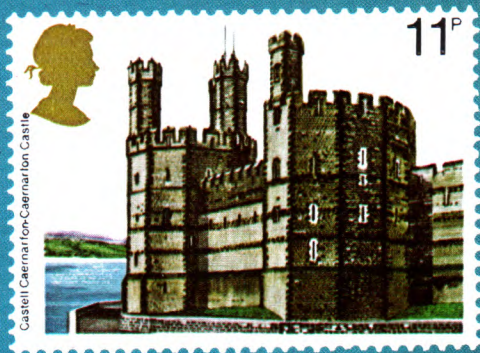


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 15 Number 8 April 1978



Contents

- 2 Editorial
Twenty Fifth Anniversary of
HM The Queen's Coronation
31 May 1978
- 3 Gems from the RM Phillips Collection
LV The Error of Lettering on the
Two Pence Halfpenny
1978 Melville Junior Stamp Competition
- 4 British Special Stamps
41. Burns Commemoration, 1966
- 5 British Philatelic Federation
Roll of Distinguished Philatelists
Souvenir Pack
Forces Covers
- 6 BPF Directory 1978
First Day of Issue Postmarking
- 7 Forthcoming Events
- 8 Designing the Historic Buildings Stamps
- 9 New Illustrated Stamp Books
Air Mail Essays by Bradbury Wilkinson
- 10 Book Reviews
'Gutter Pairs', a Technical Explanation
- 12 The Proud Collection
2. A Rare Atlantic Letter
- 13 Stamps for Pleasure
14. Paintings and Painters
- 14 F Marcus Arman
- 15 Special Handstamps
Postmark Slogans

Editorial

Even our sternest critic would find it hard to deny that we try very hard to produce articles and features to suit all levels of collecting and philatelic intelligence. Over the years we have helped to guide the novice by indicating some of the more important steps he should follow. We have tried to please the postal historian by a wide range of illustrated features and we have provided historical data and topical articles on all sorts of subjects.

Because of our unique position as a stamp issuing administration we can occasionally commission our own experts to contribute the definitive statement on some particular facet of our hobby. All this is to introduce another in the

series! We are fortunate that, once again, Aubrey Walker — one of our development chemists — has produced for us an article this time on 'gutter pairs' which answers many questions and which will, hopefully, clear up many misunderstandings.

Twenty Fifth Anniversary of HM The Queen's Coronation, 31 May 1978

Four special postage stamps, values 9p, 10½p, 11p, 13p, depicting The Coronation Coach, St Edward's Crown, The Orb, Imperial State Crown — will be issued to commemorate the twenty fifth anniversary of the Coronation. Two pictorial handstamps will be provided illustrating Westminster Abbey and the Coronation Chair.

The following first day cover services will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and given all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh', showing the Coronation Chair, or 'London SW' depicting Westminster Abbey, and despatched for a charge of 61½p. For deposit account customers the charge will be 57p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 53½p each.

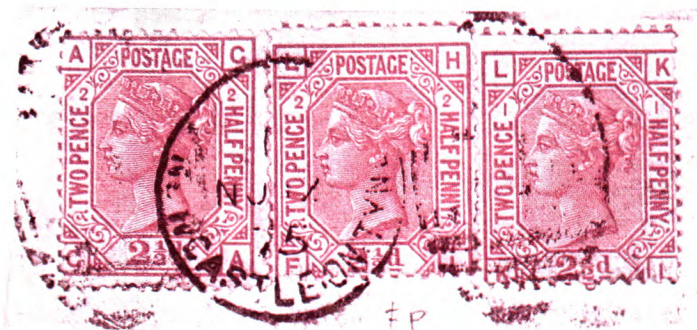
Service C

For bulk orders of 50 or more covers, all to the same address, under the conditions of Service A, the charge is 59p per item.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, obtainable from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned as early as possible, but not later than 22 May 1978.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

LV The Error of Lettering on the Two Pence Halfpenny



This month's gem, though not one of the great classic rarities, is nevertheless an item with several points of interest to it.

The 'strip' of three 2½d stamps, on piece, includes examples of both plate 1 (on blued paper) registered in March 1875 and plate 2 which was registered in June of that year. Probably stamps from both plates were put on sale simultaneously on 1 July 1875 to cover the new Universal Postal Union 2½d per ½ oz letter rate.

The particular merit of this item lies, of course, in the centre stamp which is a good example of the error of lettering LH-FL (instead of LH-HL). In view of the printer's excellent record of producing only high quality stamps, it is an outstanding error (in fact the only such ever made by Thomas De La Rue & Co on a GB stamp), made even more remarkable by the fact that the error was not discovered until 1893, long after the 2½d rosy mauve had been replaced.

