

BRITISH PHILATELIC

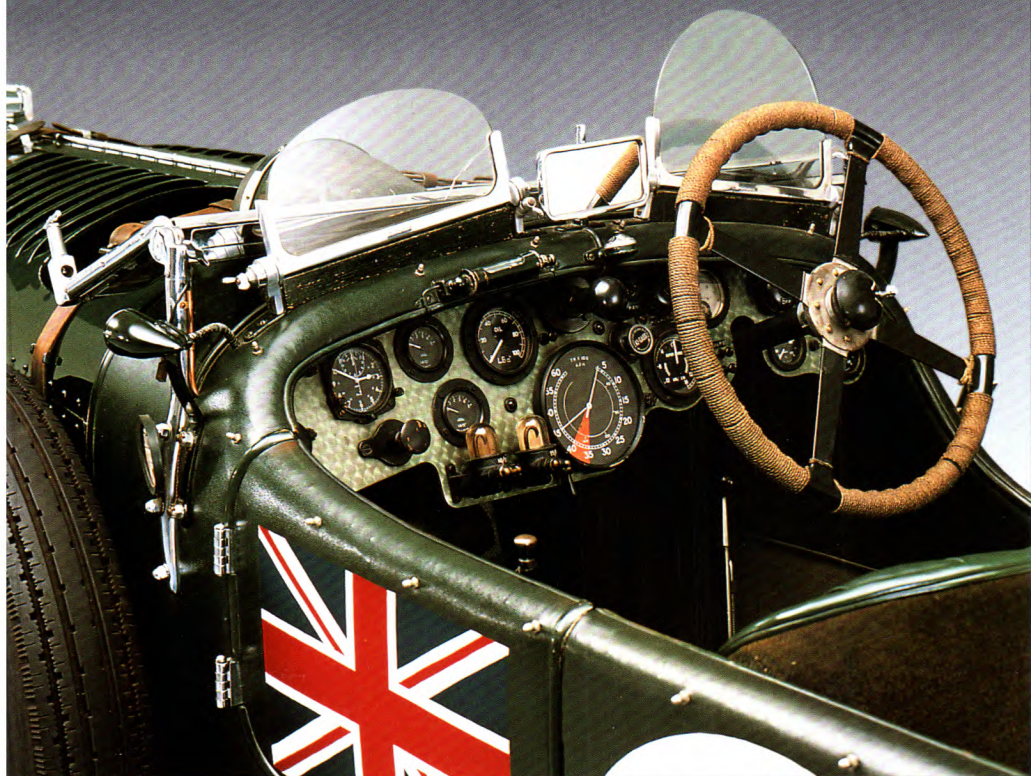
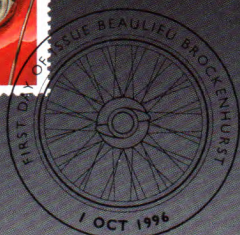
The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 34 Number 1

SEPTEMBER 1996 • 85p

Bulletin

Classic sports cars • College stamps • Historic mail flight



Forthcoming issues & withdrawals

Below are the proposed issues and withdrawals from 28 October to December. Any changes or additions will be notified in this magazine.

28 October issues 1996

Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp books (20 x 2nd, 10 x 1st) • 1996 Year Book (standard & leather bound versions) • 1996 Year Pack

29 October withdrawals

1995 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, & stamp books (20 x 19p, 10 x 25p, 4 x 60p)

30 October withdrawals

1995 Year Book & Year Pack; NPM 1995 Christmas postcards. Note: to be withdrawn at Bureau but remain on sale at NPM • £2 Edinburgh Castle stamp with Dextrin gum (version with PVA gum remains on sale)

11 December withdrawals

Walsall 4 x 2nd & Harrison 10 x 2nd books (issued December 1995)

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

3 September

Issue Big Stars of the Small Screen (Children's TV Characters) stamps, and presentation pack

3 September

Withdrawal Stamp books: 50p Sea Charts 4, £1 Inspiration for Victory 4, £2 Sir Rowland Hill 4 (yellow fluor, book with blue fluor remains on sale), 10 x 1st NVI Sainsbury's and Someone Special promotion books

4 September

Withdrawal Communications stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards

9 September

Issue Cake Promotion book, 10 x 1st NVI (two versions) Note: available from Bureau from 17 September

17 September

Issue W H Smith promotion book, 10 x 1st Note: date available from Bureau, sold at W H Smith shops since mid-July

24 September

Issue Classic Sports Cars stamp cards

September

Issue £5 Windsor Castle definitive with PVA gum

1 October

Issue Classic Sports Cars stamps & presentation pack • National Postal Museum postcards – Postal Vehicles • 1996 Christmas aerogramme

2 October

Withdrawal Rugby League stamps, presentation pack & stamp cards; 1995 Christmas aerogramme; 10 x 1st NVI book W H Smith promotion

4 October

Withdrawal 4 x 35p book (issued October 1995)

7 October

Issue Asda promotion book 10 x 1st NVI. Note: available from Asda stores from this date; philatelic availability to be announced

10 October

Withdrawal 25p definitive printed by Harrison with blue fluor (issued August 1995)

21 October

Issue 1996 Christmas stamp cards

Contents



ZEVU - OXFORD STAMP

Main feature

The College stamps of Oxford and Cambridge

Fred Gee recalls these interesting issues and the reasons for their relatively short existence **14**

The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. ● **Editor** JR Holman ● **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum ● **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT ● **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) ● 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 ● **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. ● **Design** by Robert Maude ● **Cover photograph** © The National Motor Museum Beaulieu ● **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press ● **ISSN** 0953 8119

Issues & withdrawals

for September to December **2**

Royal Mail news

Classic sports cars; Special issues for 1997; NPM news; Christmas aerogramme; Stamp book update; Burns stamps award **4**

Stamp scene

Autumn Stampex; Swiss stamp sets record; Capex '96; Conservation stamps; Yehudi Menuhin souvenir sheet **10**



North Atlantic airmails

60th anniversary of the Atlantic crossing of the *Lady Peace*, and Airmails update, by Richard Beith **18**



Out of the Arc One of the more unusual items from the Archives **22**

Women of Achievement stamps some of this year's Europa issues **23**

Look before you lick! Part 13: Voicing some differences, by Matt Hinton **24**

New President of the Royal Jane Moubray takes over the reins **25**

Books *Stanley Gibbons Collect Birds on Stamps*; Bolaffi International; *Cross Post*; *Themenscene*; *Railway Philately*; Sarawak Officials **27**

Competition

Win valuable Victorian stamps **29**

Posting boxes The highest posting boxes in the UK **30**

Customer knows best Cartoon fun **30**

Events for September and October **31**



CLASSIC SPORTS CARS

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



CLASSIC SPORTS CARS

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS

The pack includes car illustrations from the original catalogues, courtesy National Motor Museum, Beaulieu. The copy has been written by Quentin Willson, well-known motoring journalist of *Top Gear* magazine, and presenter of the *Top Gear* BBC2 series.

The stamps were designed by Simon Clay, born 1964, who studied at the Batley and Bournemouth & Poole colleges of Art & Design. He has worked in various photographic studios, as a self-employed photographer, and now as the photographer at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hants. Mr Clay, married with three children, cites music and motorcycling as his two main hobbies. He recently sold his Triumph 750 Bonneville to buy more photographic equipment to further his career – what devotion to duty!



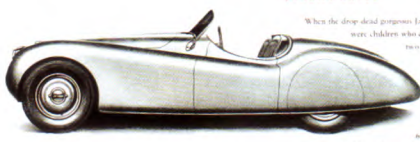
TRIUMPH TR3

The dream of every young man in a hurry who had to count the cost of his motorcar, Triumph's TR3 of 1955 was a sporty, smart and made a carver. The ultimate British Bulldog. What's more, it could crack 110 mph and cost a paltry £499. Triumph, like every other British car manufacturer, had its eye firmly on the car-crazy American market and exported 180 to the bookish. Back home it became a regular sight for sports up the Great North Road. With no door handles or wind-up windows, and a steering wheel that wouldn't look out of place on the deck of the Scantilo, it was a study in pure British trial. The TR3 was so low, you could put your hand out the door and stroke that rextangled tarmac.



JAGUAR XK120

When the drop-dead gorgeous Jaguar XK120 appeared in 1948, some on motor was a big deal, they were children who'd never seen a Formula and a firm from Detroit. It also set you back two pounds, small wonder then that post-war motorists began to look at the thousand-pound Jag and sighed in admiration. It was quite simply the most stunning looking thing made for the last two decades, and XK120 really did stand for 120 mph. But the world's tastiest standard production car couldn't be bought. Once Sir William Lyons had greatly underestimated demand and in the first two years the factory churned out just 40 XKs; you had to have a name like Clark Gable to own one. But by 1954 Lyons had worked his magic, and XK120 production had shot up to over 12,000 cars.



MORGAN PLUS FOUR

Morgan made Morgan the British motor industry's weekend phenomenon. That it survived all these years is all remarkable, but to have been so successful by progress breaks all the rules. The 1965 Plus Four of 1951 looks a lot like its 1996 incarnation with the same sweeping vintage running boards, side-opening bonnet and box-mounted luggage rack. From the first four wheeled Morgans of 1916, the Company has consistently sold everything it could get its hands on, while many larger car makers were the way of all flesh. And Morgans are still being built, but they're always been with a hand-tailored aluminium body and a modern framework, made up of 94 individual pieces of ash. If you think you're the only one plagued by the match of modernity and the information super-highway, take heart. To buy a Morgan today you still have to own a six-year-old racing hat.



Royal Mail news Classic sports cars • 1997 special issues • Christmas aerogramme • Stamp book update • Burns stamps award and exhibition • NPM news

Classic sports cars Stamps commemorating five popular classic British sports cars go on sale at post offices, and philatelic outlets on 1 October. This year marks the centenary of the first British-built car, and of the the first London-to-Brighton run.

The **20p** stamp (inland 2nd class rate) features the Triumph TR3 of which over 13,000 were produced between 1955 and 1957. The car was squat, snorty, and multi-carburettored. It was capable of speeds of 110mph, and cost what now seems a piffling £699. Triumph was keen to exploit the US market and many TR3s were exported. It was noted for its lack of door handles, wind-up windows and lowness of body.

