

September 1993

British Philatelic Bulletin

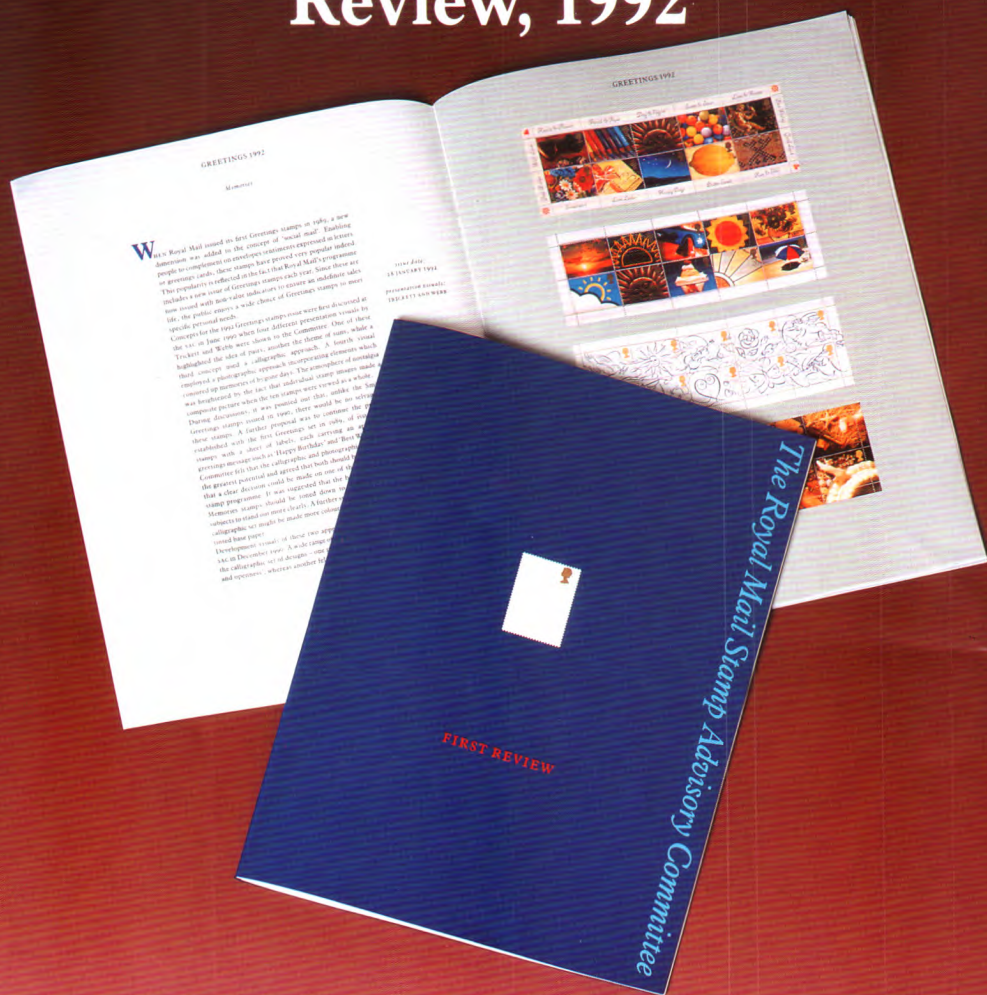


Royal Mail

Volume 31. No: 1 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 70p



Stamp Advisory Committee Review, 1992



For the first time collectors can read of the "behind the scenes" work of the Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee.

The Review illustrates all designs considered by the Committee for the 1992 Special and greetings stamps.

The Review charts the progress of each issue through the SAC from

initial design concepts to final acceptance for Royal approval.

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Royal Mail

British Philatelic Bulletin

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

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Contents

Sherlock Holmes – Commemorating the Great Detective	4
Stamp Scene – Welsh Post Office, James Mackay honoured	6
Promoting Special Stamps – the Days before the Bulletin	8
The Bulletin – Thirty years on ... Editorial comment	10
NPM Exhibitions – George V Silver Jubilee, Jersey, Aerogrammes	10
Self-Adhesive 1st Class Definitive – Machin development	12
Obituaries – Eminent Stamp Designers	13
Decimal Stamp Books – Douglas Myall's specialist report	14
Royal Mail News – 1994 Programme, NPM postcards	18
Christmas Aerogramme – Victorian Christmas cards recalled	19
Competition – Win valuable FDC, PHQ Card or presentation pack	20
Postbag – A selection of readers' letters	21
Exclusive Bulletin Readers Special Offer – Sample Books	22
Book Reviews – Postal Mechanisation, Deegam Catalogue	23
Six Month Digest – New issues March 1993 – February 1994	25
Philatelic Terms Explained – Ken Chapman looks at perpins	26
New Air Cards; Railway Letter Stamp	27
September Digest – This month's comings and goings	28
Events – Exhibitions, fairs and displays	28

Main Feature

Stamps of the Four Kings

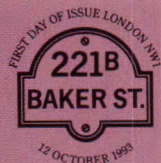
16

James Mackay begins a series on the stamps of Edward VII George V, Edward VIII and George VI. Part 1 The Edward VII Series, 1902.



Sherlock Holmes

12 October 1993



Five 24p stamps, printed in a horizontal strip, to commemorate the centenary of the publication of *The Final Problem* – the last Sherlock Holmes story, in which Holmes is killed in a fight with Professor Moriarty, go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and Philatelic Counters on 12 October 1993.

The stamps feature scenes from five Sherlock Holmes stories: Holmes and Dr. Watson in *The Reigate Squires*; Holmes and Sir Henry Baskerville in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; Holmes and Lestrade in *The Six Napoleons*; Holmes and Mycroft in *The Greek Interpreter*; and Holmes and Moriarty in *The Final Problem*.

Transport and Communication stamps. Other illustration work for Royal Mail have been the 1988 and 1990 Christmas stamps designed respectively by Trickett & Webb and John Gorham.

The idea for the Sherlock Holmes stamps was to involve the main characters, if not the main stories, over the five portrait – format stamps. Mr Davidson read all Conan Doyle's stories as if for the first time to give a fresh and honest interpretation. He comments: "Many people undoubtedly have their own favourite actor for each part, but it was important to go back to Conan Doyle's original description. As the stamps are about a detective, one with a



SHERLOCK HOLMES & DR. WATSON
"THE REIGATE SQUIRES"



SHERLOCK HOLMES & SIR HENRY
"THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES"



SHERLOCK HOLMES & LESTRADE
"THE SIX NAPOLEONS"



SHERLOCK HOLMES & MYCROFT
"THE GREEK INTERPRETER"



SHERLOCK HOLMES & MORIARTY
"THE FINAL PROBLEM"

The stamps are the work of Andrew Davidson, born 1958, who studied graphic design at Norwich School of Art (1976-79) and The Royal College of Art (1979-82). Over the last 11 years, he has worked using wood engraving and flat colour on a variety of commissions. Most of the work has come from design groups in the form of corporate identity, packaging and pure illustration. Mr Davidson's designs have been used by Penguin Books and in three illustrated books for Faber & Faber. One of these, *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, won the Emil Kurt Mashlen award and a Design and Art Directors Silver award in 1986. Another silver award in 1987, for illustrations used for a series of pub signs, led to Mr Davidson being commissioned by Mike Dempsey of Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell to illustrate the 1988

sometimes humorous, often eccentric nature, a few clues as to the character in the stories are hidden in each stamp. The idea of people using Holmes's favourite prop, the magnifying glass, to find the clues in the stamp, was too good to miss."

Sherlock Holmes was the invention of Arthur Conan Doyle, a Portsmouth doctor, who turned towards writing adventure stories, following an unsuccessful practice.

Doyle's model for Sherlock Holmes was Dr Joseph Bell, who had been his professor of medicine at Edinburgh University in his student days, and whose extraordinary powers of deduction in piecing together the histories of his patients, were a source of wonder to all he taught.

In December 1893, the *Strand Magazine*

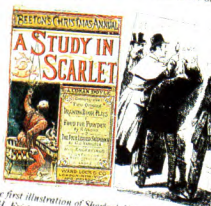
Sherlock Holmes

Royal Mail Mini Stamps



...and his doggedly...
...literary success.

...about sporting black armbands.



The first illustration of Sherlock Holmes by Sidney Paget was published in *Detective* magazine, November 1887.

Neither *A Study in Scarlet* nor its successor *The Sign of Four* (1890), both book-length stories, was an instant hit. But in July 1891 the new *Strand* short stories Holmes story "A Scandal in Bohemia", with wonderfully evocative illustrations by Sidney Paget. Readers were enthralled, and the young doctor felt able to give up medicine and concentrate on writing. The first collection of stories, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892), met with enormous acclaim, and Holmes and Watson were firmly settled in their niche among the indispensable characters of English literature.

