

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 23

Number 1

September 1985

BRITISH FILMS



Contents

- 1 Editorial
British Private Posts
- 2 The Paris Postal Conference 1863
- 3 Arthurian Legend Stamps
New Parcel Definitive Stamp
- 4 Decimal Stamp Booklets
- 5 Thematics IV: Evolution
- 7 First Day: Part 2
- 8 Posting Boxes
- 9 British Film Stamps Issue: 8 October 1985
- 11 Gems from the R M Phillips
Collection CXXIX:
Early Proofs
The Last Train Ticket
- 12 Facets of Postal History:
10. The Railway Letter Stamps
- 13 Withdrawn Items
New Stamp Book
Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840
Letters to the Editor
- 14 Book Reviews
- 15 Forthcoming Events
- 16 New Postcards
Forces Covers
- 17 Commemorative Covers

British Private Posts

Island Local Issues

John Holman, author of the above named article in the July issue, has asked us to publish the following concerning addresses to write to for island stamps. The address for Caldey stamps is: The Procurator, Caldey Abbey, Caldey Island, TENBY, Dyfed, SA70 7UH. Since the article was submitted for publication, the Philatelic Officer of the Kenneth Allsop Memorial Trust which issues the Steep Holm stamps has changed his address; he can now be contacted at: 82 Plantagenet Chase, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA20 2PY.

Editorial

This month we are pleased to welcome back to the pages of the Philatelic Bulletin, Raife Wellsted, Curator of the National Postal Museum. In his first article he looks at the Paris Postal Conference of 1863, an important milestone in international postal relations. He will also be contributing a series over the coming months, at regular intervals, covering the development of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and its role as an international postal organisation, particularly its effect on British postal services.

On 17 September 1985 a new high value parcel definitive stamp will be issued, the first new definitive stamp for over twelve months. This follows the policy begun in 1983 with a high value definitive stamp being issued for the basic parcel weight every time there is a tariff change. Full details are included in this issue of the Bulletin.

Readers might also like to know that the policy of linking the value of special stamps to postal rates will be continuing for the present. Most issues will still contain four stamps, at the basic rate for inland first class post, European, Airmail Zone B and C. This policy will not be departed from, either for short-term financial gain for the Post Office or for short term benefits to collectors. To do so would be felt to endanger the concept of postal relevance to which the Post Office has adhered for over two decades.

The latest addition to the national chain of Post Office philatelic counters will be opening at Luton (number 65) on 8 October 1985. The network of philatelic counters is currently under review, and it is possible that some existing uneconomic ones may be closed and new ones opened to meet changing philatelic demand.

Many sub post offices and a few crown offices do not sell any philatelic products at present except for stamps. This situation is being remedied to provide a better service for collectors by encouraging local managers and sub postmasters to stock philatelic items. A training campaign to increase staff awareness of collectors' needs is already under way. Every effort will continue to be made to provide the service to which collectors are entitled.

CHARLES GOWEN

The Paris Postal Conference – 1863

On 11 May 1863, the Paris Postal Conference opened at the 'Hotel des Postes' in Paris. It was a meeting of 15 nations: Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Great Britain, The Hanseatic Cities (Bremen, Hamburg and Lubeck); Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, The Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), Spain, Switzerland and the United States. The Government of Ecuador was unable to send a delegate to Paris but agreed, in advance, to all resolutions which might be passed. These nations represented 90% of the postal business transacted in the world.

The meeting was the result of a letter from Montgomery Blair, the Postmaster General of the United States, dated 4 August 1862, in which he stated:

"There exists many obstacles to foreign correspondence which cannot be resolved except by concerted international action. These obstacles arise from differences in principles as well as in details of postal arrangements reached by the various nations of the two continents. There is a great diversity of rates between the same places, up to six different rates depending on the means of transportation. It is apparent that an international postal system established on a common base is of primary importance, not only from the viewpoint of commercial relations, but also social relations. The ramifications of the postal system, involving so many countries, seems to require a general co-operative action".

It is clear that this was a very unusual Conference. It did not have any definite or practical aim; it was not binding on the delegates or on the administrations which they represented; the delegates were limited to a discussion of a system, which they all found wanting. However, the very nature of the Conference had advantages. It enabled the delegates to discuss in detail the international postal situation as they saw it, without being involved with the practical difficulties or financial implications of any changes they might wish to make.

The Conference ended on 8 June, a full four weeks after opening. There were 36 questions considered but these can be grouped as the problems of uniformity of weight, uniformity of rates and simplifications of accounting between nations.



The Conference resulted in 31 articles or general principles which were intended to facilitate international mail services and their relationship with other countries. However, as these were not binding, they were simply used as a basis for future international conventions.

Briefly the results of the Conference were:

- 1 To decide how best to tackle the problem which affected person to person correspondence.
- 2 To report to the respective administrations the present difficulties and try to prevent them from worsening.
- 3 To set out to each administration the way in which they should take account of the international conventions.
- 4 To set out the questions which needed to be resolved in order to establish a simple and uniform system for international relations.

The Paris Conference decided nothing, nor was it empowered to do so, but it did define the ills which beset the international postal relations. It also created a will to solve the difficulties and set the scene for the Postal Union which would appear 11 years later.

Although the decisions were fairly cosmetic, and in fact the Conference was not even reported in the Postmaster General's reports for 1863, it did enable much wider terms to be included in the new conventions signed between member states in the

succeeding years. Notably the convention signed with Belgium in 1866 was much more co-operative than before.

The timing of this Conference is extraordinary. The prime mover, Montgomery Blair had recently caused the only invalidation of American stamps at the outbreak of the Civil War, which was still in course. The Battles of Chancellorsville (2-4 May 1863) and Gettysburg (1-3 July 1863) straddled the Conference. Blair, himself, was not present and sent John A Kasson in his place. Although he was one of the most efficient and dedicated of the US Postmasters, he was a leader of the Conservative faction of the Republican party, and, when in 1864, Lincoln was in danger of losing the election, the radicals of the party insisted that Blair was dismissed in return for their support. He left the Post Office in October 1864 and lived in retirement until his death in 1883.

What of the countries which attended this important Conference. By the time the General Postal Union had been formed, three countries were no longer able to join: The Hanseatic Towns and Prussia being part of Germany and the Hawaiian Islands, although independent in 1874, never joined the Union. Of the others, all became signatories, though Costa Rica was not a member until 1883 and Ecuador joined in 1883.

The Paris Postal Congress opened the way for the General Postal Union, a body which grew into the Universal Postal Union in 1878. It was the start of a movement which has affected us all to some degree or another — but more of that in a future article.

RAIFE WELLSTED

Arthurian Legend Stamps

Colours and Cylinder Numbers

- 17p grey-black, lemon, brown-lilac, ultramarine, grey-black, silver.
- 22p black, lemon, brown-lilac, pale blue, grey-black, silver, grey-black.
- 31p black, lemon, magenta, turquoise-blue, grey-black, silver, grey-black.
- 34p grey, lemon, magenta, new blue, grey-black, silver, grey-black.
- 17p 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f.
- 22p 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.
- 31p 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e/2c, 1f, 1g.
- 34p 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.

New Parcel Definitive Stamp

A new parcel definitive stamp, value £1.41, will be available from 17 September 1985. This will be the new charge for the basic parcel weight following the tariff increase on 2 September 1985. The colours are buff for the head against a blue green background.