The **26p** denomination (1st class inland & EU rate) depicts the MG TD, built between 1950 and 1953; nearly 30,000 were manufactured. It is said that during the war many GIs in Britain took a fancy to the old MGs much driven by Spitfire pilots. By 1949 the Nuffield Organisation had developed the MG TD, sold at £445, and capable of 80mph. Within three years over 23,000 had been exported to the USA, earning it the accolade of Britain's best-selling export. It was seen as a fun car, noted for the separation of the seats by just a slim gear-lever.

The subject for the **37p** value (airmail postcard rate) is the Austin-Healey 100, made between 1953 and 1956. Over 14,000 were produced of this car which was the star of the 1952 Earls Court Motor Show. It was capable of speeds of up to 115mph and could accelerate from 0 to 60 in just 12.3 seconds. Its price was a nostalgic £750.

The Jaguar XK120 is shown on the **43p** value (basic airmail letter rate). This was launched in 1948 when austerity was very much the 'name-of-the-game' in Britain. Yet by 1954 some 12,000 of these cars had been sold at almost £1000 each. XK120 really did stand for 120mph. In the early years production could not keep pace with demand and most were owned by the rich and famous.

The final stamp, the **63p** denomination (airmail letters, second rate step), depicts the Morgan Plus Four, capable of 105mph and manufactured from 1951 until 1969. In true Morgan tradition, numbers were limited, only 3737 were produced. When first sold it cost £565. From the first four-wheeled Morgans of 1936, the company sold everything it could make. Even today Morgan cars are still built in the traditional way and there is currently a six-year waiting list.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and



Technical details

Printers Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process Photogravure

Size 35mm square

Sheets 100

Perforation 14

Phosphor 20p: one band ●
26p-63p: two bands ● Blue
fluor in phosphor

Paper OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free

Gum PVA

Cylinder numbers and colours

20p P40 (phosphor) ● 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (bright scarlet) ● 1D (vermilion) ● 1E (new blue) ● 1F (black)

26p P41 (phosphor) ● 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (magenta) ● 1D (greenish blue) ● 1E (black)

37p P41 (phosphor) ● 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1C (bright magenta) ● 1D (deep turquoise-blue) ● 1E (new blue) ● 1F (black)

43p P41 (phosphor) ● 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 2C (magenta) ● 2D (greenish blue) ● 3E (black)

63p P41 (phosphor) ● 1A (silver) ● 1B (greenish yellow) ● 1D (magenta) ● 1D (greenish blue) ● 1E (stone) ● 1F (black)

Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 1 October, 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 Beaulieu, Brockenhurst. Beaulieu is the location of the National Motor Museum who have co-operated in the issue of these stamps. Price £2.64 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £2.25 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 1 October 1996.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (for Beaulieu postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed ‘FD9625’ (Bureau), or ‘FD9626’ (Beaulieu).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly 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).

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 20p Cars stamp to covers to receive all special cancels (‘first day of issue’, sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 1 October. The minimum 1st class rule is suspended on this day as the set includes a 2nd class rate stamp; this concession applies only to the 20p Cars stamp; otherwise covers must bear at least 1st class postage.

PRESENTATION PACK AND STAMP CARDS A presentation pack (price £2.25) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, and main post offices.

EARLIER CAR STAMPS Somewhat surprisingly for a country so associated with the car industry, motor vehicles have featured on relatively few British stamps. The Mini and Jaguar featured on the 6d stamp in the 1966 British Technology set and four stamps honouring the British Motor Industry (1982) depicted the Austin Seven and Metro, the Ford Model T and Escort, Jaguar SS1 and XJ6, and Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost and Silver Spirit.

Other motor vehicles have been depicted on: 1974 Fire Engines 3½p (first motor fire engine, 1904); 1974 UPV 8p (airmail van); 1976 Telephone Centenary 11p (Mini); 1979 Police 11½p (Land Rover); 1985 350 Years of Postal Service 17p, 22p & 31p (postal vehicles, buses and taxis); 1987 St John Ambulance 22p & 31p (ambulances). A toy car featured on one of the 1992 ‘Memories’ Greetings stamps. Commercial vehicles and vintage cars were depicted on 50p stamp book covers in 1978-81. Postal vehicles have been shown on other stamp book covers ●

1997 Special issues The provisional dates of issue are as shown opposite; any changes to these dates will be notified in this *Bulletin*.

The 1997 prestige stamp book, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the BBC, is expected to be issued in September. The two Scottish aerogrammes for 1997 will comprise: Centenary of birth of Sir Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone (April), and Nature of Scotland (July) •

6 January	Greetings
21 January	The Great Tudor: Henry VIII
11 March	Saints
13 May	Europa: Tales & Legends
10 June	Aircraft
8 July	All the Queen's Horses
12 August	Sub-Post Offices
9 September	Enid Blyton's Famous Five
7 October	Queen's Golden Wedding
28 October	Christmas

Christmas aerogramme Shown here is the 1996 Christmas aerogramme which goes on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets on 1 October, price 45p. It will remain on sale at post offices until 24 December. The aerogramme has been printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd. Christmas aerogrammes have been issued each year since 1965. The 1995 aerogramme is still available from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, price 45p. It will be withdrawn from sale on 2 October •



By air mail
For airmail
Aerogramme

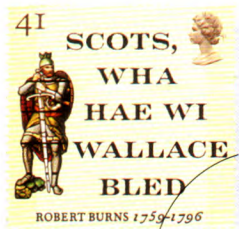


Great
Britain
Postage
Paid

£5 Castle new printing The £5 Windsor Castle stamp has now been reprinted on paper with PVA gum. Supplies will be available at the Bureau during September. It will go on sale at post offices as supplies of the stamp with PVA Dextrin gum are exhausted. The £1.50 and £2 stamps with PVA gum are also available from the Bureau •

Stamp book update The book containing 10 1st class NV1 stamps and a WH Smith coupon, announced here in July (page 329) will go on philatelic sale from 17 September – available from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets. It went on sale at WH Smith shops in mid-July.

Books bearing the printer's initial H (Harrison), Q (Questa) and W (Walsall) on the back cover went on sale on 6 August. The cylinder/plate numbers reported so far are: Harrison 10 x 1st B11 phosphor B99, 10 x 2nd B3 phosphor B8; Questa 10 x 2nd Q25Q25; Walsall 10 x 1st W52W39W42. Douglas Myall will report on these books in his next specialised article •

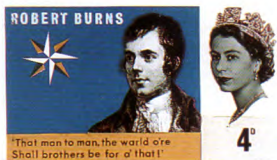


Burns stamps award Royal Mail's Robert Burns stamps recently received an award of excellence in the Society of Typographic Designers International TypoGraphic Awards. Over 400 entries, from 23 countries, as far afield as Taiwan and Puerto Rico, were assessed by an international panel of judges •

The touring exhibition on the life of Robert Burns, sponsored by Royal Mail, can be seen during September at: Inverness Library (until 12 September), Dundee Central Library (from 13 September), and the District History Centre & Baird Institute Museum, Cumnock.

A special handstamp will be in use for the duration of the exhibition. Collectors unable to visit the Museum can send covers (bearing 1st class postage) for this handstamp to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB. Please ask for NPM Mauritius handstamp and state date required.

National Postal Museum news An exhibition of Mauritius stamps from the collection of HM The Queen will be on view at the National Postal Museum from 23 September until 13 December 1996. This is the first time stamps from the Royal Collection have been on public view apart from the display at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace in 1965 and at major international stamp exhibitions. The display will include the famous, and extremely valuable 'Post Office Mauritius' stamps, the later 'primitives' and subsequent issues up to the 1947 Stamp Centenary issue. Exhibits will include essays, colour trials, and archival material as well as stamps.



Also on show at the Museum

is the *Post Haste!* exhibition of postal artefacts (see *Bulletin* November 1995, p89), part of the *Victorian posts* display (August 1995, p368), and the *Robert Burns: Man of Letters* exhibition (July 1996, p338). Above, unadopted Burns stamp 1966). These are in addition to permanent displays of British and world stamps and the famous R M Phillips collection of Victorian stamps.

For details of the Freddie Mercury collection phone Derrick on 0171 600 8914.

The new postcards will be on sale at the Museum shop (25p each), or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (£1 per set).

OTHER DISPLAYS In the temporary exhibition gallery on the ground floor, visitors can, until mid-September, see an exhibition relating to Sub Post Offices. This includes photographs of offices submitted in a competition arranged through *Practical Photography* magazine earlier in the year.

Amongst recent acquisitions, displayed in the main gallery, are some interesting examples of Missent Mail. In the early 18th century, 'missent' letters were treated in the same way as 'dead' letters and returned to the dead letter office in London, but in 1793 it was decided that missent mail should be forwarded to the correct destination direct from the office at which the mis-sending was discovered. Letters reached the wrong office for a variety of reasons, principally because the address was either wrong or insufficient. Sometimes letters travelled 'pick-a-back', having been accidentally caught up and trapped in the folds of another letter and this is also a fairly common reason for a 'missent' handstamp being used. Early missent letters were marked accordingly in manuscript, the earliest handstamps appearing about 1787 and remaining in use through to the 1860s. The handstamps exist in various designs and colours, the majority being made to a standard format and issued from the London office. Nowadays, the only evidence that a letter has been 'missent' is usually indicated by a circular datestamp of the 'wrong' office.

FREDDIE MERCURY COLLECTION The Museum's Freddie Mercury Collection proved popular at the international stamp exhibition, CAPEX, in Toronto in June. Derrick Page from the NPM was kept busy showing the collection to visitors and appearing on local radio and TV. The collection also received considerable mention in the press. Derrick estimates that 1500-2000 people each day viewed the collection. Postcards reproducing pages from the collection are on sale at the Museum shop (see *Bulletin* June 1995, p305).

