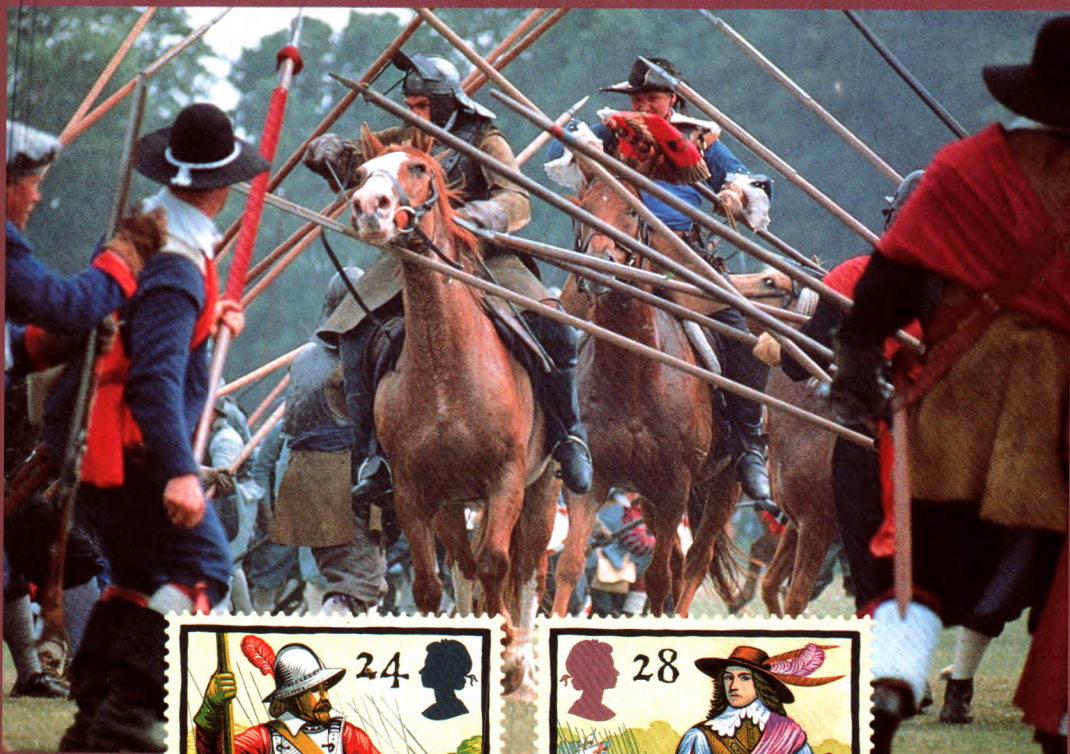


# British Philatelic Bulletin

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May 1992



THE CIVIL WAR 1642-51  
fought between the forces of KING  
& PARLIAMENT: *Pikeman* 24p

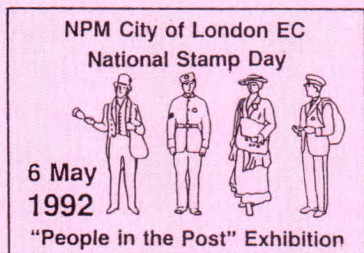


THE CIVIL WAR 1642-51  
fought between the forces of KING  
& PARLIAMENT: *Drummer* 28p

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*Front Cover: Re-enactment of a Civil War battle  
(courtesy Rex Features)*



*The National Postal Museum's "National Stamp Day" handstamp for 6 May - see page 203 for details*

## Return Letter Service National Centres

Badly addressed mail from all over Britain which cannot be delivered will be sent to two new national processing centres in future. A new highly automated sorting centre for letters opens in Belfast during May; a centre handling packets opened in Portsmouth in February. Of the 15 billion items a year handled by Royal Mail, some 120 million cannot be delivered and the cost of returning this mail is about £8 million per annum.

The siting of the return letter service in Belfast will mean higher volumes of mail being sent from Northern Ireland to the mainland. As a result more direct routes will be introduced for mail leaving Northern Ireland to destinations throughout Britain; this should improve overall quality of service.

The Belfast Centre will be located in a warehouse previously owned by Royal Mail Parcelforce; some £1.8 million is being invested in new equipment and general refurbishment. As Northern Ireland is designated a special development area, the EC has awarded a £900,000 grant towards the project.

## Edinburgh Castle

The Bureau's recent publicity leaflet for the revised Castle High Value stamps (24 March 1992) states that "when Bonnie Prince Charlie stormed the Castle in 1745, he was beaten back and forced to hide out in the Highlands." Bureau customer, Gordon T McConnell of Mönchengladbach, Germany, writes: "This is, however, factually incorrect and according to J M M McPail's *History of Scotland* events took place as follows: 'on 16th September after a slight brush at Coltbridge with Edinburgh volunteers who fled almost without a blow, the Jacobites demanded the surrender of the city. In the night-time, when the Netherbow Port opened to let out a coach, it was rushed by a body of Highlanders, led by Lochiel. Edinburgh was entered in triumph and Charles spent the next six weeks at Edinburgh in residence at Holyrood House.' At no time, whatsoever, was he beaten back from Edinburgh Castle, neither during his advance southwards as far as Derby, nor during his retreat to ultimate defeat at Culloden Moor."

We are pleased to set the record straight. Bonnie Prince Charlie featured on a Scottish aerogramme issued in 1989 to mark the centenary of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

# Civil War

16 June 1992



Four stamps will be issued on 16 June to mark the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Edgehill, the first battle of the Civil War. Of all the major events which have shaped Britain's history and the society in which we live, few have been more controversial than the Civil War. There were in fact three Civil Wars – the first fought between 1642 and 1646, the second of 1648 led to the execution of Charles I; and the third, between 1649 and 1651, saw attempts by his son (later Charles II) to regain the throne.

The four stamps feature some of the soldiers, of the Crown and Parliament, who took part in the wars. The 24p stamp (inland 1st class and EC basic rate) shows a Pikeman. "This", writes designer Jeremy Sancha, "is of a common soldier pausing whilst on a march, an occupation that was very common during the Civil War. The idea for this design came from old



engravings although without the finery or lace, just the breastplate, tassets, etc, of which there is an abundance in the Tower of London."

The 28p value (Europe, non-EC basic rate) features a Drummer; the idea for this design, and that for the 39p stamp, came from looking at a picture of the stained glass window at Farndon, Cheshire (depicting portraits of men at



arms) although the background detail showing soldiers going into battle comes from looking at a detail of an engraving of the wars in the Low Countries which were raging at this time. Mr Sancha "felt the drummer was a potent symbol of the sound of battle."

The 33p stamp (worldwide postcard rate) depicts a Musketeer. Mr Sancha derived the idea of this design from looking at engravings of the period in the British Museum Print Department; he writes "of course it was only the wealthy who could afford to have themselves represented in this way. I wanted to show that the Civil War reached all parts of the country and that country houses were attacked and defended frequently."

The 39p denomination (basic airmail letter rate) features a Standard Bearer wearing a sash which was used as an indentification emblem. He is shown wearing a gorget (armour protecting throat) and a buff coat. Mr Sancha comments on the standard: "apart from being a symbol of war, it is a marvellous visual device". The idea for this design also came from a study of stained glass windows at Farndon.

The Pikeman and Drummer are portrayed with battle scenes in the background, the Musketeer in front of a 17th century country house,

and the Standard Bearer backed by riders, one firing at the other. All four stamps bear the inscription THE CIVIL WAR 1642-51 fought between the forces of KING & PARLIAMENT.

### The Designer

The stamps are the work of Jeremy Sancha who designed the covers of the £1 books showing Mills issued in 1989-90 (S.G. FH18-21). These are his first stamps for Royal Mail. Mr Sancha was born in Lincolnshire in 1951. His background was in the arts as his father is a portrait painter and his mother an illustrator and writer of historical books. He studied Art at the Central School of Art & Design and painting and printmaking at Winchester College of Art. In 1971 he set up as a printmaker working on private commissions, exhibitions and selling work in galleries. Other work at this period included murals, trompe l'oeil, and pub signs. In 1988 he began working as an illustrator.

Mr Sancha writes of his research for the Civil War issue: "To try and get the details in the pictures as correct as possible I used David Blakemore's book *Arms & Armour of the English Civil Wars* and showed him roughs of the subject matter. I also consulted Avril Hart, Assistant Curator of Textiles & Dress, at the Victoria & Albert Museum to identify peculiarities of dress from this period. Both were invaluable for pointing out mistakes and misconceptions. I also photographed members of the English Civil War Society during their annual march from St James's to Whitehall in commemoration of the execution of Charles I. I am grateful to individual members who put aside time to pose in their respective dress for photographing."

### Printing Details

The stamps, printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited, are of "almost square" format (35 x 37mm), printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

### First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover, designed by Roundel Design Group, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 16 June, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Banbury, the nearest town to Edgehill battlefield.

A first day cover service will be provided by

the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 16 June.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Midlands Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Birmingham, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA (Banbury postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

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

Details of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, to be used on 16 June 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: £9.35 UK, £11.25 Europe; £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

### Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 228) will cost £1.55. It was designed by Roundel Group Design with text by Andrew Robertshaw, National Army Museum. Printing was by Raithby, Lawrence & Company Limited of Leicester. The pack features documents relating to the Civil War, including a facsimile of the death warrant of Charles I (the original is in the House of Lords Record Office).

### Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 144A-D.

### Souvenir Cover

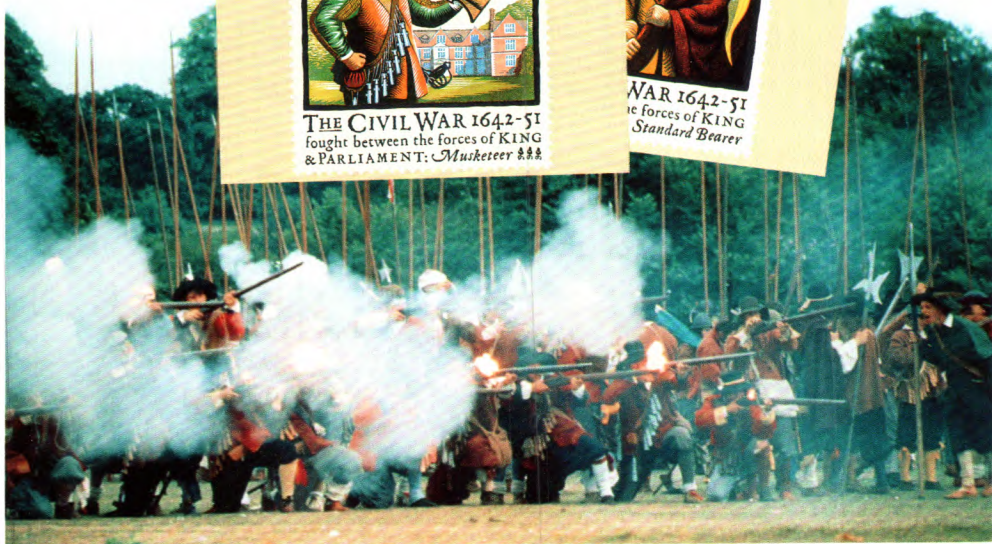
A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters for one year from 17 June, price 21p.

*I am obliged to Jeremy Sancha for his help in the preparation of this preview feature on the Civil War issue. Ed.*



Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorbie Road  
ILKESTON  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB

### THE CIVIL WAR 1642-51 Royal Mail Mint Stamps



# 1991 Special Stamps Poll

*Continued from April*

## Greetings – Good Luck

This set beat the Smiles issue in popularity, coming third in the poll, and with three of the stamps (Pot of Gold, Wishing Well, and Cat) in the top ten of individual stamps. Almost all who liked them, commented on the concept of a



*Popular stamps*

composite picture and the success of the individual stamps taken from the pane. Miss H Allan of Fife found them “different, exciting, colourful. Far removed from the ordinary and sometimes boring commemoratives, could encourage children and young adults to begin collecting.” Mrs A Nurse of West Midlands, amongst others, said they were a “pleasure to use. I sent sets to my family and friends instead of Easter Eggs!” Better for their health too! Mrs M Boys of France reported introducing “the delights of British philately” to some French children who “loved” these stamps. Mrs S Sarel of Orkney thought the set had “unity and makes a good talking point, each stamp being full of interest”. However she was less kind about the Smiles issue, describing it as “grotesquely ugly”. E Cordeaux of London appreciated the “Walt Disney” look to these stamps; M Wallman of Finland considered them “something in the style of Hieronymus Bosch and *Garden of Earthly Delights*.” Dame Paula Fairlie, OSB of Chester wins a Yearbook for her comment: “The colours and humour portrayed in the design which

so harmoniously unites the entire set is reflected with equal ingenuity in the individual stamp.” However not all readers were so harmoniously united in favour, quite a number commented on the “label” appearance of both sets of Greetings stamps. Some questioned the need for such stamps and commented, like K Grounds of Essex, that they had seen so few in use.

## Greetings – Smiles

Although less popular than the Good Luck stamps, the Smiles clearly have a following especially with readers who feel that in times of recession we all need to smile a bit more. John Crawford of New Zealand feels “it’s impossible to see these stamps and not take a more cheerful view of life.” M Assenheim was inspired to verse:

A smile is worth a hundred words,  
When writing out a letter,  
To unfold ten stamps,  
And see the grins,  
What greeting could be better

Mr C Geyari of Israel wins our final Yearbook for his views: “The stamps have achieved something difficult: the capture of a fleeting, ephemeral, evanescent expression of happiness and well-being, ranging from slapstick (Nos. 48, 49, 52, 53) through serene (47, 54, 55) to absurd (50, 51).” But the stamps didn’t raise a smile with



*Slapstick*

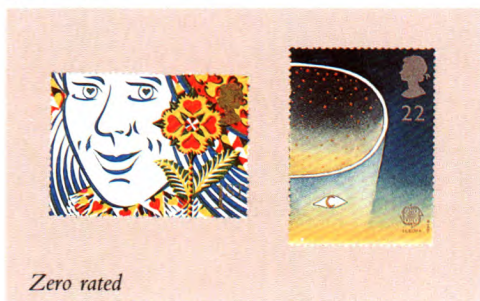


*Serene*



*Absurd*

everyone, again they were compared to charity and match box labels. The Queen of Hearts stamp shares the honour of receiving no votes with the right hand 22p stamp of the Europe in Space set.



## Conclusion

A good many of you took the opportunity of writing general comments on British stamp design and issuing policy. Some challenged me to publish such comments, suggesting that only comments of praise would ever appear in print. First and foremost amongst these general comments was the view that 1991 was not a vintage year for British stamps, despite some good and innovative sets and single stamps. Secondly there is still a feeling that the number of stamps weakens their impact both for the general public and collectors. Mr R Erith of Suffolk wrote: "Far too many stamps are issued which devalues and debases the stamps themselves and the hobby of collecting them. None of the sets listed above (*i.e. all 1991 issues! Ed.*) should have been issued. Some are technically good - Maps, Roses, but most are hideous rubbish". Elsie and Leslie Brown of Kent consider "British stamps the world's worse designs" believing we employ "artists with warped minds". They also call for the sacking of the Stamp Advisory Committee. On the matter of designers, L Grout of Windsor asks "where do they drag these designers from?", and John Rowlands of West Yorkshire wants to know "Have the powers-that-be heard of Jennifer Toombs?" Mr C Bake of Peterborough looks "at student designs in the Bulletin and wondering why their work was rejected in favour of the insipid bits of paper that were produced." Looking on the brighter side, he writes "I hope the 1992 stamps keep up the standard of the forthcoming Winter and Greetings issues which look 200% better than anything in 1991." On that more optimistic note we conclude our review of your comments. It is gratifying that you do express such strong views

on British stamps, for and against. The poll indicates, if nothing else, that our stamps are carefully scrutinised and engender feelings of pride and disappointment. Thank you all for your comments.

*My thanks to four colleagues at the National Postal Museum - Harry Reeves, Henry Berry, Frank O'Neill and Nicola Bracegirdle - for recording and totalling up the votes.*

## Events

**until Dec 92.** 40 Years of Elizabeth II - display of the workings of the Post Office since 1952. Display comprises letter boxes, stamp machines, philatelic items, etc. Manchester Transport Museum, Boyle Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester. Open Wed, Sat, Sun 10.00-17.00. Enquiries: David Harrop, 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT SK4 3DQ Tel. 061-442 1089.

**6 Apr-2 May 92.** Bolton Philatelic Society Diamond Jubilee Stamp Exhibition at Central Library, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton. Admission free.

**17 Apr-27 May 92.** Exhibition of British Postal History at Ditchling Museum, Church Lane, Ditchling, Brighton. Displays of postcards, models, etc.

**21 Apr-10 Jul 92.** The Queen's Stamps (celebrating the 40th anniversary of the accession of HM The Queen) at National Postal Museum, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 9.30-16.30.

**2-10 May 92.** National Postcard Week. Various events. Details from: Alan Bower, 21 School Lane, Walton, WAKEFIELD WF2 6PA Tel. Wakefield 251452.

**15-17 May 92.** 16th Northeast Philatelic Week-End at Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Enquiries: Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 4RY.

**27-28 Jun 92.** Thematica '92 exhibition at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Enquiries: B Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, ESHER, Surrey, KT10 0QG, Tel. 03724-67652.

**18 Jul 92.** Plymouth Philatelic Society Exhibition & Fair at Plymouth Guildhall.

# Themes of British Special Stamps

## 7. Technology

G E DRABBLE

The aesthetic value of a thematic collection is diminished if the theme is not carefully defined. The word "technology" is variously defined in dictionaries, but is taken here to mean the application or adaption of scientific principles to practical use. Working through British special (commemorative) issues chronologically, the first candidate for inclusion, in 1963, is the single stamp marking the opening of "Compac", the telephone cable laid across the Pacific to link Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Sir Joseph Lister's application of Pasteur's work on bacteria led to his development of the technique of antiseptic surgery; the centenary of this was commemorated by two stamps in 1965. 1966 saw a special issue of four, titled "British Technology", and a similar issue the following year, "British Discovery and Invention", marked four specific aspects of applied science. Post Office technology earned a special issue, again of four stamps, in 1969. The celebration of 50 years of the BBC earns its place in this collection on the grounds that it was devoted to illustrations of particular pieces of technical equipment associated with broadcasting. 1982 was designated Information Technology Year, and an issue of two stamps appeared, to mark this. The development of the microscope is a typical example of science applied to practical use, and earned an issue in 1989. Scientific Achievements in 1991 again marked four achievements related to the application of science.

The opening of "Compac" was marked in December 1963 with the issue of a single 1s6d stamp designed by Peter Gauld. It was appropriately in sea-blue with a globe in darker blue, wrapped with a stylised cable, which emerged from the waves and unwrapped to present the letters CABLE with "Commonwealth" above it. Four white dots around the cable apparently represented four stations fed by it. The design was clever and imaginative, but perhaps deserves some criticism on the grounds that an ideal design should not require explanation, or decoding. The subject was a worthy candidate for the first entry in this theme.

### Medical Advance

Lister put into practice the principle of antiseptics in 1865, thereby establishing one of the more notable landmarks in the progress of medicine. Two stamps were issued in September 1965 to mark the centenary. Peter Gauld designed the 4d, which showed the carbolic spray which was the basis of Lister's method. The design was in dull grey, with a sharply-contrasting light brown for the spray-pipe. The second, 1s, stamp was the work of Frank Ariss, and featured a portrait of Lister, partly enclosed in a hexagonal frame with OH on one corner, which is the chemical symbol for carbolic. Again, the design suffers from the need of some explanation; the square frame apparently represented a piece of lint, and a black border a sheet of lead or tin (*Bulletin*, October 1977). It is worthy of



historical note that antiseptis was later replaced by the principle of asepsis, whereby instead of killing the alien bacteria, they are nowadays rigorously excluded altogether from the operational zone.

Four stamps appeared in September 1966 under the heading "British Technology". David and Ann Gillespie designed the two low values, 4d and 6d which showed the Jodrell Bank radio-telescope, and British motor-cars; an E-type Jaguar and three Minis, in silhouette. With no printing except the values, the designs were almost starkly simple, with arresting backgrounds of lemon yellow, and orange respectively. The 1s3d and 1s6d were the work of Andrew Restall, and featured respectively a Saunders Roe hovercraft and the Winscale nuclear reactor. The two designs were simple, and matched, though not exactly paired. The hovercraft is perhaps shown rather too faithfully; the jet of mist and spray appears at first glance almost as a blemish in the printing.

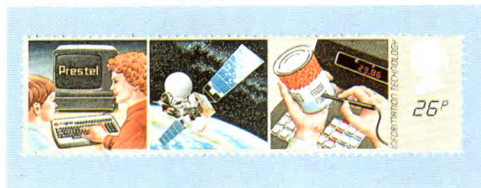
Exactly a year later appeared a similar set of four, British Discovery and Invention, the designers, Clive Abbott and the Negus/Sharland team clearly aiming at an issue similar to the earlier one. The 4d and 1s depicted Radar and Penicillin, a circular culture of the latter neatly complementing a circular radar screen, with plain backgrounds of orange-red, and purple. The 1s6d celebrated the jet engine, and showed a close-up of a VC10 twin-jet, with a tiny silhouette of a plane in flight above. The 1s9d was in vertical format to illustrate television, with details of the original primitive Baird scanner equipment. A quarter of the space was ruled off, to accommodate silhouettes of The Queen's head, in bright contrasting colours, and the values. An interesting feature of the issue was that the achievements were commemorated, but not the achievers: the only names appearing, and these in the margin, are those of the designers and printers.

October 1969 saw the issue of a set of four stamps marking achievements in Post Office technology. David Gentleman designed the four, which depicted, in abstract form the National Giro bank, (5d); Subscriber Trunk Dialling, (9d); Pulse Code Modulation, (1s), and automatic mail sorting (1s6d). The stamps were printed in "Delacryl" using offset litho, with emphasis on rather sombre blues and greens, and the designs were planned to extend continuously across the complete sheet of stamps. The designer wisely titled his essays for the 9d

and 1s values "Telecommunications", probably assuming that the public would be unlikely to have a clear understanding of the specific subjects represented.

### Broadcasting & Information Technology

The same designer produced a very attractive set of four again in September 1972, marking the 50th anniversary of the BBC, choosing as his theme the advance of technology over the period, each stamp illustrating various details with photographic clarity on a white ground. The 3p showed five types of microphone, spanning the whole half-century, with centre-stage occupied by a general-purpose studio-type microphone, designed in 1936 by the BBC, and featured several times on the front cover of the *Radio Times* around that period. The 5p took a nostalgic look at the early wooden horn-type loudspeaker of the 1920s. A colour television camera on the 7½p brought us suddenly up-to-date, and another glance backwards to 1897 on the 9p marked the first Marconi-Kemp experiments, which established radio communication between Glamorgan and Somerset. There are no very bright colours (grey is predominant in all four stamps) but the white ground conveys an impression of brightness.



Information Technology was the subject for two unusual stamps issued in September 1982 - unusual in the size, 72.3 x 20.3mm; three times the size of the low-value definitives, and in horizontal format. They were the work of Brian Delaney and Darrell Ireland. Each stamp displayed three cameos, with about 13mm reserved at the right for a white silhouette of The Queen's head, and the issue title. The layouts were identical, but the background tone slightly different: stone for the 15½p and light grey for the 26p. The lower value displayed three aspects of Communications: Egyptian hieroglyphics, the British Museum library, and a video display unit. *Technology Today* was the theme of the 26p, showing the "Prestel" industrial and commercial information system, a communications satellite, and bar-coding on a can of beans. The issue, part of Information Technology Year, no doubt played a small part in promoting the aim

of the movement: helping the public to become more familiar, and at ease, with modern developments.

"Microscopes" was the subject for the issue of September 1989 by the designer Keith Bassford. The "near-square" size was chosen, with an unusual grey-black background to four circular pictures of items as seen through a microscope: a snowflake, a fly, blood cells, and a microchip, in respective predominant colours of blue, drab, red and green, with corresponding titles in the same colours around the upper left quadrant of the circle. A tiny "Fig. 1" and a "Fig. 2" can be seen on the fly picture; also, italic letters a to f can be seen on the blood cells; the style of lettering on both suggest that the source of these was an old book.



### Eminent Scientists

Scientific achievements were marked by an issue of March 1991 consisting of a pair (unusually, not se tenant) of 22p stamps, designed by Peter Till, and two stamps (31p and 37p), the work of John Harwood. The two lower values commemorated Faraday and Babbage, two scientists of the 19th century, noted respectively for work on electricity, and mechanical calculating. The two featured left-facing profiles, with appropriate symbols in the head-space, and a simple title along the bottom. Harwood, marking the development of radar (Sir Robert Watson-Watt), and the jet engine (Sir Frank Whittle), designed two complementary and neatly matching stamps, based on an aerial map of England, the one swept by a radar beam, and the other traversed by a jet. The Queen's head and value were in the opposite corner to the lower values.

The scientific principles underpinning technological developments are usually obscure and arcane to the lay person. The task of the stamp designer should thus be to draw attention to such developments but not to explain them. The best designs in this series certainly appear to have met this criterion.

*Similar thematic reviews of British stamps by Mr*

*Drabble were published in September 1990 (Air-craft), November 1990 (Literature), January 1991 (Sport), April 1991 (Architecture), October 1991 (Flowers) and March 1992 (Paintings). Further articles are in preparation. Ed.*

### British Paintings Stamps

We add some notes to the article by G E Drabble in the March *Bulletin*, which surveyed paintings as a theme.

Since it was written another set has appeared, four stamps in January 1991 that featured George Stubbs's paintings of dogs, details of which are in the *Bulletin* for December 1990. Further paintings stamps could also be added to the article, the Derby Bicentenary issue of 6 June 1979 depicting horse-racing. These stamps were designed by Stuart Rose and, though no artists had been credited when originally announced in the *Bulletin* (May 1979), full details were subsequently published in James Watson's series on special issues in August 1986. The four artists concerned will also be found in the Gibbons Catalogue.

No designer is mentioned by Gibbons for the three earliest Paintings issues of 1967-68, but they were also the work of Stuart Rose (see the *Bulletin* note, May 1979, p.12). Though based on photographs of the paintings made by Harrison, they still require a design element. Mr Rose shows at pp.86-90 of his book *Royal Mail Stamps* (Oxford: Phaidon, 1980) exactly what this can involve.

He remarks for the unhappy Le Nain *Adoration* (Christmas 1967), for example, that he saw no option but to break UPU rules and spell out the denomination "One shilling and sixpence". Mr Drabble observed that The Queen's portrait also appears to be "a bust left standing on the rock floor". The designer had explained that regrettably this particular painting has "a donkey's head on one side and a cow's rump on the other", forcing the effigy to be positioned where it was. For these first three sets the designer was instructed that paintings had to fill the available space. This inevitably leads to haphazard placing of Queen's head and value. Mr Rose gained approval eventually to put them clear of the painting and his further sets from Ulster. Paintings 1971 onward reflect this preferred alternative.

*Stuart Rose, mentioned above, was Typographic Adviser to the Postmaster General, 1962-68 and Design Adviser, The Post Office, 1968-76. Ed.*

# Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

## 197. 1855 1d Draft & Payable on Demand Stamp

The National Postal Museum's new exhibition of material from the Phillips Collection, on show in open display panels in the main gallery, is entitled "Victorian Revenues & Other Fiscals" and includes many which were valid for postage. All have been newly researched and written up based on the most authoritative published and unpublished sources. 1d stamps inscribed DRAFT, and RECEIPT were issued in 1853/4 (see *Gems*, May 1988). These "primitives" were replaced in March 1855 by a 1d stamp combining the function of the two earlier issues, being inscribed DRAFT PAYABLE ON DEMAND OR RECEIPT. The two former separate stamps were rendered obsolete. The head die on the new 1d stamp, printed in various shades of purple, was engraved by Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté, and is similar, but not identical, to that used on the 4d postage stamp of July 1855.



Shown here is a fine block of the 1d stamp of 1855 with POSTAGE STAMPS handstamp, dated 15 FEB. 1855, possibly intended for use on wrappings of parcels containing new supplies of postage stamps?

The Museum in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, London EC1, is open Monday-Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm.

*Lionel Jones, Philatelic Officer*

## National Postal Museum News

On 6 May the NPM issues four postcards in connection with the "People in the Post" exhibition which opens that day. Card NPM92/5 shows the dispensary at Post Office Headquarters, c.1935; 92/6 features ambulance and crew of the KEB Division of the GPO St John Ambulance Brigade, 1936; 92/7 shows the Corps of Women Drivers and Grooms formed to man the horse-drawn mail vans during the 1914-18 War; and 92/8 depicts a Royal Mail van and Postmistress outside Drymen Post Office in Scotland, c.1935. The cards cost 25p each and can be ordered from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order £1 plus handling charge of 24p on orders up to £24 and £2.14 over £24 (sent by registered post). A special handstamp will be used on 6 May; cards/covers to receive this should bear at least 24p postage (UK/EC) or appropriate overseas rate and be sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City of London, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Please ask for handstamp No. 2468. The Museum's regular Maltese Cross cancel (No. 1985) will also be available.

An exhibition entitled "The Queen's Stamps" opened at the NPM on 21 April and remains on show until July. In the 40 years of The Queen's reign almost 1500 different British stamps have been issued, all bearing her portrait. For the vast majority only three portraits have been used: Dorothy Wilding's photograph (1952-67), Arnold Machin's plaster cast (1967-now) and Machin's head for special issues (1968-now). This exhibition traces their design and use, featuring artwork, essays, and issued stamps for both Wilding and Machin definitives series, the 1955 Castles High Values, 1953 Coronation and other Royal event issues.

During March the Museum was visited by delegates of the International Association of Transport Museums, of which the NPM is a member. The delegates came from many well-known British and overseas museums; it was particularly good to welcome representatives from the Motor Museum in Riga, Latvia. The IATM includes a postal museum section and postal museum curators and managers paid a further visit to the NPM to see the replica Pearson Hill machine and the Museum's new Photo Library recording system.

# Decimal Stamp Books - 1

D G A MYALL

Just as we thought that the window books were settling down into their permanent form, along come the Olympic design covers. This development was foreshadowed in correspondence between the writer and David Dale, of Royal Mail Stamps, published here in June 1991. More about these books in a later article, but first I want to review the issues of recent months and put them into some kind of perspective. I also want to take the opportunity of examining some of the reasons why booklet collecting is such a popular part of the hobby. Without being overly technical, this occasional column will aim to be something more than a record of issues.

Taking up where the late Len Newbery left off, a complete list of the window books which have been issued since the "Penny Black" anniversary issue is given in the tables. The second issue of books with non-value stamps was made from 7 August 1990, followed by the third issue from 6 August 1991. Books with 2nd-class stamps are easily distinguished; their colour was changed from dark to bright blue. The flame colour of the 1st-class stamps, however, did not change. The two issues with these stamps are most easily distinguished by the address given on the inside covers for obtaining the rates leaflet. In books of the second issue this was in Newcastle; in books of the third issue it was changed to London. The two issues are dealt with in tables 1 and 2 respectively. The headings to the other three tables are self-explanatory.

The dates allocated to the various plate number combinations of the Walsall books are those when they were first seen on sale. There is, naturally, no official first day of issue for these; they appear rather haphazardly all over the country. Indeed, you may find the latest combination at your local retailers and the next time you call, their stock may have reverted to an "obsolescent" plate combination. Collectors can have great fun keeping track of all the changes.

## How many plates?

Although the quantities ordered from the different firms must vary, it is clear that photogra-

vure cylinders have a longer life than do lithographic plates. For example, the Harrison cylinder B3 was used not only for the books shown in tables 1 and 2 but also for the first non-value stamps of 1989, (although the ink colour at that time was black). In contrast, the number of plates used to print the Walsall equivalents over the same period was in excess of thirty. However, lithographic plates are easier and cheaper to make.

Lithographic plate numbers are not essential and Questa did not number theirs until the third NVI issue, although it is believed that they used two colour plates for all previous prints. Incidentally, Questa are the only lithographic firm to number their phosphor plates. The number of colour plates used to print the stamps in the Walsall books varies from two to four. All this begs the question: Why do the lithographic printers find it necessary to use more than one colour plate for a monochrome image?

The answer is related to a major difference between photogravure and lithographic printing. Photogravure achieves its tonal range by varying the depth of the tiny recesses, or cells, etched into the cylinder and which hold the ink; in the Harrison printings these are all the same size. Lithography, on the other hand, is a planographic process; this means that printed and unprinted areas are in the same plane. Their separation is achieved by chemical means based on the antipathy between grease (the ink) and water (the dampened areas which repel the ink and do not print). The result is that a lithographed monochrome image is apt to appear flat compared with the tonal variation of gravure. The Machin design relies very much for its success on the sculptured relief of the head from the background. To get this same effect in lithography, more than one plate is necessary. When there are two plates, one prints the whole image and the other, usually in a slightly paler colour, prints the head alone. But, as you can see from tables 1 to 4, Walsall sometimes uses three colours and has recently started to use four. Why should this be?

Three- and four-plate printings are, I believe,

part of the printer's continuing endeavour to improve the appearance of the printed image. In three-plate printings, each plate usually prints a slightly different shade of the desired colour. Thus, when the 10 x 1st-class stamps changed from W1W1 to W1W1W1 (see table 1), the dark colour was used to print the background, the mid colour printed the head and the light colour printed both.

| TABLE 1 Non Value stamps, second issue: 1st flame, 2nd dark blue (Newcastle address) |                |                            |          |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|---------|
| Printer                                                                              | Contents       | Cylinders / Plates         | Date     | Notes   |
| Harrison                                                                             | 10 x 2nd-class | B1 (blue) / B84 (phosphor) | 7. 8.90  |         |
|                                                                                      | 10 x 1st-class | B3 (flame)                 |          |         |
| Questa                                                                               | 10 x 2nd-class | not numbered               | 7. 8.90  |         |
|                                                                                      | 10 x 1st-class |                            |          |         |
| Walsall                                                                              | 4 x 2nd-class  | W1 W1 W1                   | 7. 8.90  | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W1 W2                   | 9.90     | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W2 W2                   | 12.90    | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W2 W2                   | 23. 3.91 | 2       |
|                                                                                      |                | W3 W3 W3                   | 17. 5.91 | 2       |
|                                                                                      |                | W3 W4 W3                   | 28. 6.91 | 2       |
|                                                                                      |                | W1 W1 W1                   | 7. 8.90  | 1, 3, 5 |
|                                                                                      |                | W1 W2 W2                   | 9.90     | 1, 3    |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W3 W3                   | 11.90    | 1, 3    |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W4 W3                   | 15. 3.91 | 1, 4    |
|                                                                                      | 4 x 1st-class  | W3 W4 W3                   | 8. 3.91  | 1, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W3 W4 W3                   | 5. 3.91  | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W3 W4 W4                   | 17. 5.91 | 2, 4, 6 |
|                                                                                      |                | W3 W5 W4                   | 5. 9.91  | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W4 W5 W5                   | 17. 6.91 | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W4 W6 W7                   | 19. 7.91 | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W1 W1 W1                   | 7. 8.90  | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W1 W1                   | 7. 8.90  | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W1 W2                   | 7. 8.90  | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W2 W2 (W3)                 | 8.90     | 1, 7    |
|                                                                                      | 10 x 2nd-class | W3 W3 W3                   | 10.90    | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W4 W3 W3                   | 12.90    | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W4 W3 W4                   | 15. 1.91 | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W5 W3 W5                   | 5.91     | 1       |
|                                                                                      |                | W4 W3 W5                   | 4. 5.91  | 2       |
|                                                                                      |                | W6 W3 W5                   | 10. 6.91 | 2       |
|                                                                                      |                | W6 W4 W5                   | 31. 7.91 | 1, 8    |
|                                                                                      |                | W7 W4 W5                   | 16. 7.91 | 2       |
|                                                                                      |                | W7 W4 W5                   | 19. 7.91 | 2       |
|                                                                                      |                | W1 W1                      | 7. 8.90  | 1       |
|                                                                                      | 10 x 1st-class | W1 W1 W1                   | 9.90     | 1, 3    |
|                                                                                      |                | W3 W3 W3                   | 19.10.90 | 1, 3    |
|                                                                                      |                | W4 W4 W4                   | 18. 1.91 | 1, 3    |
|                                                                                      |                | W4 W4 W4                   | 2. 3.91  | 1, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W5 W5 W4                   | 13. 3.91 | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W5 W6 W5                   | 5. 4.91  | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W5 W6 W6                   | 21. 4.91 | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W6 W6 W7                   | 10. 5.91 | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W6 W7 W8                   | 6. 6.91  | 2, 4    |
|                                                                                      |                | W7 W7 W8                   | 28. 6.91 | 2, 4    |

The first four-plate printing was a mistake. It occurred on the 4 x 1st-class from W4W6W6 shown in table 2, and was, in fact, a five-plate printing, as the two W6 plates were doubled, one of them superimposed on a normal W6 and so giving the appearance of only four plates, (see



Fig.1 W6 W6 W6 (W6) W6

fig. 1). This was soon detected and the error is quite difficult to obtain. The first true five-plate books were those containing the 4 x 39p worldwide airmail stamps, issued 16 September 1991, see table 3. Presumably, four were necessary to achieve the desired effect in this rather difficult colour.

More interestingly, four different plates were used in the 4 x 1st-class from W5W12W10W2

| TABLE 2 Non Value stamps, third issue: 1st flame; 2ND light blue (London address) |                |                       |          |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|
| Printer                                                                           | Contents       | Cylinders / Plates    | Date     | Notes |
| Harrison                                                                          | 10 x 1st-class | B3                    | 6. 8.91  | 9     |
| Questa                                                                            | 10 x 2nd-class | Q1 Q1 / Q1 (phosphor) | 6. 8.91  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | Q2 Q2 / Q1 (phosphor) | 20. 1.92 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | Q3 Q3 / Q1 (phosphor) | 15. 2.92 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | Q1 Q1                 | 6. 8.91  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | Q2 Q2                 | 16. 9.91 |       |
|                                                                                   | 10 x 1st-class | Q3 Q3                 | 20. 9.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | Q4 Q4                 | 7.11.91  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | Q5 Q5                 | 13.12.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W4 W4                 | 6. 8.91  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W5 W5                 | 7.10.91  |       |
| Walsall                                                                           | 4 x 2nd-class  | W6 W6                 | 15. 2.92 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W6 W7                 | 3. 2.92  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W4 W6 W6              | 6. 8.91  | 10    |
|                                                                                   |                | W4 W7 W6              | 20. 9.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W4 W8 W7              | 27. 9.91 |       |
|                                                                                   | 4 x 1st-class  | W5 W9 W8              | 15.10.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W5 W10 W9             | 11.12.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W5 W12 W10 W2         | 20.12.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W6 W4                 | 6. 8.91  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W7 W4                 | 6. 8.91  |       |
|                                                                                   | 10 x 2nd-class | W8 W4                 | 4.10.91  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W9 W5                 | 15.10.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W10 W6                | 20.11.91 |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W6 W7 W8              | 6. 8.91  |       |
|                                                                                   |                | W7 W7 W9              | 6. 8.91  |       |
|                                                                                   | 10 x 1st-class | W8 W8 W10             | 12.12.91 |       |

issued last December, see table 2, where hitherto three had been deemed sufficient. To my eyes, the colour of the stamps is not noticeably different from that of their earlier three-plate cousins. It seems that four plates might have become the norm for this colour, since the stamps in the latest Olympics books of four 1st-class are from combination W5W11W10W1. Now that Questa have started to include plate numbers in their finished books, will we see three- and four-plate books from them?

## Plate number positions

One interesting aspect of these changes in the number of colour plates used is their position in the binding margins of the panes. Sometimes they are all against the top row of stamps, sometimes against the bottom row and, a necessity where four are used, against both. Even more interesting, one combination, W3W4W4 used for the 4 x 1st-class in table 1, appeared in two different formats, see fig. 2. It seems that this was unintended and that a replacement set with the numbers in their normal positions was made. Format 1 was short-lived and plate books with this layout are scarce. This format was also used for the next



Fig.2 W3 W4 W4 left: format 1 right: format 2

combination to appear for this book, W3W5W4, but after that, the normal format 2 for three-plate printings was used.

### Cover card

Over the last two years or so, the appearance of the books from the three printers has been standardised. An important change, and one that is, perhaps, not generally recognised, concerns the cover card used by Walsall. When the plastic window was dispensed with in October 1988, the expensive lamination of the covers became unnecessary and both Harrison and Questa varnished them instead. Walsall, however, continued to laminate theirs until the second NVI issue in August 1990, after which they also varnished them.

In March 1991, Walsall changed from Ikonorex board to Stirling Artborad. During the changeover, some plate combinations occurred with both Ikonorex and Stirling board. The two boards are noted 1 and 2 respectively in table 1. A sure way of distinguishing the relevant books is by the shape of the locking tab, which changed at the same time - see page 277 of the August 1991 *Bulletin*.

### Rates errors

Although the rates information published on the inside covers of the window books is intended to be identical from all three printers, some differences have occurred, all unintentional. The first affected some of the books containing four 27p stamps for the Worldwide Postcards rate printed by Harrisons and issued on 23 August 1988. A rates table specially adapted for overseas postings was printed at the left and the paragraph about the availability of full rates leaflets was over to the right. This paragraph was omitted from some of the books coded letter S for sale by retailers.

The second error affected a quantity of the Walsall books containing ten 2nd-class stamps commemorating the Penny Black anniversary. This was briefly mentioned by Len Newbery in his article in the June 1991 *Bulletin*, and the two versions are illustrated, as types B and C, on page 229. In fact, the "wrong" rates table was also printed on the Walsall books of four "Penny Black" stamps but, since all were affected, there is no "error" of interest to collectors. The Walsall £1.50 books with the rates error are not scarce, although some of those sought by specialists, such as the plate book showing part of the horizontal bar, are rare.

Even more rare is the third example; in fact, only a single book is known for certain. When books with non-value stamps were introduced, a panel of rates was no longer appropriate, since these stamps hold their value even if postage rates change. Instead, a brief notice is printed inside the covers, indicating that the stamps are valid for 1st or 2nd class items, according to the contents. A Harrison book of ten 1st-class non-value stamps of the second issue, coloured flame, was printed with the notice appropriate

| TABLE 3 Worldwide Postcards and Worldwide Airmail |                       |             |          |       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|-------|
| Printer                                           | Contents              | Plates      | Date     | Notes |
| Walsall                                           | 4 x 31p, ultramarine  | W2 W1 W1    | 17. 9.90 | 3, 11 |
|                                                   | W2 W1 W1              |             | 4. 6.91  | 4, 12 |
|                                                   | 4 x 33p, emerald      | W1 W1 W1    | 16. 9.91 | 4, 12 |
|                                                   | 4 x 39p, rhododendron | W1 W1 W1 W1 | 16. 9.91 | 4, 12 |

| TABLE 4 Promotional Covers — Olympics |                |                       |          |       |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|
| Printer                               | Contents       | Cylinders / Plates    | Date     | Notes |
| Harrison                              | 10 x 1st-class | B3                    | 21. 1.92 |       |
| Walsall                               | 4 x 2nd-class  | W6 W6                 | 21. 1.92 |       |
|                                       | 4 x 1st-class  | W5 W10 W9 W1          | 10. 3.92 |       |
|                                       |                | W5 W11 W9 W1          | 10. 3.92 |       |
|                                       |                | W5 W11 W10 W1         | 21. 1.92 |       |
|                                       |                | W6 W14 W10 W3         | 5. 3.92  |       |
|                                       |                | W11 W7                | 9. 1.92  | 13    |
|                                       | 10 x 2nd-class | W12 W7                | 31. 1.92 |       |
|                                       |                | W12 W8                | 8. 2.92  |       |
|                                       |                | W13 W8                | 22. 2.92 |       |
|                                       | 10 x 1st-class | W9 W8 W10             | 21. 1.92 |       |
| Questa                                | 10 x 2nd-class | Q4 Q4 / Q1 (phosphor) | 31. 3.92 |       |

to 2nd-class items. Unfortunately, the finder removed all but one of the stamps before noticing the error. However, the cover would still be of interest, even if all the stamps had been removed, since the contents printed on the outside cover (and the barcode) were inconsistent with the notice, an error which cannot be faked. It would be worth your while examining any copies of this book that you have, in case you find another example.

Another rates panel error occurred in the recent machine-vended books. The 50p and £1 books with the first cover designs in the Punch and Archaeology series, issued on 10 September

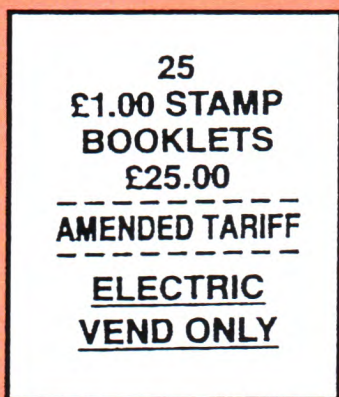


Fig.5 wrapper band for £1 books with corrected rates

| Inland Letters                                    |     |      |      |      |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|--|
| United Kingdom, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man. |     |      |      |      |  |
|                                                   | 60g | 100g | 150g | 200g |  |
| 1st class                                         | 24p | 35p  | 43p  | 51p  |  |
| 2nd class                                         | 18p | 28p  | 33p  | 39p  |  |

Fig.3 incorrect rates

| Inland Letters                                    |     |      |      |      |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|--|
| United Kingdom, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man. |     |      |      |      |  |
|                                                   | 60g | 100g | 150g | 200g |  |
| 1st class                                         | 24p | 36p  | 45p  | 54p  |  |
| 2nd class                                         | 18p | 28p  | 34p  | 41p  |  |

Fig.4 corrected rates

1991, were printed with some incorrect rates for inland letters (fig. 3). This was soon noticed and books with corrected rates (fig. 4) were printed; they were first seen on sale on 19 November 1991. This kind of error has occurred once or twice before and it is, perhaps, surprising that it does not occur more often when you consider the need to begin printing before final approval for proposed tariff increases has been obtained.

Books for machine vend are bundled in 25s and wrapped with a yellow paper band. To distinguish the books with the corrected rates, these banks had the words AMENDED TARIFF added; that for the £1 books is illustrated (fig. 5). Wrapper bands are quite easy to obtain (make friends with your local sub-postmaster) and, together with matching pairs of the books concerned, give an album page that extra interest.

| TABLE 5 Machine-vended books (Harrison) |                            |                   |              |          |       |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Face                                    | Contents                   | Cover Design      | Cylinders    | Date     | Notes |
| 50p                                     | 3 x 17p; 1 label           | Aeroplanes, No.3  | B46 / B87    | 4. 9.90  |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B48 / B87    | 11.90    |       |
|                                         |                            | Aeroplanes, No.4  | B48 / B87    | 25. 5.91 |       |
|                                         | 2 x 1p; 2 x 24p            | Archaeology, No.1 | B34 B2       | 10. 9.91 | 14    |
|                                         |                            |                   | B35 B2       | 10.10.91 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B34 B2       | 18.10.91 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B35 B2       | 19.11.91 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B35 B4       | 26.11.91 |       |
|                                         |                            | Archaeology, No.2 | B34 B2       | 21. 1.92 | 15    |
|                                         |                            |                   | B35 B2       | 21. 1.92 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B1 B45 / B88 | 4. 9.90  |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B1 B45 / B89 | 11.10.90 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B2 B45 / B89 | 19.10.90 |       |
| £1                                      | 2 x 17p; 3 x 22p; 3 labels | Mills, No.3       | B2 B47 / B89 | 20.11.90 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B3 B45 / B89 | 27.11.90 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B3 B47 / B89 | 2.91     |       |
|                                         |                            | Mills, No.4       | B2 B45 / B89 | 26. 6.91 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B3 B45 / B89 | 8.91     |       |
|                                         | 2 x 2p; 4 x 24p; 2 labels  | Punch, No.1       | B20 B1       | 10. 9.91 | 14    |
|                                         |                            |                   | B20 B1       | 12.10.91 |       |
|                                         |                            |                   | B20 B3       | 3.12.91  |       |
|                                         |                            | Punch, No.2       | B20 B1       | 21. 1.92 | 15    |
|                                         |                            |                   | B20 B1       | 21. 1.92 |       |

#### Notes to tables

- 1 with Ikoneox cover card; locking tab has two side cuts
- 2 with Stirling cover card; locking tab has no side cuts
- 3 the fluorescence of the paper varies from bright white to dull grey
- 4 known only on the duller paper
- 5 exists with normal perforation 14 and perforation 13 in error, (see Feb. 1991 Bulletin, p.140)
- 6 plate books exist in two formats, see text
- 7 the W3 was misplaced and does not appear in the finished books
- 8 fewer than a dozen books were found (in Suffolk)
- 9 Harrison's did not produce books of 2nd-class stamps in this format
- 10 also exists in the form W4W6W6W6, see text
- 11 the leaflet notice on the inside cover gives a Newcastle address
- 12 the leaflet notice on the inside cover gives a London address
- 13 pre-released in several places because of a shortage
- 14 incorrect rates
- 15 corrected rates
- 16 the bands from this phosphor cylinder are narrower than those from cylinder B89

## The Wales Prestige Book

Details of this book have already appeared in the *Bulletin* but I want to draw attention to one aspect of it that has wide philatelic appeal. This is the se-tenant pane, a feature that has appeared in every prestige book and in all their predecessors, beginning with the experimental "Stamps for Cooks" book of 1969.

Collectors of se-tenant pairs will have a field

day with this issue, especially those who treat labels as an element in a pair and who distinguish vertical pairs from horizontal ones. For the first time ever, country stamps and standard definitives have been issued se-tenant. The pane also yields standard definitives and non-value stamps se-tenant but this is not the first occasion that these have appeared, although the actual stamps are different. The London Life prestige book of 1990 contained a pane with non-value stamps of the first issue (black and bright blue) se-tenant with 20p and 50p definitives.

While the postal necessity for the arrangements chosen for the Welsh prestige book may be queried, there can be no doubt that a set of these se-tenant pairs makes a striking, if expensive, album page. Personally, I very much like se-tenant pairs, particularly where the two stamps are of different colours. It seems to me that this redoubles the attraction of the Machin design, much of which is derived from the colour variations that have occurred during its long life.

A pointer to a decision whether to include both vertical and horizontal pairs in a collection came with the very first decimal machine-vended books of 1971. These contained two panes, each with two values vertically se-tenant. Together, these made up the ten minimum rate for 2nd-class letters. However, the bottom stamp was apt to be missed by the cancelling machines, raising the possibility that it could be re-used. To counter this, the arrangement was altered in July 1971 to a horizontal one. Knowing the reason for a change aids considerably in writing up a collection. Se-tenant pairs are popular with many collectors and I hope to include notes about other arrangements in a future column. After all, apart from a few multi-value rolls (and some special issues) all se-tenant pairs come from booklets.

*"quandoque bonus dormitat Homerus..."*

A small error occurred in Len Newbery's column in the June 1991 *Bulletin*. The black 1st-class stamps in the Walsall book of four issued on 22 August 1989 were overprinted with two phosphor bars rather than on Phosphor Coated Paper as stated.

## Northeast Souvenir Book

To commemorate the 16th Northeast Philatelic Week-End on 15/17 May 1992, a souvenir booklet is being produced containing the first Readers Digest coil strips showing the four

different positions of the 2½p value. These booklets, issued in limited numbers, are private productions and in no way connected with Royal Mail. Price £2.20 per booklet plus SAE (5 x 4"). Small numbers of souvenir books from previous weekends, since 1982, are still available. Orders/enquiries: Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 4RY.

## Astro-Space Society

Brief details of this society were published here in March (page 168); the Society has now formed a Young Persons' Section, details of which can be obtained from: Peter Talbot-Ashby, 32 Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch, SWANSEA SA9 2QE. A "British Industry in Space Year 1992" colour brochure will be sent to all enquirers mentioning this announcement. A limited number of British Industry in Space Year/International Space Year 1992 covers are available – enquiries to Mr Talbot-Ashby at the above address.



## Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here are two of the new railway letter stamps – issued by the Nene Valley and North Yorkshire Moors railways – reported here in March (page 161). The NVR stamp was issued on 7 April; the NYMR stamp goes on sale on 3 June. See the March *Bulletin* for details of availability.

# The Royal Mail, 1984

British Special Issues: No. 172

FRANCIS KENNEDY

John Palmer, the Manager of theatres in Bristol and Bath and postal innovator of considerable stature, is indirectly commemorated by the five 16p stamps released on 31 July 1984 and usually referred to as the Royal Mail issue. The actual commemoration was the bicentenary of the first scheduled mail coach run organised by Palmer which ran from Bristol (leaving at 4pm) on 2 August 1784, and via Bath, ran through the night eventually arriving at the GPO in Lombard Street, London, at 9am the following morning. Careful planning had halved the usual time taken by slow post waggons, or even postboys on horseback and had ensured the safety of the mails. The benefit of a scheduled service was that should it fail to arrive on time at any specified "stage" - where horses could be replaced - then immediate action could be taken to send out a search party.

Charles Clear, in his book *John Palmer (of Bath), Mail Coach Pioneer* (Blandford Press and Postal History Society, 1955), states that the first mail coach run carried four inside passengers

The security of the Palmer system was such that, wrote Clear, "Contrary to popular belief no mail coach was ever held up and robbed by highwaymen, at all events, not during Palmer's term of office." This was a vast improvement compared with earlier attacks on the slow waggons and the solo postboys on horseback, both virtually sitting targets for any would-be miscreants. The system flourished until the incoming railways began to take over and the final Royal Mail run took place in 1846.

The familiar Royal Mail coaches, distinguished from the every day stage coaches by the Royal Arms on the doors and such devices as the badges of Knighthood - Garter, Bath, Thistle and St Patrick - became social and postal history.

The 1984 stamps were especially interesting because (like the 18th century prints by James Pollard on which the designs were based), they were recess-printed, except for the Queen's silhouette, figures of value and background tint which were in photogravure. The designers were Keith Bassford and Stanley Paine. Harrison and Sons engaged Czeslaw Slania, the Swedish-based Czech engraver, to prepare the dies and the firm's famous Jumelle press, with its capacity for simultaneous printing by recess and photogravure, printed the issue so well that Gibbons did not list any major or minor constant printing varieties. Production was in sheets



with an armed guard, provided by the Post Office, on the outside with the mail box and with strict instructions to fire should the mail be attacked by highwaymen. A week's trial proved how successful Palmer's scheme could be but this did not prevent political opposition which delayed setting up other mail routes. However, a Harwich to London service began on 28 March 1785, to be followed by services between London and Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool in May 1785. Other viable routes were soon in operation, the culmination of the scheme being the London-Glasgow and London-Edinburgh services in 1786 and 1787.

of 100 (two panes of 10 x 5) with all five 16p stamps horizontally se-tenant.

The designs featured Royal Mail coaches from their introduction in 1784 down to 1831. The first stamp in the strip features the original Bath coach (1784); the second the Exeter coach (1816) on the famous occasion when a lioness, which had escaped from a menagerie, attacked the leading horse of the four-horse team when the coach was passing The Pheasant inn near Stockbridge, between Winchester and Salisbury. (A framed contemporary account of the incident can be still seen in the present inn on the same site.) The third stamps shows the Norwich

coach in a thunderstorm (1827); the fourth the Holyhead and Liverpool mails leaving London (1828). The final stamp depicts the Edinburgh coach snowbound (1831). These five designs evoke memories of the most notable period of development in British mail handling until the advent of Rowland Hill's reforms were instituted in 1840.

In all, 60,652,700 of these stamps were issued to post office counters, representing a little over 12 million of each design. The PHQ postcards were numbered 78a - 78e; 170,000 sets were produced. There was also a special souvenir-pack containing the stamps and illustrated stories about Royal Mail coaches and the inns which served them. This was additional to the standard presentation pack with its own account of the issue.

The Royal Mail's pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks were used at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, and at Bristol. These showed the signs of old coaching inns. Six sponsored handstamps, used on the day of issue, featured mail coaches. The National Postal Museum put on a special exhibition to mark the mail coach bicentenary, a set of postcards was produced and a special mail coach postmark used from 2 August 1984 to 26 April 1985.

A re-enactment of the historic run of 1784 was staged, the coach left Bristol at 3pm on 1 August, and arrived at the London Chief Office in King Edward Street shortly after 8am next morning (see *Bulletin* July 1984 for details). This re-enactment attracted considerable media attention and crowds of people greeted the coach along its route.

## New Lundy Stamps

Since 1929 local stamps have been used on mail sent from Lundy, in the Bristol Channel, to the mainland. New Lundy stamps, to be issued on 19 May, promote tourism - vital to the island's economy. They show: 23p - Lundy supply vessel *Oldenburg* which carries visitors to Lundy; 29p - Landing Beach; 33p - Millcombe House, where visitors can stay; 49p - Marisco Tavern, the island pub; and 75p Bird watching on west coast. The stamps, based on paintings by John Dyke, have been printed by Questa. Orders/enquiries to: Wendy Puddy, Lundy, BIDEFORD, Devon, EX39 2LY. Lundy stamps (sometimes termed "local carriage labels"), are used in conjunction with British stamps or meter markings; details of the local postal service and stamps were published here in July 1985.

## Posting Boxes

### 130. Lamp Boxes

Our first photograph, submitted by Colin Wadlow of Birmingham, shows a E II R lamp box mounted on a pillar immediately in front of a Victorian post box in the wall of Bredicot Court Farm in the village of Bredicot in Worcestershire. Mr Wadlow wonders if the Victorian box will be restored at some time. Lamp boxes were introduced in 1895, and by 1960 there were some 21,608 in use. The contract for their manufacture was held by W T Allen & Co from 1933 to 1955. It then passed to McDowall Steven & Co (later Allied Ironfounders Ltd), and from 1960 the Carron Co also supplied lamp boxes.

The second photo was sent in by Ian Wilkinson, until recently Editor of the *Newsletter* of the Letter Box Study Group. It shows the earliest type of lamp box made in the reign of George VI, such boxes were produced by Handysides from 1910. This box is situated at Myrtlegrove Farm, Patching, Worthing, Sussex. While it appears to be on private property, it is in fact a working box for public use and is cleared daily by Royal Mail.



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

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

## Post Offices Archives Opens in Style

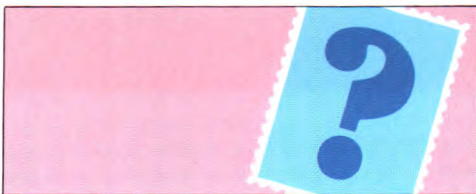
Last November Post Office Archives moved from Southwark to its new home at London's Mount Pleasant. The official opening by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, took place on 20 March. Amongst the many guests were distinguished archivists, historians, philatelists and postal historians including Lord (Asa) Briggs, Professor Martin Daunt, author of *Royal Mail: The Post Office since 1840*, Michael Roper, Keeper of the Public Record Office, and Mr John Marriott, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.



Mrs Jean Farrugia, Post Office Archivist & Records Manager, with the Lord Chancellor at the official opening, 20 March 1992. (Photo: Cyril Macey)

Mr Ken Young, Deputy Chairman of The Post Office, introduced the Lord Chancellor who spoke of his responsibility as the minister of the crown in charge of public records and of the stringent requirements set by his department for places designated repositories of public records. The new Post Office Archives & Record Centre more than fulfilled these requirements. Users enjoy improved research facilities; storage is also better than that available at Southwark and, before that, at St Martin's-le-Grand. The move from Southwark involved the packing, labelling, and unpacking of over 4000 crates of books and documents. Last year the Search Room staff dealt with nearly 7000 postal and telephone enquiries, and nearly 1200 visitors. A useful brochure, detailing the services available and including a location map, can be obtained from: Post Office Archives, Mount Pleasant Letter District Office (Phoenix Place Entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB. Tel. 071-239 2570. Guides to various groups of records, posters, models and postcards are on sale. A fuller report on the new Archives will be published here later in the year.

*British Philatelic Bulletin — May 1992*



### Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: May Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 30 June.

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

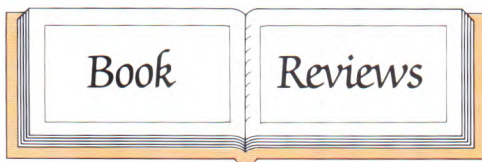
1. Who designed the Civil War stamps?
2. The 50th anniversary of which broadcasting organisation was marked by special stamps in 1972?
3. Which mail coach was attacked by a lioness in 1816?
4. What is the title of the exhibition which opened at the National Postal Museum on 6 May 1992?
5. What was the date of issue of the Enschedé 18p definitive stamp?

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

The winners of the February competition were: R A Wynn of Kent (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); G Thompson of Quebec, Canada; G Hudson of Lancashire; M Lovell of Avon; Mrs I Byng of Hants; and L Ferrando of Italy (1992 Europa presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Spain, 2. St Andrew, 3. Henry Archer, 4. Irene von Treskow, 5. 25 February 1992.

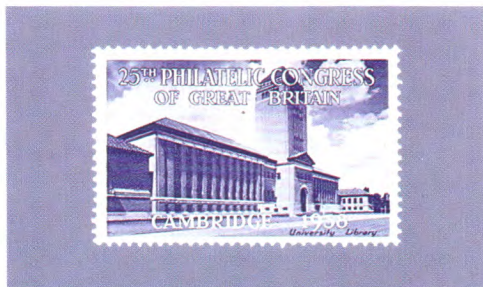
Our thanks to all who entered.



Ian Wilkinson (whose collection of miniature letter boxes can be seen in the National Postal Museum) has compiled and published a delightful book on **British Greetings Telegrams and Telemessage Special Occasion Cards**. Ian reminds us that in the days before telephones were commonplace, the telegram was the only means by which we could quickly advise our friends and relations living far afield of important news. Often this was sad news of illness or death and many opened telegrams fearing the worst. So the idea of having a distinctive "good news" envelope was an obvious solution. Denmark introduced artistic telegram forms for sending messages of congratulations in 1907 and most of Europe, Scandinavia, the Dominions and the USA had followed suit prior to the first British greetings telegrams in 1935. The check list illustrates and details all forms and envelopes, quoting artist, size, purpose (general, Valentine, Birthday, etc), colours, and dates of issue and withdrawal. Many of the designs were extremely attractive, the work of quite eminent artists. The last, type 77, was issued in October 1979. The whole British Inland Telegram Service, including greetings telegrams, ceased on 1 October 1982. Some 50 Special Occasion cards issued by British Telecom's Telemessage Service since 1981 are listed, as are the special telegrams/telemessages sent by the sovereign to persons celebrating their 100th birthday or 60th wedding anniversary. Apparently some 8000 such messages are despatched each year within the UK, and a further 5000 to persons living in the Commonwealth. Mr Wilkinson's book will be an essential work of reference for existing collectors of this material, and may well encourage others to take up the hobby. Well illustrated, printed on fine art paper, 56 pages, attractive card cover. ISBN 0 9519008 0 3. Price £3.95, postage £1 overseas, from: Ian G Wilkinson, 17 Germaines Close, CHESHAM, Bucks, HP5 1JJ. The book is on sale at the National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives.

The Cinderella Stamp Club has recently published a useful handbook (its eighth) entitled **Great Britain Commemorative Labels Pre-1950: A Catalogue** compiled by Chris

Chatfield. The useful introductory section sets out the coverage of the book with details of the pricing bands used and a bibliography. The listings are provided in three main groups: Congress and B.I.F. (British Industries Fair) labels; Year-dated commemorative labels; and Un-year-dated labels. The first Philatelic Congress was held in Manchester in 1909; souvenir labels were introduced the following year for the London meeting. Many of these Congress labels are most attractive and popular with some



collectors. The very beautiful 1910 labels featured a head of Queen Victoria engraved by Perkins Bacon, printer of the Penny Black. (*Writing of this review was here interrupted by yet another evacuation of the National Postal Museum, owing to a bomb alert! Ed. 2 March.*) The B.I.F., organised primarily by the Board of Trade, has been held annually, usually in London and Birmingham, in most years since 1915 (not 1941-6); numerous labels have been issued. These have featured Britannia and industrial symbols. The Year-by-Year listing of commemorative labels begins with a coin-style label produced in 1846 to mark the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to Scotland. A good number of the labels commemorate or advertise agricultural shows, trade exhibitions and some philatelic events. Section 3 on the un-dated labels lists these under various thematic headings: Fairs, Exhibitions and Other Special Events; Patriotic and Propaganda; Advertising; Hotel Advertising; Stamp Dealers, Collectors and Printers, etc. This work is not only of great value to collectors of cinderella collectors but many thematic collectors would find listed therein material they might already have, or like to have, in their collections. Profusely illustrated, although the quality of illustration varies somewhat. Mr Chatfield is to be congratulated on a job well done. 172 pages, card covers, ISBN 0 9503811 3 6. Price £10, postage £1, from: Cinderella Stamp Club, 35 Smith Street, LONDON SW3 4EP.

## Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until October 1992. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 12 Nov | Christmas stamps (AS479)             |
| 12 Nov | Christmas pack (AT100)               |
| 12 Nov | Christmas stamp book (UB045)         |
| 12 Nov | 1991 Collectors' Pack (DS183)        |
| 12 Nov | 1991 Yearbook (AR023)                |
| 12 Nov | NPM "Old Christmas" cards (NQ909)    |
| 19 Nov | Enschede 18p (DS183)                 |
| 3 Dec  | N Ireland 18p (IS181)                |
| 3 Dec  | N Ireland 24p (IS241)                |
| 3 Dec  | N Ireland 28p (IS282)                |
| 3 Dec  | N Ireland 39p (IS390)                |
| 3 Dec  | Scotland 18p (SS182)                 |
| 3 Dec  | Scotland 24p (SS241)                 |
| 3 Dec  | Scotland 28p (SS282)                 |
| 3 Dec  | Scotland 39p (SS390)                 |
| 3 Dec  | Wales 18p (WS182)                    |
| 3 Dec  | Wales 24p (WS241)                    |
| 3 Dec  | Wales 28p (WS282)                    |
| 3 Dec  | Wales 39p (WS390)                    |
| 3 Dec  | Country Stamp Pack (CP010)           |
| 31 Dec | Wintertime stamp cards (AQ190)       |
| 1992   |                                      |
| 14 Jan | Wintertime stamps (AS485)            |
| 14 Jan | Wintertime pack (AP101)              |
| 14 Jan | Snowdon Shepherd book (PA127)        |
| 21 Jan | 3p Def. Redrawn numerals (DS032)     |
| 21 Jan | 50p Def. ACP (DS503)                 |
| 21 Jan | 50p book – Archaeology 2 (TB013)     |
| 21 Jan | £1 book – Punch 2 (TB014)            |
| 21 Jan | 4 x 2nd class book/W (UB047)         |
| 21 Jan | 4 x 1st class book/W (UB048)         |
| 21 Jan | 10 x 2nd class book/W (UB049)        |
| 21 Jan | 10 x 1st class book/W (UB050)        |
| 21 Jan | 10 x 1st class book/H (UB051)        |
| 22 Jan | Happy & Glorious stamp cards (AQ196) |
| 28 Jan | Greetings stamp book (JB004)         |
| 28 Jan | Greetings stamp pack (JP001)         |
| 6 Feb  | Happy & Glorious stamps (AS491)      |
| 6 Feb  | Happy & Glorious pack (AP102)        |
| 6 Feb  | NPM Queen's Accession cards (NQ911)  |
| 6 Feb  | NPM K. Edward Building card (NQ912)  |
| 11 Feb | 33p Coil (DC857)                     |
| 11 Feb | 39p Coil (DC858)                     |
| 25 Feb | Prestige Stamp Book (Wales) (YB003)  |
| 25 Feb | Tennyson stamp cards (AQ202)         |
| 25 Feb | Post Office Archives cards           |
| 3 Mar  | Smiles Book Reprint (JB005)          |
| 10 Mar | Tennyson stamps (AS497)              |

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 10 Mar | Tennyson pack (AP103)            |
| 24 Mar | Revised £1 Castle (FS012)        |
| 24 Mar | Revised £1.50 Castle (FS152)     |
| 24 Mar | Revised £2 Castle (FS022)        |
| 24 Mar | Revised £5 Castle (FS052)        |
| 24 Mar | Revised Castles pack (FP008)     |
| 24 Mar | Europa stamp cards (AQ207)       |
| 31 Mar | 10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB052)    |
| 7 Apr  | Europa stamps (AS498)            |
| 7 Apr  | Europa pack (AP104)              |
| 14 Apr | Scottish aerogramme (QS029)      |
| 28 Apr | 50p book – Archaeology 3 (TB015) |
| 28 Apr | £1 book – Punch 3 (TB016)        |

## Forthcoming

|        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 May  | NPM People in the Post cards          |
| 2 Jun  | Civil War stamp cards                 |
| 16 Jun | Civil War stamps and pack             |
| 23 Jun | Scottish Aerogramme (Scots Guards)    |
| 7 Jul  | Gilbert & Sullivan stamp cards        |
| 21 Jul | Gil & Sull stamps and pack            |
| 1 Sep  | Green Issue stamp cards               |
| 15 Sep | Green issue stamps and pack           |
| 15 Sep | NPM Artefacts post cards              |
| 29 Sep | Single European Market stamp card     |
| 13 Oct | Single European Market stamp and pack |
| 27 Oct | Tolkien Prestige Stamp Book           |
| 27 Oct | Christmas stamp cards                 |

## Notes:

The NVI stamp books (21 January - Harrison and Walsall) and 31 March (Questa) have British Olympic and Paralympic logos on the outer cover and revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail inside. The stamps are as those in the August 1991 books. The Smiles Greetings book reprint (3 March) has revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail; the stamps are as the original issue of March 1991.

The Archives cards (25 February) are available from: Post Office Archives, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant Sorting Office (Phoenix Place Entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB. They are not available from the British Philatelic Bureau.

## Bulletin Back Issues

Back issues are available for one year from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and the National Postal Museum in London. Enquiries about earlier issues should be sent (with stamped, addressed envelope for reply) to: Maynard Davies, Hall Floor Flat, 4 Cecil Road, BRISTOL BS8 3HR who runs a non-profit making scheme for collectors to buy and sell back numbers.

## Commemorative Covers

*Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin office.*

**Edinburgh and Glasgow Rly.** A commemorative cover was produced for the 150th anniversary of the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company dated 18 February 1992. A real colour photograph of a steam train which worked the line before nationalisation is set behind acetate as part of the design. The stamp is cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp at Glasgow and an insert card gives further details of the line. Price £2.50 postpaid. Orders/enquiries: Pilgrim Philatelics, PO Box 20, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

**Olympic Games.** Benham have produced covers showing Sports Personality of the Year Liz McColgan, and runners-up, the 4 x 400 men's relay team. The covers bear the Europa set with special Olympic Games Manchester handstamp of 7 April. Price £4.99, signed covers (our choice of signature) £7.99. The proceeds raised will go to charities of the athlete's choice. Contact Benham for details of signatures available. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

**Columbus.** Hours of meticulous research went into the original painting by Gordon Davies which illustrates the Benham cover to commemorate Columbus's epic voyage. The illustration features ships *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria* off the shores of the New World. The cover bears the Europa stamps cancelled by a special Greenwich, SE10 handstamp of 7 April. Price £4.99. Contact Benham for details of covers bearing Guernsey and Jersey Columbus stamps. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

**Discovery of the Americas.** To coincide with the Europa stamps, A G Bradbury produced three limited edition covers, each with a sponsored handstamp. These have been produced with the help of the United States Travel & Tourism Administration. America Yours to Discover is the theme of the first cover which features the Statue of Liberty, Shoshone Indians and Colonial soldiers. The cover bears a New York, Lincoln special handstamp. Price £5.75 or £10.50 signed by David Dimpleby. The 67th cover in the Victorian Prints Series shows a "Cayuse" Indian and bears a California, Halifax

handstamp. Price £6.75. The "Christopher Columbus" cover bears a line engraving of Columbus with the official Quincentenary Jubilee Commission logo, the stamps cancelled by a special Greenwich, London SE10 handstamp showing the *Santa Maria*. Price £9.75. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. Overseas add £1 postage and remit in sterling.

**Captain Cook/Europa.** Stan Muscroft has produced a cover showing Captain Cook's ship *Endeavour*; this is available with the five Europa stamps cancelled by a special handstamp worded "Captain Cook's Endeavour Salutes Europe's Tall Ships", used at Whitby on 7 April. The Tall Ships are taking part in "Operation Raleigh"; a participating ship is shown on one of the two 39p stamps in the Europa set. Price £5. Orders/enquiries: Stan Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 8JJ.

**Stanstead Airport.** A commemorative cover was produced in March 1991 to mark the official opening of Stanstead Airport by HM The Queen. This was announced in the April 1991 *Bulletin*; all 1000 covers produced quickly sold out. One was presented to The Queen and another to Post Office Archives. Two covers were signed by the Chairman of The Post Office, Sir Bryan Nicholson, and the Chairman of the British Airport Authority, Dr N. Brian Smith, CBE. One of these covers is being offered to *Bulletin* readers at the highest bid over £25.



The proceeds from this sale go to the Children in Need Appeal. All bids should be sent, by 30 June, to: Mr M R Greavett, Branch Manager, Bush Fair Post Office, 1-2 Corner House, Bush Fair, HARLOW, Essex, CM18 6NY.

**Tennyson.** A special, limited edition (250) first day cover featuring four vignettes of some of Tennyson's most loved characters – The Lady of Shalott, Maud, Lancelot and Elaine, and the May Queen – is available with a pictorial

Stockwith Mill (Hagworthingham) postmark. Price £10.75, overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

**Royal Army Pay Corps.** A special cover marking the 114th anniversary of the RAPC was produced on 3 April. The cover, featuring members of the corps, bears a Happy & Glorious stamp cancelled by a special Forces handstamp showing the Corps' badge. 1500 have been produced, 100 of which are signed by the Paymaster in Chief and Colonel Commandant. Price £2, £3.50 signed. Orders/enquiries: Philatelic Officer, MOD F9(A), Room 226, Empress State Building, LONDON SW6 1TR. Remittances payable to "RAPC Central Fund".

**British Industry in Space Year 92.** BISY 92 is an organisation which brings together the space interests of the public and private sectors to focus and co-ordinate Britain's contribution to International Space Year. A commemorative cover was produced on 7 April, bearing one of the 1990 Astronomy stamps cancelled by a special Jodrell Bank, Macclesfield handstamp. The cover features a photograph of earth from space and communication satellites. Price £3.75, overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

**Tennyson.** The Poetry Society first day cover, produced by CoverCraft, features a full-colour reproduction of "April Love" by Pre-Raphaelite painter Arthur Hughes. Alongside the painting are lines from Tennyson's poem "The Miller's Daughter". The covers bear Tennyson stamps with special London SW1 handstamp. Price £4.95 with full set, £2.50 with single stamp. Overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries: CoverCraft, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

**Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.** The Infirmary celebrates its 250th anniversary this year with a commemorative cover featuring a specially-designed Anniversary logo. The limited edition cover bears one of the Happy & Glorious stamps with a special 14 June 1992 handstamp, commemorating the day when the first Mistress (matron) was put in charge of the Infirmary House. Price £1.50. Orders/enquiries: Mrs K Sage, 1 Albyn Place, ABERDEEN AB9 8QP, Tel. 0224-589901, ex. 75258.

**Queen Victoria's First Rail Journey.** 150 years ago Queen Victoria became the first reigning monarch to ride on a railway. The first Royal Train, headed by "Phlegethon" left Slough with the GWR engineers Isambard Brunel and Daniel Gooch on the footplate. On

arrival at Paddington, The Queen made it known that she was "quite charmed". Special covers, showing the royal arrival at Paddington, will be carried from Slough to Paddington by Travelling Post Office on 12 June. These bear Slough backstamp, "Great Western Up" TPO postmark, railway stamp and "Carried on Royal Road" cachet. Price £2.50 or £3.10 with Victorian stamp tied by cachet. Overseas add 80p. Orders/enquiries: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.



**Southend-on-Sea Charter Centenary.** To mark the Borough's charter centenary a limited edition (2000) cover has been produced showing the centenary logo and three scenes – Thames sailing barges, cockle boats, and Southend's famous pier. The cover bears three of the 1975 Sailing issue (7p, 8p and 10p or 7p, 8p and 12p) cancelled with the Southend Philatelic Counter handstamp following the Mayoral Ceremony on 21 May 1992. Price £3.50 or £5 signed by the Mayor (limited to 250). Orders/enquiries: Marketing Department, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, PO Box 6, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS2 6ER.

## Exeter Postmarks Postcards

The Exeter & District Philatelic Society has produced two postcards, issued for its 60th anniversary stamp exhibition and fair on 2 May. The cards, in limited edition of 500, depict Exeter postmarks: Card 1 shows postmarks of 1698-1842; card 2 of 1815-71. Price 45p per card, or 65p the pair, postage paid. Orders/enquiries: Andrew Pavey, 153 Honiton Road, EXETER, Devon, EX1 3EP.

## May Digest

*Issued in May*

**6 May:** National Postal Museum "People in the Post" postcards – four cards featuring dispensary at PO Headquarters; ambulance and crew of GPO St John Ambulance Brigade; Corps of Women Drivers and Grooms during 1914-18 War; and Royal Mail van and postmistress at Drymen PO, Scotland. Nos. NPM92/5-8, price 25p each. Cards available from National Postal Museum, London and British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.



*Withdrawn in May*

**13 May:** National Postal Museum "Stamping the Mail" postcards (Nos. 91/5-8, issued 14 May 1991). *Note:* To be withdrawn from sale at British Philatelic Bureau; the cards will remain on sale at the National Postal Museum.

## University of Sussex Philatelic Unit

In the note on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (February, page 142) it was stated that Prof. John C West was founder Director of the Philatelic Unit of Sussex University. We should make clear that the Unit was founded by the late Reginald M Phillips of Brighton, and that Prof. West was subsequently appointed director. Features on the Philatelic Unit and Mr Phillips were published here in August and September 1970.

## Happy & Glorious Stamps

Some readers have asked about the small children shown to the right of The Queen on the fifth stamp in the Happy & Glorious strip. The children were photographed in the crowds welcoming Her Majesty during a visit to Mid Glamorgan in 1989. One of the children can be positively identified, the boy wearing the bobble hat is Kieran Gardner who wrote to The Queen when the stamp was issued.



The silver coats of arms shown on the stamps are: stamp 1 – Portcullis emblem of the House of Commons; 2 – arms of Canterbury and York; 3 – heraldic symbol of the House of Windsor; 4 – badge of the Armed Services; 5 – Commonwealth symbol, as shown on the Commonwealth Day stamps of 1983.



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