First Day Cover Service

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing the stamp. The cover will be cancelled, 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' or 'Windsor, Berks', as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

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

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 17 September 1985. The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
SERVICE 'A'	£1.92	£1.67
Deposit Account Customers	£1.86	£1.62
SERVICE 'B'	£1.77	£1.54

Technical Details

Printer: Harrison & Sons Limited
Process: Photogravure — Jumelle
Perforation: 14 x 15
Adhesive: PVA dextrin
Paper: unwatermarked.

Decimal Booklet Pane Printings – Technical Details (1)

L. F. Newbery

Unless otherwise stated the stamps were printed and perforated on the Chambon Press, the coating being FCP and the adhesive PVA1/Dex. Covers printed and bound on Libra book making machine.

Booklets — unless otherwise stated columns I and II were both issued.

The booklet and booklet pane numbers and the Value Type and Head coding used are by courtesy of the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle.

Printings of single value panes for Folded Counter Stamp Booklets

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Stamp Type/ Head	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Initial Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Stamp Booklets Issue	Cylinders
DP62/62A	10 @ 16p	T1/D1	B3 — PCP	2.3.1983	2.3.1983	DB8 First Class £1.60 (22) Birthdays (24) Cotswolds (25) Write It	B3 B3 B10 B3 B10
		T1/D1	B10 — PCP	12.12.1983			
DP62D/62E Stamps endorsed 'D' for Discount	10 @ 16p	T1/D1	B3 — PCP	4.7.1984	4.7.1984	DB8 Discount £1.45 (23) Lyme Regis	B3
DP68/68A	10 @ 13p	T2/D1	B7 B62 CB	28.6.1984	28.6.1984	DB7 Second Class £1.30 (26) Swansea Tram (27) Glasgow Tram (28) Blackpool Tram	B7 B12 B7 B12 B12
		T2/D1	B12 B62 CB	27.9.1984			
DP69/69A	10 @ 17p	T2a/D1	B7 — PCP	22.6.1984	22.6.1984	DB8 First Class £1.70 (26) Love Letters Column II (28) Fan Letters	B7 B9 B7
		T2a/D1	B9 — PCP	21.12.1984			
		T2a/D1	B18 — PCP	29.2.1985			
DP69D/69E Stamps endorsed 'D' for Discount	10 @ 17p	T2a/D1	B7 — PCP	29.11.1984	29.11.1984	DB8 Discount £1.55 (27) Letters Abroad	B7 B9
		T2a/D1	B9 — PCP	18.12.1984			
		T2a/D1	B14 — PCP	16.1.1985			
DP67 Stamps with star on gum	20 x 12½	T2/D1	B36 B49 CB	24.8.1983		DB10 (6) Christmas 1983 Discount £2.20	
		T2/D1	B40 B49 CB	25.8.1985			
		T2/D1	B36 B62 CB	24.8.1983	24.8.1983		
		T2/D1	B40 B36 CB	9.9.1983			
		T1/D1	B42 B49 CB	No date recorded			
		T1/D1	B44 B36 CB	14.9.1983			
		T1/D1	B46 B36 CB	27.9.1983			

Issued 1984/85

DP62/62A	(22) Birthdays	4,335,537	DP69/69A	(26) Love Letters	7,914,375
	(24) Cotswolds	3,793,025		(28) Fan Letters	2,173,700
	(25) Write It	2,499,850	DP69D/69E	(27) Letters Abroad	4,041,150
DP62D/62E	(23) Lyme Regis	4,427,800	DP67	(6) Christmas 1983	6,063,875
DP68/68A	(26) Swansea Tram	5,034,000			
	(27) Glasgow Tram	1,133,600			
	(28) Blackpool Tram	N/A			

Evolution

Stamp collecting is fun, and a thematic collection should be enjoyed. Any item included is chosen to give you pleasure. It is only in competitive entries that certain rules must apply, and the following observations are intended as general guidelines. Any stamp listed by Gibbons in the appendix at the back of the catalogue should be avoided, as these are doubtful issues, and many are only labels produced with thematic collectors in mind. When faced with several stamps all vying for the one spot in the story, choose the one that fits in best visually and comes, if possible, from a country which has some connection with the subject. Erik the Red and his Vikings come better from Greenland (1982) than from Umm Al Qiwaïn (1974).

A postally-used cover and mint stamps can share the same page, although mint and used stamps as such are not usually mixed. Unless it is necessary to illustrate something like a printing technique by a block of stamps, a single stamp should be sufficient to make a point, for a block often implies a shortage of material.

Covers, postal stationery, meter marks, postmarks, stamp books etc can all enrich a collection, and this applies to most material issued legitimately by a postal administration. Maximum cards and miniature sheets take up a great deal of space, and warrant a place only if they add to the story. Postcards should offer more than an appropriate picture; but the same card posted at an exhibition, perhaps with a special handstamp, adds considerable philatelic interest.

A theme of absorbing interest is the wide one of 'Evolution' which can combine a whole range of sections, or concentrate on one particular aspect. For the geological evolution of the world itself British Antarctic Territory illustrated (1982) ancient Gondwanaland and its breakup by continental drift over millions of years into the continents as we know them now. At the beginning of the 20th century Alfred Wegner (Austria '80) offered this theory of Continent Drift which has now been universally accepted. In ocean depths floating continental 'plates' continually move against each other in areas of great volcanic instability, and sea-floor spreading builds up ridges on which lie islands, the visible tops of mountain ranges. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge



appeared on stamps commemorating the Royal Geographical Society (Ascension & Tristan 1980). Tristan (1982) illustrated the technical formation of volcanic cones and the build-up to an eruption, and Ascension (1978) produced a strip and booklet showing a panorama of volcanoes on this youthful island. Iceland to the north offers a variety of eruptions, and the South Sandwich Islands (FID 1984) on the foot of the same ridge, depict some forbidding volcanoes in sub-Antarctica. Volcanic landscapes show the earth's crust in the very process of formation, and the actual eruption can be so violent that, like Krakatoa in 1883 (Indonesia 1984), the entire mountain itself is blown to infinity. Types of rock and mineral content can be grouped, such as the ancient granites of the Scottish Cairngorms (GB 1966) and English Lakes (GB 1970 Grasmere), and the younger Tertiary basalts forming the solidified 'steps' of the Giants Causeway (GB 1981).

It was the study of rock strata and the fossils entombed within them that in the 18th and 19th centuries led to the clash between new scientific thoughts and conventional religious beliefs, the scientists holding many different views. Carl Linnaeus (Sweden 1778) who classified plants and animals into groups according to their similarities, held the orthodox view that the world was 6,000 years old according to Biblical interpretation, and that all species remained unchanged in the form in which they were created. The French naturalist Georges Buffon (1749) suggested that earth was far older than imagined. Alexander von Humboldt (Germany DDR 1969), Georges Cuvier (France 1969) and others investigating rock layers, proved that each strata could be dated according to its fossil content. Cuvier found there were no modern equivalents of the extinct marine trilobite and flying pterodactyl (DDR 1973), and since then fossil plants, trees (USA 1974), and even footprints (Lesotho 1984) and bones (Zambia 1973) of the huge dinosaurs clearly pointed to a process of evolution. Sir Charles Lyell claimed that all things fell into perspective if enough geological time was added, so that rock could form from sediments eroded and deposited in the normal cycle of decay and reconstruction over a period of immense time. A complete section can be devoted to Charles Darwin and his deliberations over 20 years that culminated in his *Origin of Species*, and his theory of survival of the fittest by means of natural selection. Britain marked his death centenary in 1982 by issuing a set showing a ruminative old man and the giant reptiles peculiar to the Galapagos Islands, where the beaks of finches, descended from a common stock, have changed physically to adapt to different environments. There were many interesting handstamps and stamps from other countries. The evolution of Man followed logically, and the *Descent of Man* suggested that man and apes shared a common ancestry, a theory that really upset established thought.

