of the death of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. P J Mulvenna of Manchester won first prize, and 20 runner-up prizes were also sent. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the special stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to March *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to March *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 What colour is the Machin 2nd class NV1 stamp?
- 2 In what year was EFTA featured on stamps?
- 3 What was the title of the fourth set of Millennium stamps in 1999?

Send your answer (addressed to either March *Identify* Competition or March *Knowledge* Competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 April will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes will also be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until 25 March Writers by Post exhibition, of writers featured on postage stamps, at Writers' Museum, Edinburgh. Worldwide stamps. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, admission free. **Enquiries** 0131 529 4901.

1-5 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. **Enquiries** Stampex 0171 490 1005.

2-4 March Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) at Royal Horticultural Hall 2, Greycoat Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** Chris Rainey 01268 726687 or Trevor Davis 0181 946 4489.

4 March GB Phil Soc Members' displays at Spring Stampex, 14.30. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 01189 344151.

18 March Streetly Phil Soc Stamp Fair at Streetly Community Centre, Foley Road East (off main A452 Chester Road between Sutton Coldfield and Brownhills). 09.30-16.00. Dealers in stamps, postcards,

postal history, etc. Admission 25p, children 10p. **Enquiries** Laurie Rennison, 0121 308 2260.

25 March-3 April Bangkok 2000 Youth world stamp exhibition at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok. **Enquiries** BANGKOK 2000, PO Box 2000, CAT, Headquarters Post Office, Bangkok 10002, Thailand. UK commissioner Richard West.

1 April GB Phil Soc meeting: Presidential display 11.00; Auction 12.30; Cinderella Miscellany, Francis Kiddle 14.30. British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. **Enquiries** Andrew Lajer, 01189 344151.

8 April North of Ireland Phil Soc Annual Exhibition & Fair at St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cadogan Park, Lisburn Road, Belfast, 10.00-16.30. Dealers in stamps, postal history, postcards & accessories. Admission free. **Enquiries** N Scott, 028 90 795530 ●

Late news

Glasgow 2000 Further information has recently been published about this major national exhibition to be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, 17-19 November. Collectors visiting the exhibition who want to book accommodation at the Forte Post House Hotel, Glasgow or to attend the Civic Reception (17 November), Awards Banquet and/or Local Sightseeing Tour (18 November) should contact K E Norris, 30 Luss Brae, Hamilton ML3 9UT for a booking form, to be returned by 30 June.

Some 60 dealers, auction houses and stamp printers will participate in the exhibition. The sponsors of the exhibition are The Post Office and Clydesdale Bank with a further 26 organisations as donors and supporters, including the City of Glasgow, Joh Enschedé printers, and various Scottish philatelic societies. A number of individual collectors have donated and further donations are welcome and should be sent to Ian MacPherson, Ardnacraig, 28 Oldhall Drive, Kilmacollm PA13 4RF, payable to ASPS GLASGOW 2000. A souvenir cover will be printed from the winning design following a competition open to students in the Scottish Colleges of Art; this is an exciting idea and the committee feels sure that something special will ensue. The closing date for entries is 1 May •

Further details The exhibition's website is <http://home.freeuk.net/johnmorgan/glas2000.htm>. The Co-ordinating Secretary is Margaret Morris, 81 Ellon Way, Paisley PA3 4BW.

Advice of Delivery service Due to declining use, Royal Mail propose to withdraw the Advice of Delivery service for inland Recorded mail when the new postal rates are introduced in April. The international version of this service will remain and Royal Mail will continue with its UPU commitment to complete and return AD cards received from other postal administrations •

Post Impressions Over 150,000 visitors enjoyed this exhibition which closed at the British Library on 18 January. It was very popular with school and college groups •

Cricket and Concorde The January 2000 issue of *Wickets*, newsletter of the Cricket Philatelic Society, contains an auction of some scarce labels and covers, illustration of a signed cover for the Nat-West Trophy final between Essex and Lancashire on 7 September 1996, an article on W G Grace, and reports of new cricket stamps. Membership of the Society is £4 UK, £9 overseas (airmail).

The Concorde Study Circle celebrated its 21st anniversary last year. Its latest *Newsletter* – a 32 page magazine – includes features on the 30 years of Concorde, new stamps and postmarks showing the aircraft, the British Concorde's 1999 Total Eclipse Flight (covers serviced of course), and Concorde postcards and phonecards.

Cricket Philatelic Society Derek Gallimore, 30 Pinewoods Avenue, Hagley, Stourbridge DY9 0JF.

Concorde Study Circle Brian Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ.

Surrey philatelic societies The Addlestone Philatelic Society meets every other Friday at 19.45 in the Long Room at the Community Centre, Station Road, Addlestone. Recent displays have included 'Safety at Sea' by Mike Czuczman and 'Pre-1841 British Postal History' by Mike Bament. The Walton & Weybridge Society meets every other Tuesday at Weybridge Library at 19.45. Recent displays of interest to GB collectors included Postal Stationery (Peter White), Underpaid Mail 1914-71 (John Moy), and Early Glasgow Mail (Miller McGrath). All are welcome to attend.

The Camberley & District Stamp Club now runs some afternoon meetings for members who prefer not to travel in the evenings. The club plans coach transport for members going to Stamp Show 2000 in May and will hold a public auction on 15 April – catalogues available, price 30p, from John Pugh, 14 Hillsborough Park, Camberley GU15 1HG •

Addlestone Philatelic Society and Walton & Weybridge Society Miss O T Bates, 01932 853605.

Camberley & District Stamp Club Harold Capsey, 40 Quintilis, Roman Hill, Bracknell RG12 7QQ.

POSTMAN PAT LABEL BOOK



See Postman Pat at
the Stamp Show 2000
Earls Court, London
from 22-28 May 2000

For FREE tickets call
0845 072 2000

THE
STAMP
SHOW 2000
EARLS COURT LONDON 22-28 MAY 2000

Royal Mail's latest pictorial label book, containing 4 x 1st class Millennium definitives and a label featuring the popular children's TV character Postman Pat will be available from 21 March 2000.

The label is designed by Brian Delaney and the book is printed by Walsall Security Printers

in celebration of this year's Stamp Show 2000 which runs from 22-28 May 2000 at Earls Court, London.

Issued on 21 March, this book is available from philatelic outlets and the British Philatelic Bureau. Unfolded panes will be available only from the British Philatelic Bureau.

British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 550 8989



Reference 00-AEA