A G RIGODE RIGHI

1978 Melville Junior Stamp Competition

The winning entries of the 1978 Melville Competition will be on display at the Postal Museum in London during the Easter holidays. Apart from the trophies which are awarded to the winners in each of the four classes, there are also the Cartwright Medal, which is presented to the most promising entry in Class D or C (ages under 16) and the National Westminster Bank Prize for the most promising entry in Class A (ages 18-21 years).

Mr Sidney Leverton has most kindly agreed to donate a medal in memory of his late wife, which will be known as the Helena Leverton Award, to the most promising entry in Class B (ages 16-18 years). Due to the time involved in getting a suitable medal struck, this new award will not be presented until 1979. With each of the classes then covered by an additional award, it is hoped that it will encourage more children to enter the Melville Competition in future.

British Special Stamps

41. Burns Commemoration, 1966

The issue of stamps for Robert Burns, Scotland's celebrated national poet, was a belated concession to continuing demands (which began long before 1959, the bicentenary of his birth) from 'north of the border' for postal recognition. In fact, the Post Office was virtually pressurised into relaxing its long-standing tradition never to commemorate people on stamps, one which had already been broken with the issue of Churchill stamps in the previous year. The stamps were ultimately issued on 'Burns Night' — 25 January 1966.

They were designed by Gordon F Huntly, a Scot who had also designed the 3d Scottish regional stamp. The 4d showed a portrait of Burns based on a chalk drawing by Archibald Skirving, circa 1798 (shortly after the poet's death), with the Saltire Cross of St Andrew — Scotland's national flag — in the background. Skirving's admirable sketch was taken from the painting by Alexander Nasmyth which is depicted, in reverse, on the 1s 3d stamp, against a background 'frieze' which included a plough (Burns was a peasant farmer), scroll and quill, rose and thistle, barley and the gable-end of his farmhouse at Mossgiel. Both portraits were in black with background and Queen's portrait, again by Wilding, in deep violet-blue and new blue (4d) or slate-blue and yellow-orange (1s 3d).

There were anomalies — Burns looking away from the Queen on the 4d and reversed, showing the parting in his hair on (his) right, presumably to face towards the Queen, on the 1s 3d. But the designs were satisfactorily bold in conception with a pleasing balance in the ratio of 2:1 — two-thirds of the stamp area devoted to the main subject and the remaining third just bearing the Queen's portrait and the figures of value.

Gordon Huntly, a teacher and freelance graphic designer, was born in Glasgow in 1923, and was educated at Stirling High School and Glasgow School of Art. His regional design was later adapted for the 4d and 5d stamps as postage rates increased. Other contenders who submitted essays for the Burns' issue were A B Imrie, Burns' portrait with a background of Alloway Bridge; Ruari McLean, a Victorian-style wreath



of birds and flowers; Stewart Black (who designed the 6d 'Parliament' stamp of 1965), the thistle featured against a tartan background; Ian McLeish, a portrait sketch; and J B Fleming, quill in hand and a Burns silhouette. Both Imrie and Fleming were responsible for the remaining Scottish regional stamps in the 1958-67 series.

Robert Burns was born at Alloway, near Ayr, in 1759, the eldest of seven children of 'an honest and intelligent' farmer. After the death of his father in 1784, he started farming himself, but contrived also to write a great deal of poetry, and won a huge success with his first book, *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, and especially with the poems *The Jolly Beggars* and *Tam O'Shanter*. He contemplated emigrating to Jamaica on the proceeds, but he was persuaded to abandon the idea and he was invited to Edinburgh, where a second edition of his poems was published in 1787.

Burns married Jean Armour and took a farm at Ellisland, near Dumfries, but did not prosper and he accepted the post of excise officer at Dumfries, moving there with his family. Gradually his health failed, and he died, aged 37, in July 1796. He was given a public funeral and, in 1815, his body was moved from the Dumfries churchyard to the nearby mausoleum where also rests his wife and several of his children.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (6 × 20) on ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark multiple crowns, with no major varieties recorded, though there is a short list of minor constant flaws in the Gibbons' *Specialised Catalogue*.

Quantities sold (phosphor in brackets) were: 4d 77,905,176 (8,738,520); 1s 3d 5,685,906 (1,226,160). Presentation packs, 38,968.

JAMES WATSON

British Philatelic Federation Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

It is with very great pleasure that the British Philatelic Federation announces that Mr Leon Rapkin has been appointed as Curator of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Mr Rapkin is an eminent collector specialising in the German Empire who admits that his interest was kindled by his wife, Francesca Rapkin, who is also well known for her hard work for the Middlesex Philatelic Federation and with the Melville Junior Competition.

Major Criddle who was Curator of the Roll has had to relinquish this post due to ill health.

Souvenir Pack

A souvenir pack in booklet form, containing 16 pages, and incorporating all four Coronation stamps, will be available at main Post Offices from 31 May 1978, price £1.20.

Profusely illustrated in colour, and black and white, it tells the story of the ceremony in Westminster Abbey in all its pageantry, and the famous drive in the Coronation Coach through the crowded streets of the capital. Also illustrated is a selection of issued postage stamps depicting, among other subjects, noted events which have, thus far, taken place during Her Majesty's reign.

