

February 1994

British Philatelic Bulletin



Royal Mail

Volume 31. No: 6 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 75p



The 25th Anniversary of the Investiture of
HRH The Prince of Wales

Royal Mail Stamp Cards



Royal Mail's very popular Stamp Cards reproducing the designs of special stamps were introduced in 1973. Some are now highly-priced collectors' items.

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Royal Mail

Stamp cards are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Also on sale at Collections, philatelic counters, and selected post shops and main post offices.

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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HRH The Prince of Wales painting Dolwyddelan Castle, Gwynedd. Photograph by Lesley Donald; © A G Carrick Limited 1993.

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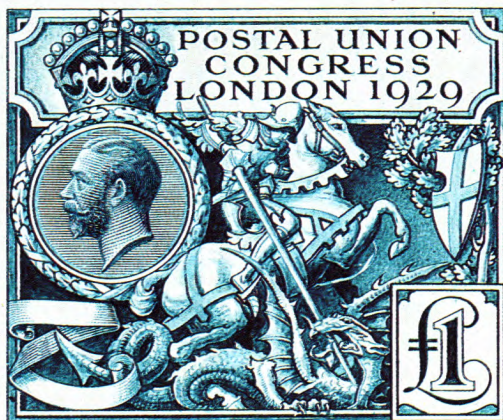
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Main Feature

Postal Union Congresses 155

James Mackay examines the history of the Universal Postal Union and its 20 congresses.



Harold Nelson's design for the £1 stamp for the 1929 Congress. Proof in National Postal Museum, London

Royal Mail News

25th Anniversary of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales

Five stamps commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Investiture of HRH The Prince of Wales go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters on 1 March 1994.

The stamps feature paintings by the Prince. The **19p** stamp (inland 2nd class rate) shows Chirk Castle (Castell Y Waun) in the county of Clwyd, Wales. The castle, a unique example of a Marcher fortress was completed by 1310. For nearly 300 years the castle remained in the gift of the Crown, given at one point to Sir Thomas



Seymour, Lord High Admiral and, by Elizabeth I, to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. It was purchased by Sir Thomas Myddelton in 1595; Charles I stayed there in 1645. Chirk Castle, a property of the National Trust since 1981, contains fine furnishings and decorations dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The noted wrought iron gates were produced by the Davies Brothers in 1721.

The **25p** value (inland 1st class and EC rate) reproduces the Prince's painting of Ben Arkle, in the Highland Region of Scotland. This mountain reaches a height of 2580 feet and is located approximately eight miles to the east of the small west coast village of Scourie. Prince Charles painted this scene over three days in October; the mountains being part of the time swathed in mist, the Prince had to work from



memory. Ben Arkle is well-known to mountaineers and walkers. Situated in the remote Reay Forest, noted for its deer, it is best viewed from the high road on the shores of Loch Stack – famed for its fish. The mountain is composed of Cambrian quartzite and has bandings of white scree.

The **30p** denomination (Europe, non-EC countries) has as its subject the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland. Owing to security requirements the Prince had reluctantly to paint this scene from a photograph. The beautiful Mourne Mountains lie in the south of Co. Down, Northern Ireland extending from above the town of Newcastle to Carlingford Lough, and include several over 2000 feet – Slieve Muck (2198 ft), Slieve Bearnagh (2394 ft), Slieve Binnian (2449 ft), Slieve Commedagh



(2515 ft) and the highest Slieve Donard (2796 ft). Part of the Mourne Coastal Path, maintained by the National Trust, runs from the foot of Slieve Donard along the valley of the Bloody River, providing access to the mountains. The path was started as an unemployment relief scheme in 1968.

The painting of Dersingham, Norfolk, shown on the 35p stamp (overseas postcard rate), was undertaken on a January afternoon. Unfortunately the Prince's concentration was interrupted by press photographers. Dersingham is the nearest village to the Sandringham estate, a home of the Royal Family since the 1860s. The Prince's grandfather, King George VI was born on the estate in 1895 and like his father, George V, died in Sandringham House. The Princess of Wales was born on the estate in 1961. The Sandringham estate provides excellent shooting; the Royal Family often stay at Sandringham over Christmas. The village of Dersingham has a fine 14th – 15th century church which houses a noted 14th century chest. The village also boasts a fine 17th century barn.

The 41p value (basic airmail letter rate) reproduced the Prince's painting of Dolwyddelan Castle, located between Betws-y-



successors. (Owain submitted to Henry II as his overlord and changed his style to Prince). The curtain (wall enclosing courtyard) of the Castle is of the early 13th century.

The 30p stamp in this issue is to be included in one of the panes in the Northern Ireland prestige stamp book, to be issued on 26 July 1994.

Technical Details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 41 x 30mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: 19p one phosphor band (with fluor); 25p-41p phosphor coated paper.

Paper: OBA free (OBA = Optical Brightening Agent)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Presentation Pack: No. 245, price £1.85

Stamp Cards: Nos. 159a-e, price 25p each



Coed and Blaenau Ffestiniog in north Wales. The Prince has commented on the long time it took him to find a good spot from which to paint this view, and the fact that it didn't rain whilst he was working! Dolwyddelan (approximate pronunciation Dol-oith-ealan), is generally supposed to be the birth place in 1194 of Llewellyn the Great. The keep (great tower) of the Castle dates from the second half of the 12th century – clearly a copy of the rectangular keeps which were built at many places in England, c.1160-80. It was probably the work of Owain Gwynedd (King of Gwynedd 1137-52, Prince of Gwynedd 1152-70) or one of his

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the





ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

1969 1994

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INVESTITURE OF
HRH THE PRINCE
OF WALES

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



ROYAL MINT STAMPS

1969 1994

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVESTITURE OF
HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



CASTELL Y WA
CHURCH CASTLE,
CYMRU/WA
This is a rather fa
squat castle, com
stunning view of
into a blue distan
is a feeling of in
about the scene
single pylons

BEN AR
SUTHERLAND,
The October
Sutherland m
very specia
trouble was t
finish the painting
day and the same light
never came back during the
two days it took me to
complete it. Normally this
particular mountain, as with
most others in the area, is
swathed in mist, so I had to
work from memory.

MOUNE MOUNTAINS
COUNTY DOWN
NORTHERN IRELAND
In order to be reasonably
conscientious to those
inevitably concerned with
security, I painted this scene
from a photograph, which

requires
most relaxing and therapeutic exercises.
Extract from *HRH The Prince of Wales Watercolours*, Little, Brown and Company, 1991



with intrusively long lenses
to their cameras.
DOLWYDDLAN
GŷWYDDO
CYMRU/WALES
It took me rather too long
to find a good spot from
which to paint this view,
the result being that I very
quickly ran out of time to
do it adequate justice.
With such limited time, at
least it didn't rain...

Bureau, Collections, and Philatelic Counters around a week before 1 March, price 25p.

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 Caernarfon, price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 1 March.

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

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

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

Souvenir Products

Five Stamp Pyramids, each featuring one of the five stamps, will be available from the Bureau at a special offer price of £29.95 each (usual price £34.95).

Royal Mint have produced a special commemorative medal to mark the anniversary and, Royal Mail have joined with the Mint to mount the medal on a unique “Philatelic Medal Cover” (PMC). Issue of the medal has been sanctioned by The Queen and The Prince of Wales. The medal designer – leading coinage artist Michael Rizzello – had a personal sitting with Prince Charles to put the finishing touches to his work. The medal will be Crown-size, struck to proof quality and this version will *only* be available in the PMC, which is being produced in a limited edition of 25,000 individually numbered covers. Price £14.95 each, from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Watercolours Exhibition

Royal Mail is sponsoring an exhibition tour of watercolours by Prince Charles, to mark the

25th anniversary of his Investiture and in aid of The Prince of Wales’s Charities Trust. The exhibition can be seen at the following venues:

Cardiff International Arena – Cardiff

1 March–20 March

Ulster Museum – Belfast 29 March–23 April

Grosvenor Museum – Chester 30 April–15 May

York Minster Visitor Centre, St William’s

College – York 21 May–8 June

Sotheby’s – London 24 June–24 July

Art Gallery & Museum Kelvingrove –

Glasgow 5 August–4 September

Entrance will be £1.50; children under 11 free.

Souvenir covers will be on sale at the exhibition, cachets for each venue will be available, but only to visitors to the exhibition.

Many of the paintings in the exhibition are featured in a superb book, first published by Little Brown in 1991. A Special Edition will be made available exclusively to British Philatelic Bureau customers and to visitors to the exhibition. The Special Edition will have a specially designed dust jacket and mounted inside will be a complete set of the “HRH Investiture” stamps. It will cost £25 (the same as the publisher’s price for the standard edition). Limited numbers available, early orders advisable to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

To Pay Labels

Shown here is the Royal Mail’s pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark for the new To Pay labels, 15 February 1994. Covers, bearing at least 25p worth of the new To Pay labels, should be sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, KEB LONDON EC1A 1AA not later than 15 March. Further information was published in January’s *Bulletin* page 144.



New Stamp Books

Two new books will be available from 22 February from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, Post Shops Plus and Philatelic Counters. They will be available from post

offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier books are exhausted.

The first book contains a pane of 10 1st class NVI stamps, printed by Walsall, perf 15 x 14 with elliptical perfs on the vertical sides. The stamps are the same as in similar books issued in April and November 1993. This book contains an additional pane giving details of an offer for free Greetings stamp postcards by sending covers from three books of 1st class stamps and one 1st class stamp. The offer is open until 31 May 1994. Details of the offer are also given on the book covers.

The second book contains 10 2nd class NVI stamps printed by Walsall, perf 15 x 14 with elliptical perfs on vertical sides. This is the first Walsall book of 10 2nd class stamps with this security feature, previously Walsall has only produced books of four 2nd class stamps with elliptical perfs.