NEW POSTCARDS The Museum will issue four cards on the theme of Classic Postal Vehicles on 1 October: NPM96/13 1956 Morris commercial LC5 mail van; 96/14 1961 Morris Minor 6cwt mail van; 96/15 1965 BSA Bantam 125cc motor cycle; 96/16 1970 Reliant Robin 21E Supervan 111 goods tricycle. All are in the Post Office Heritage Fleet. A special handstamp will be available on the day of issue. Collectors can submit cards/covers for this handstamp to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount

Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, requesting 'NPM special/1 October'.

MUSEUM ANNIVERSARY The Museum opened its doors 30 years ago this month. In 1965 Reginald M Phillips of Brighton presented his collection of British 19th century stamps to the Post Office to establish the Museum. The opening took place on 12 September 1966. It soon became evident that the Museum was too small and it was closed for enlargement. A much expanded museum was opened by The Queen in February 1969. Over the years many fine special exhibitions have been staged, complementing the permanent displays from the Phillips and other collections. In 1995 the NPM expanded into the area formerly occupied by the London Chief Post Office, enabling it to display more of its non-stamp material – vehicles, letter boxes, and other artefacts. It is pleasing that the number of visitors has increased markedly in recent months. We wish the Museum and its staff well for the future ●

Stamps Grand Prix The third annual Stamps Go-Cart Grand Prix between Royal Mail Security Print, and their six main printers, Harrisons, Questa, Walsall, Enschedé, McCorquodale, and White Dove, took place on 26 June. After many exciting races, the team trophy went to McCorquodale with Harrisons second and White Dove a close third. Royal Mail managed a magnificent sixth place. The final race for the coveted 'Best Boss' trophy was won by Richard Owers of White Dove Press (printers of this *Bulletin*), with Paul White of Walsall, Andrew Taylor of McCorquodale, and Jon Blackwell of Royal Mail in second, third, and fourth places ●

The Museum in King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, is open Monday-Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free. It is a short walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station. Enquiries: 0171 600 8914.



Jon Blackwell of Royal Mail ready for the off!

John Mackay retires Many dealers and some collectors will know John Mackay who was in charge of philatelic matters at Post Office HQ in London until 1985 when he returned north to become Controller Mails and Operations at the Scottish Postal Board. He was subsequently promoted to General Manager Royal Mail Scotland & Northern Ireland from which post he retires this month. We wish him a healthy and enjoyable retirement ●

New-look *Bulletin* I wish to thank all readers who have expressed their opinions on the recent redesign of the *Bulletin*. Some wrote in praise of the changes made, others preferred the former style. All comments have been carefully read and discussed with our new designer. JOHN HOLMAN ●

Royal Mail Stamp Manager runs for charity Steve Griffiths of Royal Mail's Philatelic Marketing Department will be taking part in the New York Marathon in November in order to raise funds for the Whizz-Kidz charity which assists non-mobile children in providing wheelchairs and other equipment. A keen sportsman and kit-fit fanatic, Steve was delighted to be in charge of the marketing of the Rugby League Centenary and Football Legends stamps. He was pictured with former soccer star George Best in last month's *Bulletin* ●

Steve would be pleased to hear from any *Bulletin* readers interested in sponsoring his marathon run in aid of a worthwhile cause: phone him on 0171 614 7026.

Stamp scene Autumn Stampex • Yehudi Menuhin souvenir sheet • Swiss stamp sets record • Astro Space Stamp Society • Roll of Distinguished Philatelists • Capex '96 • Conservation stamps • Youth philately



The Design Centre is a few minutes walk from Angel underground station (Northern Line), and served by the following bus routes: 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, 171A and 214. There is plenty of car parking space on site and in adjacent streets.

For further information and free tickets phone the Stampex office on 0171 490 1005, or write to: Stampex Ltd, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. A complimentary souvenir catalogue, containing full details of the exhibition, will be available in the entrance foyer.

Autumn Stampex 1996 The British national stamp exhibition will be held at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH from 18-22 September. The exhibition attracts over 100 stamp dealers and postal administrations and some 16,000 visitors.

ROYAL STAMPS AND GOLD MEDAL DISPLAYS Autumn Stampex hosts the British Philatelic Exhibition with competitive entries ranging from the junior Melville competition to the International Class where gold medal standard collections are displayed. There are also important invited displays.

The organisers are proud to be able to present a unique display of material from The Queen's Collection in the court of honour. The display will be housed in a light-controlled and secure structure enabling visitors to view the material at close range. Items on display will be from the collection of Treasury essays – designs submitted for the first UK postage stamps. The essays have been described as 'the predecessors of the Penny Black'. The material has been selected for display by Gerald Bodily and James Grimwood-Taylor, under the guidance of the Keeper of the Royal Collection, Mr Charles Goodwyn, RDP, FRPSL.

Members of the Great Britain Philatelic Society will display material from their collections; members will be in attendance throughout the exhibition. John Fosberry will exhibit material from his collection of South America. His Cats display proved very popular at Spring Stampex. Visitors will be able to vote for their favourite display in the Open Class. All voting forms will be entered in a prize draw.

Members of the Great Britain Philatelic Society will display material from their collections; members will be in attendance throughout the exhibition. John Fosberry will exhibit material from his collection of South America. His Cats display proved very popular at Spring Stampex.

Visitors will be able to vote for their favourite display in the Open Class. All voting forms will be entered in a prize draw.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS David Harrop will, as before, display items from his vast collection of postal artefacts, on the theme of 'Mail by Road'. Included will be models of postal vehicles. David's displays have proved very popular at previous exhibitions.

The National Philatelic Society, British Philatelic Trust, and Association of British Philatelic Societies will be attending, offering information on their services for collectors. The ABPS can advise collectors of specialist and local stamp clubs that may interest them.

FAMILIES WELCOME A crèche facility, supported by Steven Scott, stamp dealers of the Strand, will be available throughout the weekend. The service is free and licensed by the local council. All children coming to Stampex can collect a 'Goodybag' in the main entrance. Kids' Korner, run by the National Youth Stamp Group in the Gallery Hall, offers various supervised activities, organised for younger visitors. Youth officers will be on hand to advise young collectors, and the British Philatelic Trust will provide free packs of stamps for beginners to get started.

NEW LAYOUT A major revision of the floor plan has meant that the Royal Mail superbooth will not be on the mezzanine level. The ground floor, Village Green area, will accommodate prestige dealers and the court of honour. The competitive exhibits will be displayed in the Gallery Hall on the Gallery level. The invited displays will be found immediately next to the Gallery Hall.

ROYAL MAIL PARTICIPATION Staff from the British Philatelic Bureau will be on hand to answer questions and the full range of stamps, books and related material will be on sale. A special handstamp will be applied to mail posted at the Royal Mail stand, or sent to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, requesting Stampex handstamp and stating date(s) required. Covers should be submitted not later than the date of the postmark required •

Yehudi Menuhin 80th birthday The Philatelic Music Circle has honoured its patron, Lord Menuhin's 80th birthday with a souvenir sheet. This comprises the sheet showing Lord Menuhin, designed by Jennifer Toombs for the Circle's 21st birthday in 1990 overprinted '80th Birthday 22 April 1996'.

To purchase a souvenir sheet plus information about the Philatelic Music Circle, send £1.30 (\$2.60) to: David Cooper, 27 Bank Drive, Wisbech PE13 1PX or Cathleen Osborne, PO Box 1781, Sequim, Washington 93832, USA •

SIR YEHUDI MENUHIN OM • PATRON



Swiss stamp sets record On 22 June, on the initiative of the Swiss Postal Service, some 11,000 male and female gymnasts from all over Switzerland wearing coloured t-shirts and caps arranged themselves in such a way as to portray the A-post stamp design. Demanding choreography and covering some 28,000 square feet, this has been accepted as the 'world's largest living postage stamp – represented by human beings' for the *Guinness Book of Records*. An aerial photograph was taken and used on a stamp issued on 27 June. The A-post stamp costs 90 cents and covers the Swiss first class delivery service •



For further details send a stamped addressed envelope or two international reply coupons to: Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE.

Astro Space Stamp Society The Society invites readers over the age of 11 to take part in an imaginative competition. In less than 250 words (legibly written or typewritten), state your personal choice of individuals who are to go into space as an astronaut's crew. Prizes, donated by the Crown Agents, Guernsey and Netherlands postal administrations, cover producers Adrian Bradbury and Benham, will be awarded to the funniest and most original entries •

New RDPs Three eminent philatelists will sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Philatelic Congress of GB in Bristol next month. The Roll was established in 1921 and signing is the premier honour awarded philatelists. Nearly 300 have signed, of whom 66 are still alive, including 16 from GB. The new signatories are: Norman Squires Hubbard (USA), Yoon-Hong Kahn (Korea) and Tay Peng Hian (Singapore) •



Orders and enquiries about earlier issues Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Trust, Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. Telephone 01244 570881.

Conservation stamps Stamps issued for hunting licences or to raise funds for wildlife conservation have been issued in the USA for many years, popularly known to collectors as 'duck stamps'. The first British issues, by the Wildlife Habitat Trust and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust were reported here in December 1991 and January 1992.

The Wildlife Habitat Trust issued its sixth stamp on 28 June 1996. This features the Goldeneye on Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland – a large, almost land-locked marine inlet covering some 16,500 hectares. The Strangford Lough Wildlife Scheme, introduced in 1966, by local

people, waterfowl hunters, conservationists and the National Trust, aims to manage the dual conservation and recreation interests of the Lough. Wildfowling is strictly controlled through the NT working with the British Association for Shooting & Conservation and its six affiliated clubs on the Lough.

Sales of the stamps have assisted projects in the UK and in Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. In 1995 the WHT received the Diana Conservation Award, at a ceremony at the European Parliament, Strasbourg, in recognition of its pioneering work in introducing the duck stamp concept into Europe.

The new stamp, printed in sheets of six with decorative borders, costs £5 each. It is also available on first day cover – see *Commemorative Covers Review* for details. It should be noted that these stamps are not issued by Royal Mail and have no postal validity •

For information on the Association contact M J Elliott, Hon Treasurer: 15 Damien Way, Keymer, Hassocks BN9 8BH. Telephone 01273 843904.