Forces Covers

RAF Cover HA23 commemorates Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, the designer of the British jet engine, and depicts the Gloster-Whittle E28/39 which made the first powered jet flight in this country. The cover bearing a 7p definitive stamp, cancelled with a special hand-stamp BFPS 1603, also commemorates the 60th Anniversary of RAF Digby, and will be available from Cpl A Barnard, RAF Digby, Lincs LN4 3LH, after 15 May, price 40p.

Commemoration of the First Launch of an Aircraft from a Ship at Sea

A commemorative cover, bearing a 9p Historic Buildings stamp cancelled with a special hand-stamp, BFPS 1609, will be available after 8 May 1978. The cover commemorates the launching, for the first time, of an aircraft from a ship at sea by Commander C R Samson RN, on 8 May 1912.

The cost of the cover will be 40p. Signed by Major J L R Samson, son of Commander Samson, the cost will be 87p. A limited number will be available signed by Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma and Major Samson, price £1.67 each.

Orders should be sent to the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset, BA22 8HT, including a 7" × 5" stamped and addressed envelope.

Battle of The Saintes

On 12 April 1782 a sea battle took place in the vicinity of the Saintes group of islands in the West Indies.

The protagonists in this action were the British Fleet, under the command of Admiral Sir George Rodney and the French Fleet commanded by Admiral de Grasse. The French, in an effort to capture Jamaica from the British, were defeated.

A cover commemorating the event, with an impression of the battle, will be available from 12 April 1978. It will bear a 9p Historic Buildings stamp cancelled with a special hand-stamp, BFPS 1605, depicting the badge of HMS 'Barfleur' (the flagship of Admiral Rodney) and will cost 40p. Signed by Rear Admiral P N

Buckley CB DSO, the last Commanding Officer of HMS Formidable, it will cost 87p.

A limited number of covers will also be available, bearing a 10½p Historic Buildings stamp and signed by Rear Admiral Buckley and Lord Rodney, the descendant of the Admiral in the battle, price £1.67 each. Orders should be sent to the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset, BA22 8HT, including a 7" × 5" stamped and addressed envelope.

Prince of Wales' Division — Beating Retreat Commemorative Covers

The Massed Bands and Corps of Drums of The Prince of Wales's Division performed the ceremony of Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, London, during Silver Jubilee Week, on 7, 8 and 9 June 1977. To commemorate the occasion a set of three special covers were issued by the Division featuring a new full colour photograph of HRH The Prince of Wales, the Colonel in Chief of the Division. The covers also have a different London scene for each of the three days and were cancelled by special pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamps numbered to match the day of use, 7677, 8677 and 9677.

The cover for each day had special individual significance.

The 7 June was Silver Jubilee Day and was designated as a bank holiday. The postmark used on this day was therefore almost unique in Great Britain on Jubilee Day. The cover shows an illustration of Horse Guards in Whitehall.

The 8 June was the first day of issue of the commemorative stamp to mark the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London and the cover for this date bears the special 13p stamp plus a 'first day' cachet showing Big Ben. The cover depicts the Houses of Parliament.

On the 9 June, HRH The Prince of Wales took the salute and the cover, showing the Tower of London, also carries a cachet to mark this special occasion.

A limited supply of these three attractive covers is still available priced at £1.45 per set and can be obtained from The Philatelic Officer, The Prince of Wales's Division, Whittington

Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (postage extra, 15p UK and BAORs, elsewhere 30p).

Visit by HM The Queen to the RAOC Souvenir Cover

1978 is significant in the annals of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

A special handstamp, BFPS 1978, will be used in conjunction with a commemorative cover to mark the visit by HM The Queen to the RAOC Bicester on 16 May 1978.

Her Majesty is Colonel-in-Chief of the RAOC. The cover, bearing an 8½p Royal Silver Jubilee stamp, also commemorates the Diamond Jubilee of the granting of the title, Royal, by HM King George V in 1918.

The covers will cost 50p each, and a limited number, signed by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major General J T Stanyer CBE, will be available at £1.50 each. All profits will go to Service Charities. Orders should be sent to National Giro A/C No. 2039222 or:— The Philatelic Officer, Planning Branch, Control Ordnance Depot, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0LD.

BPF Directory 1978

A new Philatelic Societies' Directory is now available.

This contains full details of Societies and Dealer Members affiliated to the Federation, with particulars of other societies, dealers and ordinary members world-wide. Other features, such as a list of those willing to display collections and to judge competitions, makes this handy little volume invaluable to Stamp Club secretaries, but there is much reference value in it for the average collector wishing to seek new sources of material or information concerning his own particular interests.

It is available from main dealers for £1.50, or from BPF Ltd, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE.