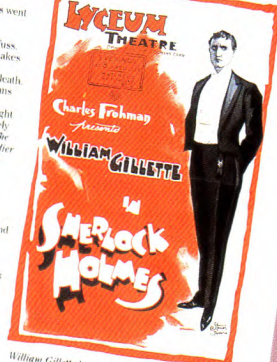


The second Holmes story featured in Lippincott's, *The Sign of the Four*, began the long collaboration between Doyle and the *Strand*.



book's instant popularity only served to whip up Holmes fever to an even greater intensity.

At last Conan Doyle relented. In 1901 Sherlock Holmes was brought to life again (shocking Watson into a fainting fit) in "The Adventure of the Empty House". Morarty, it was revealed, had planned into triumphant career through four more books, the last - *The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes* - being published in 1927, only three years before the death of their creator. By now Doyle was an internationally famous figure, knighted in 1902, hailed with literary honours earned through the character he had tried so hard to get rid of.



William Gillette brought his successful stage production from the USA to London in September 1901. In 1929 Peter Cushing starred in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the first Sherlock Holmes film in colour.



Sherlock Holmes

Royal Mail First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Please note: the ink to be used for the Edinburgh and Baker Street handstamps will be red.

announced the death of one of the most famous figures of the Victorian era – Sherlock Holmes. He was presumed to have plunged to his death at “Reichenback Falls” in Austria, while wrestling with his arch enemy, Professor Moriarty, the “Napoleon of Crime”.

Technical Details

Printers: The House of Questa

Process: Offset-lithography

Size: 30 x 50mm (vertical format)

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 14 x 14½

Phosphor: Phosphor coated paper

Gum: PVA

Presentation Pack: No. 241, price £1.50

Stamp Cards: Nos 156a-e, price 21p each

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters around a week before 12 October, price 21p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or London NW1 price £1.77 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.51 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 12 October.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or London NW1 cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed “Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark.”

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

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

Stamp Scene

Phil Care

“Phil-Care” has been formed to voluntarily supply clean sets of British stamps and clean covers, etc to the unfortunate members of our stamp collecting fraternity who are: Disabled; House-bound or unable to leave home without a carer; Hospitalised; or wounded veterans. *Bulletin* readers interested in “joining” should send their “philatelic C.V.” to: Godfrey Winston, 20 Princes Park Avenue, Golders Green, LONDON NW11 0JP. Please enclose self-addressed reply envelope (UK) or 2 International reply-coupons and self-addressed reply airmail weight envelopes (overseas).

Smallest Post Office in Wales

A post office, believed to be the smallest in Wales, from the hamlet of Blaenwaun, near Whitland in Dyfed, was opened to the public at the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, on 26 May 1993.

It was originally built in 1936 by Evan Isaac, a local mason, for his daughter Hannah Beatrice Griffiths; she and her husband ran it until the mid-1960s. The post office was then taken over by her daughter, Mrs B E James, and the business transferred to her bungalow a short distance away. The old post office remained empty for almost 20 years until it was generously donated to the Museum by Mrs James in 1991.

The building has been furnished as it would have been during the Second World War, enabling the Museum to incorporate this important period into its permanent displays. It gives the Museum an opportunity to display part



Blaenwaun PO, Welsh Folk Museum (Photo: David Harrop).

of its important collection of historic PO artefacts.

A commemorative cover costs £3; a range of appropriate gifts is available at the post office. Until early October the Museum will be displaying item of PO memorabilia from the collection of Mr David Harrop.

Enquiries: Gerallt Nash, Assistant Keeper, Department of Buildings & Domestic Life, Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, CARDIFF CF5 6XA. Tel. 0222 569441



Philatelist Honoured

Our congratulations to well-known philatelic writer James Mackay on his recent award of a Doctorate of Letters (D. Litt) by the University of Glasgow. This is in recognition of his eight volumes on Robert Burns, including the recent best-selling biography *Burns*, and his work as Editor of the World Burns Federation's *Chronicle* from 1977 to 1991.

Dr Mackay has written 130 books on philately, postal history, numismatics, antiques and other "collectable hobbies". He is also a prolific writer of articles for the philatelic press, including the *British Postmark Bulletin* and this *Bulletin*.

Postal Memorabilia Displays

David Harrop will be providing displays at the following events: Great Dorset Steam Fair,

Tarrant Hinton, Blandford, Dorset (1-5 September); Malpas Vintage Rally, Cheshire (11-12 September) and Barleylands Farm museum Rally, Billericay, Essex (25-26 September).

Until 3 October Mr Harrop will be displaying part of his extensive collection of postal memorabilia at the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff; open daily 10am to 5pm. Enquiries about Mr Harrop's displays to him at: 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT SK4 3DQ.

Our congratulations to Mr Harrop on receiving the 'Best Vintage Display Stand' award at the Scottish Transport Extravaganza at Glamis Castle on 11 July.

King's Silver Jubilee

In honour of 30 years of printing for the Kingdom of Tonga, Walsall Security Printers was invited to the Silver Jubilee celebrations of King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV. Directors, Adrian and John Aspinall travelled the 9000 mile journey and took with them a specially commissioned gold medallion which was hand-made by a local jewellers.

Walsall Security Printers, which celebrates its centenary next year, are no strangers to the Tongan Royal Family, and have been producing stamps since 1963. Managing Director, Mr Adrian Aspinall, commented "They are our first ever and our longest running stamp customer. We produced a metal foil stamp for them 30 years go, which was the first job of its kind and we also produced the world's first self adhesive stamps."



Pictured holding the presentation gift: Mr J Aspinall (Chairman), Mr J E Aspinall (Director), Mr A P Aspinall (Managing Director).

Promoting Special Stamps – The Days before the Bulletin

K J LEY

At a Press Conference in 1934, when he announced the new photogravure definitives that replaced the surface printed issue, the Postmaster General (Sir Kingsley Wood) made a statement that reads strangely today – “Philatelists at any rate agree that it is no function of the Post Office to make revenue out of stamp collectors.”

This underlines the point made by Frank Langfield (May *Bulletin*) that the Post Office looked upon collectors as “pernickety nuisances”. Indeed, when I became Chief Press and Broadcast Officer early in 1958 I was told by the then Head of Stamp Duty, “The Post Office produces stamps to indicate the pre-payment of postage. That is all.”

It may be of some interest to readers to know how the PO attitude to philately, as shown in its stamp publicity, has changed over the years. The first attempt to make a statement about new stamps was in fact when Sir Kingsley Wood made the statement I have quoted above – on 16 August 1934 – four days before the 1½d. stamp in the new issue went on sale! The next year Sir Stephen Tallents was appointed by the PO as Public Relations Officer, and his professional expertise showed that year when a detailed description of the George V Silver Jubilee stamps was given in a Press Notice.

The outbreak of war stopped all new designs of stamps, except for the issue in 1940 commemorating the centenary of the postage stamp, and that issue had been well advanced when war broke out. When peace came there was a reversion to the old practice of putting out information about new stamps for publication on the day the stamps went on sale. This applied to the Peace stamps of 1946, the Channel Islands Liberation, the Silver Wedding issues of 1948, and the Festival of Britain stamps in 1951.

There were, however, indications that the PO Press Office was beginning to take some notice of the interests of collectors, who were becoming more active with the outbreak of peace. In July 1946, there was the first-ever Press Notice about a postmark, a brief statement about the “Take No Chances – Keep Death off

the Road” slogan. This, I suspect, was more to please the Ministry of War Transport than the collector.

Early in 1947 the PO announced that it would be lending the original die of the Penny Black and other archive material to the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition in New York – a big advance.

Sale Dates

In December of that year came an announcement of the stamps programme for 1948, and in the following March came a delightful statement: “The Post Office has received many enquiries from home and abroad asking when the commemorative stamps to be issued this year will be on sale to the public.” This apparently surprising demand was met by the dates being given.

Nine years later, for the first time, there was a gap of more than a day or two between the announcement of the details of a new stamp and its date of sale. For the World Scout Jamboree set of 1957 there was an interval of a full two weeks. This continued until 1964, when the practice began of announcing designs about six weeks prior to issue. This was intended to help stamp magazines and overseas press and, of course, the philatelic trade. The gap in recent years has become appreciably longer.

More Stamps, more Interest

In the mid-1960s there was a considerable increase in the number of, and interest in, special issues, and an experiment was twice made of announcing the designs of two special issues at the same time. The Churchill and ITU Centenary stamps were announced on the same day in 1965, as later were the Salvation Army and Lister centenaries. It was not a success. In the first case the general press concentrated on Churchill, as might have been expected, and in the second they could not make up their minds.