NPM Postcards

The National Postal Museum will issue a set of five cards on the subject of Postcodes on 6 May, four cards depicting Uniforms on 2 August and four cards relating to Christmas on 1 November. The cards will be available to callers at the Museum's shop or by mail order from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. Further details will be published here nearer the dates of issue.

The National Postal Museum is situated in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. The Museum, open Monday - Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm, admission free, is only a few minutes walk from the Museum of London, the Barbican Centre, and St Paul's Cathedral. The nearest underground station is St Paul's on the Central Line.

Currently on display is an interesting special exhibition of Valentine Cards. The magnificent R M Phillips Collection of 19th century British stamps can be seen in the main (top floor) gallery. The Museum's shop stocks a wide range of books, postcards, models and other items of interest to stamp collectors and postal historians.



Postal Stationery

A new set of Swiftpacks, produced by Royal Mail International, has recently been issued. These have bar coded labels attached to the reverse, for use as part of the "track and trace" system introduced when the Priority Services were relaunched last June. The basic design of the packs remains unaltered from that issued towards the end of 1991. The new packs, in three sizes - DL (price £3), C5 (£3.25) and C4 (£4) - are available at main post offices. Please note that Swiftpacks are not stocked by the British Philatelic Bureau.

Faxmail

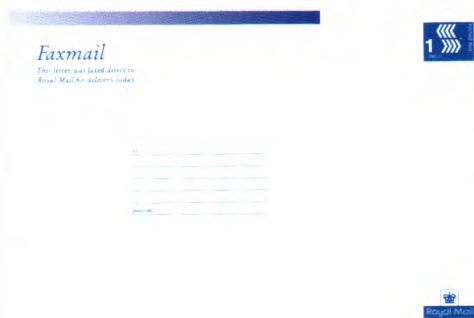
Traditionally, Royal Mail is best known for delivering letters across the world. Times are changing. Today, Royal Mail is involved in exciting initiatives which will transform how businesses communicate with their trading partners, employees and customers. Electronic Services is one such initiative.

With Electronic Services, Royal Mail offers businesses a range of convenient services which act as an extension of their office computers. By using our vast resources, businesses have electronic access from their computers straight into the postal system. Electronic Services combine the speed of electronic communication

with the reliability and coverage of Royal Mail's postal network. Over 160,000 personnel nationwide work to ensure rapid delivery to the addressee's door. Every one of Royal Mail's Electronic Services is completed by a postman delivering the mail through the letter box.

Salesmen out and about, can use one of over 110 strategically placed Royal Mail fax machines to send the data back to their head office, UK or overseas.

Businesses which want to get product details to prospective international customers with no fax can just fax Royal Mail the message and we will arrange for it to be re-routed, relying on unique arrangements with postal services in over 40 countries.



Faxmail is Royal Mail's fax bureau service for the modern business user who recognises the need for swift, sure, economical communications.

Once companies open a Faxmail account, their fax machines become in effect, a postbox. Royal Mail delivers their faxes according to their instructions. This might involve re-routing the message onto another fax machine (especially useful when sending the same fax to many addressees). This service is known as "Broadcast".

Alternatively, Royal Mail can forward fax messages to the local post office in the destination country for delivery by hand to the recipient's door. Providing Royal Mail receives the messages prior to the cut-off time, it can be delivered the same day in the UK or internationally.

Businesses are assured that their correspondence remains in the hands of the relevant Postal Authority throughout. No third party is involved, thus giving maximum confidentiality.

Businesses wanting to use the Faxmail service should send Royal Mail the following

information (1) The name, address, postcode, telephone number and fax number of both sender and recipient; (2) The number of pages to be sent, and (3) Whether same day or next day delivery required.

The company's Faxmail Account Number should be shown on every transmission. Accounts are billed weekly and should be paid within seven days of receipt. Credit checks are carried out prior to an account being opened; Royal Mail reserves the right to refuse an account without giving a reason.

Faxmail can be delivered to the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland (Eire), Israel, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and USA.

Within the UK Faxmail is delivered in a distinctive envelope bearing a Royal Mail printed postage impression. Companies interested in the Faxmail service may obtain details of account facilities on 071-250 2323.

Hong Kong '94 Stamp Exhibition

A major international stamp exhibition will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 18-21 February 1994. The exhibition is organised with the support of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately – the Asian wing of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie.

Royal Mail will be represented by its Japanese agent who will be supported by staff from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. A range of Royal Mail stamps and related products will be on sale and a cachet will be available for use on cards and covers.

60th Anniversary of Post Office Film Unit

The Post Office is celebrating the diamond anniversary of its world famous Film Unit, credited as the birthplace of the British documentary.

To mark the anniversary, a unique limited edition book describing the story of Post Office films is available at £15 from the Post Office Film Library. A video *The Real Picture* complements this historical record. The book has been written by Forsyth Hardy, a colleague

of John Grierson (1898-1972) who founded the Unit in 1933 and produced what is still the best-known film, *Night Mail*. This broke new ground in documentary film making and featured the journey of a Royal Mail night train's journey from London to Scotland, set against the poetry of W H Auden and music of Benjamin Britten.

The Film Unit was responsible for launching the careers of many early film-makers such as Alberto Cavalcanti and Norman McLaren. Their work for the Film Unit was shown in cinemas, youth hostels, schools and village halls and in the pre-television era was a rare opportunity for the audience to learn about current affairs.

During the Second World War, the Film Unit became known as the Crown Film Unit producing propaganda films and documentaries about the effects of the war on the lives of ordinary British people. The films were shown in America and are widely accepted as being instrumental in the USA's decision to join the Allies.

A big change in the Unit's history came in the 1970s with the advent of video. This proved to be the perfect medium for both internal and external communication. Today, nearly 70 per cent of the Unit's output is for internal consumption. The Post Office Film and Video Unit has won dozens of international awards for productions as diverse as children's education material to Health and Safety training films.

Enquiries: Post Office Film & Video Unit, Public Relations Dept, 130 Old Street, LONDON EC1V 9PQ.

Royal Mail Cover of Quality Awards, 1993

Royal Mail invites entries for its third "Cover of Quality Awards" competition to promote excellence in First Day or Commemorative Cover design, original approach and commercial success. A new category will cover Postmarks.

There are five individual category awards in the competition – the best of these will receive the award for "Cover of Quality 1993". A certificate of commendation will be awarded to runners-up. The individual categories are Charity/Community; Commemorative; Promotional; General; and Postmarks. One entry per category is allowed from each manufacturer. Each category winner will receive a trophy and the winner of the Charity/Community section will receive £1000 for that cause. Entries are welcomed from both small and large organisations.

The Cover of Quality Awards will apply to all covers produced from January to December 1993. Closing date for entry is 31 March 1994; the Awards will be presented in May. Entry details and application forms are available from: Mr Kris Menon, Postmark Manager, Royal Mail, Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

PO Archives Encyclopaedia Project

The Archives & Records Centre has long thought about publishing an encyclopaedia of postal history, particularly one that would not be restricted to postal history in the narrowest sense but would cover every aspect of the Post Office's long and varied history. But the task always seemed too great for such a small team of people to embark upon, faced as it is with so many more urgent demands on its time. "One day, perhaps..." was how the idea was left, until now.

Earlier this year, the Archivist, Kevin Squelch, made us think again. "Why not at least start the project?", he asked. "Even a small beginning is better than no beginning at all. Why think only of us producing the material for the encyclopaedia. Colleagues in the National Postal Museum and elsewhere throughout the Post Office, Friends of the Museum, retired people who have helped to *make* our history and even ordinary researchers visiting our Public Search Room might be willing to sign up for the Project, if we were to ask them". Inspired by Kevin's enthusiasm, we decided to go ahead.

However, with so many other priorities facing the staff of the Archives & Records Centre, the task will largely be a labour of love and, if working alone on it, their progress is likely to be slow. Nevertheless, they undertook to start immediately upon this challenging project. Their target is to produce 150 entries and dates for the "Encyclopaedia Project" by the end of March 1994.

This is an open invitation to anyone else who would like to contribute to the project to join us. If you are interested in any aspect of postal history, and especially if you have undertaken research, we would be delighted to receive a paragraph or two for inclusion in the project. Those interested are asked to write to Kevin Squelch at the Archives for a booklet about the project; this will give an idea of the kind and length of entries we are seeking. Post Office Archives is situated at Mount Pleasant (Phoenix Place Entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB, Tel. 071-239 2570.

Jean Farrugia MBE, Chief Archivist

Postal Union Congresses

JAMES MACKAY

One of the greatest achievements of mankind, and certainly its most enduring, is the Universal Postal Union. Founded in 1874, it has survived two world wars and countless minor conflicts. Despite turbulence and crises it has remained true to its aims of expediting the world's mails. It is the one organisation which has induced member countries to co-operate even when they have been at war with each other. It has been a civilising influence in promoting the brotherhood of man. At a practical level it has introduced measures for standardising the handling and marking of mail and the rationalisation of procedures. Although its authority extends only to international mail, many of its measures have been adopted by most countries for their internal mail, and in other cases UPU decisions have forced countries (Britain included) to introduce postal facilities which might otherwise never have existed.

The notion of an international body regulating the transmission of mail between countries goes back to the early 18th century when the Saxon commercial councillor Marperger first proposed such a union. State councillor Kluber (1811) urged the creation of a world postal administration. It is significant that the first moves came from Germany, then divided into hundreds of petty states. Indeed, the first postal union was that formed in 1850 when 16 postal administrations in Germany and Austria adopted standard postal rates, and even a colour coding system so that although the currencies were different, the values were uniform.