First Day of Issue Postmarking

From 31 May 1978 first day of issue cancellations will be available from Devizes, Wilts.

Forthcoming Events

National Philatelic Society to Visit Gloucester

The National Philatelic Society will be holding another of its very popular provincial meetings on Saturday 22 April 1978 between 2.30 — 5 pm when the Society will be visiting Gloucester.

Members of the Society will be providing material to form a superb exhibition on show during the afternoon at Northgate Hall in St John's Lane, Gloucester.

In addition to the displays it is hoped that dealers will be in attendance.

Refreshments will be available during the afternoon and admission to the exhibition will be free.

Scottish Philatelic Congress

The Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies will be held in the Pathfoot Building, Stirling University, Stirling, commencing at 12 noon on Saturday 15 April 1978.

The Ayrshire Philatelic Society — 40 years old this year — is the host society and will provide a display including a postal history of Ayrshire.

A special cover commemorating the tercentenary of the first post office in Ayr will be available, and a special one-day handstamp incorporating the numeral 27 of Ayr, will be applied to all covers posted at the Congress.

Mr James Hunter, Curator of the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, will officiate at the opening.

The British Philatelic Federation Congress

For five years the members of Worthing Philatelic Society have been eagerly awaiting 1978, the year that the Society is acting as host to the 60th British Philatelic Federation Congress. This will take place in Worthing from 30 May to 2 June, 1978.

You do not have to be a member of the Federation or a member of a Society which is affiliated to the Federation to be able to attend. Anyone interested in the hobby will be most welcome. It is not a highbrow affair for the dedicated few but a friendly gathering of enthusiasts. The programme is varied and includes social functions.

There is a commemorative cover, one design, the 'Façade' of the Worthing Town Hall, in four different colours complete with four different picture filler/postcards. These covers will receive a special handstamp if posted at the Congress.

There will be two exhibitions. One exhibition will contain a display of Worthing Postal History by Derek Walker, FSPH, and will be accompanied by a booklet 'The Worthing Mail'. The rest of the exhibition will be provided by members of the Worthing Philatelic Society. The second exhibition will include a display of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of GB and the winning entries of the Melville Competition.

In addition, each day, apart from Friday, there will be a display by a member of the host Society and two other Societies in the area, the Worthing Society of Postal Historians and the Goring Philatelic Society. Other attractions will be a philatelic bookstall and a daily bulletin.

The motif of the Congress is 'Clasped Hands of Friendship' which was chosen because the members of the Worthing Philatelic Society intend to do everything they can to make it a friendly Congress.

Application forms are available and can be obtained from either of the co-organising secretaries:— Mr Colin Spong, 70 Westlake Gardens, Rusper Road, WORTHING, West Sussex, BN13 1LF, or Miss Yvonne King, 5 Alfriston Road, WORTHING, West Sussex, BN14 7QU.

Stamp Display at Parham

Visitors to the famous Elizabethan House, Parham, in West Sussex, during the next few weeks will be able to see something old and something new. The old is a portrait of Henry Bishop which hangs in the house adjacent to one or two specimens of the famous 'Bishop Mark'. The new is a brand new display of some British QEII special stamps in thematic form.

The stamp display will be on show until 1 May at Parham, West Sussex, which is on the A283 between Storrington and Pulborough. The house is open to visitors on Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Bank Holidays between 2.00 — 5.30 pm.

Designing the Historic Buildings Stamps

I was first commissioned by the Post Office last year to produce some ideas for a set of stamps which would incorporate commemorative designs for the 900th anniversary of the White Tower, Tower of London, and the 850th anniversary of the founding of Holyrood Abbey. This led me to the idea of castles and palaces, particularly those with a royal connection, and my first roughs included the four buildings which are now shown on the stamp issue. In addition, I was asked to take into consideration other architectural and historic anniversaries falling in 1978. These were the birth of the Scottish architect, Robert Adam, the death of the



Mr Maddox at work in his studio

Victorian architect, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, and also the founding of the Cinque Ports.

I felt that two entirely different approaches were called for in designing these sets of stamps, and I treated the architectural anniversaries purely on the grounds of selecting buildings which were associated with the anniversary or architect involved. Apart from the White Tower, which was the primary consideration, I produced designs showing the ruined abbey of Holyrood; the Royal Society of Arts building in London and Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, by Adam, the Albert Memorial and Exeter College Chapel, Oxford, by Scott, and Walmer Castle, Kent, residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

Quite early in my researches, however, the original idea of using other royal castles and palaces to complement the White Tower and Holyrood began to develop, and this theme was adopted after the submission of my designs to the Post Office Design Adviser and the Stamp Advisory Committee. Although a number of castles in Britain were considered, in the final analysis those which had a strong claim to royal residence in the historical context were Hampton Court Palace and Caernarfon Castle. Although the latter had been used on a stamp before, it was the only one of Edward I's Welsh castles to have been intended to be as much a palace as a fortress when it was first built. Hampton Court Palace was equally appropriate with its links with English kings and queens from the time of Henry VIII.