Association of British Philatelic Societies Over 30 members attended the Association's second AGM held in Edinburgh on 29 June. Reports disclosed substantial progress in many activities such as participation in national and regional events, including Stampex and Stamp '96, the annual Philatelic Congress, and Midpex 1995. Many successful philatelic workshops were arranged during the year. Plans for Newcastle '96, the first national

event organised by ABPS, are well advanced. HM The Queen has agreed to the display of material from the Royal Philatelic Collection. Other events being planned include Brighton and Hove in 1998, Glasgow in 2000 and association with Midpex '97. A resolution that ABPS become a company limited by guarantee was approved •

Youth philately Stamp Active, the stamp activity club for kids, would like to hear from collectors and/or dealers prepared to help: (1) offer stamps at reduced prices to young collectors, and/or display a Stamp Active poster in a shop window or at a stamp fair; (2) donate some stamps or accessories to assist new junior or school clubs; (3) visit a club to give a short talk or display; (4) create a competition for juniors and offer prizes; (5) provide a small display for free loan to schools and clubs.

The National Youth Stamp Group, with the British Philatelic Trust, has provided support for over 500 school and junior stamp clubs through the Stamp Active programme since 1990 •

Successful Capex Richard Beith reports further on the international stamp exhibition held in Toronto in June (see August *Bulletin*, page 367). Canada Post Corporation, presenting sponsor of the exhibition, entered into the spirit of the show with great enthusiasm. In addition to their many sales outlets, they sponsored a series of short public talks devoted to such topics as a Guide to Philately on the Internet and a presentation of computerised stamp design by the originators of the recent Canadian Technology series of stamps. Canada Post launched their new Centenary of the Yukon gold rush stamps at Capex. Among their static exhibits was a reconstruction of the Ponchon (molasses barrel) fitted with a sail and a rudder which was used in the winter of 1910 by the inhabitants of the Magdalen Islands to send mail in the general direction of the Nova Scotia coast. This emergency mail was necessary as the telegraph cable to the island had broken, and, yes the ponchon, a larger relation to the St Kilda mailboat, was found on the Nova Scotia shore and the mail forwarded to Halifax PO.

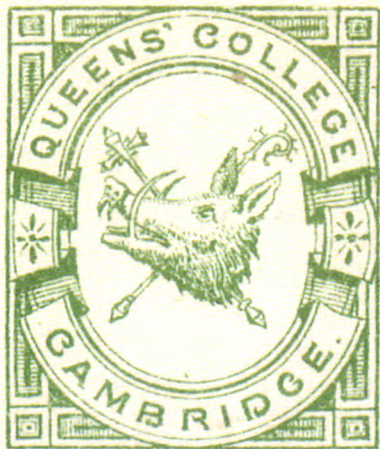
The only disappointment at Capex was the modest number of dealers. In particular dealers from the USA were not as strongly represented as one would have thought – some dealers were saving up for the big Pacific '97 show in San Francisco (29 May-8 June 1997), and others had been put off by the complicated Canadian customs and tax regulations. Britons, used to VAT inclusive pricing for goods and services, found that with the current Canadian tax system, two kinds of taxes, a goods and services tax and sometimes a local sales tax were added to indicated prices whether for accommodation, meals, even stamps from the Canada Post counter for use on postcards back home. This meant that the 90c stamp for the airmail postcard rate to Europe actually cost 96c! •

All offers and help and enquiries to Stamp Active, 3 Longtellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB. Telephone 01295 255831.



The Ponchon Magdalen Islands mailboat

The College stamps of Oxford and Cambridge A brief, but fascinating episode in GB philatelic history, by Fred Gee



206% actual size

Although the stamps issued during the period 1871-86 by some of the Colleges in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have from time to time been mentioned in passing in the *Bulletin*, this magazine has never carried what might be called a definitive article about them. The following paragraphs are therefore an attempt to answer, for readers who are perhaps not familiar with these stamps, the obvious questions which must spring to mind: Why did some of the Oxford and Cambridge Colleges issue stamps? Were they intended merely as souvenirs to take advantage of the potentially lucrative tourist trade, or did they serve a genuine and useful purpose? If the latter, why were they withdrawn by the Colleges, in both Universities, more or less simultaneously? Which of the Colleges issued stamps and what did those stamps look like?

Before plunging into my attempt to answer questions such as these, three points need to be dealt with. Firstly, it may reasonably be asked why stamps which were not issued by the Post Office should be an appropriate subject for an article in this *Bulletin*? My response to this would be that the story of the College stamps merits space here because it provides us with an example of the philosophy of the PO towards private postal services, and illustrates how the PO was prepared to defend its monopoly of issuing postage stamps.

Secondly, I must acknowledge that much of the information which I have gleaned about the College stamps has been derived from two publications, both having the same title as this article. The first, by the Rev Hayman Cummings, was published in 1904; it was from this book, when I came across it quite by chance some 40 years ago gathering dust (the book, that is, not me) in an Oxford College library, that I first learned of the existence of these stamps. The second book, amplifying the work of the Rev Cummings, was by Raymond Lister and was published by the Golden Head Press (Cam-



bridge) in 1966. It is inevitable that much of the information from these two sources will reappear in whatever I write about these Oxford and Cambridge stamps. I am also indebted to Mr Chris Harman, FRPSL, for his useful comments on my original draft of this article.

The third introductory point is that, in order to understand why these stamps were issued, it is necessary to be aware of the Messenger systems in these two ancient Universities. Unlike most British Universities, Oxford and Cambridge are not 'single campus' establishments. They each comprise a number of more or less independent Colleges (or Halls) which have a sort of 'federal' relationship as parts of the respective Universities, and these Colleges are geographically scattered across the two cities. It appears that, from their earliest days, these Colleges had enjoyed the liberty of arranging postal delivery services amongst themselves. Certainly, in 1656 the Long Parliament confirmed to the two Universities their 'existing rights and privileges of having special carriers to carry and re-carry letters', and these rights and privileges were re-enacted in the reign of Charles II and were specifically reserved by an Act of Queen Anne.

The usual method by which, from time immemorial, a member of a College had paid for the use of his College's Messenger service was simply by writing his name, or even just his initials, on the card or envelope carrying his message, before depositing it in a message box in the entrance lodge of the College. As the cards and letters were sorted (by a College servant) for delivery to other Colleges or to local tradesmen within the city boundaries, a note would be kept of the names of the senders, and any charges incurred would be added to the periodic accounts presented to each member of the College. In the 1870s and 1880s, the charge was, generally, ½d per item (although at Lincoln College, Oxford, it appears to have been 1d).

It took the establishment at Oxford of a new College to revolutionise this time-honoured system, namely, Keble College, which took in its first undergraduates in 1870. By that time, adhesive stamps had been in use on the Royal Mail

for 30 years but, as a method of prepaying charges for Messenger services, had been ignored by the Oxford and Cambridge Colleges. Keble, however, which like the longer-established Colleges was able to enjoy the benefits of the Messenger system, decided at a very early stage that a more efficient method was needed to collect the charges for this service. So, the first College stamp was issued – this was almost certainly for the start of the Michaelmas (Autumn) term of 1871.

This first stamp was not a very ambitious design. It comprised the College coat of arms, in a pointed oval shape, embossed by a steel die on a coarse paper with a bright orange-vermilion surface. This design was used by Keble for several subsequent issues until October 1876, on paper of different shades of magenta as well as orange-vermilion, and with variations in the size of stamp and in the perforation gauges.

Although the use of adhesive stamps appears to have been a success for Keble, it was several years before any of the other ultra-conservative and ultra-cautious Oxford Colleges followed suit, but stamps were eventually issued by Merton (1876) and then by Lincoln (1877). Hertford College had had stamps printed in 1875, but hesitated until 1879 before bringing them into use. Exeter College issued stamps in 1882 and, at this stage, the idea of using adhesive stamps to prepay Messenger service charges spread to Cambridge. As at Oxford, it was the establishment of a new College which prompted their introduction: this was by Selwyn College, opened in 1882.

The idea was soon adopted by two more Cambridge Colleges, namely, Queens' (1883) and St John's (1884), and also in 1884 by two further Oxford Colleges – All Souls and St John's (the latter not to be confused with its Cambridge namesake). Finally, Balliol College, Oxford had stamps printed in 1885 but never did get around to using them.

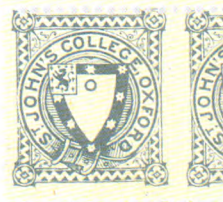
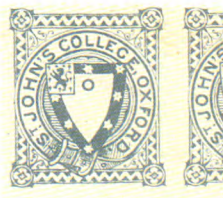
Only Merton College at Oxford followed the initial Keble example of embossing the stamp design on surface-coloured paper (in Merton's case, the design depicted a circular version of the College coat of arms and the papers used were

in shades of blue). But, after several years' use, the embossed stamps of both Keble and Merton were replaced with lithographed issues, and the other Colleges, with the exception of Lincoln, used lithography for all their adhesive stamps. The central element of the designs of all these stamps (both Oxford and Cambridge) was the coat of arms, or related heraldic symbol, of the particular College. This was usually set within a rectangular frame and against an ornamented background, and was inscribed with the name of the College (in some instances in Latin).

The only stamp to provide an indication of its value was that of Lincoln College which, printed by the line engraved process, was inscribed 'Message One Penny' – perhaps because Lincoln's rate was an exception to the general rule of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per item. Blue seems to have been the most popular colour with the Oxford Colleges (perhaps surprisingly, not dark blue, except at Lincoln), although mauve was favoured by Hertford, and also by Merton when they changed to lithographed stamps, and the Exeter stamps were printed in a salmon shade. All three Cambridge stamps were lithographed: Selwyn was printed in black on magenta paper, while the other two were printed on white paper, Queens' in bright green and St John's in scarlet.

In addition to the adhesive stamps, stamped stationery was made available for inter-College messages at four of the Oxford Colleges (Keble, Merton, Hertford, and Exeter) in the form of envelopes or cards embossed with the College's coat of arms. The colours used for these pre-printed stamps were vermillion at Keble, blue at Merton, mauve and then later blue at Hertford, and scarlet at Exeter.