Paris Postal Conference

Credit for extending this concept to cover the globe must go to Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General of the United States. As a result, an international postal conference was convened at Paris in 1863 and attended by delegates from 15 administrations: Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Great Britain, the Hanseatic League (Bremen, Bergedorf and Luebeck), Italy, the Netherlands, Prussia, Spain, Switzerland and the USA. Problems of mutual concern were



Stamps for UPU congresses of 1900, 1920 and 1934.

discussed, but no binding postal treaty evolved. Further progress was hampered by the American Civil War. Ironically, it was another war which brought the UPU nearer fruition. In 1866 Prussia defeated Austria in the Seven Weeks War and welded the northern states into the North German Confederation. The task of implementing the postal re-organisation of the Confederation was given to Heinrich Von Stephan, Postmaster General of Prussia. No sooner had he accomplished this task than Prussia was embroiled in war with France (1870-1) and a direct outcome of this was the creation of the German Empire in 1872. Late in 1868 Von Stephan circularised other postal administrations, proposing the creation of a General Postal Union. The convening of a congress was postponed due to the Franco-German War and it was this conflict that induced Von Stephan to approach the Swiss federal government about hosting the first meeting.

Invitations were sent out in September 1873 and on 15 September 1874 the first gathering of postal officials from every part of the world was held in Berne's Standehaus. Delegates from 22

countries took part; including those present in 1863 there were now representatives of Egypt, Hungary, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden and Turkey.

The conference was chaired by the Swiss Eugene Borel who was subsequently appointed first Director of the UPU. The inaugural meeting was mainly concerned with setting up the Union and its secretariat, but over the ensuing years the mass of complex postal treaties between individual countries was consolidated into a single international agreement to which member countries adhered. The *Taxe* system of marking unpaid or underpaid items was introduced in 1875.

First Congress

The first congress of the UPU was attended by delegates from 32 countries at Paris in 1877-8; its prolonged session was taken up with regulating the exchange of letters, postcards and printed matter and the creation of standard international rates based on gold centimes, to facilitate the complicated accountancy between nations. The Paris congress also introduced the principle of an indemnity for lost registered packets (ratified by Britain in 1878) and set up an international parcel post which came into effect in 1881. It was to come into line with the UPU directive that Britain introduced a parcel post in 1883. The Paris congress also decreed the use of standard R labels on registered mail, to come into effect in January 1883. On this point, however, Britain held out until 1907!

The second congress was held at Lisbon from 4 February to 31 March 1885 and its protocol came into effect in April 1886. At this congress, the special registered envelopes with crossed blue lines (invented by Britain in 1878) were adopted world-wide. International reply postcards were also introduced and regulations for the transmission of insured packets laid down. The third congress took place at Vienna in July 1891 and regulated the handling of mail posted on board ships at sea. The term *Paquebot* now replaced "Ship Letter" and its equivalents in other languages.

The fourth congress, at Washington in May 1897, was memorable for the institution of the so-called Universal Colours adopted for the stamps used on international mail: green (printed matter), red (postcards) and blue (letters). Britain changed the colour of its ½d stamp from vermilion to green in 1900, but the colour of the 1d stamp was not changed from lilac to red till 1902.

UPU Stamps

Up to the end of the 19th century no stamps had been issued in honour of the UPU, but on 2 July 1900 the silver jubilee was celebrated by the fifth congress at Berne and Switzerland issued a set of three stamps, as well as stamped stationery. The 5c, 10c and 25c stamps (in Universal Colours of course) showed a female figure holding a telegraph pole, with the globe behind her.



Paris Congress, 1947 and UPU 75th anniversary, 1949.

By the beginning of this century the UPU embraced virtually every country in the world and the mechanics of international mail handling were well established. Subsequent congresses refined the system and introduced a number of important innovations. No stamps marked the Rome congress, held in 1906, but at this conference the British suggestion for International Reply Coupons was adopted, and came into effect on 1 October 1907

Postage Meters

No further congress was held, owing to the First World War, until 1920 when it was convened at Madrid. On that occasion Spain issued a set of 13 stamps portraying King Alfonso XIII over the General Post Office in Madrid. This congress achieved a major breakthrough which had tremendous benefits to world commerce. Hitherto international mail had to be prepaid by means of impressed or adhesive stamps, but now this could be denoted by means of Paid handstamps or machine markings. This paved the way for the use of postage meters (hitherto confined to inland mail in New Zealand, Norway and the USA), which came into international use in 1922.

The Stockholm congress of 1924 sanctioned the use of blue airmail labels inscribed *Par Avion* and also the green Customs label for use on letter packets. The congress itself was marked by a set of 15 stamps, but Sweden issued a second set of 15 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UPU. These long sets, from 5 ore to 5 kronor, went a step farther than the Spanish commemoratives of 1920 and established the notion that long and expensive sets should be produced, mainly for complimentary distribution to delegates. It was this that induced Britain to add a £1 stamp to the set of four low values issued in 1929 when London hosted the ninth congress. When Cairo hosted the tenth congress in 1934 Egypt issued a set of 14, from 1 millieme to £1, portraying the Khedive Ismail in whose reign the postal service was inaugurated. The eleventh congress was held at Buenos Aires in 1939 and Argentina issued a set of eight stamps, a mixture of postal symbolism and local scenery.

Aerogramme approval

The prewar congresses were mainly concerned with revision of tariffs and accounting procedures. The twelfth congress, held at Paris in 1947, however, gave UPU sanction to the aerogramme, or air letter sheet, which had been pioneered by Iraq in 1932 and extensively used by Britain during the war. France issued a set of five stamps depicting Parisian landmarks, and including a large-sized 500 francs showing a herring gull over the Ile de la Cite. A mini-congress was held at Berne in 1949 where the Swiss celebrated the centenary of their federal posts and the 75th anniversary of the UPU with two sets, each of three stamps.

The thirteenth congress was held at Brussels in 1952 and Belgium took the opportunity to issue a set of 12 stamps portraying the counts of Thurn and Taxis whose extra-territorial mail service (1490-1867) was an important forerunner of the UPU. The fourteenth congress, at Ottawa in 1957, was marked by 5c and 15c stamps showing the Canadian federal parliament and a posthorn enclosing a globe respectively. By contrast, Austria issued a set of eight stamps for the fifteenth congress, at Vienna in 1964, and included several paintings depicting mail and communications. The theme of fine art was also adopted by Japan, three of whose stamps for the sixteenth congress, at Tokyo in 1969, showed paintings. The fourth stamp, however, depicted doves encircling the globe.



Centenary of UPU – Swiss stamps of 1974.

20th Universal Postal Congress



A review of historical methods of delivering the mail in the United States is the theme of these four stamps issued in commemoration of the convening of the 20th Universal Postal Congress in Washington, D.C. from November 13 through December 14, 1989. The United States, as host nation to the Congress for the first time in ninety-two years, welcomed more than 1,000 delegates from most of the member nations of the Universal Postal Union to the major international event.



Miniature sheet for 20th Congress, Washington (1989).

Centenary Congress

The centenary congress took place at Lausanne in 1974, and a *se-tenant* pair of stamps featured the Standehaus in Berne and a view of Lausanne. A set of three stamps also portrayed Borel, Blair and Von Stephan, the founding fathers of the UPU. At this congress it was decided to adopt a handling charge for underpaid mail, in addition to the deficiency, and this was implemented in 1977.

Brazil issued five stamps showing postal symbols for the eighteenth congress held at Rio de Janeiro in 1979. For the Hamburg congress in 1984 West Germany produced a miniature sheet of three stamps depicting letter sorting at Berlin in 1880 and modern automatic sorting, flanking a portrait of Heinrich Von Stephan. Significantly one of the major issues debated at this congress was the proliferation of unnecessary stamps!

The twentieth congress was held at Washington in 1989 and produced the most ambitious series of stamps so far. Two sets featured mail transport of the past and the future, each set consisting of a *se-tenant* block of four and an imperforate sheet containing the four designs accompanied by an explanatory text.

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Stamps of the Four Kings

5. The Stamps Of King Edward VIII

JAMES MACKAY

King George V died on 20 January 1936 and was succeeded by David, Prince of Wales, who took the regnal title of Edward VIII. The 5d, 10d and 1s photogravure stamps of George V were released on 24 February, but as soon as the new King ascended the throne plans were set in motion regarding new stamps. Proposals for stamps mourning the late King and commemorating the accession of King Edward were eventually aborted, although essays were produced for both issues. Edward's reign lasted only 10 months, before he abdicated on 11 December 1936 in order to marry the twice-divorced Wallis Warfield, but it was long enough for the first stamps of a new definitive series to see the light of day.

The Edward VIII series was not designed, so much as "suggested" by a 15 year-old schoolboy, Hubert J Brown, and the story of how the stamps evolved is worth repeating. Rather unwisely, the Post Office decided against formally commissioning designs from artists and went straight to Harrison & Sons who were asked to originate artwork in their own design studio. Harrisons were in a much better position than most to appreciate the potential – and the shortcomings – of photogravure. This produced an artistic vacuum, however, and the general public joined in the free-for-all. Among those who submitted designs on their own initiative was Hubert Brown of Devon. He took the precaution of writing first, on 13 February, to the PO asking if he might be allowed to submit designs for the forthcoming series. In due course he received a fairly non-committal reply, "...there is no objection to your submitting a design for the new issue of postage stamps. I should perhaps mention, however, that the design is usually chosen from the competitive designs from distinguished artists."

Nothing daunted, young Hubert prepared a pencil drawing of startling and radical simplicity and despatched it on 4 April. He heard no more about the proposal until 1 September, the date on which the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2½d stamps were issued. On that day he received a letter, on behalf of the Postmaster General, thanking him

for his design and adding, "The design was not considered suitable for adoption as it stood, but it appeared to present certain suggestions which, although they were not novel, might be successfully developed in designing a stamp for printing by the photogravure process... Stamps of the new reign will appear shortly, and you will see that the design which has been selected bears some features in common with that which you suggested..."



The Uncrowned King.

The Post Office was less than fair in this matter, as the design, based on a profile photograph of the King by Hugh Cecil, was essentially that submitted by Hubert Brown. The overall concept was his, and only minor details were changed, notably the omission of the vertical inscriptions POSTAGE and REVENUE at the sides. Hubert's father politely remonstrated with the PO over its mean and ungracious behaviour and it is obvious, from a memorandum preserved in PO Archives, that some officials were inclined to agree, but as a marginal note indicated, "the best course is to lie low and say nothing".

The new stamps were not greeted with unanimous approval, and as the story gradually unfolded that the PO had not consulted any of

the artistic establishment before going ahead, a furore mounted in every section of the press, from the popular tabloids to *The Times* itself. Indeed, "the Thunderer", in a leading article on 14 September, put the cat among the pigeons by stating magisterially that "There are many artists, eminent in their own field, who are quite incapable of designing a good postage stamp. The first thing to get right in a work of this kind is content; and there is general satisfaction that the country has been given a stamp which explains its purpose without irrelevant verbal detail and otiose ornament."

This provoked an immediate rejoinder from William Rothenstein, speaking for the artistic establishment. The most devastating attack, however, came from Eric Gill whose letter appeared in *The Times* on 23 September.



Although he began promisingly by saying that the new stamps were exceedingly good in themselves and an eminent improvement on previous issues, he proceeded to attack virtually every aspect of the concept, details and lettering at great length. He concluded that "these criticisms are all concerned with matters of secondary importance and should do nothing to prevent us from tendering to the Post Office the congratulations it deserves for releasing us from the banalities of imitation hand-engraving and stupid ornamentation."

The last sentence did nothing to endear Gill to his fellow artists and thereafter the

controversy raged loud and long, often losing sight of the original bone of contention. Chief among the correspondents who took up the cudgels to do battle with Gill was Edmund Dulac. Ironically both men were to be engaged on designing the George VI definitives a year later. It seems regrettable, at this distance in time, that no one at the PO nor Harrison's had the professional expertise to take the raw material of young Brown's bold and radical design and transform it into something that would have rounded to the credit of all concerned. As it is, the shabby treatment meted out to this imaginative schoolboy was matched by a rather amateurish attitude to stamp design in general.

It was Frank Pick of London Transport, whose criticism of the stamps contained words which, in hindsight, had an ominous ring. "Has the crown any connection with the head? No. It is even a crown receding and not approaching, as it happens..." It is said that King George VI, when selecting the designs for his definitives a year later, insisted that the crown must appear fairly and squarely on his head, regarding the floating crown of his brother's stamps as a particularly bad omen.

The stamps were issued in sheets of 240 with a multiple watermark showing a Tudor crown and the cypher E8R. All but the top value also appeared in booklets, so that inverted watermarks are common, and panes of four 1½d stamps may be found with advertising labels set-tenant.

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Stamps of the Four Kings Part 4 (December 1993 Bulletin) – Please note that the caption on page 101 is incorrect. The 4d stamp, not 5d, shows cylinder number and control. Ed.

1995 Special Stamp Programme

The Post Office Board has recently approved the programme of special stamp issues for 1995. This will be announced in next month's *Bulletin*. The programme includes the usual Europa and Christmas sets which have been issued annually since 1980 and 1966 respectively.

Also to be announced next month will be an intriguing new commemorative product of interest to collectors of both special and definitive stamps.

Phosphorescent Materials Sort The Mail

Part 2 – Postcoding Mail

DR A R LANE *Royal Mail Research & Development Centre*

Phosphors for the postcoding of mail

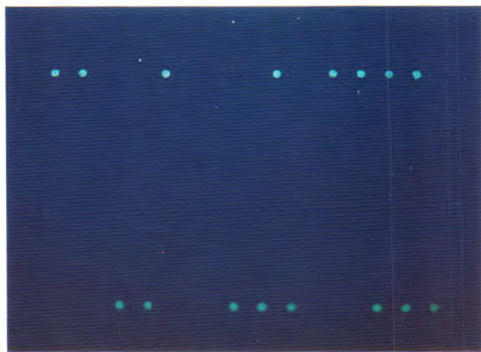
Whilst numerous countries use phosphors to face and cancel the stamps automatically, the British Post Office alone applies the address coding information in this form. Royal Mail prints two lines of dots, each one quarter inch apart, there being up to fourteen dots in each row (Ref. 1). At present, the line at the base of the envelope carries the outward destination town code whilst the upper row describes the inward part or delivery walk code within that town. In Europe for the equivalent process, black or fluorescent red inks are frequently applied in a single codeline at a pitch of 1.6mm.

In the UK coding process, the dots or bars are applied to the envelope either by the jet printers on optical character address reading machines (OCR), or the thermal transfer printers of the manual coding desks. These codes are read by the sorting machines outward from the place of posting, and inward at the receiving sorting office. The light emitted by the phosphor will be read as a set of signals comprising the routing information in binary form, allowing the machine to sort the letter to the appropriate bin for delivery to that destination.

Coding products have therefore evolved into two types; firstly a tape for the older manual desks, and secondly a low viscosity ink for the jet printers of OCR machines. In the case of the tape, originally phosphorescent material was applied in three coats to a glassine substrate, the upper coat containing a spirit soluble manila gum. This was refined into a single coating of polyamide applied to a polyester ribbon, and later further enhanced by the inclusion of a second, opacified layer which reduced the effect of paper colour and brightness variation between envelopes. The manual coding desks currently process about 2000 letters per hour using this material.

When the AEG optical character recognition machines were introduced about seven years ago to speed up the processing of bulk business mail, the thermal transfer printer was incapable of operation at their processing rate of 35,000 items per hour and so Royal Mail jet printers

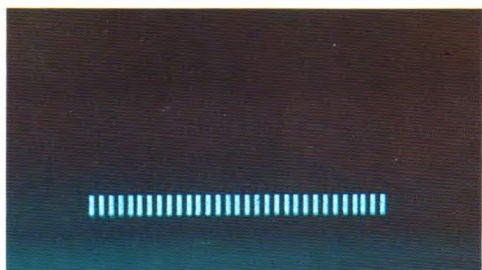
were installed which required a totally different phosphorescent ink. Due to the wide experience of phosphors available within the Post Office Materials Laboratory, it was possible to formulate, after considerable effort, a high performance liquid ink that satisfied the requirements of the new equipment. In the new formulation, a melamine resin was used to bind the phosphor to the paper and the signal developed quickly as the aqueous ethanol solvent evaporated. Due to the high speed of mail processing, it was a major requirement that the ink should dry rapidly to a smudge-free state.



1. Phosphorescent dots have been applied to mail for a considerable time. The examples shown have been applied by the thermal transfer printer of a manual coding desk and provide the outward routing information on the bottom row and inward on the upper line.

New Post Codes – A Period of Transition

Further progress has now been made beyond the manual coding desk and automatic OCR machine to produce a combination of off-line video coding with new OCR equipment (OCR/VCS), which has resulted in the need for a tagging code that records the identity of a mailpiece which is unreadable by OCR while it awaits the manual video coding process. The two line binary code of 14 dots at one-quarter-inch spacing was not suitable for this purpose, and so a new interim code was developed which has the following features: a top line of



2. An early example of jet printed bars for the combined routing codeline at a closer pitch. This illustration shows well the afterglow of the phosphorescent ink.

maximum 39 bars of one-eighth-inch pitch which holds the tagging information and replaces the old inward code line: a bottom line of similar pitch which combines the outward and inward codes in a single line of maximum 31 bars. The characteristics of these codelines are as follows:

Tagging Codeline

This commences from the front letter edge with a single start mark as in the previous code, but the number of bits immediately distinguishes it and all four fields must be present. After this, there follow marks representing the serial number of the machine, the day of the month, a period of 30 minutes within the day, and the individual number of each item passing within the half hour. There is a parity bar at the end of each field and a stop bit concludes the series of marks. (See illustration.)

Routing Codeline

Two format bars are applied before the normal start mark, after which 12 outward code bars may be included. Further format and start marks then precede the inward set of 12 possible marks before the concluding parity mark, to make a maximum of 31 in total. Each block has its own parity. The outward code can be printed alone in this form but not the inward.

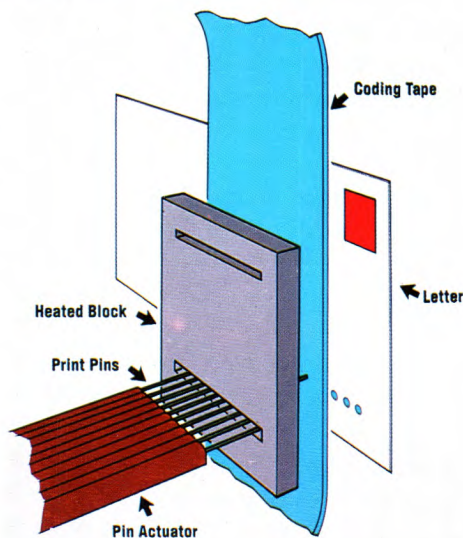
OCR/VCS Performance

The new French CGA equipment has an enhanced address reading capability over the earlier generations of AEG machines installed in 1986 and 1991 and will, as in the earlier machines, carry out a comparison between the postcode indicated on a letter and the rest of the address but in the case of the CGA system this goes beyond the post town. Its main advantages over the earlier equipment are the ability to compare postcodes with other information in

the address to reduce errors, and to produce a full postcode for non-postcoded mail using various elements of an address. Additionally, the machine has the ability to recognise handprinted postcodes where these appear as the bottom line of the address. Various levels of confidence can be set on the machine and hand-printed addresses can be read with a success rate of up to 60%. However, depending on the confidence level set, if a mail item is deemed unreadable, it will receive a tag code only and will then be set aside for manual coding.

In the process of manual video-coding, the stored image of the envelope captured by the camera is displayed on a screen which permits the operator to key in the coding information which is then stored in the data bank of the machine until the mailpiece concerned is passed

3. A schematic diagram of the thermal transfer printing process for the application of phosphor dots to mail from a plastic ribbon.

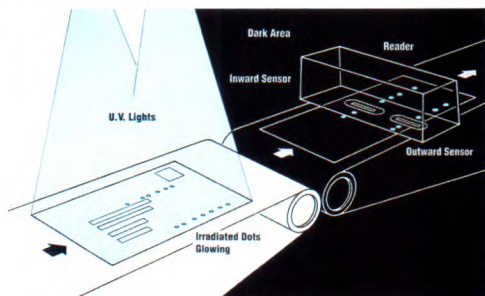


4. Jet printers have enabled mail to be postcoded at processing speeds of up to 5 metres per second. In the continuous ink jet printing process a stream of droplets is guided towards the paper surface by an electrostatic field.

to the sorting equipment. Here the tag code is read by the OCR/VCS interface reader and the recently allocated routing code information from the data bank is used to sort the mailpiece while an ink jet printer applies the code in phosphorescent ink. The printed routing codemark is used for any subsequent sortation process on a letter sorting machine of the NP 4000 type.

The design of the French OCR/VCS machine allows for a maximum of 80 video screens for each system which are normally placed in a room remote from the letter processing section, but the number used by Royal Mail is normally fewer than this, being 12 for a typical Automated Processing Centre arrangement.

5. Codemarks are read in darkness, remote from the point of illumination. Careful control of the coding products ensures that enough light is emitted by the phosphor at the reading point.



6. A typical layout for a suite of coding desks supplied with the new videocoding systems. Images of the letters are displayed on the video screens which are located in an area remote from the processing equipment.

Four State Code

The ultimate goal in postcode layout is a novel four-state arrangement which differs from normal bar codes in having both ascending and descending bars. It is somewhat similar to the Postnet Code used by the United States Post Office but the latter has only ascending bars.

The four-state code comes in two forms, a black version applied by customers to letterheads or envelopes, in which each group of four bars conforms directly to a letter or number of the postcode, and a phosphorescent version used for Royal Mail application and processing, in which the symbology is more complicated and allows for error correction. Both will be applied at a nominal pitch of 1/22". The customer four-state code can be placed almost anywhere on an envelope and extends to 94 bars, but the internal phosphorescent version will still be located in the areas occupied by the transitional codes, with tagging above the routing information. These two lines will have a maximum of 64 bars. Limited field trials commenced with the four-state customer code in January, with full implementation intended for July. The phosphor code format will commence later in the year. Both depend on the new reader developed by Philips Technology in conjunction with Royal Mail Research and Development.

The Philtec Reader

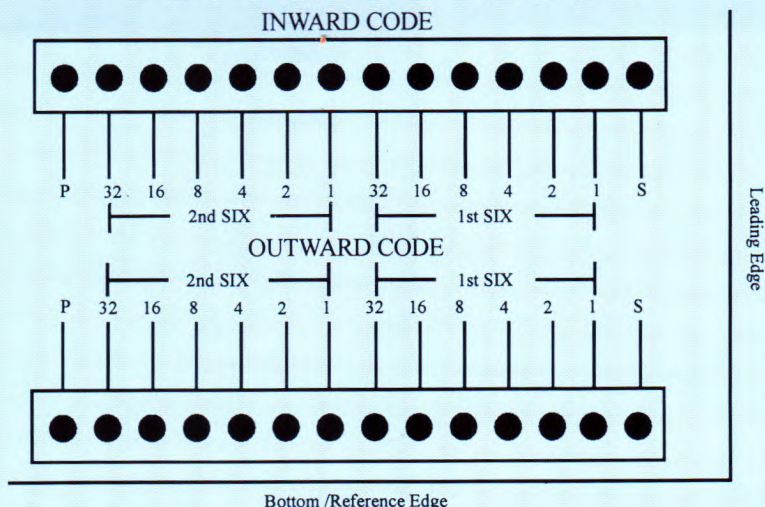
This new, comprehensive scanning detector has been developed by Philips Technology in the Netherlands, and is constructed in three parts, one responding to grey scale contrast, a second reading red fluorescent bars and the third phosphorescent marks. The enhanced capability of this area scanning device allows much more information to be captured than was possible with the earlier photomultiplier detectors. It is to be fitted to the NP 4000 sorting machine and OCR/VCS machines.

Phosphorescent Ink

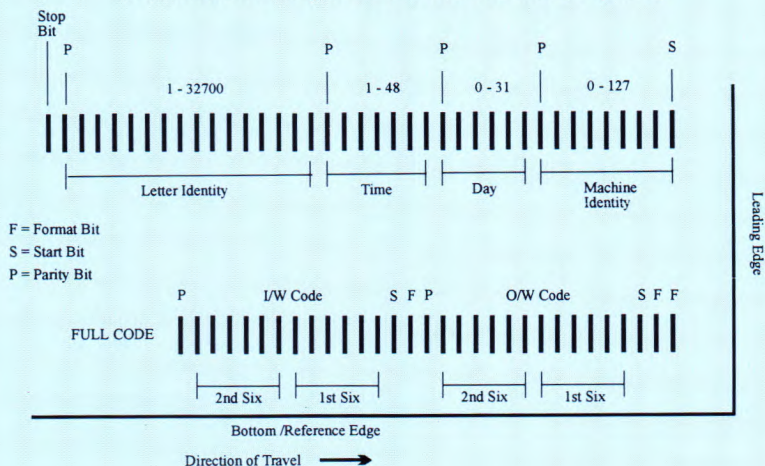
The Domino jet printers fitted to the new OCR/VCS machines apply the same ink as used on the earlier OCR equipment. This ink has performed well in these printers and achieves a high degree of brightness except under conditions of high humidity, when occasionally some drying of the mail is required. Interim tagging and combined routing codes are also both applied in this phosphorescent ink. The Domino Postal Printer delivers a smaller and better controlled drop size than the Royal Mail printer that it replaced, which has given the dual benefit of quicker drying and lower ink consumption.

As a consequence of this consistent performance and the benefit of the ability to read the signal against a wide variety of background materials, phosphorescent ink is regarded as the main internal coding material for

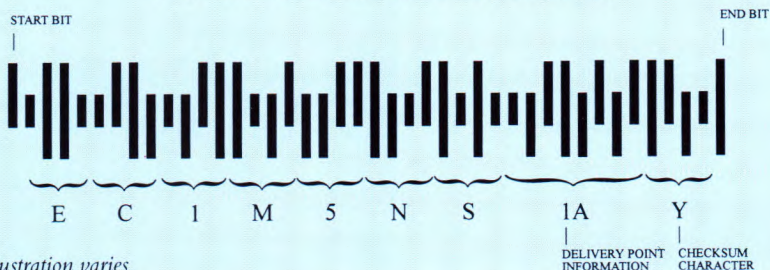
Original Phosphor Postcode Layout (1/4" pitch)



Transitional Phosphor Postcode Format (1/8" pitch)



Four-state Customer Code Layout (black)



the immediate future. A new ink has been developed for the new Philtec reader, which is entirely water based with a novel activator and acrylic resin binder to replace the melamine-formaldehyde of the earlier material.

Measurement of phosphorescent intensity and lifetime

The new sorting machines make greater demands on the reliability and durability of the phosphors and hence a new instrument (2) has been built to measure the light emitted from these materials to allow their production and application to be controlled more accurately. This new Mark IV phosphorimeter machine also allows fast detection of the presence of phosphor and can provide a rapid display of the afterglow curve.

Overview

During their quarter century of general use, the phosphors have demonstrated their capability to facilitate the facing and sorting of mail, and have been assessed to give the lowest reject level and error rate of all tagging and coding materials. The latter benefit results from the process of reading the afterglow against a black background, where, although the signal is influenced to a degree by the colour and texture of the material on which the phosphor is printed, it is free from interference from optical brighteners and other fluorescent materials.

References

1. Paris R, "The Physics of Automatic Letter Sorting" *Physics Technology* Vol 19, Institute of Physics Publishing Ltd, 1988, p.131ff.
2. Lane A R and McCabe A J M, "A New Machine for the measurement of the Phosphorescent Brightness of Postage Stamp and Sorting Code Mark Materials", *Jet Poste 93*, First European Conference on Postal Technology, Nantes, June 1993, p.293

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Writing for the Bulletin

The Editor will always be pleased to receive for consideration articles on any subject related to British stamps, postmarks and postal stationery for publication in the *Bulletin*. Articles should normally be up to 1500 words and should be typed, double-spaced, on A4 paper. Payment is made if articles are accepted for publication. All typescripts should be sent to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

Decimal Stamp Books-13

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

New Retail books

The frequent changes of lithographic plate numbers, combined with the fact that there are two settings of the validity notice on the inside covers, have made desirable an update of the cylinder/plate list last given here in September 1993. In the table, the column headed "EC notice" refers to the text mentioning the validity of Non Value Indicators on mail to countries of the European Union, while books in the "UK notice" column only mention their validity on inland mail.

The dates in the table are those when the book was first seen on sale. Since distribution to retailers is random, some may have been sold earlier and, of course, there is no guarantee that all combinations have been reported. It behoves collectors to keep a regular lookout as the Philatelic Bureau does not undertake to supply specific plate books to order.

A new retail book of 10 x 2nd-class security NVIs was first seen on sale in shops in Hampshire on 25 November. This was printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd and is the first time that this firm has produced a book with this content. Their book of four such stamps was issued on 6 April 1993 and manufacture of them was transferred to Harrisons in August. The new book was ordered to be printed because of "a shortage of print capacity" and was not due to be released until this month (February). However, sales of the 2nd-class stamp rise dramatically during the pre-Christmas period and it seems that a local shortage was met by an early release of the new books. The initial plate combination seen was W1 W1 and the rates notice on the inside covers was the original version.

New Greetings book

Someone in Royal Mail must like bears for there are five of them featured on the latest set of 10 Greetings stamps. Rupert has now been joined by Paddington and the three bears who were so perplexed by Goldilocks' activities. All the characters depicted on these colourful stamps are either writing, reading or posting a letter, emphasising their purpose in encouraging social



letter writing, especially among the young.

The 10 stamps are 1st-class Non Value Indicators with two phosphor bars from 18mm bands, the widest yet seen. They also have the, now usual, elliptical perforations. The 20 labels attached to the stamp pane carry fun designs and useful messages although I would like to see more variation in these. Seven references to birthdays seems a bit excessive for a single book and there are many other occasions which would be suitable. How about a "Thank You" label?

The cylinder numbers seen are: B1A gold, B1B yellow, B1C red, B1D brown, B1E new blue, B1F black and B96 phosphor.

Phosphor plate numbers

The realisation that Harrisons have made 96 phosphor cylinders points to a curious difference between photogravure and lithographic practice. Photogravure cylinders last much longer than do lithographic plates which is why there are so many colour numbers for the latter in the table accompanying this article. However, it is the exact opposite when it comes to the phosphor numbers. Since Questa began numbering these in August 1991, they have never got beyond Q1. I question whether the same plate has been used for all the Questa books since that time. Even more curious is the fact that the two quite different layouts for their



2nd-class and 1st-class booklet stamps are both Q1. Could it have something to do with the fact that phosphor plates are not visible in ordinary daylight, I wonder? Walsall do not number their phosphor plates.

Display books

Nearly 4000 readers sent for a set of four sample books in response to the offer in the September *Bulletin*.

Specialist collectors will remember that it was the fact that the original point-of-sale display books carried a barcode which caused problems at the till and led to the creation of the sample books. For the record, eight types of barcoded cover were used for this purpose.

There were two sets of four books, one with black barcodes and one with blue. All were printed by Walsall. There were no display covers with the Olympic logo.

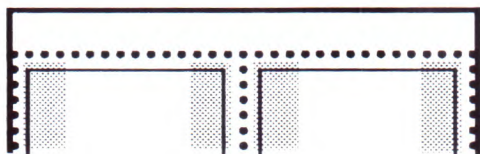
Large retailers have now been supplied with further display books. I have seen the two overseas books, 4 x 35p and 4 x 41p, as well as the 1993 Christmas book with 20 x 19p stamps. All these have the word sample on the yellow strip and no barcode. The 1993 Greetings book also exists without stamp content although this has the barcode 100791 and does not bear the word 'sample'. It is the original version with "Thompson". These special books have a limited shelf life and may become available from the shop managers when they have sold out. Royal Mail cannot undertake to supply them.

Machine vend book perforation types

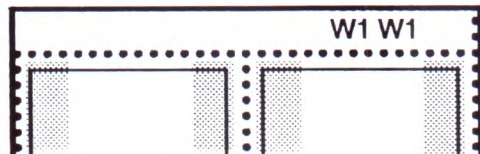
In my last article I promised to say more about this subject since many readers like to have examples of each perforation type in their collection.

The Harrison £2 books normally have the binding margin completely imperforate but examination of the registration sheet at the National Postal Museum showed that there is a single extension hole at the left, i.e., in column one. (There are two columns on the cylinder.) This was fortunate, since the perforator has a larger circumference than the printing cylinder and this "marker" pin does not appear on every sheet. Because of this, both plain and cylinder books exist with a perforation subtype having a single extension hole in the centre of the margin.

The £1 book from plates W1 W1 exists with three different perforation types, believed to come from different positions on the same



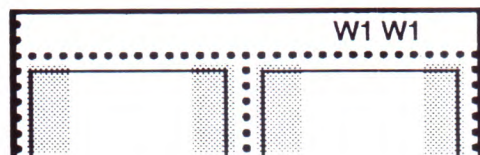
Imperforate



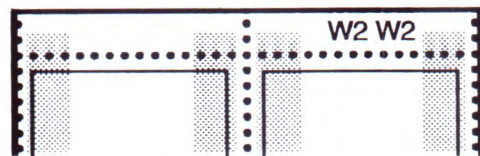
Perforated at right



Extension hole in centre



Perforated at left



Perforated at every row

sheet. The margin is either imperforate, like the £1 book, or has a row of perforations at either the left or the right side only. Plain books exist with all three types; plate books with imperforate margins do not exist. The £1 book from plates W2 W2 (first seen on 25 November) is different; all books have the binding margin perforated through at every row.

Miscut books

The November issues of both the £1 and the £2 machine vend books have been found miscut. The Harrison £2 books are most easily recognised by having the red cut line in the centre of the binding margin instead of at the sides, and the cylinder book has the number B3 at the right side instead of at the left. The Walsall plate book is the opposite, having the numbers W1 W1 at the left side instead of at the right as on normal books. Non-plate books with imperforate binding margins cannot easily be distinguished but those from the other positions will have the centre of the margin perforated

through. I believe that this is the first time that two printers have had miscut machine books on concurrent sale.

Self-adhesive book

Supplies of this book to retailers in the trial area were suspended for a short while in November while some problems with the cancelling ink used were overcome. They were soon resumed and no books were withdrawn from sale. Philatelic supplies continued without interruption.

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Printer	Content	Barcode	EC notice		UK notice		Notes
			Numbers	Date	Numbers	Date	
Harrison	10 x 1st ACP	100197	—	—	B5	17.8.93	
	4 x 2nd CB	100272	—	—	B4/B95	7.9.93	
Questa	10 x 1st 2B	100197	—	—	Q1 Q1/Q1	1.11.93	
	10 x 2nd CB	100265	Q1 Q1/Q1	3.10.93	Q1 Q1/Q1	17.8.93	
			—	—	Q2 Q2/Q1	2.10.93	
			—	—	Q3 Q3/Q1	21.10.93	
			Q4 Q4/Q1	27.8.93	Q4 Q4/Q1	2.11.93	
			—	—	Q5 Q5/Q1	25.11.93	
			Q9 Q9/Q1	24.7.93	Q9 Q9/Q1	3.11.93	
Walsall	10 x 1st 2B (plain design)	100197	W24 W13 W18	14.8.93	—	—	
			W16 W11 W14	15.8.93	—	—	1
			—	—	W24 W14 W18	17.8.93	
			—	—	W25 W14 W19	8.10.93	
			—	—	W25 W14 W20	8.10.93	
			—	—	W26 W14 W20	18.10.93	2
	10 x 1st 2B (Rupert design)	100197	W25 W14 W20	1.11.93	—	—	
			W26 W14 W20	1.11.93	—	—	2
			W26 W15 W21	1.11.93	—	—	2
			W27 W15 W21	20.11.93	—	—	2
	10 x 2nd CB	100265	—	—	W1 W1	25.11.93	
	4 x 1st 2B	100180	W11 W22 W15	1.11.93	W11 W22 W15	17.8.93	
			—	—	W11 W22 W16	8.10.93	
			—	—	W12 W22 W18	26.11.93	
			—	—	W12 W23 W18	2.12.93	

Notes:

1 An unexplained use of an earlier combination. One cannot be sure, since Walsall phosphor plates are not numbered, but it seems that this one was printed in reverse. The solid phosphor band illustrated here in September appears at the right of the pane instead of in the normal position over the pane fold.

2 Plates W26 and above are printed in a condensed typeface

Stamp Scene

Scotland's First Philatelic Society

In September the 75th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held in Edinburgh with the Scottish Philatelic Society acting as hosts. This event was one of several with which the Society was proud to be associated during its Centenary Year.

The origins of the SPS can be traced back to 1890, the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamp. During that year a number of Scottish collectors were invited to lend material for display at the International Exhibition of Electrical Engineering, General Inventions and Industries held on a greenfield site at Craiglockhart, Edinburgh.

more Scots began to join the Club, the Minutes were written in English and the name changed to the Edinburgh and Leith Stamp Collectors Society. After four years it was apparent that membership extended throughout and even outwith Scotland, so on 21 December 1897, the name was changed to the Scottish Philatelic Society. It was 1900, however, before lady members were admitted! Thus began a Society which has held regular meetings for a hundred years.

The Minute books make fascinating reading and show, for example, that "members first enjoyed viewing stamps by electric lighting in 1906". During war times regular meetings of the Society were abandoned although successful attempts to continue with the ever-popular circulating packets were made. Meeting places,



John Wright (left) with Scottish Philatelic Society President, Tom Rielly (Photo: SPS)

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, founded in 1869, had been followed by the formation of eight provincial societies in England and Wales as well as others in Canada, South Australia, South Africa, New York and Bombay. It is therefore likely, following the display at the Edinburgh Exhibition, that a number of Scots were stimulated to share their common interest in philately. It fell, however, to two Germans, August Schnepel and W Kuhn, plus five friends, to found on 4 November 1893, the *Briefmarken-Sammler-Verein zu Edinburgh und Leith* (The Edinburgh and Leith Stamp Collectors Club).

Since the early members were all male and mostly Germans working in Edinburgh and Leith, the Minutes of meetings for the first eighteen months were inscribed in German. As

however, have been changed on many occasions ranging from church halls through dealers' shops, hotels, coffee houses and auction rooms to local hostleries. Some venues only seemed to have been used for short periods and, from the



description of the early meetings, the singing and jollification after a meeting may have resulted in members being asked not to return! A Centenary Dinner was held on 4 November 1993, at the Edinburgh University Staff Club, and the organisers are happy to note that history did not repeat itself.

Guest speaker at this dinner was John Wright, Manager of the British Philatelic Bureau. During his talk, John made reference to proposals for a new design for British postage stamps made in 1936. The person responsible was then the President of the SPS, Brigadier W E R Dickson, who suggested that, with the new monarch Edward VIII, the time had come for a change. Through the good offices of the National Postal Museum, the original correspondence and design sketches had been obtained. John described how essays had been prepared using first the head of Edward VIII and later George VI. Copies of all of these were made by the staff of the NPM and mounted and framed. John Wright presented the collection to the current SPS President, Tom Rielly who, in his thanks, said that it would become a rather important part of the history of the Society and a very fine memento of the Centenary Dinner.

In 1906 the Rev J A Dunbar-Dunbar bequeathed his collection of classic 19th century stamps to the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh. Later, the Sir Ernest Hotson Collection of early India and Newfoundland was similarly deposited. Neither collection had been displayed publicly for over 50 years. As part of the Centenary events the Scottish Philatelic

Society assisted the curators at the Royal Scottish Museum to mount an exhibition of these collections at Chambers Street, Edinburgh, during September 1993.

The history of the Society has been fully described in a booklet, written by Ian J Fleming, and published this year. The booklet *Scotland's First Philatelic Society* is available from the address below, price £3 plus 50p postage. (*It was reviewed here in July 1993. Ed.*)

For details of membership or for copies of the Centenary Booklet and other souvenirs contact: The Secretary, SPS, c/o R. Somerville of Edinburgh Playing Cards, 82 Canongate, EDINBURGH EH8 8BZ.

Cirencester Philatelic Society

The Society celebrated its silver anniversary with a display and dinner at the Kings Head Hotel on 30 October. The Society was founded by a small group of stamp collectors in 1968.

The first guest speaker was Hassan Shaida, who gave a marvellous display entitled "GB George V Commemoratives" which had the audience fascinated by its contents. The second guest speaker, Franceska Rapkin was unable to attend due to illness. Fortunately Society member David Cox (Secretary of the Bird Stamp Society) stepped into the breach and presented his "World of Birds". This display covers all aspects of bird life.

Enquiries about the Cirencester Philatelic Society to: K D Warren, 57 Stratton Heights, Stratton, CIRENCESTER, Glos, GL7 2RN.

David Cox with his "World of Birds" display



Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No 43: Circular Delivery Company Stamps

In 1680, William Dockwra set up a private postal collection and delivery system within the boundaries of the cities of London and Westminster, supplementing the public postal service of the day. That service had no door to door delivery. Letters from the provinces had to be collected by the addressees from a central point. Dockwra's service was welcomed and flourished to the point where the Crown prosecuted Dockwra for infringement of the Royal monopoly of the posts and closed the service down, only to re-open it as part of the Royal Mail system.

Until 1865 there was no further infringement on any wide scale. Small, but expanding businesses with mainly local customers felt that the 1d minimum rate was a drag on finances when invoices and other printed matter had to be stamped at 1d for local delivery. In 1865, Robert Brydome set up the Edinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company which undertook the delivery of printed matter within those two towns for $\frac{1}{4}$ d (one farthing) an item.

Brydome issued 24 different and distinguishable $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamps during 1865-67 for the Edinburgh and Leith service. He also set up similar services in Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow for each of which separate stamps were issued. In 1867 Brydome established the Metropolitan Circular Delivery Co. in London followed by the National C.D. Co., the latter with the intention of accepting bulk mail in London for delivery through his other offices in Scotland and Liverpool.

Other services were offered which called for stamps of other denominations up to 3d.

1682 All Over Again

The success of the Brydome services prompted Clark & Company to follow suit in Edinburgh and they, too, issued $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamps. The Post Office also noted the success and in 1867 brought an action against the London company for infringement of the Crown monopoly. It was 1682 all over again and, once again, the Crown won its case and the private companies were

forced to close down.

Offices which had been planned for Manchester and Birmingham never opened even though preparations had included printing stamps for both cities.

Stamps for the National Circular Delivery Company, inscribed with town names – Dundee, Manchester, Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Aberdeen, London, Metropolitan, and Edinburgh & Leith, were printed after the Companies lost their initial case against the Post Office. They were almost certainly printed more for sale to collectors than for postal use. Various forgeries of these were produced in c.1885-90.



The Circular Delivery Co Ltd – genuine $\frac{1}{4}$ d Manchester (1868) and three forgeries (c.1885-90).

Although the Post Office did not offer a $\frac{1}{4}$ d delivery service, the pioneering of the Brydome companies led directly to the issue of the popular $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp in 1870, specifically for use on printed matter. The Circular Delivery company stamps remain popular with some collectors and an excellent catalogue, compiled by C G Harman was published in 1990 (reviewed in this *Bulletin*, October 1990, page 40). This work also gives details of the various forgeries.

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Philatelic Service

Ian Whitehead of Ashton-under-Lyne writes:

"In connection with the re-organisation of the Philatelic Counters, and some of the adverse publicity from your correspondents, I am pleased to be able to compliment the Counters with which I deal. I had a very unpleasant experience some years ago in a local Crown Post Office (which will remain nameless), when an officious counter clerk, telling me he had no gutter pairs, proceeded to separate several new sheets of commemoratives before my eyes. He then told me I 'was lucky to get any stamps at all'. I changed my sources of philatelic material, and took, my custom to Stalybridge, Cheshire. Since then, I have had service beyond the expectation of any customer at a 'non philatelic outlet'. The counter staff, without exception, and through many staff changes, have always tried to supply me with my philatelic needs, and have been the embodiment of courtesy and service. They make my visits to the Post Office a pleasant experience, and I cannot praise them too highly. This shows what can be done when counter staff set out to provide service to their customers.

"There have been occasions when they have not been able to supply me with specialist items, such as new booklets, and definitive varieties. At these times, I have used the Manchester Philatelic Counter, and have never been disappointed by the staff on duty. They too, are the models of courtesy, and go out of their way to supply their customers with their requirements. A couple of such instances are worth recounting. The first concerned the inaugural run of the Manchester-Dover TPO when I was trying to get some philatelic material franked on the train. Enquiries to British Rail elicited no information as to the departure point and time of this new service, but a casual enquiry to the Philatelic Counter was much more successful. The lady on the counter obtained the information for me, and telephoned my home to ensure that I got it in time to act on it! She was delighted with her philatelic item from this exercise! More recently, on the occasion of the issue of the 6p Enschedé definitive, the receipt of these stamps in

Manchester was delayed, and it was going to be difficult to obtain the day of issue postmarks on specially prepared covers. Once more, the lady on duty took my name and phone number, and as soon as the stamps arrived on the counter, she phoned me with the information that there was a half sheet reserved for me when I could come and collect it.

"At the Manchester Counter, I am always asked if I want cylinder numbers in my booklets, and, once again, I can say that it is a pleasure to deal with this outlet. So, take a bow, Stalybridge and Manchester. Long may you prosper, and my thanks for a super service!"

Postage Due

David Robinson of Renfrewshire writes:

"In the announcement of the new To Pay labels (*Bulletin* December 1993, pp 90-91), I was surprised to see it implied that 'double deficiency' charges for unpaid and underpaid mail were the result of an 1850s campaign for compulsory prepayment; and also that the public's preference for prepayment followed the issue of postage stamps. Surely the historical record is otherwise?

"Rowland Hill had recognised prepayment as an important operational cost saving, and the public had to pay 'double deficiency' rates for unpaid and underpaid letters from the very start of Uniform Penny Postage, on 10 January 1840. Indeed an experiment along these lines had already been carried out during the five weeks of the Uniform Fourpenny Post (5 December 1839 to 9 January 1840); differentials between prepaid and unpaid rates applied for certain items in the London Twopenny Post and the Dublin Penny Post, and all General Post letters weighing above one ounce. The strategem was effective in persuading the public to prepay postage even during the experimental period of late 1839, and the great majority of letters were prepaid from January 1840. Far from prepayment following on from the issue of postage stamps, it was already common practice before May 1840.

"Regarding postage stamps, it is obviously difficult to guess how the public might have reacted in different circumstances; but with the question of prepayment already settled in the public mind the general use of postage stamps was virtually assured; it was always going to be far more convenient to post stamped mail in a collecting box (and they existed before 1840), rather than queue at the post office counter to pay in cash."

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice – stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: February Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 25 March.

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

1. Which Mountain is shown on the 25p Prince of Wales Investiture Anniversary stamp?
2. In which city was an international postal conference held in 1863?
3. Which 15-year-old schoolboy suggested a design for Edward VIII stamps?
4. The Philtec Reader has been developed by which company?
5. Who was guest speaker at the Centenary Dinner of the Scottish Philatelic Society?

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

The winners of the November competition were: C Wyatt, P Backe, R Spencer, M Shanbhag, R Silver (1st prizes); Mrs H Thakerar, J van der Zee, A Mills, H. Lush (2nd prizes); Mrs A Kemp, J A Portughes, and R White (3rd prizes). Prizes were donated by A G Bradbury, cover producer, of Leicester.

The answers were: 1. John Cary, 2. olive green, 3. Lynda Gray, 4. George V, 5. 27.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Forthcoming Issues

1 Feb	1994 Greetings stamps and pack
15 Feb	To Pay labels and pack
22 Feb	Prince of Wales stamp cards
22 Feb	10 x 1st class book/W
22 Feb	10 x 2nd class book/W
1 Mar	Prince of Wales stamps and pack
22 Mar	Scottish Aerogramme – R L Stevenson
5 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamp cards
12 Apr	Pictorial Postcards stamps and pack
26 Apr*	50p, £1, £2 books
26 Apr	Channel Tunnel stamp cards
3 May	Channel Tunnel stamps and pack
31 May	D Day stamp cards
6 Jun	D Day stamps and pack
6 Jun	50p, £1 books
28 Jun	Golf stamp cards
5 Jul	Golf stamps and pack
26 Jul	N Ireland prestige book
26 Jul	Summer stamp cards

Notes:

W = Printed by Walsall Security Printers;

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

E = Joh. Enchedé en Zonen.

* = provisional date of issue.

Age of Steam Cylinders & Colours

The cylinders and colours used were as follows:

19p P9 (phosphor) 1A (deep blue-green) 1B (grey-black) 1C (black)

25p P10 (phosphor) 1A (slate-lilac) 1B (grey-black) 1C (black)

30p P10 (phosphor) 1A (lake-brown) 1B (grey-black) 1C (black)

35p P10 (phosphor) 2A (deep claret) 3B (grey-black) 1C (black)

41p P10 (phosphor) 1A (indigo) 2B (grey-black) 1C (black)

New Envelope

The C5 stamped envelopes prepaid to 60g will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau from 15 February, price 31p 1st class, 25p 2nd class. Details of stamped envelopes were given in January *Bulletin*, page 132.

Correction: The date of issue of the new 50p and £1 stamp books was wrongly given in the January Digest. The correct date, 25 January, was given on page 130. Apologies for any confusion caused.

Posting Boxes

146. Picturesque Wall Boxes

This month we feature boxes in delightful settings in Surrey and Wales. Mr R Crofton Briggs of Guildford sent transparencies of a box set in the wall of a barn at Wanborough, Surrey. Mr Crofton Briggs informs us that the barn is a Grade 1 listed building of architectural and historic merit. Wanborough Barn is one of only a couple of Grade 1 barns in the whole of Surrey. He adds "I imagine that the community's post box was placed in the side of the most accessible and durable of their buildings."

The transparencies of the Edward VII box in

the gate post were submitted by G Sunderland of Ambleside Cumbria; the box is situated between Pennal and Dyfi Bridge on the A493 road in Powys, Wales.

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

Readers interested in letter boxes are reminded of the existence of the Letter Box Study Group – details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.



Book

Reviews

A new (9th) edition of Volume 3 of the Stanley Gibbons **Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue** is now available, dealing with all Elizabeth II pre-decimal stamps. In their preface the Editors, David Aggersberg and Robert Oliver, write of the interest in the stamps of the years 1952-70: "There was innovation in postal technology, in addition to stamp design, and much attention has been paid in recent years to the introduction of graphite lines and then phosphor bands to assist electronic sorting. Additional information continues to be recorded here and this edition includes an explanation of the narrow phosphor bands which have been found to occur on stamps from booklet panes adjacent to the binding margin". The Wilding section now lists the recently-discovered Tudor watermark 9d imperforate between stamp and top margin.



The information on the Wilding Castle high values has been considerably revised, resulting from studies undertaken by Ian Hine into the unnumbered plates used to produce the Waterlow and De La Rue printings. Additional information is provided on inverted watermarks on these stamps and the 1958 De La Rue 2s 6d watermark inverted is listed for the first time. The listing of the Machin £sd stamps now includes the £1 indigo shade, known from a single sheet, the authenticity of which has been proved by PO analysis.

Additional errors found in the Special Stamps section including several embossing omitted items and the 1967 Wild Flowers 4d se-tenant block without phosphor bands and with slate-purple omitted. The Postage Due 2d from the 1954-55 series is now listed with Tudor Crown watermark sideways Crown to right.

Prices are now provided for cylinder booklet panes of four which are only found with the cylinder numbers partially trimmed, for example ½d, 1d, 1½d and 3d Multiple Crown watermark sideways panes from 2s booklets (1961-65). Some prices have been reduced since the 8th edition (1990) in line with market trends in a recessionary period. However prices of "specialised" material are holding up well. Some Wilding cylinder blocks are now hard to find and the editors report that "demand for stamp booklets of the period is, generally buoyant". 456 pages, card covers. Price £22.50. Postage £2.50 UK, Overseas £5. Available from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Mail order phone 0800 611622 (08.30-17.00).

The 1993 edition of Stanley Gibbons **Collect British Stamps** is now available – a clear, concise and colour-illustrated listing to all basic British stamps from 1840 to the 1993 Christmas issue. The definitive listing is complete to the new definitive stamps issued from sheets, books and coils in October/November 1993. The decimal Machin stamps are now listed in two groups – with ordinary perfs (X841-1058) and with elliptical perfs (Y1667-1752). Hopefully there will be no further additions to the X series so that numbers will now remain unchanged. Changes, however, can be expected to the Y series as new values are required. There are a number of interesting price changes since the Part 1 catalogue was published in June. Some of the commemorative sets of 1957-61 are



increased in price, as are the phosphor versions of Red Cross (used), COMPAC and Churchill. The 1992 Happy & Glorious strip (SG1602a) is increased £1.25 mint and 50p used. Recently withdrawn sets – Green Issue, Single European Market and 1992 Christmas are priced up. Machin definitive prices are largely unchanged, but the 24p violet (X967) is up 35p to £1.75 mint. There are some notable price revisions amongst the Country stamps – the N Ireland 16p perf 15 x 14 is up £1 used, the N Ireland 18p and Welsh 24p perf 14 are increased used. The N Ireland and Scottish 18p side band and 24p 2 bands from the off-sale Beatrix Potter prestige book are priced at £2 each. The Edward VIII and Tudor Crown postage due sets (DI9/26 and D40/5) are marked up mint by £50 and £30 respectively. The useful article on Machins which was included in the 1992 edition is repeated – updated to take account of recent developments.

A couple of fairly minor compilation errors have been noticed – the dates for the 1993 Autumn and Sherlock Holmes stamps are 14 September and 12 October, *not* 11 September and 11 October. No doubt these will be corrected next time. 140 pages, card covers. Available from stamp and book shops, the British Philatelic Bureau, and Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Price £4.95.

Lundy – a small island in the Bristol Channel – is noted for its puffins and its stamps (local carriage labels), many of which feature this popular and amusing bird. The stamps were first issued in 1929 following the closure of the sub post office on the island. They attracted considerable attention in the philatelic press at the time, and in recent years have increased in popularity and value. In 1984 Stanley Newman published the first edition of his **Stamps of Lundy Island: an illustrated priced guide and handbook**. The reference numbers in this catalogue are now regularly used by Lundy collectors. A supplement followed in 1989; a second edition is now available, adding new information and revising prices. The early issues all featured puffins, other seabirds were included in a 1951 set and pictorials showing views of the island followed in 1954. Lundy unfortunately jumped on the Europa bandwagon in 1961 and 1962, and there were also Anti-Malaria and Churchill issues. In recent years the issuing policy of the Landmark Trust (which administers the island) has been conservative and the stamps well designed and printed. The current definitives and 1992 'Discovering Lundy' sets, both printed by The House of Questa, have been illustrated in this *Bulletin* (August 1991 & July 1992). Mr Newman provides a useful introduction to Lundy's postal history and easy to follow listings of the stamps, first day covers, proofs and colour trials. Some of the issues have been produced in tiny quantities – one 1940 stamp sold less than 700. The first two stamps – ½p and 1p of 1929 – were clearly destined to be used for many years, some ½ million of each were printed. Values of basic stamps range from a few pence to £160 for a scarce 1969 overprint. 80 pages, card covers. ISBN 0 9514363 5 X. Available from: Channel Island & Lundy Auctions, Gemini Business Centre, 136/140 Old Shoreham Road, HOVE, E Sussex, BN3 7BD. Price £9.50, postage 75p UK, £1 Europe, £2 overseas airmail.

Forthcoming Books

Stanley Gibbons have announced the publication of the 1994 edition of *Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps* on 28 January, the 1994 *GB Concise Catalogue* on 29 April, and the 7th edition of Vol 4 of the *GB Specialised Catalogue* (QEII Decimal Definitives) in Summer 1994.

February Digest

Issued in February/early March

1 February Greetings stamp book containing 10 x 1st class stamps featuring "Messages" (characters from childrens literature) and 20 greetings labels, price £2.50.

Designer: Newell and Sorrell.

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, 41 x 30mm, printed on non-phosphor paper overprinted with 2 phosphor bands. PVA Dextrin gum. Perf 15 x 14, elliptical perforation on vertical sides of stamps.

Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau, and Penn (Wolverhampton).

Presentation Pack: No. G3, price £2.80.

15 February To Pay labels – 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 25p, £1, £1.20, £5.

Designer: Sedley Place.

Printing The House of Questa, offset-lithography, sheets of 200, PVA gum. Perf 15 x 14, elliptical perforation on vertical sides of stamps.

Presentation Pack: No. 32, price £8.20.

Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark: London EC3.

22 February 10 x 1st class book with extra pane giving details of free postcard offer. Details of promotion also on book cover.

Printing: Walsall, lithography, 2 phosphor bands, PVA gum. Perf 15 x 14, elliptical perforation on vertical sides. Stamps as in books issued 6 April and 1 November 1993.

22 February: 10 x 2nd class book.

Printing: Walsall, lithography, centre phosphor band, PVA gum. Perf 15 x 14, elliptical perforation on vertical sides.

Note: First Walsall 10 x 2nd class book with security features (elliptical perfs).

22 February: Prince of Wales Investiture stamp cards. Nos 159a – e, price 25p each.

1 March: Prince of Wales Investiture 25th Anniversary stamps – 19p, 25p, 30p, 35p, 41p.

Designer: Paintings by HRH The Prince of Wales.

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure. Sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum. Perf 15 x 14 one phosphor band (with fluor) 19p, phosphor coated paper others. OBA free paper.

Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Caernarfon.

Presentation Pack: No. 245, price £1.85.

Note: See Royal Mail News section for details of other souvenir items.

Withdrawn in February/early March

8 February: 50p book – Postal History No. 1; book – Educational Institutions No. 1; £2.50 book – 10 x 1st class stamps.

15 February: Marine Timekeepers stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

Events

Until 13 Mar 94. "From Post Boy to Air Mail" exhibition, coinciding with "Collectormania" at the Museum of Science & Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester. Open 10.00–17.00 Mon–Sun. Museum enquiries: 061-832 2244. Enquiries about the Post Boy to Air Mail exhibition to: David Harrop, 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT SK4 3DQ.

Until Mar 94. "Valentine Cards" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open 9.30–16.30 Mon–Fri. Admission free.

18–21 Feb 94. Hong Kong '94 stamp exhibition at Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. Royal Mail stand at this exhibition.

19 Feb 94. Scout & Guide Stamps Club annual exhibition at Baden Powell House, Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7. Open 11.00–17.00. Admission free. Enquiries: Peter Duck, 256 St Margaret's Road, TWICKENHAM TW1 1PR, Tel. 081-891 5746.

1–6 Mar 94. Spring Stampex at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1. Enquiries: STAMPEX, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT. David Harrop (address above) will be displaying his collection of shipping items, including Packet boat captain's flint-lock pistol and many other items dealing with the carriage of mail by sea.