I always start my designs at stamp size, first making preliminary miniature sketches from references obtained from my own sketchbooks on Britain and from additional photographic material, and then developing these as minuscule colour roughs with the value and the Queen's head in position to present a finished appearance. I submitted designs with both horizontal and upright format, with and without sky background, and showing flat on and angled views of the buildings. The latter was decided on for the final designs since it gave a more three dimensional appearance and allowed more of the building and its surroundings to be seen.

Once the designs were approved, I then visited each individual location to make detailed drawings at approximately four times up from stamp size, and additional sketches of other aspects of the buildings. In the case of Holyrood House, I took particular care to select a view which would include part of the ruined abbey, which was the original building from which the whole palace had developed over the centuries. From these notes I then produced highly finished artwork which was presented to the Stamp Advisory Committee for approval.

Following this, essays had to be prepared by Harrisons, and final approval from the Queen received before printing could be commenced. It

had been decided by the Post Office that in addition to issuing the stamps individually, the theme made them a good choice for the launching of Britain's first miniature sheet, and this, of course, was a very exciting development as far as I was concerned.

I also designed the official First Day Cover and Presentation Pack, which shows the four buildings in symbolised form, and inside the pack there are further detailed line drawings. As well I produced two handstamps, one for the Edinburgh Philatelic Bureau and another for London, featuring the White Tower.

In addition, I was asked by Harrisons, the stamp printers, to produce for them a special private presentation pack to carry the four individual stamps and the miniature sheet, again showing different aspects. I began to feel that I knew all four buildings very well by the time I had completed my work.

Altogether it has been a most exciting and interesting issue in which to be involved, and one which I hope will be of equal interest to philatelists and the general public alike.

RONALD MADDOX

New Illustrated Stamp Books

Four new stamp books featuring a second series of cover illustrations will be on sale at the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic sales counters from 3 May 1978, and from other post offices as existing stocks become exhausted.

Details are as follows:—

- 10p Farm Buildings,
Northern Ireland,
designer Norman Battershill.
- 50p Commercial Vehicles,
Austin Cape Taxi,
designer John Ireland.
- 70p Country Crafts,
Thatching,
designer Eric Stemp.
- 90p British Canals,
Llangollen Canal
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct,
designer Ronald Maddox.

Air Mail Essays by Bradbury Wilkinson



Our illustration shows the only Post Office official air mail stamps essays — printed in 1922. It was decided soon afterwards, by the Post Office, not to proceed further with the scheme.

The originals are now on view in the National Postal Museum.

Book Reviews

The Stoneham Catalogue of British Postage Stamps 1840-1977

For the first time a comprehensive catalogue of British Stamps is available in a single volume. It contains a comprehensive listing of British stamps, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, all in a logical, easy to read format.

This one volume lists all issued stamps in the widest variety of shades, watermarks, dies, plate numbers, papers and gums, which information has previously only been obtainable in multi-volume catalogues.

This catalogue breaks new ground by providing a three column system of pricing. The three column system acknowledges the modern trend to collect Unmounted Mint stamps from the Queen Victoria Jubilee issues up to the present day.

A further innovation is to list all the Gutter Pair sets, as well as Booklet Panes, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs and Post Office Picture Cards (PHQs).

The Stoneham British Stamp Catalogue has been priced on a current market basis, but IS NOT AN OFFER FOR SALE. All this information for GB collectors is available now at £3.50 per copy.

The Stoneham Catalogue of British Postage

Stamps is published by Stoneham Publications Ltd, price £3.50.

The Parcel Post Labels of Great Britain — Part 2 — Yorkshire, by the late Lt Cdr J O A Arkell, RN

Cdr Arkell, who was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, possessed a specialised collection of over 72,000 of these official Post Office labels, and this work is the first definitive study ever to be published on the subject. Like its predecessor, Part 1 — Berkshire, the book illustrates 28 different types of labels, which are now becoming collectors' pieces. The listing for Yorkshire takes up 66 pages, Leeds taking pride of place with 104 entries, closely followed by Bradford with 88. Hundreds of towns, villages and hamlets feature in the book, from Abbeydale (Sheffield) to York (Walmgate Bar Branch Office).

Consisting in all of 80 pages, bound in a serviceable plastic cover, the book can be purchased through any bookseller or stamp dealer for £4.00. In case of difficulty, it can be ordered directly from the publisher, Harry Hayes, 48-50 Trafalgar Street, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 7HA, for £4.25 including postage.

'Gutter Pairs', a Technical Explanation

Much has been written recently in the philatelic press on the subject of so-called 'gutter pairs'. Strictly, the white spaces across the sheets which give rise to these items should be called 'gutter margins', and occur on sheets of special issue stamps of the size currently in use, which measure 1.60" x 1.173".

The reason for this format results from a technical necessity.