The College stamps offer some interesting varieties – for example, the first lithographed stamp of Keble had the printer's name below the



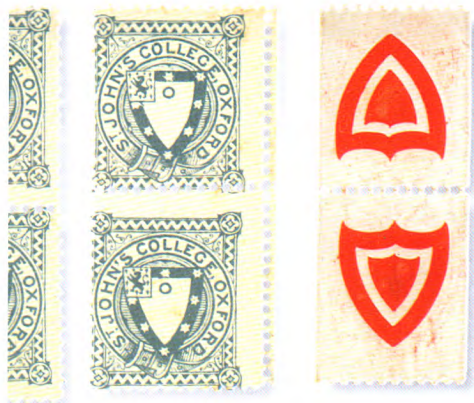
bottom frame line and on the issues of 1876 and 1879 this imprint displayed differences in the lettering. The 1882 version of this design, from a different printer, differed slightly from the original and bore no such imprint.

The stamps of Exeter and St John's (Oxford) share an unusual characteristic in that the printing plates for these stamps were made up, not from repeated identical impressions of the master die of the design, but from transfer dies containing six impressions of the stamp. Each impression in the block of six was separately transferred from the master and displayed minor differences from its neighbours, so on every sheet printed there were six recurring varieties. The plates for the lithographed stamps of Merton College were produced in a similar way, but using blocks of four transfer dies so that with these there are four constant varieties.

These College stamps were in use for only a few years and, during its relatively short life, any particular design of stamp would have been used by only a small number of people – that is, the members of a single College, in those days often less than 100 undergraduates and dons. Not surprisingly, used copies of any of the College adhesive stamps or of items of the stamped stationery are now rarely seen, but on the other hand, mint examples, at least of the later issues, can still be found from time to time. This is because, when the stamps were withdrawn in 1886, the Colleges or their printers were left with remainders which

College Notice.





could no longer be used for the purposes of the Colleges' Messenger systems and, as might be expected, some of these surplus stocks found their way into the philatelic trade – in some cases many years later, as store rooms were cleared out.

Of all the designs for the College stamps, the least imaginative was surely that for the unissued stamp prepared in 1885 for Balliol College, Oxford, which comprised simply a bright red shield on a plain white background, with no ornamentation and no wording – not even the name of the College. This 'stamp that never was' did at least provide an interesting oddity: the shield was embossed on to strips of paper which were fed into the press first from one end and then from the other, so that in the middle of every strip of stamps there was a 'tête-bêche' pair of impressions. (Being introduced into the embossing press in a similar manner, albeit mostly in sheets rather than in strips, some of the embossed issues of Keble, and possibly of Merton, yielded tête-bêche pairs.)

The reason for Balliol College's failure to issue its stamp was the reason behind the withdrawal from use of all the other Oxford and Cambridge College stamps. Why was it that, after several years of acceptance and apparent success, the use of stamps on inter-College messages was abruptly abandoned in 1886? It is here that we come to the part played by the PO, which had always jealously guarded its monopoly of carrying letters by post and, since 1840, of issuing

postage stamps.

Over the years, the PO had been obliged to tolerate the existence of the College Messenger posts in Oxford and Cambridge because, as we have seen, this long-established custom was protected by Statute. But whether or not the legal status of the Messenger services permitted the Colleges to issue stamps was open to question. The surprising thing is that the PO allowed the Colleges to continue issuing stamps for so long before eventually pressing their objections. Perhaps it was because Oxford and Cambridge Colleges were in those days far more influential politically, being so well represented 'in high places'. Nevertheless, by 1885 the Postmaster General was putting pressure on the College authorities to cease the practice and eventually, in January 1886, he wrote formally to representatives of the Oxford Colleges demanding, on the basis that the PO monopoly was being infringed, not only that those Colleges issuing stamps should cease to do so, but also that the College Messenger services should be brought to an end and replaced by an extended PO collection and delivery service.

The following month he received a reply on behalf of the Heads of all the Oxford Colleges which stated politely – but ambiguously – that the Colleges would be recommended 'to bring their arrangements for the delivery of notes and messages within the requirements of the law'. Presumably similar communications had passed between the PMG and the Cambridge Colleges because over the next few months the use of stamps was abandoned in both Universities. But the Colleges obviously felt that 'the requirements of the law' did not entail the suspension of their Messenger systems, and those services have continued at most Oxford and Cambridge Colleges to the present day – but, of course, without the use of adhesive stamps or stamped stationery.

So Balliol College never did issue its 'red shield' stamps, and thus there came to an end a brief, but fascinating, episode in GB philatelic history ●

The College stamps of Oxford and Cambridge (the adhesives only, not the stamped stationery) are listed in the Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue Volume 1 as an appendix. Editor.

North Atlantic air mails 60th anniversary of the double Atlantic crossing of the *Lady Peace*, by Richard Beith

Historic transatlantic air mail flights have always held a great fascination for aviation enthusiasts and aerophilatelists alike. This article tells of a remarkable double flight which took place 60 years ago this month.

In 1936, the 43-year old American Harry Richman, amateur pilot and well-known Broadway and radio entertainer, decided to extend his flying experience to encompass a record-breaking flight across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom and back. This was to be one of the first double crossings of the Atlantic other than by an airship. For this he would need a fast modern machine and a senior professional flyer as his co-pilot.

Richman bought an existing Vultee V1-A single-engine monoplane, registration NR-13770, had a new 1000hp Wright G-2 Cyclone engine fitted and christened the plane *Lady Peace* because of the sombre political climate growing in Europe. Additional fuel tanks were fitted giving a total capacity of 1006 gallons, resulting in a 4000 mile cruising range. The wings were filled with 30,000 table-tennis balls to help floatation in the event of a forced landing at sea. Richman's 'co-pilot' was the very experienced Henry T 'Dick' Merrill, at the time, Senior Captain for Eastern Airlines, a major American operator.

After waiting for the best (or least bad) weather conditions, the flight eventually started from New York's Floyd Bennett Field on 2 September 1936. As the flight progressed, wireless reports indicated passage over St John, New Brunswick, the Cabot Straits and out over the Atlantic at a cruising speed of 186 mph. Later they ran into terrible weather and flew over Ireland without realising that they had passed over land. Their radio gave up over the Irish Sea so, with fuel running low, they headed East looking for anywhere in the British Isles to land. The first land they saw

was in South Wales and Merrill was able to land in a green field at Llwynneclyn, Carmarthenshire, about 175 miles short of London. They had made the Atlantic crossing in a new record time of 18 hours and 6 minutes. Refuelled at last, *Lady Peace* arrived at London's Croydon airport on 4 September to a warm welcome.

Richman had originally planned a quick turnaround for the return trip, but wisely decided to remain for a week or so before flying home. On Sunday 6 December Richman and Merrill flew to Paris, staying overnight to be wined and dined by the newspaper *Paris-Soir*. On 10 September the flyers took *Lady Peace* north to Lancashire, eventually deciding to use the long firm sands of Southport beach, instead of Liverpool's Speke Airport, as the location for their final, hazardous, fuel laden take-off. With full cooperation from the local authorities in Southport, a two mile long x 250 ft wide runway was prepared. The photograph opposite shows *Lady Peace* on the shore at Southport, surrounded by well-wishers. After taking breakfast with Thomas Ball, the Mayor of Southport, at 2am in the Prince of Wales Hotel, the flyers were safely away at

3.03am on 14 September. Flying conditions were excellent for the early part of the flight but the instruments later showed that fuel consumption was excessive and a landing in Newfoundland became essential. Merrill was able to land near Musgrave Harbour but the chosen clearing turned out to be a bog and the plane tipped up on its nose before sinking back into the soft ground. Damage was slight, but this was not known to the management of Eastern Airlines back in Newark, New Jersey. The First World War fighter ace, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, now General Manager of Eastern Airlines, was so concerned that he ordered one of the airline's Douglas DC2s loaded with fuel and supplies. Luckily a radio message was received stating that the problems were not so serious and Rickenbacker flew up to Harbour Grace, eventually reaching the *Lady Peace* by boat. On the morning of 18 September Merrill was able to take off and landed at Harbour Grace for some ad-hoc repairs. Eventually *Lady Peace* touched down at Floyd Bennett Field on 21 September.

Aerophilatic souvenirs As with many other early transatlantic flights, souvenir mails were not forgotten, and a handful of covers, perhaps 20 or so in number, were carried on this flight. The eastbound and westbound flights are listed separately in the American Airmail Society Catalogue as TO 1264 and TO 1266 with 1990 valuations of us \$500 and \$300 respectively. However, the only covers or photocopies seen by the writer

are all for round trip, there and back, items. A typical flown cover is shown below, unfortunately not from the author's collection!

One further souvenir may still be in the archives of the City of New York; an official letter from Councillor T Ball, the Mayor of Southport to his counterpart in New York. The text was given in the local paper *The Southport Visiter* at the time of the flight:

'Sir, On the occasion of the return of the Transatlantic Flyers, Harry Richman and Dick Merrill, I take pleasure on behalf of the people of Southport and the Mayoress and myself in extending the heartiest good wishes to yourself and the citizens of New York. May the *Lady Peace* be a real peace bringer to the nations of the earth.'

More unusual souvenirs exist in the form of the bouyancy-promoting ping pong balls signed by Merrill and Richman! Perhaps these were sold for charity after the flight? Certainly the ping pong balls were later put to their original designed use when they were donated to us Army canteens during the Second World War.

Postscript What happened to *Lady Peace* after the flight? It was sold to Robert Cuse, an aviation entrepreneur in New York and sold on, much to Richman's disgust, for use by the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War. The ship carrying the plane was stopped by the Nationalists at sea, so the Vultee ended up flying for the rebels. It survived in Spain until 1950 •

A typical flown cover

In sequence, the postmarks are: CONEY ISL STA BROOKLYN NY SEP 2, 3PM, 1936
LLANDILLO, CARMARTHENSHIRE 10.45 AM 4 SP 36,
SOUTHPORT, LANCS 3-AM 14 SP 36
MUSGRAVE HR NEWF'D SP 14 36 (Manuscript addition: 3.30pm)
BROOKLYN NY RECD SEP 24 1936 (Backstamp).