In the days of one-colour printing the press were satisfied with a description of the designs and a black and white photograph. It was sufficient to add that the colours were red,

green, or whatever.

When up to nine and ten colours were used on one stamp, this no longer really told what the stamp looked like. So in the early 1960s the press were invited to visit the old PO Headquarters in St Martin's-le-Grand to see for themselves specimens of the stamps, the better to be able to comment on them. As time went on unaccepted designs were also shown, as well as the artwork for the stamps, the first day cover and the presentation pack, and this practice continued until quite recently.

In those early days the national press were well represented, there was usually a number of London editors of provincial papers, radio and TV reporters and crews, and of course, the philatelic press. Sadly, there are now no London editors and general press interest has fallen away considerably, so that the press showings were no longer achieving so much publicity, and the press have come to rely largely on the Press and Broadcast notice and the accompanying photograph.

The increase in colour printing led in the early sixties to a demand, particularly from the philatelic press at home and abroad, for either specimens of the stamps or colour photographs in advance. The PO has always set its face against creating philatelic rarities and quickly ruled out the former idea. Colour photographs were at that time relatively expensive, but an alternative that combined the best of two worlds was adopted. The actual stamps were laminated in clear plastic, and these were made available to those who did not find black and white prints adequate. This continued up to the Princess Anne wedding stamps in November 1973, and for a while after that for some issues the laminated stamps were produced, and for others a colour photograph was supplied, until the colour photograph finally supplanted the plastic.

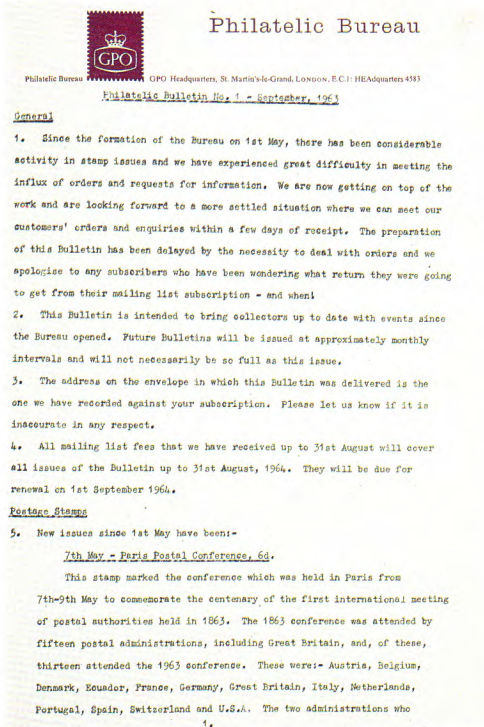
It is not only about new designs that Press and Broadcast announcements have been made. Stamped stationery, air letter forms, FDCs, Collectors' Packs, change of paper, gum, and phosphor markings – all are of interest to collectors, and about all of them the press, and through the press, collectors have been kept informed.

Enter the Bulletin

When the first (duplicated) copy of *Philatelic Bulletin* was produced in September 1963, it was sent to the press, with a covering letter stating that in future issues would not be sent out free,

but at the same time promising that no philatelic news of significance would appear in *Bulletin* that was not also the subject of a press announcement.

This article deals only with the development of the PO's relations with the press on philatelic matters, which I was closely connected until my retirement in 1976. It does not attempt to touch



First issue of the Bulletin, September 1963

upon what has been done in the way of direct advertising in the press and on TV, participation in major philatelic exhibitions at home and abroad, the production of Collectors' Packs in foreign languages, the making and distribution of excellent films, stamp postcards, talks and lectures to schoolchildren, societies, clubs, etc – and, of course, the *Bulletin* itself.

A postage stamp today is intended to do much more than "indicate the prepayment of postage" – more, even, than to increase the PO's revenue by sales to collectors! The Post Office is well aware of this these days, and over the last 30 to 40 years has done, and is still doing, a great deal to stimulate interest in what is certainly one of, if not the largest hobby in the world.

© KJ Ley. 1993

The Bulletin – Thirty Years On...

I am sure that a good number of readers recall the issue of the first *Bulletin* back in September 1963. The *Bulletin* quickly established itself as a reliable source for information about future British stamp issues, with interesting background details of the events or anniversaries commemorated. We still aim to provide advance information of the wide range of stamp and related products produced by Royal Mail and Royal Mail International for personal and business mail and for the stamp collector and philatelist.

In February we asked for your views on changes to the *Bulletin*. For the most part you are satisfied with it as it is, but many of you recognised that no magazine can stand still – it must change with the times and, hopefully, improve. However let me reassure you that we have no plans to drastically change the nature of the *Bulletin*. For the foreseeable future it will remain its current A5 size, the Royal Mail subsidy of its production and distribution costs will continue, and we will not be taking advertising. To accommodate the ever-increasing amount of news we have to announce the number of pages will increase in most issues from 24 to 28.

The number of requests from cover producers for announcement of their covers continues to increase. I do not feel this is a proper subject for announcement in the *Bulletin* itself and cannot provide space for this at the expense of articles and features likely to be of interest to more readers. The announcements were transferred last September to a supplement, which, from this issue becomes *Commemorative Covers Review*. Thus we continue to supply details for those who collect such covers, those who don't (the majority of readers) can simply discard the *Review*. Producers of covers are asked to read carefully the introductory notes to the *Review* and to submit in good time announcements they want published in future issues.

I am pleased that in this issue we are starting a new series, by James Mackay, on the stamps of Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI. I have been aware for some time that coverage given to pre-Elizabeth II issues has been inadequate. I hope you will find these articles of interest. I should be pleased to receive for consideration articles (of up to 1500 words) on any subject related to British stamps,

postmarks and postal stationery. Payment is made if articles are accepted for publication.

I am also pleased to announce a change to our popular competition which was introduced five years ago this month. About 1500 of you enter this competition every month; prizes have traditionally been current Royal Mail products. This month the competition has an outside sponsor – Steven Scott, stamp dealers of The Strand, London. The prizes, provided by Steven Scott, are items no doubt missing from many collections. I am sure we will get a good response to this competition. As usual the answers to the competition questions can be found in the pages of the *Bulletin*. Other dealers who would be interested in sponsoring future competitions are asked to write, with their proposals for prizes and details of their company for publication, to me at: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail National, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

Since September 1963 the *Bulletin* has become an established part of the British philatelic scene. Under seven editors it has evolved and changes will continue to be evolutionary rather than revolutionary. The main features will continue; some others may make way for new features, or change to meet readers' requirements. I thank all of you who wrote earlier in the year to give your views – your opinions provided much food for thought.

John Holman, Editor

NPM Exhibitions

Three interesting displays are currently on show at the National Postal Museum – all in the Museum's main (top floor) gallery. The first illustrates the development of the George V Silver Jubilee issue of 1935.

In April 1934 the Government, considering the nature of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, asked the GPO what it could do to participate. The idea of commemorative stamps was approved by the Postmaster General in June. Preparations began immediately; the process of commissioning and selecting designs was supervised by a small group including the Director General, the Public Relations Officer, and Mr (later Lord) Kenneth Clark, the Director of the National Gallery.

Clark suggested a number of artists: MacDonald Gill, Stephen Gooden, Rex Whistler, Howard Nelson and Ernest Linzell. Edmund Dulac and the main stamp printing firms were later added by the GPO. Artists were

given instructions to aid them in the preparation of designs which were to be submitted by 17 September.

A further six artists were nominated; and, of the original artists, Dulac, Gill, Nelson, Linzell and the printing firms were asked to submit new designs. Further designs had been prepared by the Engineer in Chief's Office; these incorporated a portrait of the King in full Naval uniform by Vandyk. The only successful design was that by Barnett Freedman; it was agreed that Freedman work with Harrison & Sons, to produce specimen stamps or "essays".

The King was shown essays in November. He thought that a portrait of the Vandyk type was not suitable for use on a postage stamp and so selected Freedman's design bearing a portrait by Mackennal.

The exhibition includes a unique collection of original artwork from the NPM Collection, some displayed for the first time. Material relating to the Colonial Omnibus and Dominions issues has been loaned from the Royal Collection and Royal Archives.

Amongst the many interesting items on show are: Jubilee postal orders, and home safes; a first day cover of the Canadian silver jubilee stamps addressed to the King at Buckingham Palace; proofs of the Jubilee stamp book covers, panes from the book overprinted CANCELLED; registration sheet of the 1d stamp for books, showing *tête-bêche* arrangement; and three examples of the rare 2½d Prussian Blue shade.