Earth is about 4,500 million years old, and life probably began during the past 570 million years, of which only the last 3 million spans the age of Man. This section of evolution is so enormous that it can be treated completely separately as a theme in its own right. Many new discoveries have been made recently which are still being evaluated. Excavations in Olduvai Gorge (Tanzania 1965) and Lake Turkana produced two distinct groups of hominids who were contemporaries roughly 3,000,000 years ago, the small-brained *Australopithecine* or 'Nutcracker Man' (Kenya 1982), and the short maker of primitive tools *Homo habilis* who was probably our direct



ancestor (Cuba 1967). Astonishingly by 500,000 BC his descendant the larger-brained and taller *Homo erectus* (Kenya 1982) had spread across a vast area so that fossils of his type and his tools are known from China to Germany and in North and East Africa. A fine hunter, he controlled fire and produced the first standardised tool, the all-purpose handaxe. The short, hardy Neanderthal, thick-skulled and low-browed (Cuba 1967) was dominant before the last Ice Age, and his implements and food placed by the dead implies some sort of belief in life after death. They were supplanted by our own *H. sapiens* of 35,000 to 8,000 BC who carved ivory and bone handles for flint blades, and left a record of the animals and his hunting life in cave engravings. These gifted Cromagnons travelled westwards from the east Mediterranean, and the fantastic paintings of their descendants in the caves at Altamira (Spain 1967) and Lascaux (French Art 1968) continue to delight us. After the Ice Age the rising sea-level isolated Britain (Jersey 1982), and here and in western Europe farming communities erected great



megalithic standing stones (Guernsey 1977) or passage graves like Hougue Bie (Jersey 1969) or Newgrange (Ireland 1983), and later showed considerable knowledge of mathematics and astronomy in the creating of the unique Stone Henge. Meanwhile in Mesopotamia the wheel, pottery kilns and Sumerian pictographs were invented (Venda 1982), and written language was born. Each step in modern Man's progress can be minutely documented — the rise of great and ancient civilizations, the development of religion, the arts, the working of fine metals and advancing technology. From Stone Age to Space Age, Man's sojourn on earth is a mere blink of time.

BARBARA LAST

First Day

Part 2

By 11 March the die for the One Penny adhesive stamp was ready but the 1d Plate I was not completed in all respects until 8 April. A few days were spent in making ready the new printing presses and a few trial sheets were run off, but mass production did not start before a contract had been completed between Stamps & Taxes and Messrs J B Bacon and H P Petch on 13 April. By this time Stamp Inspectors were stationed at the works to supervise the printing and to lock up the plates when they were not in service.

On 14 April fifteen sheets were printed from the 1d Plate I and there was a run of 174 sheets from the 1d 'VR' plate for the stamp intended for use on official correspondence. On this day Rowland Hill visited the printing works to confer with J B Bacon and assess the situation and the prospects.

Undoubtedly at this meeting the decision was taken that it would be necessary to carry on printing at night to build up stocks, for on the following day it is recorded that 202 + 285 sheets were printed from the 1d Plate I. Owing partly to delays in deliveries of watermarked paper, the printers were unable to supply their contracted daily quantities of stamps, and for nearly a month they had to bear the cost of overtime working, not only in respect of their own employees, but also of the inspecting officers! Sunday working was of course unthinkable.

Also on 15 April single sheets from the 1d Plate I and the 1d 'VR' plate were sent to Somerset House for registration: they were endorsed with this date but were not approved for service on the same day (normal Stamp Office procedure since 1710) but on 27 April. It is suggested that the Commissioners

withheld their imprimatur until they were satisfied that the high standard of production could be maintained. Stocks increased more rapidly after the 1d Plate II was put to press on 22 April: one sheet was registered on the same day and again the imprimatur was withheld until 27 April.

The production of the stamped stationery followed a rather similar course. On 1 April Rowland Hill received the first proofs from Thompson's brass block of the Mulready design. Impressions from the two dies which included the denomination of value and 'POSTAGE' label, from which stereotypes were made for the 1d and 2d letter sheets and envelopes, were registered on 7 April but the imprimaturs were withheld until 27 April. A contract between Stamps & Taxes and Clowes & Sons was completed on 13 April, the inspectors moved in and printing from stereotype formes of twelve commenced on the following day at the rate of about 5,000 sheets per hour (according to Cole).

An entry in Rowland Hill's journal for 21 April reads 'Laid before the C. of the Ex. the draft of the Minutes appointing the 6th of May for commencing the use of the stamps.' A warrant to this effect was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 25 April.

The Post Office dispatched to all postmasters similarly dated circulars informing them that postage stamps were to be brought into use 'forthwith'. Each circular bore a strike of the Maltese Cross obliterator which was forwarded with it and instructions were given for preparing the red cancelling ink.

It appears that 27 April was the day appointed for a final check to be made that the standard of production of the stamps had been maintained, before any supplies were dispatched. On that day second sheets were registered from the 1d Plates I and II and from the Mulready 1d and 2d dies (with frame lines simulating envelopes) and all were approved for service (the 1d Plate I on the following day). Also on 27 April imprimatur inscriptions were added to the first sheets from the 1d Plates I and II and the 1d 'VR' plate, presumably to authenticate printings made from them up to that date. It has been assumed in the past that the duplicate imprimatur sheets were pulled from the plates before and after they were hardened. Hardening a plate would make no perceptible difference to the appearance of a print from it: even after repaired impressions showed ugly marks, plates for printing these stamps were not re-registered.

The plates having been approved, thirteen sheets of Penny Black stamps were sent to the Post Office

on 27 April, followed by five more sheets two days later. They were accompanied by equivalent numbers of Mulready 1d and 2d covers and envelopes: pairs of all these were sent as specimens with circulars to postmasters on 29 April. On the following day the Post Office notified postmasters and the public that stamps were to be 'issued' on 6 May but there was no indication that they would be put on sale before that date. The Post Office appears to have been taken by surprise when Stamps & Taxes jumped the gun.

On 29 April the Commissioners published a notice reciting that the Treasury had directed that postage stamps were to come into use on 6 May and that their sale would in the first place be confined to London. They then gave notice that from 1 May items which they listed could be obtained from the Stamp Office or from the Sea Policy Office in the City of London. *The stamps could be purchased only in quantities amounting to a face value of not less than £1.* Sheets of 240 1d and 2d adhesive stamps were supplied at their face value; quantities of sheets of twelve Mulready 1d or 2d covers or envelopes were charged small premiums above their face value to cover the cost of the paper. The final paragraph reads 'to enable any person to sell these stamps it will be necessary that they should obtain Licenses as Vendors of Stamps generally'. This was normal Stamp Office procedure but it was most troublesome for the Post Office.