Air mails update by Richard Beith

Richard Beith submits information received from readers following publication of his article *Via Rome*, (November 1995) and *Twice Across the Atlantic* (February 1996).

A reader in North Humberside wondered if the inscription 'Via Roma' on the July 1937 registered cover from Hampstead to Palma de Mallorca was an indication of the road on which the Consulate was located rather than a postal routing direction. I can now say that the address of the Consulate in 1937 was Calle Almudaina, 11. However, there was a Via Roma in Palma, which was the location of the Censor's office. Whatever the meaning of this endorsement, which was in the same handwriting as the address, there is no doubting that the cover went via Italy.

Two readers contributed useful comments and photocopies concerning *Twice Across the Atlantic*. Michael Wright of London supplied copies of two covers which should be described as attempted 'twice across the atlantic' covers in the reverse direction, that is from the UK to Nigeria. They are dated 10 March 1942, received 13 April 1942, and 6 August 1943, received 1 October 1943. Both are endorsed 'North Atlantic Air Service' and franked at nine shillings and four shillings and six pence respectively, suggesting that there was a 4/6d rate. However, as noted in the original article, there is no air mail rate to West Africa listed in the Post Office Circulars of the time. As the covers were not registered there are no other transit marks to identify the route taken. The same writer also submitted a copy of a registered letter from Basel, Switzerland, 12.8.43, to Port Harcourt in Nigeria, reached on 4.12.43. This cover did travel via the USA and carries transit marks from New York, 22.10.43 and 28.10.43 and Miami on 29.10.43. It certainly crossed the Atlantic twice, but was it by air all the way?

I am indebted to Roland F Kohl, Zurich, President of FISA, the International Federation of Air Mail Societies, for confirming that such an air mail route was listed in the monthly circulars issued by the Swiss Post Office. Their August 1943 circular notes that mail for Gold Coast, Gambia, British Camerouns, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone was scheduled to be flown: Zurich-Stuttgart; Stuttgart-Lisbon; Lisbon-New York and New York-Lagos. The letter was correctly franked at Fr 2.10 = 30rp foreign letter, 30rp registration and 150 rp air fee/5g. Mrs Swinburn of Somerset supplied a photocopy of a cover from the Free French Camerouns to England, franked at FF55 which had made the double transit. Postmarks were Melong, Cameroun 19.6.42, Lagos, registered 28.6.42, Miami registered 2.7.42 and New York 2.7.42. No British receipt mark so impossible to confirm that it was flown on the North Atlantic •

North Atlantic air mails references and acknowledgements

Beith R Southport Sands to New York in *Air Mail News*, December 1989 pp75-79

Howson G *Aircraft of the Spanish Civil War*, London, Putnam 1990

Thanks to two aerophilatelic friends from the English Midlands: Larry Chamberlain and Ken Clark

Lady Peace cigarette card supplied by Roy Davis, reproduced courtesy of Rothmans International

Air mails update acknowledgement

J L Blakemore Esq, HM Consul, Palma de Mallorca

Out of the Arc Curiosities from the Post Office Archives

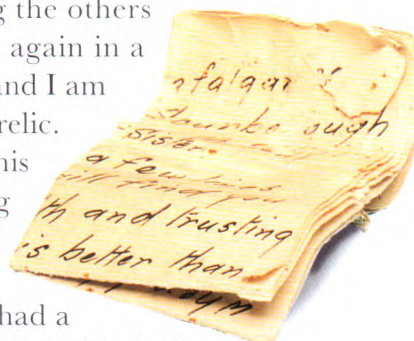
One of the more unusual items from the Archives this month is a First World War relic. A small oxo tin was found to contain a letter, a bit of shrapnel and a postman's button. A transcript reveals all!



49 Trafalgar Square, Scarborough, 10
Feb'y 15 ❖ Dear Brother & Sister ❖ Just
a few lines hoping they will find you in
good health and trusting that Sarah is
better than when I heard from you

last. ❖ I am pleased to say we are all quite well, and
not at all downhearted after our experience of the 16th Decem-
ber, when the Germans bombarded us, but we have had our revenge by
the sinking of the *Blucher* and the trouncing the others
got, I don't think they will venture to come again in a
hurry. ❖ One of our poor fellows was killed, and I am
sending you one of his waistcoat buttons as a relic.

He was struck by a shell before it burst and his
body was blown to pieces. I am also sending
you a small piece of a shell that burst over
our office, and dropped in the yard. It is only
a small piece, but it will do for a relic. ❖ We had a
visit from Will, when he came over from Canada. He looks
well, but he did not stay long with us, coming over from York, and going
back the same night. ❖ Willie and Effie often write to each other, so we fre-
quently get news from Mappowder. Grandad I hear does not get out much
now, but trust he will pick up as the spring comes on. ❖ I think as soon



as better weather comes, the Allies will make a move and that then
there will be stirring times in France and Belgium. ❖ Are you
working in Bristol now or are you away from Home. ❖
Remember me to Fanny when you see her and with kind-
est regards to Sarah and the boys, believe me to remain ❖
Your affectionate brother

Wm S. Cox

ps We suffered no damage during the Bombardment, and there was no
reply to the German guns, as we have no guns to reply with, I only wish
we had had some.

Women of Achievement Shown here are some of this year's Europa stamps, all on the theme of Women of Achievement. The British set, issued on 6 August, features Dorothy Hodgkin, Margot Fonteyn, Elisabeth Frink, Daphne du Maurier and Marea Hartman.



Left to right, from top Iceland, Belgium, Finland, Portugal, Lithuania, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, San Marino, Gibraltar, France, Estonia and Isle of Man

Look before you lick! 13

Voicing some differences, by

Matt Hinton

Right Above, £10 postcard.
Below, £10 stamp

Far right 3p Silver Wedding
stamps: Jumelle (left) and
Rembrandt (right)

The Britannia £10 There have been, over the years, some very interesting firsts – for example, the first ever top hat proved to be so controversial that the wearer was arrested for disturbing the peace! And did you know that the first submarine was covered with greased leather in order to keep it waterproof!

One of the most memorable philatelic firsts was the first ever £10 stamp, issued in March 1993. Close inspection of the stamp card (PHQ card) reveals some incredible variations between its design and that of the actual stamp. I shall outline the major ones which I know of, although I suspect that there are more.

- 1 The colours are aligned differently on the stamp card. Their relative positions vary from those of the stamp itself and this can be seen in many places. The most noticeable effect is seen in the position of the metallic crosses which do not coincide with the same parts of the design on the card as on the stamp.

- 2 Britannia is keeping her knee out of sight on the stamp but is fully visible on the card. This is arguably, an effect of the above.

- 3 She is also not wearing her bracelet on the stamp whilst on the card she has taken a little more care over her appearance.

- 4 The same is true of the necklace.

- 5 The lines on the staff travel in totally opposing directions.

- 6 The horizontal lines on the stamp card can be seen to actually be tiny 'TEN POUNDS' on the stamp.

- 7 And the most striking difference of all – the fork is completely differently shaped on the stamp card. The design used for the fork on the stamp is the same as that of the special hand-



stamp, looking a little like a garden fork, but on the card it is much more rounded and a little more reminiscent of the devil's fork. The differences between the stamp shown on the card and the stamp itself, were deliberate and not done in error.

There were several essays for this stamp, showing differences in the basic design. These were described by James Negus in the *Bulletin* publication *British Stamp Design – the Work of the Stamp Advisory Committee*.

Whilst discussing the £10 high value stamp, it may be of interest to collectors of high value definitives that the £10 stamps look very interesting under ultra-violet light. As a security measure, very much at the forefront of the designer's and Royal Mail's mind at the time, fluorescent ink is used on different examples – from different cylinders – in various places. Some have the wheel covered by it, some of the £10 and so on. Why not have a look for yourself? The fluorescence glows beautifully and the effect is almost as good as when the stamp is viewed under normal light.

Silver head-ing set The Royal Silver Wedding set of 20 November 1972, showing the two heads, is also a most interesting set. This is due to the fact that two different machines were used during the production of the stamps. Firstly, the Rembrandt produced stamps in sheets of 100, 10x10, from



cylinders 3A, 1B and 11C. These have no gutter margin, unlike those produced by the Jumelle. These stamps are in sheets made up of two panes of fifty, which are separated by a central gutter. The ink cylinders used by the Jumelle are also different from those of the Rembrandt – namely 1A, 1B and 3C. The 1A dark brown is noticeably lighter than the Rembrandt 3A and is not quite as well-defined. The silver colour is also a little less clear.

There are, in addition, a few curious varieties to collect. The Rembrandt 3p from position R9/6 shows a patch over the Queen's eyebrows, for example. There are values with missing phosphor (SG w326b – worth around £15), phosphor printed on the gummed side as well as the design side, various shifts of silver (average retail price about £15) and a perforation shift which slices the Duke's nose.

The most valuable error that I know of in this series is the Rembrandt 3p with the silver omitted entirely (SG 916a). A strip of four with one stamp completely affected and one partially affected was recently offered for £250 as was a lower left traffic light block of ten stamps with four completely omitted silver and two with the value affected similarly. The silver cylinder number if not present, and neither is the silver traffic light dot – making this a significant piece worth £750.

But if the complete omission of the silver colour is a little too pricey for you, why not get hold of the 20p with the silver dry printed instead? It can be picked up for about £10! •



The Royal's new President

On 20 June, Francis Kiddle completed a successful term as President of The Royal Philatelic Society London and handed over the reins to Jane Moubray who has been a Vice President for four years and a member of the council since 1983.

Jane, born near Harrogate in Yorkshire in 1932, comes from a philatelic family stretching over five generations. Her grandfather, father and son have all formed fine collections and grandson James, who is not yet nine, has just begun.

Her interests range over the traditional and postal history disciplines – she has served on national and international juries – but her particular loves are for the 1840 and 1841 twopenny issues of Great Britain and for all things Canadian from stamps to stationery.