The 50th anniversary of Jersey's 1943 pictorials (SG3-8) is commemorated by an interesting display of the artwork for the stamps by Edmund Blampied (1886-1966). These attractive stamps were engraved by Henri Cortot and printed at the French Government Printing Works in Paris. A photograph of Blampied,



supplied by the Jersey Post Office, is on display. To commemorate the anniversary the Jersey PO issued a set reproducing the 1943 stamps on 2 June 1993. The artwork for this set, by Gordon Drummond, is shown, together with a sheet of the 17p value, a first day cover and presentation pack. Designs for the 1948 Liberation pair, featuring gathering *vraic* (seaweed) are displayed, as are some fascinating photographs of Jersey during the German occupation.

The first British air letter (aerogramme) for civilian use went on sale at post offices in December 1942; 6d adhesive postage stamps were affixed. A version with an imprinted 6d stamp was in use by late June/early July 1943. To mark the 50th anniversary, the standard aerogramme was issued on 1 December 1992 with a commemorative roundel on the front (still on sale at post offices, the Bureau and philatelic outlets). The anniversary is being marked at the Museum by a small display, by specialist collector Peter Jennings, including an early usage of the 6d imprinted stamp aerogramme (6 July 1943, at Finchley, London N12). Also featured is an Iraq Air Letter Card of 1933 signed by the inventor Douglas Gumbley (and an obituary notice for Mr Gumbley in *The Times* of 9 February 1973), an example of the 1941 prisoner of war air letter with imprinted 2½d stamp and examples of the 6d and 9d Houses of Parliament aerogrammes used on the last and first days (2 and 3 October 1966), and a 1968 VC10 aerogramme signed by designer David Gentleman.

These displays are on show until December; a useful hand-out on the 1935 Silver Jubilee stamp exhibition is available. The Museum, housed in the London Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, London EC1 is open Monday-Friday 9.30-16.30. Admission free. Telephone enquiries: 071-239 5420. The Museum is a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station.



Artwork by Blampied for the wartime Jersey pictorial 3d with GR incorporated into the design. (National Postal Museum)

Self-Adhesive 1st Class Definitive

19 October 1993

Royal Mail's first self-adhesive stamp will be issued on 19 October. This will comprise an adaptation of the existing 1st class stamp, in horizontal rather than vertical format. It will be available in books of 20 stamps, price £4.80, from post offices and retail outlets in the Tyne-Tees television area for a trial period of six months. Collectors may obtain the book from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus, and philatelic counters. Outside the Tyne-Tees area, the book will be available at all post offices throughout the UK on the day of issue only for the benefit of collectors.



The self-adhesive stamp is expected to be popular with small businesses and the more prolific letter writers. Once the trial has been completed Royal Mail will evaluate the future for self-adhesive issues.

This self-adhesive stamp is valid for 1st class items weighing up to 60g to UK addresses. They can be used in part payment (at prevailing 1st class rate) towards postage on heavier UK mail or on letters to EC and some other European countries.

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and

Philatelic Counters around a week before 19 October, price 21p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamp cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or Newcastle upon Tyne, price 64p (including VAT) to UK addresses, 58p to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 19 October.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Newcastle cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA. The outer envelope should be endorsed “Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark.”

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Technical Details

Printers: Walsall Security Printers

Process: Lithography

Size: 24 x 20mm

Sheets: Book contains 20 stamps,
two panes of nine and
a vertical pair

Perforation: 14

Phosphor: Two phosphor bands

Gum: Self-adhesive

Presentation Pack: Price £5.15

Stamp Card: Price 21p



Note: Change of issue date from that originally announced (26 October 1993).

Obituaries

Two eminent stamp designers have died this year. Sir George Bellow (1899-1993) designed the 10s and £1 high value stamps of 1939-48 (SG 478/a/b) and the 1949 1s Universal Postal Union stamp (502). Sir George was educated at Christ Church, Oxford and was appointed Somerset Herald in 1926. He was Registrar of the College of Arms from 1935 to 1946 and Garter King of Arms from 1950 to 1961. He organised the state funeral of King George VI (1952) and was involved in the proclamation

and coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Michael Farrar Bell (1911-93) came from a family of stained glass makers and designed and installed windows in churches throughout England and overseas. He completed the west window of Exeter Cathedral and the restoration of the Great East Window in Bath Abbey. He designed the 2½d, 3d, 4d and 4½d values in the "Wilding" definitive series (SG 519-21, 577 *et al*) and the 1s 6d Coronation (535), 1957 Parliamentary Union 4d (560) and 1965 Salvation Army 3d (665) stamps.

Decimal Stamp Books – 10

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

Vending machine changes

At the Spring press briefing Royal Mail announced its intention to issue a £2 book, probably after the next tariff increase. Meanwhile, some machines in the Anglia region have been converted to vend only £1 books. Are these changes connected and do they portend the demise of the 50p book? The story is rather complicated and the timescale depends as much on funding as on tariff changes.

Research suggests that the public prefers the £1 book over the 50p one and also prefers using the £1 coin. The Anglia machines are designed to test this. The change is explained in a locally distributed leaflet, part of which is reproduced here. If all goes well, the way will be clear to begin phasing out the 50p book.

Most of the existing Royal Mail vending machines are on Post Office Counters Ltd (POCL) sites and many are the old, pre-electronic types F, H and J. These are single stack and vend 50p books only. Until they can be upgraded, they will be kept in service. Since there are more than 2500 of them, the change is unlikely to be accomplished within two years or so. Hence there will be a need for a 50p book beyond the next tariff change.

The later K1, K2 and L type machines are electronically operated and are dual vend, i.e. they have two stacks and so can dispense both

50p and £1 books. Only a slight modification is required to enable them to vend £1 and £2 books but this programme will not begin until the £2 book is in circulation. It will affect machines on Royal Mail premises as well as those at crown offices controlled by POCL.

The result is that in the near future we shall probably see 50p, £1 and £2 machine books on sale at the same time, although not necessarily all at the same sites.

Screen angles

Dave Strickland of Doncaster writes that he has observed a variation in the angle of the screen used for the plates prepared by Walsall for their window book panes. He states that an angle of 75°, i.e. parallel with the line of The Queen's forehead has been used for some issues, mainly panes of 10, and one of 45°, i.e. parallel with The Queen's nose, mainly for panes of 4. He suggests that these provide collectable varieties of what have hitherto been considered to be identical stamps. Mr Strickland is partially correct; there are cases where both angles have been used on the same stamp. Also, the plates used to print WSP's pane in the Dickens No.4 machine-vend book were screened at an angle of 90°.

Briefly, lithographic printers use different screen angles in multiplate printings in order to avoid problems with interference patterns. WSP use at least two plates for each printing in order to produce the relief effect of the Machin head. In three-plate printings, each plate prints a different part of the design although there is some overlap and slightly different colours are used. Screen angles have varied even on the same issue. For example, the pane of 4 x 2nd-class dark blue stamps issued in August 1990 was printed from three plates all numbered W1; two of these were angled at 75° but the third printed only the head in a lighter colour and was screened at 45°. In a reprint from combination W2 W2 W2 all three plates were screened 45°. It seems that the colour contrasts were sufficient to avoid screening problems.

The subject was fully explored in 'The Bookmark' Journal, organ of the GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, in Vol.21 No.6, July 1992, accompanied by some excellent photographic enlargements by Heinz Reck, FRPSL. Readers who wish to pursue it should begin by joining the Circle. Write for an information pack, enclosing a stamp, to the Membership Secretary: A J Wilkins, 3



Buttermere Close, BRIERLEY HILL, West Midlands, DY5 3SD.

New cylinders etc.

Here are the cylinder and plate combinations seen in machine and window books since the last list was published here in March. The post-Olympic books have blue barcodes and stamps perforated normally (except that Harrison and Walsall panes have straight edges top and bottom). The "security" books contain panes of stamps with elliptical perforations and no straight edges. The dates given are those when the books were first seen on sale. Note that the Questa plate numbers started afresh from number 1 with the security series. It is not known whether the phosphor plate Q1 is the same as previously used or not. The Walsall phosphor plates are not numbered. There are some gaps in the numbering sequences and I

would be glad to hear from any reader who can fill any; has anyone seen Questa Q1 Q1 or Q4 Q4 in the security series, for example?

As well as the books listed, Walsall printed a special book of 10 x 1st promoting the Gift Giving Greetings book. All the panes in this Rupert advertisement book, as it is known, were printed on Harrison paper with DEX gum. The plate combinations and the dates first seen are: W13 W10 W12 (8.1.93); W14 W10 W13 (6.2.93); W15 W10 W13 (10.2.93); W16 W11 W14 (11.3.93); W17 W11 W14 (11.3.93); and W18 W12 W15 (26.3.93).