Rowland Hill wrote in his journal on 1 May 1840 'Stamps issued to the public today (in London) for the first time, Great bustle at the Stamp Office'. On the following day he wrote '£2500 worth of stamps sold yesterday'. It must not be assumed that 2,500 sheets of Penny Black stamps were sold to the public on that day: the stamps included Mulready 1d and 2d covers and envelopes in sheets.

The instruction that the sale of postage stamps was in the first place to be confined to London was immediately disregarded by Stamps & Taxes, presumably with the knowledge and consent of the Treasury. During the three days, 30 April, 1 May and 2 May, about 12,500 sheets of One Penny postage stamps were dispatched to Distributors of Stamps in just over 500 towns and cities in England and Wales. This information was found by Wright and Creeke in a storekeeper's ledger at Somerset House and published by them in 1899: they were misled into believing that the stamps were Penny Black adhesives (the number is far too great in relation to the total printed up to that day) and that they had been sent to postmasters.

The Average consignment was only 25 sheets per town and many must have been sheets of twelve Mulready covers. Consignments in excess of 100 were sent to a number of cities and large towns but in general the operation has the character of a hurried token distribution to all the Stamp Offices, made to enable them to have postage stamps on sale to the public on 6 May, country Post Offices being prevented from selling them unless their Postmasters were also Distributors or Licensed Vendors of Stamps. On 5 May 1,000 sheets of One Penny postage stamps were dispatched to Edinburgh and a similar number to Dublin.

Penny Black adhesives and items of Mulready stationery which passed through the post before 6 May (contrary to instructions) were probably obtained from Stamp Offices or they could have been specimens sent to postmasters.

MARCUS SAMUEL

Posting Boxes



No. 75. Mrs Margaret Harman of Tunbridge Wells, sent us this month's illustration of an Edward VII posting box situated in a modern shopping complex in Rosebank, JOHANNESBURG, South Africa. This very smart box is very widely used. Thank you Mrs Harman.

British Films Stamps Issue

8 October 1985

The Department of Trade and Industry and the British Film Institute have designated 1985 as British Film Year.

1985 is also the 150th anniversary of the invention of the negative/positive photographic process by the pioneer photographer, William Henry Fox-Talbot. In recognition of these events The Post Office will issue on 8 October 1985 five new special stamps portraying British film personalities.

The subjects and denominations are: Peter Sellers photographed by Bill Brandt (17p), David Niven photographed by Cornel Lucas (22p), Charles Chaplin portrayed by Snowdon (29p), Vivien Leigh photographed by Angus McBean (31p) and Alfred Hitchcock portrayed by Howard Coster (34p).

First Day Cover Service

The following services for the first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'London WC' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover — price 15p — addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'London WC' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

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

	Inland	Overseas
SERVICE 'A'	£1.82	£1.59
Deposit account customers	£1.77	£1.54
SERVICE 'B'	£1.67	£1.46

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh and at Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 27 September 1985.

Technical Details

All five stamps are designed by Keith Bassford and printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Ltd on unwatermarked phosphor coated paper. The format is square, the size is 35mm x 35mm with 14.5 x 14.5 perforations. There are 100 stamps per sheet and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

Reposting Facility

Those customers who wish to send their own stamped and fully addressed covers for cancellation with the 'London WC' postmark, should enclose them in an outer envelope, fully addressed, and stamped, and send them to: Mr Oladapo, PEC Philatelic Duty, WCDO, 21-31 New Oxford Street, LONDON, WC1A 1AA.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available from 24 September 1985, price 14p each.

Presentation Pack

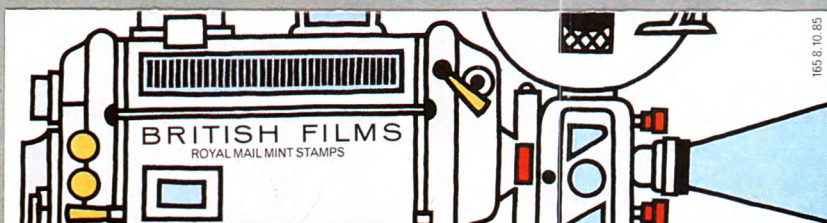
A presentation pack, number 165, and first day cover are designed by Keith Bassford. The text was written by Terence Pettigrew. The cost of the pack is £1.54.

Souvenir Book

A new souvenir book costing £2.00 will be available from 8 October 1985. It incorporates all five British Films stamps in a transparent slip-in holder on the front cover. The book contains 24 pages of colourful illustrations and text on the British Film Industry, charting its history from its early beginnings right up to current successes including films not yet released in this country. It is designed by Howard Brown and John Gorham, and the text is written by Terence Pettigrew. The book is printed by Howard Printers (Slough) Limited.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, price 15p, also designed by Keith Bassford, will go on sale on 9 October 1985 the day after the stamps issue.



Another top-draw Britisher, who personified well-bred English manners,

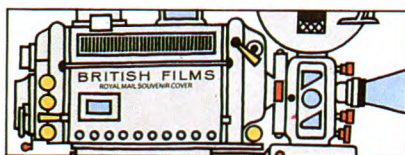
goo
Nivi
film (193
rem
and
bes
rect

Hez
Hol
Hov
Lau
con
and



Strength—has always been his versatility, and recent productions such as *Local Hero* (1983) and *A Passage To India* (1985) show how the tradition continues to be upheld.

British films offer something different to everyone—honesty for people who seek a better understanding, escape for those who need a therapeutic break, glamour for those who like to dream.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Early Proofs

In January 1840, while work progressed on the portrait of HM The Queen which was to be the central feature of the design of the projected postage stamps, trials were made by Perkins, Bacon and Petch of alternative security backgrounds to the head.

For these experiments, they selected various engine-turned security patterns from stock and submitted them to Henry Cole as samples of the background of the stamps and to give him a rough idea of the kind of stamp proposed.

The Perkins printing process began with the original design being engraved on a die of soft steel, which was then hardened. This die was then, under pressure, impressed on a soft steel roller — the engraver's recess design thus becoming a design in relief. After the roller had been hardened it was rolled in on a flat piece of soft steel plate as many times as necessary (the engraver's design being restored to its recess form) and the plate hardened before printing commenced.

The design incorporated in the final printing plate for the 1840 stamps was composed of four separate elements: the chosen security background, taken from stock; the (newly engraved) portrait head; the lettering, frame line and corner ornaments etc; and, finally, the corner letters.

In this month's 'Gem' I feature one of the proofs from these trials. Although by no means the rarest proof in the collection, this is one of the most beautiful and most interesting, because it demonstrates the problem of the engraver and the printer and the necessity for having the background engraved first so that the portrait might be engraved with sufficient strength.

This proof can be seen by visitors to the National Postal Museum in Volume 11 page 38 of the R M Phillips Collection. The Museum opening times are 10.00 am — 4.30 pm Monday to Thursday, and 10.00 am — 4.00 pm Friday.