Her husband, Michael, is also a collector and together they wrote the book *British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840-1875*, published by the Royal four years ago. A shared collection forms the background to this book, the aim of which was to encourage the postal history enthusiast in the hunt for the unusual by painting a picture of prevailing conditions, both social and commercial. The family farms in Rutland but, whenever either author can spare the time, they can be found in the Post Office Archives seeking further facts to satisfy the absorbing study of transit mail – a topic only lightly touched upon in *British Letter Mail*.

Although very cognizant of the fact that she is the first woman to hold the office of President of

the Royal, Jane sincerely hopes that she will not be remembered only for this caprice of nature, but for continuing and building upon the work of her predecessors for whom she has the greatest admiration.

Since its inception in 1869, the society has upheld the very highest traditions of philately and scholarship and, in reading its history, one cannot but be impressed to find the names of well-known past students on nearly every page. However, scholarship without companionship would be mean fare, and Jane is particularly pleased that No 41 is also one of the friendliest places she knows. The Council and staff welcome all members and guests and go out of their way to make each visit happy and worthwhile.

In this day and age, when train fares are expensive, it is not always easy for members to come to the meetings in London, and it is for this reason that efforts are being made to organise informal get-togethers in the provinces. Several of our County Representatives have run extremely successful meetings of this type, either in members' homes where the informal atmosphere is much appreciated, or in a suitably convenient hotel.

The society is now frequently asked to provide displays at national or international exhibitions. One such has just returned from Capex '96 and several frames of postal stationery were shown at Finlandia during May 1995. Yet another display was mounted in the Postal Museum in Singapore for three months during which the September 1995 international exhibition took place. This practice is welcomed by the large overseas membership, for it helps to make them feel part of the family.

The library – the best of its kind in the world – grows by the day and this can only be for the good. However, space is at a premium and Jane

hopes that during her presidency, plans can be laid to provide added safe housing for the collection of books, journals, catalogues and papers which are the basis of all good study.

She also hopes that the society will be enabled to keep abreast of modern technology so that reference is made as simple as possible and valuable time is spent on the research itself rather than on the hunt for the vehicle which contains it.

As a member of the Expert Committee, much of her time in the past has been devoted to work on its behalf. It is sometimes thought that the Committee deals only with classic material but this is far from the case. Modern varieties such as missing colours, missing phosphor bands, varieties of coated paper and unusual shades also come its way and this trend is increasing.

All in all, there is much to do, but on the other hand there is an energetic membership for which one is sincerely grateful. There is always room for more philatelists in The Royal and if

they can offer some active help, so much the better. Jane feels that her immediate aim to head a happy ship, in which the hobby of philately can be pursued to its ultimate and in which all the fellows and members feel that their participation has been amply rewarded.

On a personal note she hopes to meet as many stamp collectors as possible for, whether they be beginners or veterans, professional or amateur, young or old, most of them are absolutely charming and, as a most respected collector and counsellor told her many years ago, 'In this hobby one learns something every day'.

For details of membership of the Royal, send a stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon to: Hon Secretary, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London

WIN IPE ●



Francis Kiddle and Jane Moubray.
Photo: Clem Olliver

Books Stanley Gibbons • Bolaffi International • *Cross Post* • *Thamescene* • *Railway Philately* • Sarawak Officials

Stanley Gibbons Collect Birds on Stamps The 4th edition of this popular work, compiled by Hanne and Jens Eriksen, is now available. It lists over 12,500 different stamps showing more than 2400 different bird species. Over 270 have appeared on stamps for the first time since the 3rd edition was published four years ago. Stamps are listed by country in alphabetical order from Abu Dhabi to Zimbabwe. Only the year of issue, value and description of the bird is given, also the SG catalogue number and stamp/set price. For philatelic information such as full date of issue, colours, perforation, watermark, etc, users are referred to the 22-part standard SG catalogue. Prices are quoted for full sets where all the stamps in a set feature birds, otherwise a single stamp price is given with the catalogue number suffixed by a dagger sign to indicate that other stamps in the set are unlisted as they did not depict birds.

The lengthy Bird Species Section includes indexes of the birds by English and Zoological (Latin) names, and the Systematic Listing provides a breakdown of 175 different groups of birds – some 18 different penguins for instance. The compilers provide useful lists of the books consulted in preparing this catalogue, and the advertisements for dealers specialising in bird thematics will be of value to new collectors particularly. 288 pages, A4 format, card covers. Available from SG Strand shop, booksellers and stamp dealers and by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood, BH24 3SH. Price £19.95, postage £3 UK, £6 overseas •

Bolaffi International 1996: The Top Prices of the Philatelic Season 1995 This is not a book for the faint-hearted. It comprises a record of auction realisations of rare stamps during 1995, arranged in four sections covering the very highest realisations, the realisations over US\$30,000, from \$10-30,000, and the top prices under \$10,000. The first section includes a superb cover bearing two of the Hawaiian Missionaries which achieved

\$2.09 million at a R A Siegel sale in New York in November 1995. The only British item in this section comprises a cover bearing the 1d red brown, plate 77 with 'B Blank' error (SG 12a) on cover. This made \$161,000 in Ivy & Mader's sale in New York in June 1995.

All the items are illustrated, those over \$30,000 in colour. For collectors who study the histories of rare stamps these illustrations, with the write-ups of each item, the starting, hammer, and purchase prices are invaluable. Few collectors can hope to own such material but that does not preclude an interest in the story and romance of rare stamps. For such armchair enthusiasts, this book is a delight.

Not all the items featured are classic 19th century issues. Many Italian stamps of the 1940s – Zara/German occupation issues – are included, also USA Graf Zeppelin issues of the 1930s. A cover signed by Amelia Earhart and carried on an around the world flight in 1938 made \$16,500. Even more recent is a stamp from Taiwan printed in 1981 for the 12th National Congress of Kuomintang. It was withdrawn before distribution; a single copy went for \$77.470.

Amongst GB material recorded is a strip of three of the VR Penny Black (\$12,690), a block of 90 of the 1d red brown, plate 80 (\$19,550), an Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum (\$18,130), and a George V 1/2d doubly printed in pair with normal (SG 418b, \$10,400).

The auction houses are listed, British companies comprising Cavendish, Christie's-Robson Lowe, Harmers, Phillips, Sotheby's, and Stanley Gibbons. 192 pages, superbly printed on fine art paper, hardbound. Price £48, postage £1.98. Available from: Steven C Kander (Philatelists) Ltd, 20 Broadfields Avenue, Edgware, HA8 8PG, sole distributor in England for the publishers, Alberto Bolaffi of Turin, Italy. Four earlier volumes are available: 1970-90 (£35), 1992, 1994, and 1995 (£40 each), postage £1.98 per volume •

The Spring 1996 issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, is now available. As always, it contains much useful reading for collectors of GB stamps, postal history or anyone with an interest in Post Office history. Edited by Allan Daniell, this issue includes features on postal reforms in the 1840s and 50s (by Tony Gammons); Recent Museum Acquisitions (stamp artworks); Cupid's Workshop (Valentine cards by Christine Jones); the Presteign/156 boxed mileage mark (Michael Bament); Post Office Archives centenary (Jean Farrugia); the story of King Edward Building (home of the NPM); re-experiencing the days (and nights) of the mail coach era (Rev Christopher Beaver); Friends Souvenirs (James Negus); Hat and Hair-Powder Revenue stamps (M Bament); and the Post Office's Pneumatic Railway (Frank O'Neill). Of particular interest to *Bulletin* readers will be articles by two PhDs – Tim Lane, recently retired as Royal Mail's Chief Chemist, and Jean Alexander, noted for her studies of stamp books and her thematic collection 'Waterfalls on Stamps'. (Dr Alexander also compiles the index to this *Bulletin*.) Dr Lane's 'Trials & Tribulations in British Stamp Production' is based on the album of unissued British stamps related to technical developments in postal automation, the need for security, and changes in mail tariffs, shown at Stampex in January. He describes phosphor and paper trials, security trials of different inks, and the testing of the self-adhesive stamp. The illustrations include an unissued design for the 1990 Thomas Hardy stamp. Dr Alexander's article looks at little-known private stamp packs available at various tourist sites, mostly in London, in 1985-87. Available to non-members, price £2. Orders and enquiries about membership to: Ray Pottle, Friends of the NPM, PO Box 40, Uckfield, TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825 766546 •

Collectors in the UK are fortunate in having so many fine local and specialist societies to join, many of which produce worthwhile publications. Two are reviewed here.

The June 1996 issue of *Themescene* (Editor Margaret Shaida, published by British Thematic

Association), contains regular features on new issues, new British postmarks, book reviews, members' wants, etc and special features on Thematic Competitions (by Brian Sole), Printing and the Book Trade (Wendy Buckle), Philately and the Internet, and Thematic Interest and Fun (Ian Paton), and A Disastrous Theme (Margaret Shaida). Members of the BTA may borrow books and articles from the BTA Library – items available are listed under subject headings. 48 pages. Price £2 from Elizabeth Miller, 258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU.

The June issue of *Railway Philately* (Editor Fred Taylor, journal of Railway Philatelic Group), includes features on railway letter stamps, railway postmarks, and postage stamps depicting the railway theme. In several postmark articles, Brian Rowley reports on new early dates of 'Great Western TPO' single ring cancels; Fred Taylor writes on Bath Station office datestamps, Alan Violet on the Shrewsbury-York TPO cancels, and Bill Pipe on Station Mail Office undated postmarks. Neill Oakley provides his usual comprehensive account of modern railway letter stamps; and in 'Theme Scene' Arthur Dyson & Philip Tyrrell record recent issues from Albania to Singapore. 32 pages. For details of membership of the RPG send SAE or IRC to: Peter Johnson, 12 Maplewell Drive, Leicester LE4 1BD •

Neville Watterson has written and published *Sarawak Officials: A Survey* – a detailed account of the markings found on official government mail from Sarawak from the 1940s to the 1980s. Mr Watterson records numerous free franks and cachets used of mail posted and delivered within Sarawak as well as on mail sent overseas, often to the Crown Agents in London. A highly specialised work, based on careful examination of covers. The explanations of marks and cachets in the Malay language is useful. Well-illustrated 46 pages, card covers. Available from the author: 449 Abington Park Parade, Wellingborough Road, Northampton NN1 4EZ, price £8, postage £2 •

Competition sponsored by Omniphil Approvals

Introducing Omniphil If you have gaps in your collection, maybe Omniphil can help. Omniphil, sponsors of twenty *Bulletin* competitions, specialise in supplying fine stamps on approval, without obligation, by post.