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Notes:

- 1 The security book was issued on 6 April
- 2 CPL paper with PVA (white) gum
- 3 Harrison paper with DEX (green) gum

Printer	Content	Barcode	Cover design		Date	Notes
			Post-Olympic	Security		
Harrison	4 x 1st ACP	100180	—	B8	6.4.93	
	10 x 1st ACP	100197	—	B5	6.4.93	
Questa	10 x 1st ACP	100197	Q10 Q10	—	8.1.93	
	10 x 2nd CB	100265	Q13 Q13/Q1	—	22.1.93	
			—	Q2 Q2/Q1	6.4.93	
			—	Q3 Q3/Q1	6.4.93	
			—	Q5 Q5/Q1	16.4.93	
			—	Q6 Q6/Q1	7.5.93	
			—	Q7 Q7/Q1	27.5.93	
			—	Q8 Q8/Q1	26.6.93	
			—	—	—	
Walsall	4 x 2nd CB	100272	W8 W10	W8 W10	6.1.93	1
			—	W9 W11	18.4.93	
			—	W10 W12	23.6.93	
	4 x 1st ACP	100180	W10 W21 W14	—	6.1.93	2
			W10 W21 W14	—	6.2.93	3
	10 x 2nd CB	100265	W15 W10	—	5.2.93	2
	10 x 1st ACP	100197	W14 W10 W13	—	22.1.93	2
	10 x 1st 2B	100197	—	W18 W12 W15	6.4.93	
			—	W19 W12 W16	21.5.93	
			—	W20 W12 W16	11.5.93	
			—	W21 W13 W17	2.7.93	
			—	W22 W13 W17	2.7.93	
			—	W23 W13 W17	26.6.93	
			—	W23 W13 W18	8.7.93	
			—	W24 W14 W18	8.7.93	

Stamps of the Four Kings

1. The Edward VII Series, 1902

JAMES MACKAY

King Edward VII succeeded his mother on 22 January 1901. As Victoria lay in state at Osborne in the Isle of Wight, an Austrian-born artist, Emil Fuchs, was summoned to her deathbed to take a cast of her face for a death mask. In this macabre manner was the new monarch introduced to the artist who was to sculpt his profile for the coinage and medals, and subsequently adapt it for the postage and revenue stamps.

De La Rue had negotiated a new ten-year contract with the Post Office in 1899 and thus automatically secured the commission to design and print stamps bearing King Edward's portrait. The Jubilee series had been in use for some 14 years with little criticism, and De La Rue's immediate reaction was to prepare essays with either a three-quarter face or a quarter face portrait of the King in full-dress uniform. These portraits were lithographed separately and then pasted up on Penny Lilacs and the various denominations of the Jubilee series (with the exception of the 4½d which was then obsolescent). The lithographed portraits may be found facing left or right, and there was also a

version of the three-quarter portrait prepared by line-engraving.

Victorian Tradition

Neither of these portraits was accepted, and it was decided to follow Victorian tradition with a profile based on a bas-relief, in this case the contemporary coinage. Thus Fuchs became involved in the stamps, producing a left-facing profile which replaced that of the Queen on the majority of the existing Jubilee designs. At the same time, however, Fuchs was asked to prepare entirely new designs for the ½d, 1d, 2½d and 6d stamps. The same basic layout was adopted for all four values, but there are minor differences, notably the use of a numeral value tablet for the 2½d, whereas the other three had the value expressed in words.

A considerable amount of effort was expended on the preparation of the Edwardian designs, as witnessed by the number of artist's sketches, paste-ups and photographic essays which exist. In addition, die proofs of the profile were engraved in various sizes and may be found with solid or lined backgrounds. Finally die proofs of the stamps, with or without values

Edward VII definitives showing two colours of ½d and 4d values.



expressed, and numerous colour trials, were prepared before the Stamping Department at the Board of Inland Revenue gave their approval. There were also essays prepared in 1902-3, allegedly at the King's behest, using the designs of the contemporary Transvaal and Canadian definitive stamps as alternatives to the Fuchs design for the 1d denomination. Nothing came of these, however, and the Fuchs design was retained till the end of the series.

The original series of 1902 comprised 16 denominations: ½d green, 1d scarlet, 1½d purple & green, 2d green & scarlet, 2½d ultramarine, 3d purple on yellow-tinted paper, 4d green & brown, 5d purple & ultramarine, 6d purple, 9d purple & ultramarine, 10d purple & carmine, 1s green & carmine, 2s6d lilac, 5s carmine, 10s ultramarine, and £1 blue-green. During the life of the series, however, a 7d denomination was added, the colours of the ½d and 4d were changed, and an entirely new design for the 2d was prepared but not generally issued. These changes, and the reasons for them, will be discussed in a subsequent article.

Three Watermarks

The paper supplied to De La Rue for printing the stamps was manufactured by R.D. Turner and Company of Roughway Mill, Tonbridge, Kent, who held the contract from 1897 till 1911. This paper had a watermark of imperial crowns (small-format pence and shilling values), anchors (the larger 2s6d, 5s, and 10s stamps) and three crowns (the horizontal-format £1 stamp). The lower values, from ½d to 7d, were printed in large sheets, known as 480 crown mill, from the number of watermark bits. The stamps were arranged in four panes of 120, but the panes were guillotined vertically before issue to the Post Office, so that the sheets actually used at the counter comprised two panes totalling 240 subjects. The panes were surrounded by coloured marginal lines, and additionally the unicoloured stamps had vertical-lined pillars. The 10d and 1s stamps were printed on 480 crown mill sheets but were subdivided into post office sheets of 120 instead of 240. The 9d value was printed on 320 crown mill sheets, divided into 16 small panes of 20 subjects. The post office sheets of this denomination comprised four panes, totalling 80 stamps.

Various marginal markings and the word POSTAGE in double-lined large lettering in the watermark between the panes are aids to the plating of individual stamps and multiples. The bicoloured stamps differed from the

monochrome values in the ornament found in the inter-pane gutters. Generally speaking, the gutters were left blank, apart from horizontal short bars which did not cross the perforations, but the 10d had a combination of vertical pillars and horizontal-lined blocks between the panes.

The system of control letters introduced in 1882 was continued in the Edwardian series, the control letters and numbers being confined to the ½d and 1d denominations. These controls were changed in October each year and originally consisted of a letter alone, but late in 1903 the Inland Revenue requested the addition of a numeral to indicate the final digit of the year, and this was to come into use in January 1904. After that, the current letter (as it was officially called) was changed about April so that two controls, with a different letter, may be found each year.



5s High value and 1d stamp with E5 (August 1905) control.

The stamps were printed by letterpress, a cheap process which provided little or no security. This problem was obviated by the use of watermarked paper, but De La Rue also pinned their faith on the doubly fugitive green and purple inks used for the head plates. Doubly fugitive ink, affected by both mineral and aqueous solvents, was also used for the 6d stamp as it was commonly used on receipts. The other monochrome stamps and the duty plates of the bicoloured stamps were singly fugitive, reacting only to mineral solvents. As the doubly fugitive inks were sensitive to water, they tended to discolour even in the average humidity of the British climate. For this reason great care must be taken when removing used stamps from backing paper.

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Royal Flavour for 1994 Stamp Programme

A special set of stamps featuring paintings by Prince Charles will commemorate the Silver Jubilee of his investiture as HRH The Prince of Wales next year. The stamps, showing landscape scenes from around Britain, will be issued on St David's Day (1 March). A travelling exhibition, based on the stamps and the scenes they depict, will also tour Britain during the spring and summer.

The programme begins in January with a set of stamps linked to the 150th anniversary of British railway companies, including the Midland and North British Railway. Along with Inland Waterways (July 1993), this will be part of a series celebrating vintage transport in Britain (Historic postal vehicles are to be featured on future machine-vended books).

Another significant historical event planned for 1994 is the official opening of the Channel Tunnel. Royal Mail is teaming up with *La Poste*, the French postal service, to commemorate the opening with a set of stamps which will be on sale on both sides of the Channel at the same time.

The second set of the year to have a European link will be the annual Europa set, to be issued in May. This will be based on the theme of European Discoveries; Royal Mail has chosen to celebrate medical breakthroughs by British doctors and scientists.

The European theme continues in June, with a set of stamps to mark the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944. They will also recognise and commemorate the contributions of all who played a part in ending the Second World War in Europe.

A month later, the world's oldest golf club – The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers – is recognised by a set of stamps commemorating the 250th anniversary of the world's first recorded golf tournament, organised by the Company in Leith.

Summertime is the theme of the third in Royal Mail's series celebrating the British obsession with the weather and the seasons. The set – to be issued in August – will look at traditional British summertime events.

In 1894, the Post Office gave authority for picture postcards to be sent through the post; previously only plain cards with the address on the stamp side were permitted. The centenary

will be celebrated by stamps featuring traditional seaside illustrations.

The programme ends in November with the ever-popular Christmas stamps, which traditionally mark the beginning of the festive season.

The dates of issue and values will be announced later.