JOHN MEMMOTT
Assistant Curator



The Last Tram Ticket

In the July Bulletin we included an illustration of the £1.30 stamp book depicting a 'D' class London tram, and a tram ticket used in 1952 during the last week of service of trams in London. The caption incorrectly stated that the ticket was used on the last journey of

the 'D' class trams. This could not have been so as the 'D' class trams were all withdrawn from service by the end of 1931. We would like to thank one of our readers, Michael Jackman, for pointing this out, and apologise for any confusion caused.

10. The Railway Letter Stamps

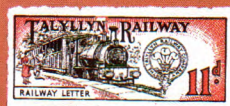
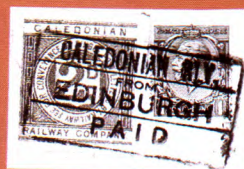
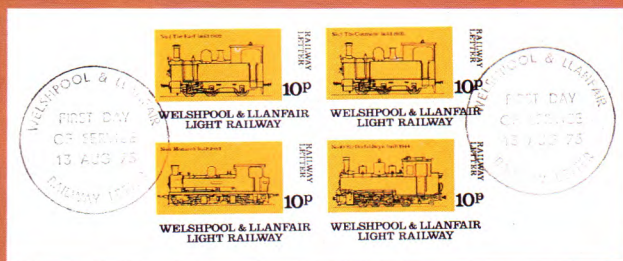
The triumphant toot of George Stephenson's 'Locomotion' as it hauled the first train on the new Stockton and Darlington Railway on 27 September 1825 sounded the death knell of the mail-coach era. It was followed, just five years later, by the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway on 15 September 1830, an event which marked the début of Stephenson's celebrated 'Rocket'. Then, in November of the same year, mail was carried over the busy Liverpool-Manchester route for the first time, and thereafter, as each new railway was inaugurated, so too were the Royal Mail rail services.

Between 1834 and 1837 the North Midland, York and North Midland, Leeds and Manchester, Birmingham and Derby, and Sheffield and Rotherham Railways were established, while in 1838, the year in which an experimental Travelling Post Office (a converted horse-box) was put into service, the London and Birmingham Railway was completed. The last London-based mail-coach — on the Norwich route — ceased operating in April 1846, and during the next forty years the railways proliferated. For every major line such as the Great Eastern, Great Northern, Great Western and the London and North Western, there were dozens of smaller lines, among them the Kent and East Sussex, the Lynton and Barnstaple and the Isle of Wight

Central in England, the Invergary and Fort Augustus in Scotland, and the Corris and the Festiniog in Wales.

Railway letter stamps were first issued by individual railway companies on 1 February 1891 with the blessing of the Postmaster-General. Their purpose was to speed up the carriage of mail to or from remote locations served by the individual railways by by-passing the normal processes of collection. Initially the special fee was 2d. per 1-ounce letter, supplementary to the normal 1d. postage, and the railway stamps — in uniform square designs bearing the name of the railway company and the inscription 'Fee for the conveyance of single post letters by railway' — were applied by the station staff when the letter was handed in for delivery, usually to the station nearest to the ultimate destination. The sender was obliged to state on the envelope whether the letter was to be posted on arrival (in which case the missive would be pre-stamped at the postage rate), or if it was to await collection at the destination station.

More than a hundred railway companies operated railway letter services and the basic fee remained at 2d. for almost 30 years — it was raised to 3d. in 1920 — while the 'standard' stamp design was virtually unchanged. Their use died away in the mid-1920s when improved postal services denied the railways any advantages in transmission and delivery of letters. With the reorganisation of the railways in 1923 and their nationalization in 1948, railway letter fees soared to the most uneconomical levels — about £2 per letter when the service was finally terminated in June this year. However the small private railway



companies — which now number more than 175 — whose 'preserved' lines and rolling-stock cater for enthusiasts and holiday-makers, run very successful letter services with colourful stamps to adorn them.

My illustrations show a Caledonian Railway letter stamp with a typical railway cancellation; an unused 11d. stamp of the long-established Talylllyn railway in Wales, issued in May 1957 and depicting a train at Brynglas Halt; and four stamps issued by the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway in August 1975 with 'first day' postmarks.

MALCOLM JAMES

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale during September 1985:

2 September — The £1.30, £1.54 and £1.70 stamp books issued in September 1984.

7 September — 23p p.c.p. low value definitive and the £1.30 high value parcel definitive.

24 September — 'British Council' stamps, presentation pack and postcards.

New Stamp Book

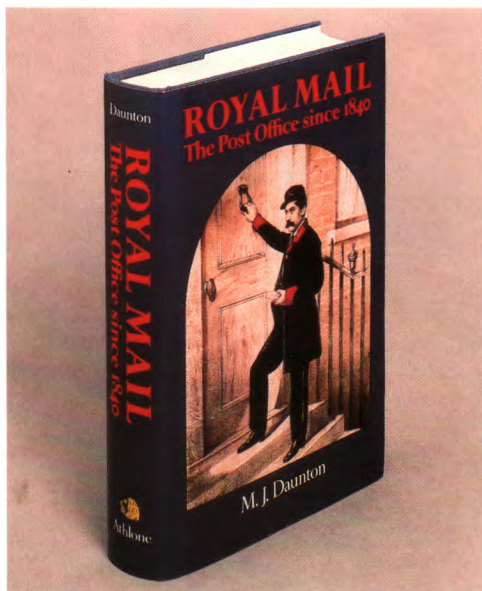
The Post Office will issue a new stamp book in the Social Letter Writing Series, on 8 October 1985. Costing £1.70, it will contain 10 x 17p definitive stamps and will be on sale at most post offices. The book will also include a special offer for a 'Write Now Letter Pack', which will be available on sending 3 x 17p stamps. Full details of the offer will be found in the book.

Both the stamps and booklet covers are printed



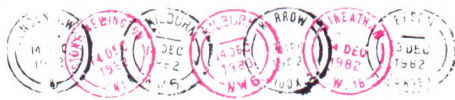
by Harrison & Sons Limited; the stamps in photogravure on the Chambon press and the covers on the Libra bookmaking machine. The 17p definitive stamps will be printed on p.c.p. unwatermarked paper. The book will appear with both left and right hand formats, with cylinder numbers for every sixth book.

Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840



The new history of The Post Office — *Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840* — is being published on 5 September 1985. It will become available at all philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh later in the month.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir

There does not appear to be a society for anyone interested in collecting Stamp Boxes. These were very plentiful around the turn of the century and

make fascinating collecting. If anyone is interested in helping to form such a society for the exchange of information of this byway of philately, I would like to hear from them.

Yours faithfully,
SAM LAWRENCE
34 Cowdray Drive
Goring-by-Sea
WORTHING
W Sussex
BN12 4LJ

Dear Mr Editor

As a postal historian for 60 years may I be granted a little space in which to congratulate the Post Office on the excellent manner in which the bicentenary of the Royal Mail Coach was celebrated.

The five se-tenant postage stamps and post cards featuring reproductions of Royal Mail Coaches, as well as the inclusion of a variety of post cards illustrative of coaching inns of the period, are a fitting representation of the occasion.

Then there are the fascinating illustrated booklet and presentation pack both containing all five mint stamps. One must not, however, overlook the covers conveyed on a part of the journey on the bicentenary run on 1 and 2 August 1984 from Bristol to London.

Finally there is the authoritative and illustrated booklet of the story of the Royal Mail Coach from 1784 until its virtual demise in the 1850's.