The key to the situation is the complex dual printing machine used by Harrisons and Sons, at High Wycombe, for the high quality production of Post Office stamps.

The press, christened 'Jumelle' by Harrisons from the French for 'twin', is capable of prin-

ting, perforating, and sheeting two different types of stamps at the same time, one emerging from each end; and often produces a definitive value from one end and a 'Special Issue' from the other. It comprises seven gravure printing units, a three-colour intaglio (recess) unit, and at each end, a rotary perforator, guillotine, and sheeter.

The diameter of the perforating drum matches that of the intaglio print cylinder, and is critical. A larger unit cannot be fitted; a smaller diameter would cause the perforating pins to enter the mating holes on the other side of the printed web at too acute an angle causing bending or breaking of the pins.

Thus for practical purposes the diameter and

hence the circumference of the perforator is fixed, and the diameter of the gravure cylinders must be related to this exactly to ensure registration of the perforation holes with the stamp designs.

For the Special Issue gravure cylinders, this

operation. By spacing the stamps evenly round the cylinder with four panels of 50 stamps separated by gutter margins, the perforating drum will accommodate exactly 7 of these panels and perforate in precise register with the printed designs.

Machine Sheet

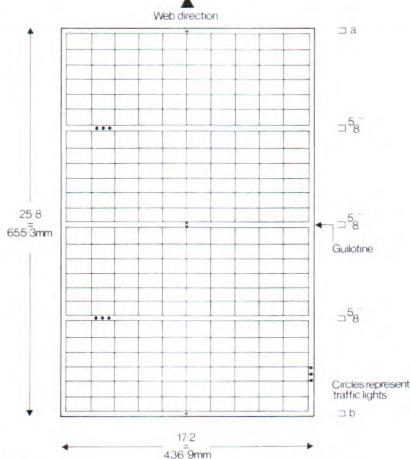


FIG. 1

Stamp Printing Cylinders and Sheet Sizes Special Issue 'Format'

Stamp size: 1.60" × 1.173"

Machine sheets consist of 4 × 50 stamps (ie 2" counter sheets) measuring 25.8". Width of machine sheet measures 17.2". Thus 'counter sheets' measure 12.9" × 17.2". The length of the machine sheet represents the direction of print or web direction, but after guillotining, this is reversed, and the width of a 'counter sheet' represents direction of printing. 'Vertical format' stamps are therefore printed sideways.

ratio is 4:7. The circumference of the perforating drum is 45.15", so that of the printing cylinders must be $45.15 \times \frac{4}{7} = 25.8"$. Unfortunately the area occupied by 200 Special Issue stamps is $23.6 \times 16"$, so there will be a gap of $25.8 - 23.6 = 2.2"$.

As the guillotine can be set to only one spacing for a given printing run, this excess could be trimmed off only as a separate operation after sheeting, an expensive time-consuming

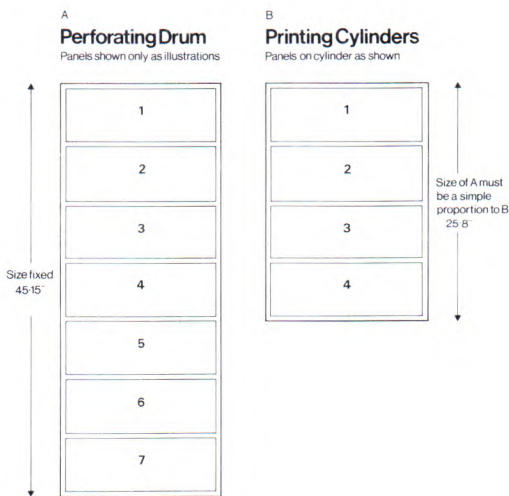


FIG. 2

Perforating Drum for Rotary Perforation

The circumference of the perforating drum encompasses exactly 7 panels (as the 4 panels illustrated above), being the same diameter as that of the intaglio printing cylinder. Since the diameter of the perforating drum must be between certain critical limits, in order to ensure satisfactory perforating quality, and the diameter of the printing cylinders must be related directly to this, then the stamp impressions must be arranged evenly round this circumference.

The two formats are illustrated in Figure 1, details of the printing cylinder are shown in Figure 2. It will be seen that each revolution of

the cylinder prints a 'machine sheet' consisting of four panels of 50 stamps (which is subsequently guillotined into two 'counter' sheets of two panels only), whereas each revolution of the perforating drum accommodates seven panels of 50.

The question might be asked — why not increase slightly the size of the stamps in the machine direction to avoid the necessity for gutter margins?

The answer lies in a shape known from classical times as the Golden Section. The most satisfactory ratio for the sides of a rectangle, or in other words, the shape which 'looks right' to

most people, is attained when the longer sides are $\sqrt{2}$ times the shorter sides.

This point was made strongly by leading stamp designers, and the ratio was chosen after extensive discussions by the designers, the Post Office and the printers.