New NPM Postcards

The National Postal Museum will issue four new postcards on 14 September, day of issue of the Autumn stamps. The cards feature postal uniforms. Reference numbers and descriptions are as follows:

94/11 – General Post Letter Carrier, London, 1793-1855. Background: Eastern side of Regent Street, 1818. Architect: John Nash.

94/12 – London District Letter Carrier, 1837-55. Background: King's Cross, Terminus of the Great Northern Railway, 1852. Designed by Lewis Cubitt.

94/13 – Letter Carrier, 1855-60. Background: The Royal Mile, Edinburgh, mid-1850s.

94/14 – Letter Carrier, 1862. Background: The Bank of England, 1821. Architect: Sir John Soane.

The cards, price 25p each, will be available to callers at the Museum; they can be ordered by post in sets (£1) from: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. A special Museum handstamp will be used on 14 September. Cards/covers to receive this should be sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Ask for "NPM Special – 14 September". The Museum's regular Maltese Cross handstamp (reference number 1985) will also be available.

Christmas Aerogramme



By air mail
Par avion



1 Great Britain Postage



Shown here is the 1993 Christmas aerogramme to be issued on 5 October. It features the first Christmas card designed by John Calcott Horsley (1817-1903), published in 1843, and other Christmas cards from the collection of Courtier Fine Art Limited. Designed by Trickett & Webb Limited, and printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited. The aerogrammes will be available from post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters, price 44p (includes aerogramme postage). It will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on 24 December. Christmas aerogrammes were introduced in 1965 – a listing was published here in November 1991 (page 54).

SPONSORED BY:
STEVEN SCOTT



Win 1962 National Productivity Year FDC

This month's competition is sponsored by Steven Scott, stamp dealers of The Strand. The prizes, supplied by Steven Scott, comprise:

* Five 1st prizes of 1962 National Productivity Year first day cover (ordinary stamps) cancelled with the matching "National Productivity Year" slogan postmark. Catalogued in *Collect British First Day Covers* (Bradbury) at £70.

* Four 2nd prizes of 1975 Turner PHQ card in perfect mint condition – catalogued at £30.

★ Three 3rd prizes of 1964 Shakespeare presentation packs – catalogued at £12 in *Gibbons Collect British Stamps*.



Introducing Steven Scott

We are proud to be the first dealers to sponsor the *British Philatelic Bulletin* competition and to offer prizes, each typical of the sort of stock we constantly carry. If you collect British stamps (our forte is 1912 to date), then our complimentary list will be just for you. We are now firmly established as one of the country's leading GB retailers based in the heart of London's Stamp Land. We have been a major standholder at the last six Stampex shows.

We carry in-depth stocks of commemoratives, definitives (including Machins and Regionals), presentation packs, PHQ cards, first day covers (including early and scarce postmarks), and much much more besides.

We operate a satisfaction/refund policy and specialise in the former! As full members of the Philatelic Traders Society our reputation is your safeguard – see for yourselves how we have acquired it.

Our Summer '93 12-page price list contains many interesting offers, listing commemoratives, definitives 1912-92, specialised Machins and Regionals, Miscellaneous Special Offers (including errors and varieties), Elizabeth II stamp books, definitive first day covers, presentation packs, PHQ cards, Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man commemoratives, etc. Well illustrated, the list is a useful work of reference. Send a 9x6" stamped addressed envelope for your free copy.

We look forward to hearing from you - why not visit our shop?

Steven Scott
77 The Strand
LONDON WC2R 0DE
Tel. 071-836 2341
Fax 071-240 3778



To enter this month's competition answer the questions below and send your answers with your name and address on a postcard to:

September Bulletin Competition
British Philatelic Bulletin
Royal Mail National
76 Turnmill Street
LONDON EC1M 5NS

Entries should arrive by 29 October.

1. In which story is Sherlock Holmes killed in a fight with Professor Moriarty?
2. Which artist was summoned to Queen Victoria's deathbed?
3. What is the address of Steven Scott?
4. Who designed Jersey's 1943 Pictorial stamps?
5. What was the date of issue of the Orchid stamps?
6. Which noted philatelic writer has been awarded a Doctorate of Letters by the University of Glasgow

The answers to all these questions will be found in this month's *Bulletin*.

The winners of the June Competition were: R Mackley of Northampton (£75 worth of philatelic products); D Staniforth of S Yorkshire; D Goudie of Aberdeen; A Clarke of Warwickshire; Mrs H Brackley of Essex and D Clarke of Dublin (presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. 14,122; 2. Keith MacDonald; 3. Sir Francis Baring; 4. Tony Lewery; 5. 4 June 1968.

Our thanks to all who entered.



The Good Old Days

Peter Johnson, a prominent figure in railway philately, writes:

"As a customer since the 1960s I was interested to read of the early days of the Philatelic Bureau in the *May Bulletin*. I particularly recall the handling charge receipt cards because I used to save mine. I eventually sold them to a dealer who put them in his list, later telling me that they were the most popular item he had ever offered and he could have sold them several times over.

"An uncle responded to the Shakespeare issue promotion on my behalf and I received an ordinary FDC, a phosphor FDC and a presentation pack, the latter being despatched in the phosphor FDC! I recollect that the cover was sealed, too. How times have changed. Still recalling collecting GB in the 1960s, these were the days when commemoratives were issued without fixed withdrawal dates. I remembered several times going to the Crown office in Leicester on a Saturday morning and coming away with a fine array of old commemoratives, queuing several times to get them because each position had a different issue!"

1971 Decimal Definitives FDCs

Tom Valentine of Montrose, Angus has an interesting first day cover of the 3p Machin definitive posted at Rothie-Norman, Aberdeenshire on 15 February 1971. The cover, addressed to the chairman of the Aberdeen Branch of the National Federation of SubPostmasters, bears an inscription testifying to the genuineness of the cover.

This is a genuine FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST DECIMAL DAY COVER

POSTED IN THE RURAL VILLAGE OF ROTHENORMAN, ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND

where the postmen carried on a local delivery during the 1971 U.P.W. Strike



GORDON W. BEWS, Esq.,
Chairman, Aberdeen Branch,
National Federation of Sub-Postmasters,
c/o Post Office,
ROTHIENORMAN.

Martin Balls of Cobham, Surrey has sent a photocopy of a cover bearing all 12 definitives cancelled on 15 February 1971 by the Chacewater, Truro, Cornwall datestamp. The cover was addressed locally and, says Mr. Balls, "delivered by a proper postman - this was not CTO and passed back."

Encouraging Young Collectors

Susan Parkin of Preston, Lancs writes:

"I read with interest your 'Post Bag' in the June *Bulletin*, on the subject of encouraging young collectors. I enrolled my 12-year old son Tim in the Stamp Bug Club as a way of encouraging him to enjoy stamps, and he and I responded to one or two of the offers very similar to that one organised by Mr M J Plows of Bristol. We received lots of beautiful stamps, especially from Mr Geoff Lee, of Coventry, and I would like to thank him and others for being so generous.

"I think stamp collectors are a super bunch of people: the ones we have met via the post or in person have been kind and patient, and totally fascinating to talk to, and write to. Thank you for providing us with such a fun way of expanding our collection and of getting in touch with so many nice people. I hope that one day we can help 'repay' some of our stamp debts to the hobby."

Golden Jubilee of 6d Air Letter

J Rawlins of Chelmsford comments on Peter Jennings' article in the June *Bulletin*:

"In his article Mr Jennings said that the first civilian use of this form, to South Africa did not occur until 24 August 1944. However *Post Office Circular* of 7 June 1944 says that 6d Air Letters can now be sent to civilian addresses in British West Africa as no other airmail service is available. Although I do not have a copy of the circular in front of me, I believe it says that this was the first civilian use of these forms. It would be interesting to know whether this airmail service did in fact operate."

PHQ Cards

Tony Buckingham, Managing Director of cover-producers Benham, wrote concerning Barry Burke's column in June:

"Re Barry Burke's interesting history of PHQ/stamp cards, it would be remiss of me if I didn't point out two important facts.

"Firstly, the Cricket Card No 1 was not issued on 16 May 1973. In fact, the earliest legitimate

use was recorded in July 1973. The problem at the time was simply that the man who invented the PHQ card died, I believe. He certainly departed from Royal Mail and the net result was that nobody quite knew what they were about. I can remember being told by somebody when I inquired that the cards were not intended for stamp collectors, but I'm not quite sure what they thought they were intended for! There are known examples postmarked 16 May; these were back-dated by favour. It is normally regarded as acceptable to collect the Gillette Cup postmark of 1973 as the 'first day of issue' of that particular card.

"The other interesting fact is that because nobody knew what the cards were for, they were destroyed at the end of the first year, which meant that as they hadn't really been promoted properly very few cards were sold.