What more could one desire with this extensive coverage of an important phase of British Postal history.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES H TIERNEY
Glasgow

Dear Sir

I have collected stamps ever since I was a child during the war. There are big gaps in my collection caused by periods when I had other things to do — career, marriage, children for example, but for many recent years I was a very keen British collector. I bought stamps, presentation packs, First Day Covers, stamp books and ephemera, and I also took photos of every interesting postbox I saw.

I have been reading the Editorial in the April 1985 edition of the Bulletin, and yes, the BPO does now issue too many stamps. It is now too expensive, and what is more, the stamps aren't holding their value as they should be. At a recent Stamp Fair in Middlesbrough, I was horrified to see a large untidy pile of First Day Covers of all descriptions and value, all priced at 50p each. We know how expensive they are to buy and service.

I now only buy the stamps as they are issued to put in my album. They are always beautiful (one or two exceptions only), and when I look at them altogether they are a "sight for sore eyes", as we say up here. I have spoken to one or two people I know who collect stamps (I don't belong to any Philatelic Society or anything), and they agree with me and are following my example.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH MATTHEWS (MRS)
Middlesbrough

Book Reviews

British Stamps by James Mackay

This new book aims to provide the beginner and medium collector with the basic groundwork to the stamps issued by the British Post Office. This outline does include some details of stamp production, errors and varieties, and official stamps. It is published by Longman, and consists of 234 pages of text with many black and white illustrations. The price of the book is £9.95 and it is available from most stamp dealers and bookshops.

1986 Stanley Gibbons Stamp Collectors' Diary

Published in conjunction with Collins the Diary specialists, the 1986 diary is currently available, price £2.95. It contains 64 pages of philatelic information, including a survey of the stamps depicting H.M. The Queen whose 60th birthday will be celebrated next April, also a review of Europa stamps and a look at Channel Islands and United Nations issues. Popular features from the 1984 and 1985 diaries are continued with information on philatelic equipment, stamp catalogues and magazines, a glossary of philatelic terms, and how to get the best from the Post Office philatelic services. Tables are supplied for collectors to record their stamp wants and purchases, also a section on important 1986 anniversaries which may be commemorated with stamp issues. This is all in addition to the 'week to a page' diary and other traditional contents such as London Underground and Inter-city railway maps.

The diary is bound on leathergrain with an attractive dust-jacket showing a selection of the many colourful stamps depicting H.M. The Queen. The diary is available from all Post Office philatelic counters, many stamp and book shops, Stanley Gibbons Strand shop, or by post from: Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. (30p should be added for inland and 75p for overseas postage).

Guidelines for Successful Exhibiting

This new booklet has been written by Francesca Rapkin and edited by Richard West, and was published by the Melville and Youth Committee of the British Philatelic Federation. Its production was made possible by a grant from the British Philatelic Trust. The booklet is A5 size and consists of 28 pages, with black and white illustrations. It gives sound advice on how to become a better collector and useful tips on competitive philately. Copies of the booklet are available, free of charge, on sending a stamped addressed envelope of the appropriate size to: Mrs E A G Berry, Melville and Youth Committee, The British Philatelic Federation, 314 Vauxhall Bridge Road, LONDON SW1V 1AA.

Forthcoming Events

Stevens' Stamp Sales

Fairs will be held by Stevens' Stamp Sales at the following locations:

EAST HAM: to be held on 14 September and 9 November at The Hartley Centre, 267 Barking Road, EAST HAM

SITTINGBOURNE: to be held on 21 September and 16 November at The Carmell Hall, Upton Lane, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent.

LOUGHTON: to be held on 5 October at The Methodist Church Hall, High Road, LOUGHTON, Essex.

SIDCUP: to be held on 19 October, 23 November and 28 December at the Emmanuel Church Hall, Hadlow Road, SIDCUP, Kent.

ROCHESTER: to be held on 26 October and 14 December at The King's Head Hotel, (Green Room), High Street, ROCHESTER, Kent.

ROMFORD: to be held on 7 December at the United Reform Church Hall, Western Road, ROMFORD, Essex.

Admission is free at all Venues, and the fairs will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Further details can be obtained from: Dave Stevens, 18 Gayhurst Close, Rainham, GILLINGHAM, Kent ME8 9EA.

Stamp & Postcard Fairs

Stamp and Postcard Fairs will be held by R E How at the following locations:—

SOUTHEND: to be held on 8 September at the Airport Hotel, SOUTHEND, Essex.

NEWMARKET: to be held on 29 September at the White Hart Hotel, NEWMARKET, Suffolk.

ROCHFORD: to be held on 20 October at the Freight House, ROCHFORD, Essex.

RAYLEIGH: to be held on 16 November at the Mill Hall, Bellingham Lane, RAYLEIGH, Essex.

Admission is free at all venues, and the Fairs will be open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Further details can be obtained from: R E How, Fair Organiser, 5 Dalys Road, ROCHFORD, Essex SS4 1RA.

Hinckley and District Philatelic Society

Hinckley and District Philatelic Society will be holding its Annual Stamp Fair and Exhibition on 12 October 1985. This will take place from 10 am to 5 pm at the St Johns Ambulance Hall, Bruce Road, Hinckley. The theme will be "Down Memory Lane", and there will be special displays as well as several dealers in attendance. Admission is 20p for adults (10p for Juniors), and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Car parking facilities are also available. Further information can be obtained from the Society Press Officer, Mr S Chick, 42 Southway, Blaby, LEICESTER, LE8 3BB

Association of Essex Philatelic Societies

The Southend-on-Sea Philatelic Society will be acting as hosts to the Autumn Rally of the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies at a Stamp Fair on 5 October 1985. This will be held at the Civic Centre, Southend-on-Sea, from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. There will be an exhibition of stamps, postal history and thematics, together with other items of interest. Several dealers will be in attendance, and there will also be a Post Office sales counter. Admission is free, and ample car parking is available adjoining the Civic Centre. A postmark slogan and special postcard will be available. The postcard depicts early Southend postal markings and will be on sale at the Stamp Fair. It can also be ordered by post at a cost of 70p, cancelled with the slogan postmark from: Mr S A Meadows, 28 North Crescent, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS2 6TJ. This price includes postage and packing.

45th Anniversary of Battle of Britain Philatelic Exhibition

To commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the Polish Air Force participation in the Battle of Britain, the Polish Philatelic Federation (PPF) in Great Britain will be holding a two-day philatelic exhibition on 14/15 September 1985 at the Polish White Eagle Club, 211 Balham High Road, LONDON SW17. The theme of the exhibition will be Postal History of Polish, British and Allied Forces Postal services during the 1939-45 war. Admission is 50p and the opening times are 10.00 am to 10.00 pm on 14 September and 10.00 am to 9.00 pm on 15 September.

Two special postcards with commemorative vignettes are being produced. These will be available, cancelled with a special handstamp at £1.50 for the pair, plus postage. A bilingual souvenir exhibition catalogue will also be available, costing £1.25 including postage. These items can be ordered from the PPF Exhibition Secretary, from whom further information is available, at 211 Balham High Road, LONDON SW17 7BQ.