Special promotion It seems like it may be worth having a fling as you don't have to buy a thing in order to receive a free pair of professional tweezers, and in addition, if you purchase a minimum of £12 from their first selection, they will give you a gift of a GB unmounted mint set which has realised £12 at auction! A set which has generated a lot of interest and mystery. All these incentives offered for you to participate in their famous 'we'll pay you £100' Discounts Promotion. They now have over 1000 participating collector members.

Their offer seems fair – something for nothing in exchange for having a look at what they have to offer – no obligations to purchase and a bonus £12 GB set if you do (sent with your second selection).

Write now telling them all the countries/areas that you collect, and they will send you a suitable selection as available without obligation to purchase, plus your free professional tweezers, yours to keep whatever you decide. You can stop their service anytime.

They supply stamps from most countries/areas of the world in addition to GB. If your collection is missing stamps from 1840 to the 1980s write now stating all the countries you collect and whether you collect mint or used to: **Omniphil Approvals, Bulletin Tweezers/Mystery Offer, PO Box 29, Stroud, GL6 6RW.**

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: September Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 25 October. Each entry must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

- 1 Who designed the Classic Sports Cars stamps?
- 2 How much did a cover bearing two rare Hawaiian stamps make at auction in 1995?
- 3 Which new Cambridge college introduced stamps in 1882?
- 4 Which two machines were used to print the 1972 Silver Wedding 3p stamps?
- 5 In which three towns can the touring Robert Burns exhibition be seen during September?

The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, their families and agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil •



1st prize GB Victoria 1891 £1 green, letters C-B, SG 212 catalogued £375. A fine used example cancelled by three clean registered oval strikes and with fine colour. Classics without Tears retail price £150.

2nd prize GB Queen Victoria 1891 £1 green, letters A-D, SG 212 cat £375. A fine appearance single cds cancelled example with some creasing and small crayon mark, good colour. Retail price £120.

3rd prize GB 1840 Penny Black letters D-A, particularly attractive fine used 4 good margins example from plate 2 cancelled by well positioned red Maltese Cross SG cat £150. Retail price £80.

May competition winners

D Orborn of Surrey, Dr M Berger of Germany and Mrs P Juby of Birmingham. Answers: 1. Sydney Robert Turner; 2. 1907; 3. GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle; 4. Weston, Massachusetts; 5. Peter Johnson.

The winners of the Dixie Dean competition in Covers

Review were C Breeds, Derbyshire; G Jones, London; and G Giles, Essex. Answer: 60 goals.

June competition winners

R Davies of Middlesex (Queen Victoria £1 stamp), H Helme of South Yorkshire (Edward VII £1) and A Hansen of Denmark (1d black). Answers: 1. Seven; 2. Birmingham; 3. Edward VII 9d; 4. Much Wenlock. Our thanks to all who entered.



Posting Boxes 164



Highest Posting Boxes This month's photograph, submitted by well-known *Bulletin* contributor James Mackay, shows the private posting box in the top station of the ski-lift on Cairngorm. This was, until recently, the highest posting box in the UK. Mail posted there is given a cachet before being handed over to

Royal Mail. Dr Mackay informs us that there was, in the 1960s, a second box higher up the mountain, at the White Lady Shieling, maintained by the National Trust for Scotland, but it appears to have been discontinued some years ago. The photograph shows Dr Mackay posting two cards – one to himself and one to the *Bulletin* Editor, to get the 'Highest Posting Box' cachet in use since 1963.

The Cairngorm box has now been superseded as the highest box by one on Aonach Mor, alongside Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. A cachet, believed to have been introduced during 1995, is applied to mail posted on Aonach Mor •

**CAIRNGORM CHAIRLIFT
POST BOX
HIGHEST IN BRITAIN**

Readers interested in letter boxes should consider joining the Letter Box Study Group which has some 700 members.

For details send a stamped addressed envelope to the Membership Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BS.

Notices

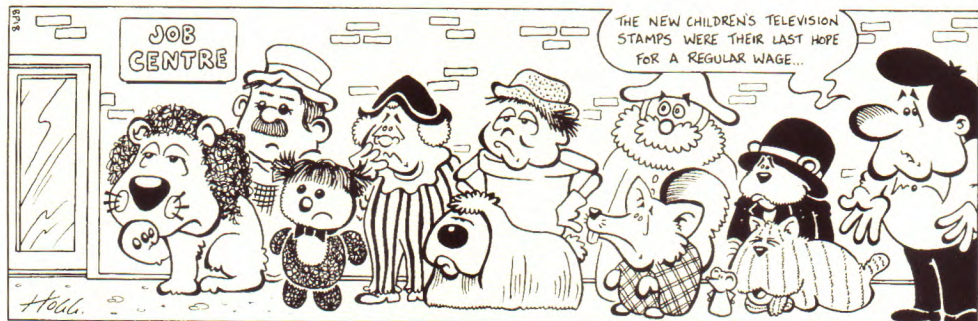
Collectors plates Fine quality plates featuring the designs of the four stamps issued in 1990 in honour of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will be available during September, price £19.95 each. Orders should be sent to the British Philatelic Bureau, stating which designs required: Kitten (20p stamp), Rabbit (29p), Duckling (34p) or Puppy (37p). These stamps proved very popular, coming third in the *Bulletin* stamp poll for the year.

A plate reproducing the 1992 18p Christmas stamp, showing a stained glass window in St James's Church, Pangbourne, will be available from late October, price £19.95.

Margot Fonteyn Our July front cover featured Dame Margot Fonteyn in a production of *Les Sylphides*. The date given was 1946. When a sharp-eyed reader queried this date we checked with the Royal Opera House who supplied the photograph. They confirm that the caption on their photograph was wrong, it dates from 1939. We are pleased to set the record straight, also to correct the wrong date given in the main feature description on the July contents page. The Greek Olympic stamp shown was issued in 1906, not 1896 as stated.

This month's front cover features a Bentley 1930 4½ litre supercharged, now preserved in the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu •

Customer knows best



Events

Until early September Letter Carriers Framed! exhibition of paintings at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. Enquiries: 0171 600 8914

Until mid-September Sub-Post Offices exhibition at National Postal Museum. Photographs from *Practical Photography* competition. In temporary exhibition gallery, ground floor

Until 31 December Robert Burns: Man of Letters exhibition at National Postal Museum

7 September Salvation Army Phil Circle Annual Convention at the Citadel, Gillygate, York, 10.30-16.00. Displays, sales table (SA stamps, covers, postcards & cinderellas). Those wishing to attend should contact the Secretary so necessary arrangements can be made for seating and catering. Enquiries: Harry Hayes, 01904 764660

14-15 September Brussels '96 at Sheraton Airport Hotel, Brussels, open 10.00-18.00. Displays, dealers. Enquiries: Lone Kamper Jensen, Telephone 02 767 64 97. Fax 02 767 06 83

18-22 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington Green, London N1. Open 18 Sep 12.00-19.00, 19-21 10.30-19.00, 22 10.30-17.00. 115 dealers & postal administrations. Enquiries: 0171 490 1005

21 September Philatelic Music Circle Annual Convention, London. Exhibition, competitions, speakers. Enquiries: Ian Summers, 01706 826655

23 September-13 December Display of stamps from the Royal Collection, Buckingham Palace (including famous 'Post Office Mauritius' stamps) at National Postal Museum. Details as above

27 September-6 October Istanbul '96 world philatelic exhibition, Istanbul, Turkey. Enquiries: British Commissioner: F Kiddle, Punch Tree House, Reading Road North, Fleet GU13 8HS

28 September Portadown & District Phil Soc Annual Exhibition & Fair at Portadown Town Hall, 10.00-16.30. Dealers: stamps, covers, postcards, cigarette cards, etc; displays; car parking. Limited edition commemorative booklet (£1.25). Enquiries: J Proctor, 15 Dorchester Park, Portadown BT62 3EA

5 October Sussex Federation Day, hosted by Eastbourne & South Downs Phil Soc, at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne, 10.15-17.00. Car parking nearby, 5 mins from Eastbourne rail station. Dealers (stamps, postcards, postal history), competitive displays (thematics, cinderella, traditional philately & postal history), display of GB coil stamps by Dr Jean Alexander. Meetings of GB Phil Soc and British Society of Australian Philately. Enquiries: L Jones, National Postal Museum, 0171 600 8914

5 October Assn of Essex Phil Socs Autumn Rally & Stamp Fair at Caterham High School, Caterham Ave, Clayhall, Ilford, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, county competitions, quiz, refreshments. Hosted by Leytonstone, Wanstead & District Phil Soc. Enquiries: 0181 989 1783

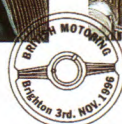
10-13 October 78th Philatelic Congress of GB at Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Bristol, Victoria Street, Bristol. Enquiries: Phil Kenton, 01932 222864

12 October Display 'Cinderellas and other GB Philately' by Lionel Jones at National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. Enquiries: NPS, 0171 251 5040

12-18 October Taipei '96 international stamp exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan

18-20 October Stampa (Irish National Stamp Exhibition), Dublin. Enquiries: Stampa '96, PO Box 2723, Phibsborough, Dublin 7, Ireland ●

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Royal Mail



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Century of
British Motoring*



Royal Mint - Llantrisant - Pontyclun
Mid-Glamorgan - CF72 8YT



Royal Mail and Royal Mint are proud to announce their latest limited edition 'Philatelic Medalllic Cover' commemorating the centenary of the London to Brighton Car Rally.

The cover bears the five Classic Sports Cars stamps some cancelled with first day of issue postmark of 1 October, others with special handstamp for 3 November, date of this year's London-Brighton Rally. Encapsulated in the cover is a unique and exclusive medallion struck by the Royal Mint for this important anniversary.

Price £12.95. Early ordering advisable – previous Philatelic-Medalllic covers have quickly sold out. British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT



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Royal Mail