"The first two were much larger than the remaining cards and they were very easily damaged. Most collectors of PHQ in mint form expect them to be perfect and the prices quoted in the article would be for pristine cards. It's quite easy to find cards that aren't in such good condition for £10, £15 or £20. As with most things in philately, condition is everything and the catalogue is only a guide to price. These fascinating cards have had their ups and downs since I first started dealing in them in 1973 and there was even a boom period in the late 1970s, when one particular dealer graded them in 10 ways. I can tell you it was not a pleasant experience having collectors coming up with large magnifying glasses asking us was this card grade 5 or 6. I for one was very pleased when the particular dealer went out of business and we got back to cards in good condition."

Post Bus Services

Mr F C Godden of West Lothian "has read with much interest several articles in the philatelic and national press, and of course in the *Bulletin*, on the subject of the 25th anniversary of Post Bus services. These articles have created for me a mystery; I wonder if any *Bulletin* reader can supply a solution.

"Around 1962 or 1963, I was required to travel from Pitlochry in Perthshire to Fortingall on Lock Tay. On enquiry in the town about public transport, I was informed that I could use the 'Post Bus' – their words, not mine. This turned out to be a grey mini-bus, driven by a uniformed postman. The route followed, as far as I can recall, was by way of Ballinluig and

Aberfeldy to the Appin of Dull, at which point the postman began to deliver and uplift both mail and passengers. I do not recall whether I was issued with a ticket for the journey, although I can remember that the fare was very good value.

"I have never seen this service referred to in print and hope a reader will be able to provide some explanation of the status of this service."

Penfold Letter Boxes

Mr P S London of Buckinghamshire writes:

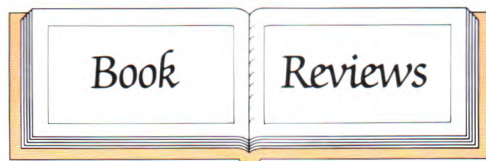
"In July you showed a photograph of the Penfold letter box that used to be in Invercargill, New Zealand. You may be interested to know that when I was in New Zealand in 1976 I photographed it in its original site, also a box of similar design in Wellington. It was also made by Duncan of Christchurch but whereas, as your photograph shows, the box now in Arrowtown has eight balls along each side of the eaves, with one at each angle, the box in Wellington has only seven balls between those at each corner. Similar variants occur in this country."

Exclusive Bulletin Readers Special Offer

Collectors of window books may wish to obtain the *SAMPLE* books mentioned in Douglas Myall's article in the July *Bulletin* by writing to: Free Red Book Samples, Room 104, Royal Mail, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS. Please enclose a **Stamped**, self-addressed envelope (UK) or international reply coupon and self-addressed envelope (overseas) and your name and Bureau account number on a separate sheet of paper. You will be sent a set of the 1st and 2nd class, four and ten-stamp sample books. Please allow up to 2 months for delivery and note that only one set is available per application. All applications must be received by 29 October 1993.

Royal Mail





The Postal Mechanisation Study Circle has published the first section of **British Postal Mechanisation: A Handbook**. This will appear in parts building up into a standard reference work for the history of the mechanisation of the posts in Great Britain from 1857 to date. Pages are looseleaf so that updates and additions can easily be inserted and a binder is supplied with the first section.

Edited by Douglas N Muir, of the National Postal Museum, the first section contains three parts: Introduction by Mr Muir, an essay on Early British Sorting Machines by the same author, and the first part of an essay on Cancelling Machines (Who Made them and how they Worked 1840 to 1900), by Jack Peach, the acknowledged expert on the subject. These parts cover mechanisation from about 1840 up to the early part of the 20th century before any standard machines were in use and describe experiments of greater or lesser success. Mr Peach describes the machines of Pearson Hill, Rideout, Azemar, Sloper, Vaile, Hoster, *et al.* He provides a useful chronology and bibliography.

Douglas Muir's account of early British sorting machines examines the attempts of the persistent J H Doherty to persuade the PO to adopt his ideas for sorting machines. The British PO became interested in mechanical sorting after a visit to the USA in 1910 by the Controller of the London Postal Service and the Engineer-in-Chief. Trials were carried out at Liverpool Head Office in 1913. Various machines were demonstrated in the 1920s but the first really successful machine was the Transorma, introduced at Brighton in 1935.

60 pages; includes illustrations of the main markings and machines, many of which have not been published before. Price £9 plus £1 postage, from the Secretary of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle: Tom Mullins, 27 Elizabeth Road, Hunters Ride, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, Oxon, RG9 1RA.

Volume 1 of the 1993 (96th) edition of **Part 1** (British Commonwealth) of the 22-part **Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue** is now available. This covers Great Britain and Countries A to I, including the post-

independence issues of Ireland. The GB section amounts to 97 pages, including the issues of Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man. Stamps are included to the NVI booklet stamps with elliptical perforation issued on 6 April 1993. In this preface the Editor, David Aggersberg, reports that "prices for George VI and earlier Elizabeth II tend to be marked down, but there are considerable rises for modern definitive stamps which were only available from booklets. A number of these are becoming quite scarce."

The mint price of the 1989 Greetings stamps (SG 1423/7) is reduced by £2 since the *Concise* catalogue was published in May. The 1990 Greetings set (1483/92) is reduced by £1 mint and used, the 1991 Greetings – Smiles set (1550/9) goes up 25p mint and 50p used. The 1993 £10 Britannia stamp (1658) unpriced used in the *Concise* is now priced – at £16, £1 more than mint. The prices of the scarce Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales 20½p stamps are slightly increased.

A new "Philatelic Register" is introduced at the back of this volume – a yellow-pages type listing of dealers, arranged by country of stamps, with sections on Aerophilately, Approvals, First Day Covers, Philatelic Literature, etc.

712 pages, A4 format, hardback. Price £19.95. Available from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop, or by post from: Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Vol 2 covering countries J-Z was published on 27 August.

Of major importance and newly published, **The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook** promises its readers 'How to become an expert in three easy stages'. Few people other than the author Douglas Myall could attempt such an undertaking and carry it out so satisfactorily.

Mr Myall is well known to *Bulletin* readers for his continuing reports on current stamp booklets, thus carrying forward his twenty-two years of work for the specialist study circle on this subject. He was also President of the parallel British Decimal Stamps Study Circle from its foundation in 1974 until recently. Over the years he has written and published under the "Deegam" trademark a copious flow of high-quality works. Now with this *chef-d'oeuvre* he answers the oft-repeated wish of students for a single book that would encapsulate the complete research into the remarkable – but very complex – British definitive series still in full flood after 26 years of issue.

The new *Handbook* could not be more up to

date. From the first pre-decimal Machins of 1967 up to the elliptical perforations of April 1993, everything is catalogued. Its novel approach is to set out the lists in three distinct levels, each complete in itself.

Level 1 is for beginners, interested simply in one of each value and colour change, but with the reasons for issue explained. Level 2 is for medium collectors, wanting to take account of printing processes, papers, gums and phosphors. Level 3 is for the specialist: here unfolds Machin collecting in full depth, listing value types and settings, printings, sources, cylinders, shortbar phosphors, straight-edged stamps and direction of printing.

The explanatory text is a model of lucidity, even when called upon to handle highly technical matters. Some may begin to appreciate en route why it needs a handbook of 528 pages to chart progress through the three levels, but there could be no more discerning guide. One feature of this instruction marks the work out from others: a recommended procedure is included for identifying any unknown decimal single stamp. With its use a high success rate should be achievable for this technically challenging exercise.

Special mention and praise must go to the illustrations, which are quite outstanding. The author credits two friends in Düsseldorf, Detlef Schwerdt and Heinz Reck, for photography, and an Austrian colleague, Hanns Fasching, for translation into computer form. It has meant, in the catalogue lists, enlarged photographs now being available of all 20 head types. To these must be added no fewer than 132 halftones, needed to classify all the value types, plus 191 accurate line drawings for value settings. As one who has, for example, spent many an hour trying to decide the correct value type of such awkward denominations as the humble 1p I could have done with these illustrations earlier.

I am equally as appreciative of further illustrations, such as the regional symbols (particularly the difficult Ulster Hand) and the stages in making photogravure cylinders (unique in my experience). There are huge blow-ups illustrative of direction of printing, much needed, but I especially welcome Appendix 2. I believe this may have arisen from my once saying to Mr Myall that Machin students really had need of a complete illustrated guide to the layout and phosphor-band arrangements of booklet panes. This appendix alone runs to 76 pages, but at last all the layouts – with their ever-

increasing complications of phosphor – are accurately pictured. This is an immense advance over simplified diagrams and laboured verbal descriptions; the care in planning and executing such illustrations is highly commendable.