Pitsea Stamp Day

Basildon Philatelic Society will be holding Pitsea Stamp Day on 21 September 1985. This will take place at the Pitsea Leisure Centre, in Pitsea Broadway, from 10 am to 5 pm. There will be an exhibition of members' material, and several dealers will be in attendance, also a Post Office counter. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary of the Basildon Philatelic Society, A F Hobbs, 5 Swallow Dale, Kingswood, BASILDON, Essex, SS16 5JD.

Torquay Philatelic Society

The Torquay Philatelic Society will be holding their bi-annual Stamp Exhibition, 'Torquex 85', on Saturday 12 October 1985. This will be held from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm at Oldway Mansion, Paignton, and will include the winning exhibits of the Wessex Philatelic Federation's Thompson Cup. There will be a stamp auction, as well as several stamp dealers and a Post Office philatelic counter in attendance. Admission is 30p (15p if aged 15 and under), there is free car parking, and refreshments will be available. Further details are available from the Torquex Publicity Officer, L P Watkins, 2 Locks Close, Babbacombe, TORQUAY, TQ 3TU.

New Postcards

Eastern Postal Region

A new Regional postcard will be issued on 8 October 1985 by the Eastern Postal Region. This will be to commemorate the opening of the new Arndale Centre Post Office in Luton, which will incorporate a philatelic counter. The postcard will depict an artist's impression of the facade of the new office, and will also include photographs of two local landmarks. The opening of the office coincides with the issue of the 'British Films' stamps on 8 October 1985, and two types of serviced cards will be available. The price for serviced cards bearing a 17p 'Films' stamp only, is 46p, and bearing the complete set of stamps is £1.62. Prices are all inclusive.

The cards will be cancelled with a special first day of sale handstamp. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'The Post Office' should be sent to The Philatelic Counter, Arndale Centre Branch Office, LUTON LU1 1AA.

Mint cards, price 14p, will also be available from 8 October 1985 from Luton philatelic counter, and from the other philatelic counters in the Eastern Postal Region. Bulk orders for mint cards only are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, where normal handling charges will apply, ie 18p for orders up to £18.00 and £1.28 for orders over £18.00.

Forces Covers

Record Series

The Mount Pleasant Airfield was opened by HRH Prince Andrew last May. Covers were carried on both the outbound and homeward flights which were made by Tri-Star of No. 216 Squadron. Outbound, the cover bearing a 16p 'Europa' stamp was cancelled by the BFPS handstamp for the '40th Anniversary of VE-Day' and homeward by the special handstamp on a 16p Falkland Islands stamp for the Opening of the Mount Pleasant Airport. The delay in presenting these covers has been due to the requirement for the World Records established on both these flights to be ratified by the FAI and the Royal Aero Club. Each cover now bears a Record certificate linked to the cover with the Royal Aero Club handstamp and verified by the signature of the Vice Chairman. The covers also have dated backstamps as appropriate to the records and informative inserts and photograph. They are available at £2.75 each, which includes postage and packing, from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL. A limited number signed by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, who flew on both flights, are available at £10.00 each including postage and packing. Purchasers from overseas should add 50p for postage of each cover.

All proceeds of the above covers will be devoted to the Bomber Command Museum Appeal Fund.

RFDC38 — Arthurian Legend

The Service connection is strongly founded in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. The cover is designed to show the crests of the 8 RFA vessels which bear the names of the Knights of the Round Table including the next Sir Galahad whose keel was recently laid to replace the ship lost in action during the Falklands campaign. Bearing a full set of 'Arthurian Legend'

stamps the cover will be cancelled with the BFPS handstamp '80th Anniversary of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary' and then flown to an RFA vessel at sea or in port. It will be signed by Captains decorated for bravery in the Falklands campaign and will be available from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at £3.45 per cover which includes postage and packing.

RAF(DM9) — Battle of Britain Clasp

Awards and Decorations Series (DM)

The 45th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain will be marked by the issue of a flown cover devoted to the award of the 1939-45 Star with Battle of Britain Clasp. It will bear a silk reproduction of the campaign medal and show the aircraft of 7 Battle of Britain aces. The 17p definitive stamp affixed will be cancelled with the BFPS handstamp, '45th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain' on 9 September 1985 and then flown in either a Hurricane or Spitfire and signed by the particular pilot. It will be available on or about 1st October from the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON NW9 5LL at £2.50 which includes postage and packing. Subscribers should state whether the Hurricane or Spitfire flown cover is required.

Commemorative Covers

50th Anniversary of Mechanised Letter Sorting

To mark the 50th anniversary of mechanised letter sorting, the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle is producing a commemorative philatelic cover. On 7 October 1935 the Post Office officially started mechanical letter sorting using two Transorma machines installed at Brighton. The cover illustrates the manufacturer's nameplate on the Transorma machines. The covers will have the 17p Royal Mail; 350 Years of Service stamp affixed, cancelled with a 'Brighton and Hove — East Sussex' metal circular date stamp and will receive the code/sort phosphor marks. The coding desk will also print a specially produced ident (desk identification mark), the first time that a commemorative ident has been used. The price of the serviced cover, which also has an informative insert, is £1.00, plus 20p for postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle should be sent to: Mr P Miall, 85 Conway Road, Southgate, LONDON, N14 7BD.

Unserviced covers will be available at the

Brighton philatelic counter from 23 September to 7 October 1985. A special posting box will be sited at Brighton Head Post Office between these dates for the 7 October 1985 handstamp. There will also be an exhibition of 50 years of Postal Mechanisation at Brighton in the main area of the Head Post Office from 30 September to 12 October 1985. This will include much material relating to the Transorma machines, as well as more modern developments.

King Arthur and the Round Table

According to Malory in *Morte d'Arthur*, Winchester was the legendary Camelot. A special philatelic cover has been produced by Benham (A Buckingham) Limited with a silk illustration of 'The Summons' tapestry designed by Edward Burne-Jones and woven by Morris & Co (1898-99). The cover will have the four Arthurian Legend stamps affixed and will be cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp at Winchester on 3 September 1985, the first day of issue of the stamps. A second matching cover with a picture of Arthur in Avalon will also be available bearing the full set of stamps cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp at Glastonbury. The price for each cover is £3.30 including postage and packing, or £6.30 for the pair. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: Benham (A Buckingham) Limited, Westcliff House, FOLKESTONE, Kent CT20 1SZ.

Arthurian Legend

A high quality blue/grey cover, bearing one of the Arthurian Legend stamps, a full colour photograph of Glastonbury Abbey ruins, with Glastonbury FDI cancel, and a special cachet showing that the covers were posted in Glastonbury — the legendary Avalon: £2.00 each. Remittances made payable to 'John Nash' should be sent to him at Flat 2, 5 South Road, WATCHET, Somerset, TA23 0DA. Prices include postage and packing. Please add a little extra for air mail.

125th Anniversary of the Army Cadet Force and Combined Cadet Force

Two special philatelic covers and a set of postcards are being produced as part of the 125th Anniversary celebrations of the formation of the Cadet movement. The ACF cover depicts an 1860 cadet shaking hands with a 1985 cadet, across the front of the Army Cadet Force logo. The CCF cover depicts three cadets, Army, Navy and Air Force marching in line with the CCF logo super-imposed. Both covers are in full colour litho. The covers will have a 17p Arthurian Legend stamp affixed cancelled with a special handstamp at Hull on 26 October 1985. The

price of each cover is £1.25 and 50p should be added to cover postage and packing, and the appropriate postage for overseas orders.

In addition, a limited number of signed covers will be available at £5.00 for the pair. They will be signed by the Secretary of the Army Cadet Force Association and the Combined Cadet Force. These covers will be cancelled with the BFPS 1860 handstamp on 26 October 1985. A limited set of special postcards is also being produced to celebrate the anniversary, and details are available on request.

Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Cadet Publications should be sent in by 1 October 1985 to: Cadet Publications, 18 Church Street, Drypool, HULL HU9 1DU.

The Weald of Kent Preservation Society

A special commemorative philatelic cover was produced to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of The Weald of Kent Preservation Society. The cover has an attractive silk-look picture depicting a typical Wealden scene. It has a 16p British Gardens stamp affixed, depicting Sissinghurst, and has been cancelled with a special handstamp at Biddenden on 18 March 1985. The Inaugural meeting of the Society was held here in March 1960. The price of the covers is £1.60, including postage and packing, and only a limited number are available. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer of the Society, Mr A E Weighill, Maltman's Hill House, Smarden, ASHFORD, Kent TN27 8RD.

Licensed Victuallers' National Homes

To commemorate the Bass Presidential Year, a special philatelic cover will be available on the 8 October 1985 bearing the 22p British Films stamp. The stamp will be cancelled with a circular pictorial hand stamp depicting the Licensed Victuallers' National Homes Owl logo.

The Homes are built at Denham in Middlesex close to Denham Film studios and proceeds from sales of the covers will be donated by brewers' Charrington to the Licensed Victuallers' National Homes. The cover will depict a photograph of the Homes and a portrait of Sir John Mills, a resident of the village of Denham, providing the link with the film industry.

The cost is £2.00 including postage and packing for the cover bearing the 22p stamp portraying David Niven. Alternatively, the cover with a complete set of the five stamps can be purchased for £5.00.

In addition, all orders received four weeks prior to the 8 October 1985, will be entered into a free

draw for a limited number of covers, with a full set of the stamps, and signed by Sir John Mills.

Orders with remittances should be made payable to 'L.V.N.H.' and sent to Charrington & Co. Ltd., First Day Cover Offer, PO Box 497, Anchor House, Mile End, LONDON, E1 4UL by 9 September 1985.

Bicentenary of Cricket in Scotland

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first recorded cricket match to be played in Scotland, the Scottish Cricket Union has produced a souvenir cover and special handstamp. The cover depicts two cricketers, one in the costume worn at the time of the first match, and the other in modern attire.

The cost of the cover bearing a 17½p 'Sports Centenaries' stamp of 1980 will cost £1 each (30p extra for overseas orders). In addition the cover as above but signed by the Presidents of both the SCU and MCC will be available at £2.50 each.

A limited number of covers will be prepared on the day of each of Scotland's home matches, during the season and these will have special cachets applied and postmarked locally on the day of each game. These will be sold in sets of five covers at £3.50 per set.

Orders together with remittances made payable to the 'Scottish Cricket Union' should be sent to them at: 18 Ainslie Place, EDINBURGH, EH3 6AU with an 8" x 5½" stamped, addressed envelope.

Centenary of the Corporate Treasurers and Accountants Institute

As part of its Centenary celebrations, the Institute has commissioned the production of a special commemorative philatelic cover. The coat-of-arms of the Institute will be die-stamped on the envelope in five colours; it will also contain a filler card giving historical details of the Institute. The covers will have a 16p definitive stamp affixed, and will be cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp on 14 October 1985, the date of the Institute's AGM and the anniversary of the first provisional committee meeting at the Town Hall, Rochdale. The price of the covers is £2.00 each plus 35p for post and packing. Only a strictly limited number is being produced. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Messrs J & M Arlington Ltd, should be sent to them at 45 Lakenheath, LONDON, N14 4RL.

British Film Year

To coincide with the issue of the British Films stamps on 8 October 1985 celebrating British Film Year, a special philatelic cover is being produced. This features the film, 'Chariots of Fire'. The cover bears the legend 'Heralding the Resurgence of the British Film Industry' and shows a still from the award —

winning 'Chariots of Fire' as well as the film's logo. Bearing the Films stamps, the covers will be cancelled on 8 October 1985 with a special handstamp featuring the torch from the film's logo, and the date being shown in Roman numerals. The price of the covers with a 17p films stamp affixed is £2.25, and one bearing the full set of stamps is £4. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing, but overseas customers should add 50p to cover this and remit in £ sterling. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to A G Bradbury, should be sent to him at: 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL. Signed covers will also be available, and details will be supplied on request.

A special philatelic cover has been commissioned by 'British Film Year' to coincide with the issue of the Films stamps on 8 October 1985. The covers will be printed in colour with the British Film Year's logo, and will contain a filler card giving details of the British Film Industry. With the full set of 5 Films stamps affixed, the covers will be cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp at Leicester Square, LONDON, on 8 October 1985. Only a limited number of covers will be available at £3.50 each, plus 35p for postage and packing. Several covers will be autographed by film personalities and will cost £10 each; details are available on request. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: Messrs J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON, N14 4RL.

Goldcrest Films and Television Ltd

A special commemorative philatelic cover is being produced for Goldcrest Films and Television Ltd. to coincide with the issue of the British Films stamps on 8 October 1985. Goldcrest are one of Britain's leading film making companies responsible for making Oscar-winning films, 'Chariots of Fire', 'Gandhi', and 'The Killing Fields'. The covers will be available bearing the 17p only, or the complete set of British Films stamps cancelled with a special handstamp, and will cost £2.00 and £4.00 respectively. A limited number of covers signed by famous British actors, actresses and other film personalities will also be available at £7.00 each; and details are available on request. In addition, a few covers will also be sent to Hollywood (USA) or Cannes (France) for a second cancellation, and details are again available on request. For postage and packing 50p extra should be added to orders with a minimum of £1.00 for overseas. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: British Film Year FDC, Greenberg and Porter, 13 Fordyke Road, Beacontree Heath, DAGENHAM, Essex, RM8 1PJ.

350th Anniversary of Appointment of Thomas Witherings

A special philatelic cover has been produced by St Andrews Parish Church, High Street, Hornchurch, to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Appointment of Thomas Witherings as Chief Postmaster. He lived in Hornchurch in 1635 where his memorial tablet is to be seen. The cover includes an illustrated broadsheet showing the famous bull's horns of Hornchurch, and the full inscription on the memorial. The cover has had the Royal Mail; 350 Years of Service stamps affixed, cancelled with a special rectangular handstamp at Hornchurch on 30 July 1985, the first day of issue of the stamps. The price of the covers bearing a 17p stamp only is £1.50, or £3.00 if bearing the full set of stamps. A limited number of signed covers have also been produced and details are available on request.

Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: St Andrew's Parish Church, High Street, HORNCHURCH, Essex, RM12 6QP.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by:
British Post Office
Postal Headquarters
Philatelic Marketing Section
Room 102-104
33 Grosvenor Place
LONDON
SW1X 1PX

to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscriptions (*Inland, Europe and overseas*)
Surface mail £3.50
Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters price 30p.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £4.00.

Printed in Great Britain by
Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd
for the Post Office