In the event, a very slight change had to be accepted in order to accommodate an exact number of perforating holes in each direction.

It will be seen then that the gutter margins are not just accidental or fund raising devices, but arise from a technical necessity.

AUBREY WALKER

The Proud Collection — 2. A Rare Atlantic Letter

1841. Cover bearing six of the 1840 2d Blues endorsed per 'Great Western'. Both the 1d black

and the 2d blue were rarely used on letters going overseas.



Stamps for Pleasure

14. Paintings and Painters

The Post Office 'Art Gallery' is a small but select one — the first 'Paintings' stamps were issued in 1967, and to date there have been only six issues on this theme, comprising 21 stamps. Nevertheless it is an interesting and worthwhile subject. There is a peculiar fascination about miniature reproductions of famous works of art, and the fact that you can walk about with a Constable or a Lowry in your pocket-book.

The most sensible album arrangement is an issue to a page (with the appropriate heading and writing-up), and your favourite painters can be augmented with the stamps of numerous other countries — they exist in great profusion! Meanwhile, it shouldn't be too difficult to find the stamps described below. Gibbons' catalogue numbers are quoted for easy reference.

The 'British Paintings' issue of 1967 (748/50) featured three widely contrasting painters and styles: 'Master Lambton', by Sir Thomas Lawrence; 'Mares and Foals in a Landscape', by George Stubbs; and 'Children Coming Out of School', by L S Lowry. Lawrence (1769-1830) was born in Bristol, studied at the Royal Academy and became an ARA in 1791. On the death of Reynolds (1792) he was appointed Painter to the King, and was elected RA in 1794. Knighted in 1815, he became President of the RA five years later.

George Stubbs (1724-1806), an anatomist by profession, first painted portraits for a living, but for most of his life he combined his knowledge and admiration of horses by painting them. His *Anatomy of the Horse* was published in 1766. Stubbs became an ARA in 1780, but was never elected RA because of a dispute with the Academy. The late Laurence Stephen Lowry was born in Rusholme, a suburb of Manchester, in 1887. He was a student at the Municipal School of Art in Manchester for ten years (from 1905), and at the Salford School of Art for a further ten years, holding his first exhibition in 1939. He was elected ARA in 1955 and RA in 1962.

The Christmas stamps for 1967 (756/8) included 'The Adoration of the Shepherds' (School of Seville), Murillo's 'Madonna and Child', and

'The Adoration of the Shepherds', by the French painter, Louis Le Nain. Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617-1682) was born in Seville and stayed there most of his life, becoming one of the world's greatest painters. His 'Madonna', the original of which hangs in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, was one of several from his brush — his 'Madonna of the Rosary' is perhaps better known. Louis (c 1593-1648) was one of three brothers Le Nain, all born in Laon, the others being Antoine and Mathieu. Their work is not easily distinguishable: signatures were without initials.

An outstanding portrait of Queen Elizabeth I by an unknown artist was featured on one of the stamps in the second 'British Paintings' issue of 1968 (771/4). It hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, London. Also in this series were: Lawrence's 'Pinkie' (Miss Sarah Moulton-Barrett), which is located in the Henry E Huntington Gallery, San Marino, California; a wartime subject, 'St Mary le Port' (Tate Gallery), a Bristol church in ruins after a bombing raid in 1940, by the contemporary artist, John Piper; and John Constable's famous 'Hay Wain' (National Gallery, London). Constable (1776-1837), one of the foremost English landscape painters, was born in Suffolk and became an ARA in 1819, an RA in 1829. His 'Hay Wain' was first shown at the Academy in 1820.

The 'Ulster 71' Festival was the occasion for the issue of three special stamps depicting Irish landscapes by Belfast artists in June 1971 (881/3). One showed 'A Mountain Road', by T P Flanagan, a lecturer in art, born in Enniskillen; another, 'Deer's Meadow', by Tom Carr, Belfast-born and trained at the Slade School; and the third, 'Slieve na brock', one of a series of the Tollymore Forest Park in County Down, by Colin Middleton, also born in Belfast. He was awarded the MBE in 1969, and was elected to the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1970.

The series 'Artistic Anniversaries', issued in 1973 (931/4), marked the 250th birth anniversary of Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-92), first President of the Royal Academy, and the 150th

death anniversary of Sir Henry Raeburn. Both are pictured in self-portraits while the second Reynolds' stamp shows 'Nellie O'Brien' (Wallace Collection, London). Raeburn's other stamp reproduces his graceful 'Skater' — the Reverend R Walker — which, with 'Nellie', hangs in the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, where Raeburn was born in 1756. He died in 1823. Reynolds, a Devonshire man, became famous for his studies of women and children.

The four stamps commemorating the birth bicentenary of Joseph Mallord William Turner, the barber's son who was born in Maiden Lane,

Covent Garden, and who became one of Britain's greatest painters, were issued in February 1975 (971/4). He began to exhibit at 15, was elected Associate of the Royal Academy at 24, and made an Academician at 28. His numerous colourful landscapes brought him great fame and wealth, and, following his death in 1851, the nation inherited some 300 of his paintings and nearly 20,000 watercolours and drawings. The stamps show 'Peace — Burial at Sea', Turner's tribute to his old friend, (Sir) David Wilkie; 'Snowstorm — Steamer off a Harbour's Mouth'; 'The Arsenal, Venice'; and 'St Laurent'.

JAMES WATSON

F Marcus Arman



We are saddened to record the death on 17 February 1978 of Marcus Arman, the first Curator of the National Postal Museum and a regular contributor to the Philatelic Bulletin.

Mr Arman retired from the Post Office in 1970 after a lifetime of service, much of it spent on the routine work which helps to keep the vast organisation moving. When the National Postal Museum was opened in 1966 he was the natural choice as Curator and undertook the mammoth task of launching the new enterprise with the greatest enthusiasm. Apart from the day to day running of the Museum and the production of many fine displays, he found time to write, in his inimitable style, for all and sundry. We well remember his delight at being invited to contribute the early National Postal Museum notes to these pages. Since his retirement he continued his researches and always submitted his findings to us first and we have been pleased to publish many of his features.

An artist in his own right, and for many years a stalwart of the Post Office Arts Club. His sculptures were exhibited on several occasions and many of them grace his friends' homes.

His unfailing old world charm and courtesy; his love of life, his scholarly approach to all he undertook and his creative ability will be his memorial.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife Kit, and his family.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear $\frac{1}{2}p$ in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the Town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

2 March-30 September 1978 (P/R)

Caernarfon Gwynedd. Special posting box at Caernarfon Post Office, Castle Square, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2ED.

12 April 1978 (P/C)

Battle of the Saintes 12 April 1782 HMS Barfleur 12 April 78 British Forces 1605 Postal Service. Special posting box etc as for handstamp of 28 March 1978.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the Town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

3-29 April 1978

31 July-26 August 1978 (P)

Never a Care with a Phone Right There Cardiff Telephones. To be used at Cardiff. First period 1st class, second period 2nd class.

27 November-23 December 1978 (P)

Buzby Wishes All Many a Happy Call Cardiff Telephones. 1st and 2nd class.

3-29 April 1978

31 July-26 August 1978 (P)

Buzby Says Safeguard Your Home With a Phone Cardiff Telephones. First period 1st class, second period 2nd class.

These three Slogans to be used at Cardiff.

6 April-5 May 1978 (P)

The Sussex Air Pageant Goodwood Airfield 6 and 7 May 1978 in Aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund. To be used at Bognor Regis and Guildford. 2nd class.

17 March-27 April 1978

The Artful Butterfly An Exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute Kensington High Street, LONDON W8 6NQ 25

March-30 April. To be used at the following Offices:

Paddington DO, W8, Mount Pleasant, WDO, SEDO and NDO. All 1st class.

3-29 April 1978

Northampton Festival Arts Entertainments Trade EXPO Mayfair 20-29 May. To be used at Northampton. 1st and 2nd class.

6 March-29 April 1978

Derby Silver Jubilee City. To be used at Derby. 1st and 2nd class.

6 March-29 April 1978 (P)

Rotary Club of Paisley 1928-1978 Golden Jubilee. To be used at Paisley.

6 February 1978-12 February 1979 (P)

Except for dates 5-9 June 1978

Tayside Scotland's Region of the Rivers. To be used at Dundee. 1st class.

Repeat Campaigns

6 March-14 October 1978 (P)

Tatton Park Knutsford, Mansion Gardens, Country Park. To be reused at Altrincham. 2nd class.

6 March-7 July 1978

Collect Through the British Philatelic Bureau. To be reused at the following Offices:

Edinburgh — 3-14 April. 1st and 2nd.

Motherwell — 3-14 April. 1st.

Glasgow — 17-28 April. 1st.

Kirkcaldy — 17-28 April. 1st.

Perth — 1-12 May. 1st.

Oban — 1-12 May. 1st and 2nd.

Edinburgh — 15-26 May. 1st and 2nd.

Motherwell — 15-26 May. 1st.

Glasgow — 29 May-9 June. 1st.

Kirkcaldy — 29 May-9 June. 1st.

Perth — 12-23 June. 1st.

Oban — 12-23 June. 1st and 2nd.

Edinburgh — 26 June-7 July. 1st and 2nd.

Motherwell — 26 June-7 July. 1st.

2 April-18 August 1978

Visit Southport Flower Show. To be reused at Preston. 1st class.

P denotes Pictorial

Requests to reproduce articles and illustrations appearing in the *Bulletin* should be addressed to the Editor, Philatelic Bulletin, PMK 3, Postal Headquarters, St Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON EC1A 1HQ.

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

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