The work is a handbook; the author is not a dealer, so that no prices are given. Particular rarities are, however, signalled and the listings do include varieties of phosphor, paper and perforation that add so much interest to Machins. The catalogue will give the collector complete information on every printing of every stamp, so that this represents the grand gathering together of the enormous mass of data which the author has been compiling and publishing since the Machins began.

Apart from our admiration for this, Douglas Myall has, to everyone's benefit, evolved logical classification systems for each new technical complication in the Machin saga. To him we owe universal methods of dealing with head types and value settings, the code numbering of booklets and their panes, the coding of shortbar phosphors, and the classification of perforation types (including the newest elliptical sort). The *Handbook* includes the glossary of Machin terms that he pioneered some years ago and this is fully up to date in such developments as recently introduced papers.

The author long ago overcame that bane of catalogue work, how to number stamps in a list that needs perpetual updating for new issues. His is a system based on denomination rather than serial numbering: his basic ("DG") catalogue numbers are sub-divided decimally and once allocated never alter. The three levels of collecting which he is proposing are accommodated without disruption by increasing the number of decimal places.

This *Machin Handbook* is notably well edited, its layout conforming to the best criteria in presentation of information and ease of use. Mr Myall was a forerunner in using computer technology for compilation and publishing: the present work will, I hope, serve as a model for other authors aspiring to the pinnacle he has reached.

Reviewers are always expected to find a few quibbles, though this is difficult here. I think OVI at p.48 should be explained and an entry for "optically variable ink" placed in the Glossary. Likewise (p.57) the first mention of gsm could be spelled out for information as "grams per square metre", as some will not know it. The printer currently in the news

appears strangely as "Enschedé & Zoon", whereas it is properly "Enschedé en Zonen" ("...and Sons"). I think, too, that Mr Myall should not use "principle" so often as an adjective, when it is really spelled "principal".

These and similar observations are of trivial consequence in a work of such far-reaching importance. The medium and specialist collector will welcome, as I do, having in one book the whole complex story of Machins acutely analysed. I hope too that quite a few complete beginners will buy this work and tackle Level 1. They will surely find Douglas Myall encourages them through his "easy stages" to the goal of expert knowledge and continuing research which Machin stamps so richly offer.

Available from: D G Myall, 2 Elizabeth Avenue, BRIDPORT, Dorset, DT6 5BA. Price £19.95 postpaid UK, overseas add £2 Europe, £2.50 elsewhere surface mail, £6 USA airmail, £8 Australia, Japan airmail.

James Negus.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until February 1994. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

2 Mar	£10 Definitive stamp (FS100)
2 Mar	£10 Definitive pack (FP009)
2 Mar	Orchids stamp cards (AQ247)
2 Mar	"Air Cards" (4 designs) (RQ001)
16 Mar	Orchids stamps (AS539)
16 Mar	Orchids pack (AP112)
16 Mar	4 x 1st class book/W (UB067)
16 Mar	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB066)
23 Mar	Scot. Aerogramme (Curling) (QS031)
6 Apr	50p book – Postal History No 2 (TB023)
6 Apr	£1 book – Ed. Institutions No 2 (TB024)
6 Apr	10 x 1st class book/H (UB072)
6 Apr	10 x 1st class book/W (UB071)
6 Apr	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB070)
6 Apr	4 x 1st class book/H (UB069)
6 Apr	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB068)
27 Apr	6p Definitive, Enschedé (DS061)
4 May	Europa stamp cards (AQ253)
6 May	NPM "Gems of the Museum" cards (NQ918)
11 May	Europa stamps (AS545)
11 May	Europa pack (AP113)
7 Jun	Roman Britain stamp cards (AQ258)
8 Jun	1p Definitive, Enschedé (DS012)
8 Jun	5p Definitive, Enschedé (DS056)

8 Jun	10p Definitive, Enschedé (DS104)
15 Jun	Roman Britain stamps (AS550)
15 Jun	Roman Britain pack (AP114)
22 Jun	Scot Aerogramme (Q. Margaret) (QS032)
28 Jun	Guaranteed Delivery envelope DL (RX005)
28 Jun	Guaranteed Delivery envelope C5 (RY005)
28 Jun	Guaranteed Delivery envelope C4 (RZ005)
28 Jun	Registered Plus envelope DL (RX006)
28 Jun	Registered Plus envelope C5 (RY006)
28 Jun	Registered Plus envelope C4 (RZ006)
6 Jul	50p book – Postal History 3 (TB025)
6 Jul	£1 book – Educational Institutions 3 (TB026)
13 Jul	Inland Waterways stamp cards (AQ263)
20 Jul	Inland Waterways stamps (AS 555)
20 Jul	Inland Waterways pack (AP115)
27 Jul	30p Definitive, Enschedé (DS301)
Jul	Air Cards – London (5 designs)
Jul	Air Cards – Stratford-on-Avon (5 designs)
10 Aug	Beatrix Potter prestige book
17 Aug	35p Definitive, Enschedé
17 Aug	Greetings book – revised
17 Aug	10 x 1st class book/H
17 Aug	10 x 1st class book/W
17 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/Q
17 Aug	4 x 1st class book/W

Forthcoming

7 Sep	4 x 2nd class book/H
7 Sep	Autumn stamp cards
14 Sep	Autumn stamps and pack
14 Sep	NPM PO Uniforms cards
5 Oct	Sherlock Holmes stamp cards
5 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
12 Oct	Sherlock Holmes stamps/pack
12 Oct	Self-adhesive stamp card
19 Oct	Self-adhesive stamp book
2 Nov	Christmas stamp cards
9 Nov	Christmas stamps/pack
9 Nov	Christmas stamp books (1st & 2nd)
9 Nov	1993 Collectors Pack
9 Nov	1993 Year Book
9 Nov	NPM Christmas postcards

1994

Jan	Age of Steam stamp cards
Jan	Age of Steam stamps and pack
Jan	1994 Greetings stamp cards
Feb	1994 Greetings stamps and pack
Feb	Prince of Wales stamp cards

Notes:

The books issued on 17 August and 7 September include revised text on the validity of NVI stamps.

W = Printed by Walsall Security Printers;

H = Harrison & Sons; Q = House of Questa.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

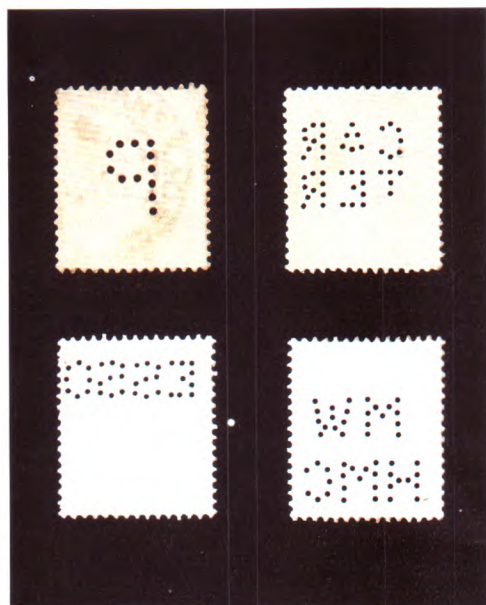
No. 41 Perfins

Once among philatelic outcasts, stamps with initials, names or designs punctured through them in form of dots now provide a popular field for study as the 300 – strong membership of the Perfin Society clearly indicates.

Perfins, i.e. stamps perforated through with initials or insignia (a patterned device) are the direct descendants of the overprinted and underprinted “security endorsements” discussed in article 16 of this series (September 1987).

In 1869, John Sloper was already perforating cheques and other valuable documents as a form of security and he turned to stamps as a way of providing a useful service and increasing his own turnover. Perfins provided a check on the improper personal use of stamps by firm’s employees and assisted in accounting for a firm’s postal costs. There are thousands of different perfins to be found among British stamps and it calls for a disciplined approach to the subject if a meaningful and logically-arranged collection is the collector’s aim.

One favoured group is that of perfins



indicating, other than by initials, the organisation using them. Coats of arms from the City of London, Dublin, Cardiff, Leicester and various boroughs provide the basis of a thematic collection of perfins. Specialisation can develop in the discovery of varieties created by missing pins in a perforation head; or the same design composed of a different number of pin holes.

A few British government departments and agencies have issued perfins of their own. These include the Board of Trade (an Imperial Crown above “BT”), the Stationery Office (a Tudor Crown flanked by “S” and “O”), and the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research (just “DI” above “SR”). These could form the basis of collection of “official” perfins. The use of a crown has not been confined to government departments. Two examples are the letters “SB” above an Imperial Crown used by Springer Brothers of West Bromwich and a very regal-looking crown used without any lettering by James Russell of Wednesbury. The letters “ST” below a coronet was the personal perfin of the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot.