

September 1995



Royal Mail

British Philatelic Bulletin

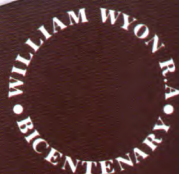
Volume 33. No: 1 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 75p

Rugby League Centenary





Royal Mail



29 October 1995
Tower Hill EC3

William Wyon Cover

Commemorating the bicentenary of William Wyon – an important anniversary for all philatelists and numismatists

Royal Mail and Royal Mint are pleased to announce a limited edition "Philatelic Medallion Cover" to mark the bicentenary of the birth of William Wyon, RA, the celebrated 19th century engraver. Wyon, one of a family of engravers, was responsible for the medal commemorating Queen Victoria's visit to the City of London in 1837. The head of the young monarch, as depicted on the medal, was later used on the Penny Black and all British stamps of Queen Victoria's long reign.

The cover bears the new £1 Machir definitive stamp cancelled by a special postmark for Tower Hill London EC3 – the former home of the Royal Mint. The cover depicts Wyon, his famous medal, and the even more famous Penny Black. Encapsulated in the cover is the brilliant Royal Mint commemorative medal.

Price £12.95. Early ordering is advised – earlier Philatelic-Numismatic/Medallion covers have quickly sold out.

British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

British Philatelic Bulletin

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EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

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

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Main Feature

My Top Twelve Slania Engravings 14

James Mackay selects his favourites from over 900 stamps of the world's leading stamp engraver, Czeslaw Slania.



Four Communications stamps featuring portraits of Sir Rowland Hill and Guglielmo Marconi engraved by Slania go on sale at post offices on 5 September. See August Bulletin for details.

Royal Mail News

Rugby League Centenary Stamps

Five stamps commemorating the centenary of the founding of the Rugby League and the Rugby League World Cup in England and Wales (7-30 October), go on sale at post offices, and philatelic outlets on 3 October.

The stamps feature famous players from the Rugby Hall of Fame in Leeds. The **19p** stamp (inland 2nd class basic rate) features Harold Wagstaff (1891-1939) who during his career, 1906-25, captained Huddersfield's "Team of All Talents" that managed some 44 games without defeat. Known as "The Prince of Centres", Wagstaff combined superb rugby skills with tactical awareness and inspired leadership. He is considered by many as the finest ever League player.

The **25p** value (inland 1st class and EU basic rate) depicts Gus Risman (1911-94) who played between 1929 and 1954 and was the oldest person to appear in a Cup final at 41 and had the longest career at senior level. He played Union

during the Second World War when the rules were relaxed. He made some 36 international and test appearances and captained two Challenge Cup-winning teams. He made the second highest number of appearances ever (873) and scored the third highest number of points (4050).

James Sullivan (1903-77) features on the **30p** denomination (basic rate to European, non-EU countries). A former Union player, his League career spanned the period 1921-46. He was the first to score over 400 points in a season and over 6000 in his long career. He was arguably the greatest full-back and the most prolific goal-kicker of all time, winning every honour, playing more games (928) and kicking more goals (2867) than anyone before or since.

The **35p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) portrays Billy Batten (1889-1959) the most celebrated pre First World War player. He is noted as one of the great characters of the game. A powerful and uncompromising centre, he was renowned for barging through or even jumping over tackles. A member of the Hunslet team which won All Four Cups in 1907-8, Batten played international rugby for 13 seasons.

The final stamp, **41p** (airmail basic rate) depicts Brian Bevan (1924-91), who scored 796 tries in his career, between 1945 and 1964, over 200 more than the next best career total. He never played test rugby for his native Australia. Described as "hairless and harelike" Bevan is regarded as perhaps the deadliest winger in the history of the game, noted for a combination of blistering pace and bewildering elusiveness



See front cover for 25p stamp

Rugby History

Football has been played – in various forms – in England since medieval times. Different types of football were played all over the British Isles and various monarchs tried to ban it as a distraction from more important pastimes such as archery and horse-riding. Such prescriptive attempts failed. Rugby football owes its origins to the town of Rugby, and in particular to the famous public school. The well-known story tells how, in 1823, a sixth-former William Webb Ellis (1805-72) broke existing rules and ran with the ball. Thus a boy described as of "fair average abilities" helped create an international game. The rules for rugby football were adopted in 1846.

The game is divided between Rugby Union and Rugby League. Union – the original form – is played by teams of 15, whereas League teams,

Royal Mail Mint Stamps

RUGBY LEAGUE CENTENARY

And these players who you see their faces umbrella'd under in the stand, pocket in drooping with morn as they march out, youth, comrades!



HAROLD WAGSTAFF
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



JOE RIGNALL
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



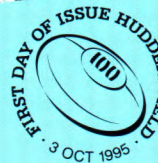
BILLY ATKINSON
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



BILLY ATKINSON
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



SEAN BEVAN
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



HAROLD WAGSTAFF
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



JOE RIGNALL
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



BILLY ATKINSON
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



BILLY ATKINSON
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



SEAN BEVAN
RUGBY LEAGUE 1895-1995



**RUGBY LEAGUE
CENTENARY**
Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

which play to modified, professional rules, comprise 13 players. League is generally regarded as a faster game; the more running and passing making it a rather more appealing spectator sport.

A Rugby Union was established in 1871 and the Rugby League seceded from the Union in 1895. On 29 August 1895, rugby union clubs from Lancashire and Yorkshire met at the George Hotel, Huddersfield and voted to quit the Union and form their own organisation. This move was caused by the Union's refusal to allow players to be compensated for taking time off work to play rugby. Originally known as the Northern Union, it adopted its present name in 1922. The Rugby League Challenge Cup was introduced in 1897, followed by a League Championship competition in the early 1900s. Many thousands now enjoy watching League games at the following clubs: Barrow, Batley, Bradford Northern, Bramley, Carlisle, Castleford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Featherstone Rovers, Halifax, Highfield, Huddersfield, Hull, Hull Kingston Rovers, Hunslet, Keighley, Leeds, Leigh, London Broncos, Oldham, Rochdale Hornets, Ryedale-York, St Helens, Salford, Sheffield Eagles, Swinton, Wakefield Trinity, Warrington, Whitehaven, Widnes, Wigan, and Workington Town.

League is now a popular game in France and New Zealand – members of the All Black team watching League, during the first tour in 1905-6, were impressed with the new game. A NZ national club competition was launched in 1994, and New Zealand Post commemorated the League Centenary with five stamps on 26 July 1995 – 45c, \$1, \$1.50 and \$1.80 values in sheets of 100 and an additional 45c in books of 10.

Readers keen on rugby history might be interested to know of the James Gilbert Rugby Football Museum in Rugby. The museum is situated in the building where Gilberts have been making rugby footballs since 1842. William Gilbert, who founded the firm, was a boot and shoe maker to Rugby School. The boys used to bring their shoes to him so he could reinforce the toecaps – they could then "hack" better. Hacking involved tripping an opponent by a well-placed kick across the shins. Although the museum highlights the history of ball manufacture, it is also a treasure trove of rugby memorabilia from all over the world. Enquiries: James Gilbert Rugby Football Museum, 5 St Matthews Street, RUGBY, Warwickshire, CV21 3BY, Tel. 01788-542426.



Rugby League World Cup

The Rugby League World Cup, sponsored by the Halifax Building Society, is being staged in England and Wales from 7 October. Matches will be played at Cardiff, Gateshead, Keighley, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Old Trafford (Manchester), St Helens, Swansea, Warrington, Wigan, and Wembley. The semi-finals will be played at Old Trafford and Huddersfield on 21-22 October, with the final at Wembley on 30 October.

The inaugural Rugby League World Cup competition took place in France in 1954. In the final, watched by 30,000 fans, Britain beat France 16-12. Britain also won in 1960 and 1972, the Australians in 1957, 1968, 1970, 1975, 1977, 1988, and 1992. Great Britain was split into England and Wales for the 1975 competition. Australia and New Zealand were the hosts for the 1977 World Cup which was the last to be played under the traditional format. In 1985 a new format was introduced and new International Board members Papua New Guinea were added to the list of contenders. The tournament was to be decided on a home and away basis over a three year period at the end of which the top two teams were to meet in the final. The same formula was used in 1992 – in the final at Wembley Australia beat Britain 10-6.

This League World Cup should not be confused with the Rugby Union World Cup held in South Africa (24 May-25 June 1995) for which a number of countries issued stamps.

The Designer

The stamps have been designed by Christian Birmingham, his first designs for Royal Mail. Born in 1970, Christian graduated from Exeter College of Art & Design in 1991. In December 1992 he joined Startworks, the group of young artists, and is now a fully fledged member of The Artworks. He has worked for several design groups and has illustrated several books, including *The Dancing Bear* and *The Magical Bicycle* (published by Collins) and historical science books on Marie Curie and Pasteur (published Matthew Price Ltd).

Earlier Rugby Stamps

Britain has issued just three Rugby stamps – a 9p value in 1971 to commemorate the centenary of the Rugby Football Union (SG 889), a 13½p stamp in 1980 marking the centenary of the Welsh Rugby Union (1135), and a 37p denomination for the Rugby (Union) World Cup in London in 1991 (1567). All were part of general Anniversaries or Sport issues; the forthcoming set is the first devoted wholly to the sport.

Rugby has featured on two aerogrammes – a Welsh issue of September 1976, and a Scottish issue of March 1991 which commemorated the Scottish Rugby XV Triple Crown and Grand Slam success in 1990 and the 1991 Rugby World Cup.

A number of Rugby postmarks have been used, mainly in 1980 for the Welsh Rugby Union centenary and in 1991 for the World Cup – for details see the British Postmark Society's publications *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom* Vols 2 & 3, covering the years 1963-83 and 1984-93 respectively (reviewed here June 1994, p.300).

Technical details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 35 x 37mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 14 x 14.5

Phosphor: 19p - one phosphor band
25p-41p two phosphor bands
Blue fluorescence in bands

Paper: OBA free (OBA = Optical
Brightening Agent)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 3 October, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Huddersfield, price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 3 October 1995.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (for Huddersfield postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed "FD9519" (Bureau), or "FD9520" (Huddersfield).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

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

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Rugby League stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of Issue", sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 3 October. The minimum 1st class rule is suspended on this day as this set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 19p Rugby League stamp; covers bearing other stamps must bear at least 1st class postage.

Serviced First Day Cover

Fully serviced first day covers, bearing the Huddersfield pictorial first day postmark will be available from most W H Smith shops, offered subject unsold.

Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

A presentation pack (price £1.85) will be

available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, main post offices, and most W H Smith shops. Stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, POC philatelic outlets, and main post offices.

Souvenir Postcard Book

One of the best souvenirs available of this historic year for Rugby League, our lavishly illustrated booklet includes 10 postcards featuring the special stamps artwork (minus Queen's head and value), interesting league facts and details of the sportsmen immortalised in the Rugby League Hall of Fame. Price £2.95 postpaid from: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. Order code PB200. Also available from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets. This is the second such postcard book – the first, reproducing the Cat stamps, is still available from the Bureau, price £2.95.

New NVI Stamp Label

A new stamp label containing a 1st class Non Value Indicator (NVI) stamp will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets from 11 September. This will be similar to the "Boots" label of August 1994 but will not include that company's logo. The new label can thus be used in packs of greetings cards sold by other retailers. The wording on the pane has been amended and now reads: "Valid for Royal Mail First class up to 60g within the UK" and "©The Post Office 1995". The label has been printed by Questa. The stamp bears two phosphor bands with blue fluor. Please note that no first day of issue facilities are being offered.

Castle High Values

A number of readers have asked about the "enhanced" versions of the £1, £1.50, £2 and £5 Castle stamps. The term "re-engraved" has been used although this is not accurate. The printers, Harrison & Sons Ltd, have provided the following description of the process: The original hand-engraved steel dies were very accurately photographed. The film positives produced were then used as the originals to produce the engraved copper plates etched by a special photo-mechanical method. From the copper plates, nickel machine plates were produced by using the electrolytic plating method.

Details of these "enhanced" stamps were given

here in October 1994 (page 37), April 1995 (p.227) and July 1995 (p.321).

1995 Christmas Aerogramme

The Christmas aerogramme for 1995 goes on sale at post offices, the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets from 3 October, price 45p. The main design is robins, to complement the Christmas stamps, due for issue on 30 October. The aerogramme, designed by Silk Pearce (design group) and illustrated by Allan Drummond, was printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd. It will be on sale at post offices until 23 December and at the Bureau and philatelic outlets until October 1996. The 1994 Christmas aerogramme will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and philatelic outlets on 3 October. Christmas aerogrammes were introduced in 1965.



Greetings Stamps Win Top US Award

Royal Mail is pleased to announce that the 1995 "Art of Greeting" Greetings stamps, designed by Newell and Sorrell, recently won a gold medal in the Best Illustration Category in the Print Media Competition of the New York Festivals 37th annual international competition. A record 4315 entries were received from 55 countries. Judging was carried out by creative directors, art directors, copywriters, designers and radio producers in New York and in 20 cities around

the USA. Newell and Sorrell also won two other medals. This company has designed many stamps and related products for Royal Mail, including the 1993 "Gift Giving" and 1994 "Messages" greetings issues.

Other UK winners include firms who have designed stamps for Royal Mail – Michael Peters Limited (1990/91 "Smiles" Greetings), Trickett & Webb (1992 "Memories" Greetings), and Lewis Moberly (1989 Anniversaries).

September Stamp Books

Five new stamp books go on sale at the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets on 4 September:

50p Sea Charts 4 – Giant's Causeway

£1 Inspiration for Victory 4 – Archibald McIndoe

£2 Rowland Hill 4 – Mulready postal stationery

£2.50 Sainsbury's promotion

£2.50 Someone Special promotion

The 50p, £1 and £2 vended books contain 25p definitives, the £2.50 retail books 1st class NVI stamps. All bear two phosphor bands. The vended books were printed by Harrisons, the phosphor on the stamps in the £1 book contains the new blue fluor.

The Sainsbury's book, printed by Questa (plates Q4Q4), has been available from Sainsbury's shops since June. The Someone Special book was printed by Harrisons and will be issued in two versions – with and without a black box near the barcode on the back cover. This will enable the promoter to monitor the response between books sold by retailers and over post office counters. The stamps in this book were from cylinder B5 and contain blue fluor in the phosphor.

Bulletin Production Manager Anniversary

This month Paul Burnett, our Production Manager, celebrates 30 years with The Post Office. Paul joined the then GPO Public Relations Department's Press Office on 6 September 1965 in time for the Battle of Britain stamps. A move to the Print Section led to promotion to Assistant Print Buyer in the early 1970s. Paul's involvement with the *Bulletin* dates from 1975 and over the past 20 years he has worked with six Editors: Archie Page, Frank Brench, John Memmott, Charles Gowen, Douglas Muir, and John Holman. Working in Stamp Design and Production sections, Paul has encountered most, if not all, stamp designers of the past two decades, and has dealt with all the

printers of Royal Mail stamps, presentation packs, stamp cards, the Yearbook and much else besides. He particularly enjoys working on the *Bulletin*, ensuring a high quality of printing and timely delivery. His placid nature and quirky sense of humour help him to cope with the inevitable problems that arise from time to time in producing a monthly magazine.

Postbus Postcards

Details were given here in July (page 325) of new postbus cards issued by the Royal Mail South East Division. Cards featuring the Ashford-Biddenden and Canterbury-Wootton postbuses go on sale on 5 September. Price £1 the pair unused, £2.30 with 25p Communications stamp and first day postmark. Orders/enquiries: Jack Wahlberg, Postbus Manager, Royal Mail SE Division, Redstone Hill, REDHILL, Surrey, RH1 1AA. Remittances should be payable to "Royal Mail".

The Rowland Hill Fund

The Rowland Hill Benevolent and Memorial Fund was set up in 1882 by Sir James Whitehead Bt and a group of philanthropists prominent in the City of London. The Fund was a tribute to Sir Rowland Hill, who died in 1879.

A sum of £11,000 was raised for the Fund by public subscription and the money was to be applied to the relief of hardship for postal workers (including retired postal workers) and their dependants. In those days there was help for the more senior officers, but when sickness or other misfortunes struck postmen and their families there was little or no support from the Post Office or the State.

Trustees were appointed to manage the Fund. These were to be people mainly from the City of London not connected with the PO. To support the Trustees, and to give background knowledge of postal affairs, a Committee of Recommendation was set up comprising senior PO management.

Later the Fund was increased by the subscriptions of working postmen who gave sums in the order of 1p each week, and by the PO itself which gave money annually. There have also been bequests and gifts from many people.

The type of help given varies considerably. The basis is a weekly sum of money to retired people whose pension or state income is below a certain level. Beyond this there are a variety of differing personal needs; help with heating bills,

repairs to houses, replacement of household equipment, provision of medical equipment, a holiday or transport costs for special visits to children, and general financial assistance to people unable to manage their affairs.

The Fund is now allowed by the Government to give up to £10 per week to a beneficiary before attracting tax. However, in practice, the Fund does not have enough money to spare more than £6 a week. The 1p per week so generously given years ago cannot meet today's cost nor the increasing numbers of people needing assistance. In a year the Rowland Hill Fund assists some 1000 people from its income of £300,000. In recent years there has been a shortfall between income and expenditure.

The Trustees have recognised that the Fund must be re-structured and pro-active if it is to meet the future needs of the people it serves. A number of initiatives have been taken to bring this about. Firstly, the Committee of Recommendation has been disbanded in favour of serving PO personnel sitting on the Board of Trustees. Decision and action are concentrated in one committee ensuring more efficiency. Secondly, a complete overhaul of the administration of the Fund is underway enabling modern computerised records to be kept and up-dating of office procedures.

Thirdly, a national network of volunteer fundraisers has been recruited to maximise fundraising opportunities. Payment to our fundraisers is minimal consisting mainly of travel and other out of pocket expenses, a commitment and contribution which is invaluable to the Fund. The first task of our fund-raisers has been to appoint representatives in Post Offices so that employees can be approached on a "one-to-one" basis to make or increase their subscription to the Fund through "Work Aid" enabling the Fund to get maximum benefit from a regular donation. This has already yielded a good response. It is hoped that in time the Fund can donate the maximum sum of £10 in weekly payment.

Fourthly, a closer alliance has been established with the Post Office who provide free mailing facilities, clerical support together with the provision of welfare officers, in addition to a direct financial donation. The Fund has clearly been defined as the Post Office's own charity.

Any contributions to the fund will be most welcome and should be sent to: Rowland Hill Fund, Palmerston House, 80-86 Old Street, LONDON EC1V 9PP.

Post Haste! at National Postal Museum

The NPM has now taken over the floor space of the former London Chief Post Office, enabling display of some larger exhibits for the first time. This is in keeping with its policy of developing from essentially a stamp museum into a general museum of UK postal services. The "Post Haste!" exhibition, opened on 12 July, comprises 34 display panels, 12 display cabinets, eight vehicles, and 16 posting boxes telling the story of the posts from Roman times to the present, with a look into the future. The story begins with a reproduction of a letter, written, in AD97-103, in ink on a thin sheet of wood and sent to the wife of the Commanding Officer at Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall. (The original is preserved in the British Museum.) The Mediaeval and Tudor posts were restricted to official and commercial use, but in 1635 Charles I opened his "Royal Post" to all who could afford to use it. During the 18th century postboys (and some postgirls) carried the mail, wearing a hard tin hat and large leather boots stuffed with straw to keep their feet warm. The job was hazardous and if caught loitering they were punished by two weeks hard labour. The mailcoach, and later the railways, speeded the mails and made for a more national system. The reforms of the 19th century led to the basis of today's postal service, with cheap uniform national rates of postage. Anthony Trollope's boxes made it easy for most people to post letters. One of the first boxes – from Hauteville, Guernsey – is on display.

Bringing the story up to date, the visitor is shown the extent of automation at post office counters and in Royal Mail sorting offices. Two-thirds of the 67 million letters handled each day are sorted automatically.

Amongst the posting boxes on show are examples of the best-known and popular – the "Penfold", "Science & Art", "Fluted", "National Standard", "Suttie", and the "Anonymous". The famous "Hen & Chickens" parcel cycle of 1883 is displayed, with a 1935 Morris Minor mail van and other vehicles, firearms (used on mailcoaches and ships), lamps, clocks and numerous other artefacts.

This exhibition is ideal for children as well as those with a more developed interest in postal history. The Museum, in King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP is open Monday-Friday, 09.30-16.30, admission free. Enquiries: 0171-239 5420.

Rare Stamps of the World

JOHN HOLMAN

This exhibition, held at Claridge's, London in early July lived up to its advance publicity. It was a stylish exhibition of some of the finest and rarest stamps and postal history items in the world, displayed by collectors from around the Globe.

There was much to interest collectors of British stamps, particularly in the displays of the National Postal Museum and the Royal Collection. The Museum showed a sheet of Penny Black Plate 5 (registered 1 June 1840). As with many Victorian registration sheets some stamps had been removed. Just as magnificent was the sheet of the famous Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum with just one stamp removed from the bottom right-hand corner. Possibly this was the stamp used on the cover addressed to the Prince of Wales (later George V) included in the Royal Philatelic Collection exhibit. The Royal display also featured a marginal pair of this stamp from the bottom left hand corner of a sheet, an

The unique Swedish Treskilling Yellow



unused single, and die proofs (black and pink) and perforated colour trials (green, mauve and orange), as well as the unique cover. Collectors of George V stamps were fascinated by the photograph of Bertram Mackennal's sculptured design in clay of the 1d definitive (approved by George V and initialled by him "GRI") together with die proofs of the stamp. More recent issues were also represented – Edmund Dulac's sketch for the 2½d Coronation stamp of 1953 – the design was used for the 1s 3d value. Essays shown included 2½d and 1s 3d values, in Dulac's design, in blue and green. The 1976 13p Rose stamp with missing value is one of the most important of modern errors. On display was a marginal single and one used on cover, with 7p definitive, postmarked Dover 23 July 1976. The error occurred on row 1 stamp 9 of the dot pane, but was quickly noticed and most offending sheets destroyed. This error was illustrated in the March 1988 *Bulletin*, page 158.

The Royal display included a letter from Prince George (George V) written on HMS *Dreadnought* in February 1887. The Prince asks his correspondent to obtain two sets of new English stamps for him and his uncle Alfred (Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Queen Victoria).

The Mulready

One of the finest exhibits was that of Louis Grunin (USA) showing proofs and used examples of the Mulready envelopes and lettersheets. Pride of place went to the original sketch by Mulready, described as produced "rather hastily when asked to do so by a friend who was an influential MP. The sketch was shown to the postal authorities who decided to use the concept. The drawing is addressed in Mulready's handwriting to himself. It was captioned, quite rightly as "a striking and historical piece". Amongst the many proofs were one without border lines and on India paper pulled from brass block. The well-known Mulready used on 1 and 2 May was shown – this was used folded inside out on 1 May (sent to Derby) and again with the Mulready design on the outside on 2 May – not valid for postage until 6 May, 2d was collected from the addressee. Most attractive was a hand-coloured Mulready used on 6 May, as were examples with Maltese Cross postmarks in brown (Gateshead), purple (Lancaster) and blue (Newcastle). Overseas usage of the Mulready included examples to Belgium, Canada, East Indies and the USA, all

with adhesive stamps added to make up the correct rates. Another fine display of Mulready's and Penny Blacks was provided by "Rupert" (GB), again including some unusual colours of the Maltese Cross – such as that in purple maroon from Newton Stewart.

Dr Alan Huggins (GB) continued the postal stationery story looking at the Wyon head design envelopes which replaced the Mulready. His exhibit included Robert Sievier essays embossed by Charles Whiting; numerous essays of the Wyon head, with and without the pendant curl in Queen Victoria's hair; and usage of the 1d envelopes to UK and overseas addresses.

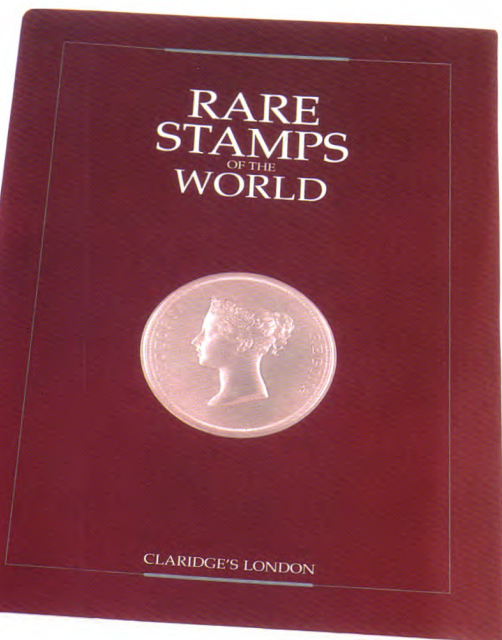
Historic Letters

Robson Lowe provided an intriguing display of historic British and European letters. The earliest British letter was sent in 1402 from John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset and Lord Chamberlain (1373–1410, son of John of Gaunt) to Lord Reinald, Duke of Julich & Gederland. It bears remains of the Small Seal of England. From the 16th century were a Treasury Warrant of Mary I (1555), signed by the Lord High Treasurer, and a letter from Sir Francis Walsingham a senior figure in the court of Elizabeth I. There was a delightful letter of 1627 from Henrietta Maria, consort of Charles I, to her brother Louis XIII of France, and a letter from Charles II to Prince Rupert sent from The Hague in March 1649, shortly after the execution of his father, Charles I.

Overseas Classics

Classic stamps of Commonwealth countries included the 1847 1d "Post Office" Mauritius used on cover, displayed with the story of this item. It was sold for approx £900,000 in 1993 – a far cry from the £680 paid for it in 1899. Over the years it has been owned by some of the most famous philatelists – W H Peckitt, Henry Duveen, Hiroyuki Kanai and King Carol of Rumania. Equally famous was the Cape of Good Hope 4d "Woodblock" error of colour (red instead of blue) shown in block of four used on cover to Grahams Town in May 1861.

John Marriott, retiring Keeper of the Royal Collection, displayed items from his own collection of Trinidad. These included a letter from Trinidad to Tuam, Ireland of July 1793 – the fee of 1s 3d was made up as: 1d Ship captain's fee, 4d covering the journey from



Liverpool to Chester, 4d Chester to Holyhead, 2d Holyhead to Dublin, and 4d Dublin to Tuam. The cover bears a clear LIVERPOOL SHIP mark. Mr Marriott showed two examples of the famous "Lady McLeod" stamp, one unused (ex Charlton Henry and Sir William Avery collections) and one on cover to San Fernando (14 September 1847), the stamp cancelled in manuscript.

Richard Cave Knight (South Africa) exhibit included a letter sent from London to Dr Livingstone in 1860 during his 1858–63 expedition. Such mail was addressed to the Cape and then sent by gunboat to the mouth of the Zambesi River to await collection. Another letter, sent by Livingstone, bears his initial at bottom left and an Admiralty certifying stamp (cachet) – as the Doctor was nominally British Consul at Quelimane his mail was treated as official, hence the Admiralty stamp. Other items represented Frank Oates Matabeleland Expedition of 1874 and the Matabele War and Rebellion of 1894 and 1896.

The classic Swan stamps of Western Australia were shown by "Oscar" (GB) including a block of 60 of the 1d and blocks of 60 and 100 of the 4d. Some 1 million 1d stamps were sent from Perkins Bacon in London in August 1853 but not issued in Western Australia until a year later.

Dale Forster (USA) displayed early New South Wales issues – the famed Sydney Views and “The Laureates” and “The Diadems”. Many of the Sydney Views were from the collections of Boker, Caspary, Dale, Lichtenstein, Ferrary, Hutson, and Pack. Noteworthy was a joined block of 15 of the plate proof of the 1d on thin yellowish paper, and a block of 32 of the 1s “Diadems” – the largest recorded multiple of any Australian States imperf stamp.

The story of the Gold Rush was told in postal history terms by Kenneth J Kutz (USA). Most unusual was a canvas cover, of c. 1855, which had been sewn overtop of a metal cigarette box containing approximately six troy ounces of gold dust sent home from Don Pedros Bar, California to Lisbon, Maine. The cover bears 10 each of 3c and 10c stamps to make up \$1.30 postage. All were pen-cancelled. Other interesting Gold covers represented the Gold Rush in Brazil, Australia and New Zealand.

Among many European rarities on display were the Swedish Treskilling Yellow and the Rumanian 5 parale newspaper stamp of 1858-61. The Swedish error of colour stamp is unique, putting it on a par with the better-known British Guinea 1 cent magenta which was not shown at this exhibition. Eight copies of the Rumanian stamp were shown affixed to a copy of the *Zimbrula Vulturulu* newspaper. Only 7008 copies of this 5 parale stamp were produced – handstruck at Jassy in black on bluish paper. As most were used on newspapers, later destroyed, only 32 copies are now known.

This was truly a feast of stamps and it is pleasing to report a good attendance. Congratulations must go to the organisers, principally Harmers of London, as well as to the exhibitors for making available the gems of their collections. The venue was prestigious and the dealers “stands” tastefully arranged. I was reminded of the Gibbons Catalogue Centenary and the first BPE exhibitions of 1965. There is clearly a place in the exhibition calendar for “upmarket” exhibitions of this type as well as the more traditional aimed at a wider audience. It is to be hoped that a similar exhibition can be staged again. The 148-page exhibition catalogue is a fine record of this event: each exhibitor selecting for illustration and description at least one item from his or her display. A limited number of catalogues may still be available – enquiries to: Harmers of London Ltd, 91 New Bond Street, LONDON W1A 4EH, Tel. 0171 629 0218.



New Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here is a new 25p railway letter stamp to be issued by the North Yorkshire Moors Railway on 5 September. It features Stanier “Black 5” locomotive No. 45428 “Eric Treacy” named after a former Bishop of Wakefield and noted railway enthusiast, and has been printed in sheets of nine by Walsall Security Printers. Stamps are available at face value plus 30p postage (80p for airmail postage outside Europe). Orders/enquiries about first day covers/postcards to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

Mitchell Stamp Books Launch

Royal Mail issued two £1 books commemorating Spitfire designer Reginald Mitchell on 16 May, one in the “Inspiration for Victory” machine book series and a 4 x 1st class NVI stamps with commemorative label showing Mitchell and a Spitfire. The books were launched at a ceremony at Coventry Airport with a wartime Spitfire on display. Included in the photo is Mitchell’s son, Dr Gordon Mitchell (left).



My Top Twelve Slania Engravings

JAMES MACKAY

The number of stamp engravers whose names have become household words in philately could probably be numbered on the fingers of one hand. One thinks of Charles and Frederick Heath who engraved the Penny Black, Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté who engraved *en epergne* so many of the Victorian portrait stamps surface-printed by De La Rue and of John Augustus Charles Harrison, the free-lance employed by the Royal Mint and Waterlow among others, and who was one of the few engravers equally at home in recess and relief engraving.

In an era where so many stamps are brought to the finished artwork stage, mechanically duplicated and then printed by various photographic processes – photogravure, photolithography or offset – it is very heartening that some countries remain steadfast to the intaglio tradition, while others (Great Britain included) resort to recess for that very special occasion. Many of the stamps printed by one or other of the photographic processes may rely initially on the drawing or painting of an artist; intaglio alone provides scope for the individual craftsman to interpret the work of the designer, and even to improve or enhance it by the depth and intricacy of the engraving.

Thus, in a world where craftsmanship has diminished drastically over the past half century, it is refreshing to find an aspect of philately which still depends heavily on the skill and expertise of a master of his craft. Such a man is Czeslaw Slania. Born in Poland on 22 October 1921, he studied graphic art at the Cracow Academy of Art and the Albertina in Vienna before deciding to concentrate on engravings, painstakingly learning a centuries-old skill that enabled him eventually to engrave up to 10 lines per millimetre. He served his apprenticeship with the Government Printing Works in Warsaw, working on banknotes and other types of security documents.

Slania made his philatelic debut in March 1951, engraving the portrait of Jaroslav Dabrowski on a stamp marking the 80th anniversary of the Paris Commune. From then

until 1956, when he left Poland, Slania engraved (and often designed) some 40 Polish stamps. All of them show Slania's attention to detail, and uncanny ability to bring a two-dimensional portrait to life. Of the stamps in this period I would select the stamp honouring Avicenna (September 1952) which he both designed and engraved, and which is a fine example of his early portraiture.

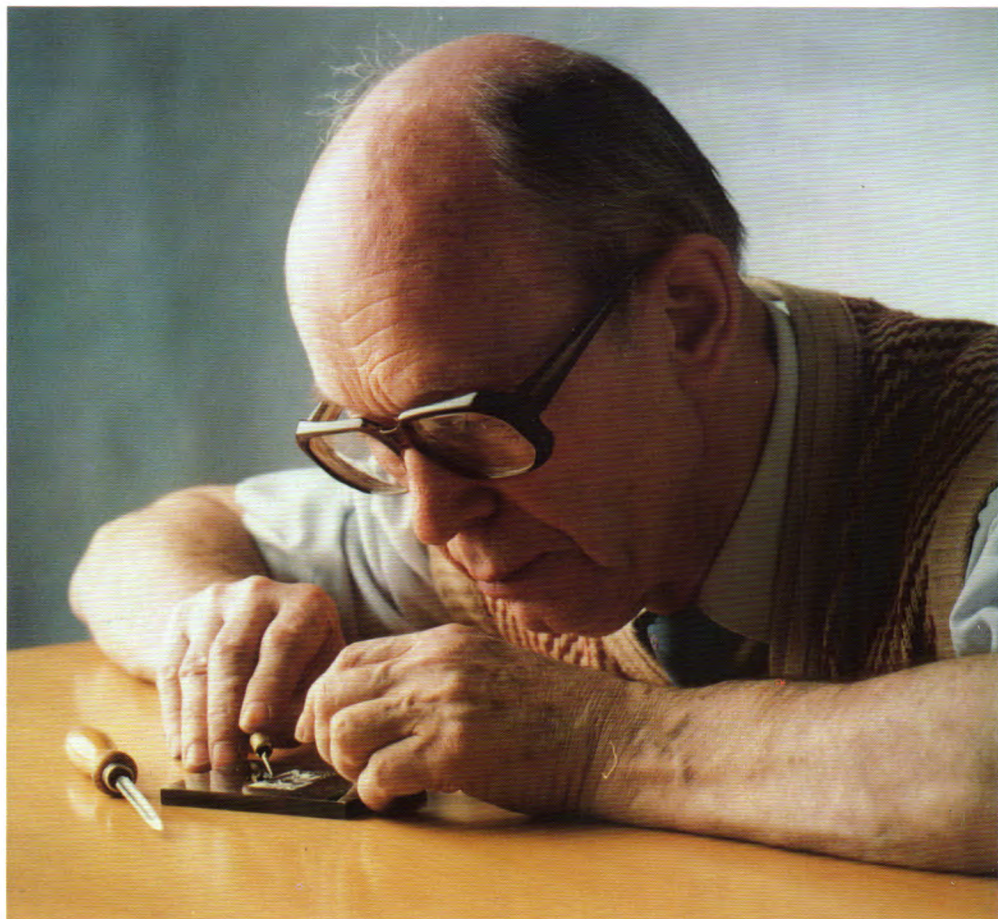
Finest Contribution to Polish Philately

That Slania also had a talent for extremely intricate and finely detailed engraving of complex inanimate subjects is borne out by the last stamp he engraved before leaving his native country, the 30g of the Warsaw Monuments series, showing the monument to the heroes of the Ghetto Uprising. Although he has been in self-imposed exile for almost 40 years, it is heartening to note that he was commissioned by his native country to engrave the miniature sheet for Polska 93. His earlier Polish work pales into insignificance beside the 50,000zl stamp showing Lech's historic encounter with the White Eagle after the battle of Gniezno, the sheet margins being decorated with the arms of the Polish provinces. Without doubt this is Slania's finest contribution to Polish philately.

In 1959 Slania obtained employment at the Stamp Printing Office in Stockholm and was commissioned to translate the self-portrait of Anders Zorn into a pair of stamps released in February 1960. Straightaway one recognises a different hand on the burin, for the Zorn stamps were in sharp contrast to what had gone before. Where Swedish portrait stamps were characterised by very heavy solid grounds, the stamps engraved by Slania were light and had a background crammed with the sort of intricate detail in which he positively revels.

Court Engraver

In three and a half decades Czeslaw Slania, as Court Engraver to the King of Sweden, has engraved the dies for some of the most beautiful stamps ever produced in Sweden, true masterpieces of philatelic art, and it is



Czesław Slania (Photo: Swedish Post Office)

exceedingly difficult to single out one that could be regarded as his *chef d'oeuvre*. But it is universally agreed that this title must be given to the booklet of 5 October 1991, issued in celebration of the maestro's 70th birthday. This honour was without precedent, and is indicative of the very high regard in which Slania is held.

For his 70th Birthday booklet Slania did not portray himself. Instead, he showed that he was not only still in his prime, but capable of a masterpiece stunning in its grace, beauty and intricacy. Years earlier Slania said, in the course of an interview for an American philatelic periodical, "My favourite motifs are historical paintings by Old Masters and involving complicated problems of engraving as well as composition." He decried the trend (in the 1960s) towards the printing of such stamps by

photogravure, offset or other photo-mechanical processes. "In my opinion," he added, "such stamps have no value. If they are to be printed, it must be by steel engraving." True to these words, Slania engraved an exquisite reproduction of the painting by Carl Gustav Pilo showing the Coronation of King Gustav III. The main stamp, a gigantic 76 x 44mm in dimensions, showed the entire painting, but it was flanked by smaller stamps showing enlarged details of the King's portrait and the moment of crowning.

Virtual Monopoly

From May 1962 till October 1988 Slania also engraved many stamps for neighbouring Denmark – indeed, between 1966 and 1978 he seems to have had a virtual monopoly, later sharing the work with Arne Kuhlmann. Here again, selecting an individual stamp is incidious, but the 130øre of June 1976 for the Hafnia 76

Stamp Exhibition is an outstanding piece of engraving, showing a detail from O. Bache's painting "A String of Horses Outside an Inn".

In the same period Slania engraved many of the stamps issued by Greenland, from the Frederik IX definitives of 1963 onwards. All of the definitive sets (1973-89, 1980-89, and 1990-5) portraying Queen Margrethe came from his burin, but were designed by him as well, and the latest series shows that the master's skill is in no way diminished by advancing years. This is a sensitive portrait and Slania's treatment of the subject is truly inspired.

In 1974 Slania was appointed Court Engraver to HSH Prince Rainier and since then he has engraved many fine stamps for Monaco in recent years, notably the charming vignettes in the Bygone Monaco series. When it comes to majestic portraiture he is in a class of his own, whether it be the magnificent conjoined portrait series of 1981 or the full-face portraits of 1959, but I have to admit that my favourite Slania from this principality is not a portrait but an architectural gem. This is the 8fr stamp of 1987

celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Philatelic Bureau then housed in the Villa Miraflores, a magnificent Italianate mansion replete with ornamental sculpture. This stamp was printed in grey-black, which brought out the tonal qualities of the stonework most effectively.

Slania also designed and engraved the stamp portraying Princess Grace, released jointly by the USA and Monaco in March 1993 – one of my all-time favourites, where the stark simplicity of the design throws the portrait into dramatic relief.

In 1986 the United Nations issued pairs of stamps promoting philately as an international hobby. The designs, by Ingall Axellsson, were used for stamps issued in New York, Geneva and Vienna, and showed a magnifying glass over a stamp, and an engraver working on a steel die (looking suspiciously like Slania himself although this was not specified). At any rate he was responsible for the engraving. Of these, the lower denomination has to be chosen for the technical brilliance entailed – almost a *trompe l'oeil* effect.

James Mackay's favourite 12 Slania stamps



British Work

For Britain Slania engraved the Maritime Heritage set of 1982 with the most expressive portraits of any British stamps, and the strip of five 16p stamps in 1984 marking the bicentenary of the first mail coach. He also engraved the quartet of 1987 fittingly celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Victoria. The mass of background detail in no way detracts from the superb portraits of the Queen from teenage to old age, but the best are the 22p and the 31p, with their exquisite miniatures of Prince Albert and Disraeli for good measure.

Of the other stamps engraved for Royal Mail I would also single out the strip of five 16p stamps of July 1984 marking the Bicentenary of the First Mail Coach Run. These stamps, designed by Keith Bassford, were derived from 18th and early 19th century engravings, and it was a considerable achievement for Slania to translate them into the confined medium of postage stamps. Of the five, my particular favourite is the stamp showing the Holyhead and Liverpool

Mails leaving London about 1828. The architectural features, the anatomy of men and horses and the structure of the coaches – all are incredibly detailed, yet sharply delineated.

The Maestro

Technically as well as artistically, however, New Zealand's \$20 stamp of 1994 showed Slania rising to the challenge yet again. Hitherto one has regarded him as the maestro of the speaking portrait, his burin magically producing the warm tone of the skin, a flowing quality to a lock of hair or the silky texture of clothing; but in this large-sized stamp he demonstrated his versatility as an engraver of intricate landscape, the majesty of Mount Cook being superbly defined.

Now in his seventies, his skills undiminished by time, Czeslaw Slania has engraved more than 900 stamps for 15 countries. He is already the world's most prolific stamp engraver, but he is also the undisputed master of the craft, his services eagerly sought the world over.

© James Mackay 1995



Stamp Scene

BPT Strategic Plan

During 1994 the British Philatelic Trust developed a Strategic Plan for the period 1994-2001, and this was presented to Royal Mail National for consideration. The Trust is extremely pleased with the positive response to the Plan, and with the sum of £60,000 received from RMN towards the promotion of stamp collecting and other philatelic activities. Subject to satisfactory progress further sums can be anticipated; the Trust expresses its gratitude both to RMN and to all those who contributed to the formulation of the Plan.

Although some aspects of the Plan were outlined at the 1993 Edinburgh and 1994 Chelmsford Congresses, it has not been formally published. To facilitate wider readership and feedback, copies of the shorter version are available from: British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT (please enclose £1 in mint GB stamps for p&p).

The main issue is how to enhance the image of stamp collecting in the eyes of the general population.

Prior to the advent of television and the greatly extended range of competing leisure activities, exposure to stamp collecting was the norm for young people, usually at primary school, and access to shops selling stamps was relatively easy. Today shifting educational and leisure environments, coupled with the lack of media exposure or peer endorsement, have combined to greatly reduce this early experience, and hence the previous linkage between remembered youthful interest being rekindled in mid-life has been progressively broken.

It is essential that the challenge is taken up by members of the philatelic community and every possible avenue explored to revitalise activity and interest so that the collecting and study of stamp related material can successfully compete with other leisure activities. The Strategic Plan embraces the following long-term objectives:

1. to become the best overall country worldwide at all levels of stamp collecting.
2. to close the gap between the UK demographic pattern and that of stamp collectors.

3. to open up the structures of philately.
4. to enhance the general perception of stamp collecting in the UK.
5. to reduce exploitation of collectors.
6. to create a firm basis for a successful international exhibition in the UK in 2000.

It includes more detailed analysis and proposals of how they might be attained.

An initial boost to promoting the hobby will be the creation of a full-time funded post to promote interest in stamp collecting and philately. The appointee will work on behalf of the Trust and in conjunction with other philatelic organisations and RMN to facilitate liaison and co-ordination of initiative and projects with the philatelic community and outside, and develop the concept of best practice between societies and other organisations.

It is intended to advertise this post shortly and anyone wishing to receive further details should apply to: Dr Alan Huggins, Chairman British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

Young Stamp Designs Enjoy Day in London

Last month's *Bulletin* included a souvenir sheet of the winning entries in a stamp design competition held at the Stamp '95 exhibition in Wembley in April. The four young winners came to London on 20 June to receive their awards and prizes and see their printed designs coming off the presses of The House of Questa in the form of 70,000 special souvenir sheets.

Before the formalities Nikesh Patel, George Castaldini, Anh Nguyen and Zoe Arbuckle enjoyed a sightseeing tour organised by Royal Mail including a visit to The London Dungeon and lunch at Piccadilly's Planet Hollywood Restaurant.

The competition attracted nearly 400 entries from Stamp '95 visitors (between 5 and 16 years) and a further 800 designs were submitted from a special competition published in *The Young Telegraph* (the Saturday supplement to *The Daily Telegraph*). In both competitions, the children were asked to prepare a design for a postage stamp on the theme of "Wildlife" using either conventional art materials or computer assisted design equipment.

The judging panel included Rosena Robson and John Ryan (Royal Mail), Clive Abbot (stamp designer), Hugh Jefferies (Editor *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*), Wally Rodgers (The House of Questa), Sally Bailey (W H Smith), and Kitty Melrose (*Young Telegraph*). Making the awards, Rosena



The souvenir sheets coming off the presses at The House of Questa on 20 June. Left to right: Wally Rodgers (Questa); Zoe Arbuckle (Young Telegraph winner); Nikesh Patel (winner 5-9 years category); Anh Nguyen (14-16 years); and George Castaldini (10-13 years)

Robson, Royal Mail's Special Stamps Manager, congratulated the young designers on their achievements and presented each with a framed copy of the souvenir sheet, a portable CD player (donated by Royal Mail), a Penny Black (Stanley Gibbons), colouring crayon sets (W H Smith), and stamp collecting accessories.

She thanked The House of Questa, in particular its reprographics and design team, for its dedicated co-operation in setting up and supervising the computer graphics aspect of the competition both during the exhibition and subsequently in processing and printing the winning designs.

The Stamp '95 "Design-a-Stamp" souvenir sheet can be obtained free of charge by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Stamp '96, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

Singapore '95 Trip For Essex Stamp Collector

Mr W E "Bill" Mole from Colchester, Essex, beat the odds of 15,833 to 1 to win first prize in the Stamp '95 free prize draw which will take him and his wife Marie on a five day expenses paid luxury holiday to Singapore and the Singapore '95 international stamp exhibition this month. At a reception in London in June Bill (49) was presented with his itinerary and tickets by Paul Fraser, Chairman of Stanley Gibbons, sponsors of the prize, which is valued at around £2000.

The trip will be Bill and Marie's first proper holiday break in 16 years from their family greengrocery and floral business. It will also be their first holiday abroad other than one to Guernsey! Son Martyn will be running the shop in their absence.

Bill, a stamp collector for 12 years, specialises in UK Machins issued between 1967 and 1970. He attended Stamp '95 on the fourth day, completed his registration and thought no more about it. He described his reaction to his win and visiting Singapore '95 as being "over the moon".



Stamp '95 prize draw winner Bill Mole (right) receives his tickets and itinerary to Singapore '95 from Paul Fraser, Chairman of Stanley Gibbons

Nearly 16,000 adults visited Stamp '95 last April and each of the free registrations automatically qualified for the Free Draw with over 100 prizes at stake.

Stamp '96

Following the success of Stamp '95 at Wembley in April, the organisers have announced that Stamp '96 will take place between 25-28 April with an additional days build up. The exhibition will move to the larger Hall 2 (from Hall 3) with some 5000 square metres of space so as to comfortably accommodate almost double the number of stands, a host of innovative new features and an additional 5000-10,000 visitors over the four days. This should be achieved without compromising the relaxed and friendly atmosphere that was so well received at Stamp '95. Once again Stanley Gibbons and Royal Mail will be supporting the exhibition, both investing a considerable amount of time and resources to ensure its success.

Dealers interested in attending Stamp '96 should contact: Stamp '96, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH, Tel. 01425 461353.

European Stamp Design Exhibition

An exhibition entitled "Designing Messages: European Stamp Design" opens at London's Design Museum on 26 October and will be on show until February 1996. Sponsored by Harrison & Sons Ltd, stamp printers, the exhibition will be open weekdays 11.30-18.00; weekends 12.00-18.00. Admission £4.50 adults, £3.50 concessions. The Design Museum is located at Shad Thames, LONDON SE1 2YD, for information phone 0891 715944.

The exhibition will draw attention to the stamp's complexity as a cultural sign and its importance as a communicator of messages. Focussing on the design challenges it poses, the exhibition explores the stamp's resourcefulness in fulfilling many of the functions – official and commemorative – prescribed by issuing countries.

In presenting stamps from Britain, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and some former colonies, this exhibition explores the design traditions of modern Europe and shows how such central concerns as colour, typography, legibility and impact have effected the evolution of philatelic design. The work of artists as important as Piet Zwart, M C Esher, Edmund Dulac and Jean-Michel Folon, is viewed through the microcosm of the stamp.

The symbolic richness of stamp design is explored through its use of national icons or other visual stereotypes, and in its role as an official seal and commemorative sticker. In confronting colonial and post-colonial, avant-garde and traditionalist approaches, the exhibition highlights the ideological viewpoints which influence postage stamp design and shows how stamps, because of their multiple functions, often produce more complex messages than those from other areas of the graphic arts, such as posters and ads.

The exhibition will coincide with the publication of a book by the exhibition's guest curator, David Scott, published by Academy Editions entitled *Designing Messages: Aspects of European Postage Stamp Design*.

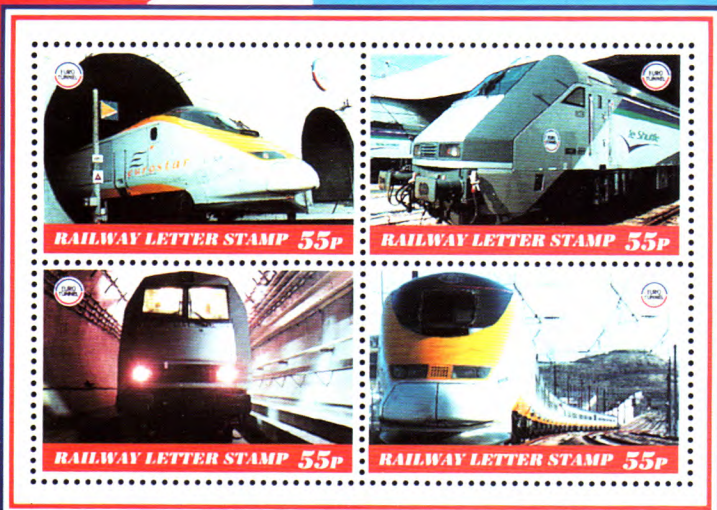
Eurotunnel Railway Letter Service

Eurotunnel and Royal Mail have finalised an agreement for a Railway Letter Service. The five-year agreement came into operation on 26 June 1995 – the day of introduction of the first coach shuttle – the final service offered by Eurotunnel.

Collectors and visitors can buy at Eurotunnel



THE CHANNEL TUNNEL 1995



LE TUNNEL SOUS LA MANCHE 1995



a souvenir envelope which has been through the Tunnel and suitably cacheted. This bears British and French Channel Tunnel stamps together with a Eurotunnel rail letter stamp. The envelopes will be posted either in France or Britain as a souvenir of going through the Tunnel itself. Postcards will also be available. The rail letter stamps are available from Eurotunnel in a presentation pack (£3.50), or from Eurotunnel's philatelic agents (Benham) at £3 the set of four or £3.50 in presentation pack (includes post & packing). A limited number of proof sheets are available, price £10. Enquiries: Benham, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD, Tel. 01303 850041.

Olymphelex '96 in Atlanta

Bulletin 1 for this quadrennial Olympic and Sports exhibition is now available from the British Commissioner, Franceska Rapkin, Eaglewood, Sheethanger Lane, Felden, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HP3 0BG. The exhibition is being held under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), and there will be two sections. The first, the FIP International Class will be judged to full international standard and will only be open to collectors who have already received a national vermeil (silver gilt) medal. The Promotional Class will be open to all collectors who do not have the above qualification.

Unlike previous Olymphelex exhibitions, all the FIP classes, (traditional, postal history, postal stationery, aerophilately, thematic, etc) will be represented. It was felt at the last Olymphelex in Barcelona in 1992, that some very good collections were penalised because they were unable to conform to the restraints of the thematic class. It is hoped that by covering all the philatelic disciplines more collectors will feel able to participate.

Apart from the philatelic exhibition, Olymphelex will also have sections devoted to numismatics and other collectables. Further details from: Organising Committee Olymphelex '96, PO Box 1996, Lexington GA 30648, USA.



Twentieth Century Postal Stationery

COLIN BAKER

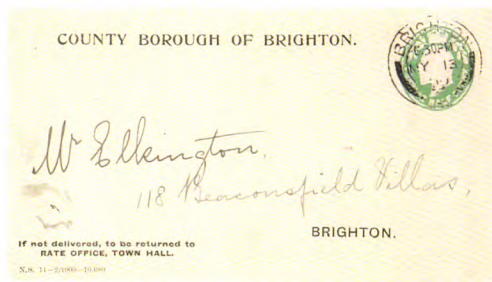
Part 1. Edward VII

The series of six articles published in the *Bulletin* from September 1994 to April 1995 told the story of how postal stationery developed during the 19th century, becoming a popular and comprehensive part of the postal service. However, during this century the use of postal stationery gradually declined, and except for one major development in the 1940s, it now takes a back seat to other methods of prepaying postal services. Once again this series of articles will deal only with Post Office issued stationery. It is intended that the facility for stamping to order private material will become the subject of a separate account at a later date.

King Edward VII ascended the throne on the death of Queen Victoria in January 1901 and during his nine year reign few changes were made to the range of postal stationery available from the PO. New stamp designs were prepared following the traditions built up over the previous 60 years. Embossed stamps were retained for envelopes, the simpler and cheaper letterpress stamps being used for postcards and newspaper wrappers.

Changes to Embossed Stamps

A new border was designed for the 1d embossed stamps, with a crown in the centre of two sprigs of laurel leaves surmounting the profile of the King's head. This profile was engraved at the Bunhill Row premises of De La Rue & Co, hence the initials BR found on the stamps at the base of the monarch's neck. Stamps which include a die number rather than these initials are those impressed on private material by the Stamping Branch of the Board of Inland Revenue at Somerset House. With this new stamp design came a change in colour to carmine, to match that used for the adhesive stamps of the same value. This change was made to bring the 1d stamp into line with the UPU policy on colours to be adopted internationally for all three basic foreign rates; green for printed papers, red for postcards and blue for letters.



A matching pair of 1d bag envelopes. The 1902 issue (top) with the blue/green stamp and (below) the 1904 issue in the lighter yellow/green ink

The layout of the 1d stamp, intended for inland printed paper rate envelopes, was also changed so that it allowed a similar design of a crown and laurel leaves to sit over the King's head. As with the Victorian issues, this stamp had no border and was about half the size of the higher value embossed stamps. The special bag type envelopes for printed papers developed in the last years of the 19th century had proved themselves to be so successful that they continued to be produced in the same two sizes, one 80 x 135mm for small papers and the other large enough for folded foolscap paper.

Changes to the Popular Postcard

During the early part of this century the postcard continued to be as popular as ever with the public and was used extensively for sending every conceivable message both inland and

abroad. For the Edward VII issue, the stamps impressed on both inland and overseas postcards were redesigned, although they still followed the basic outline adopted for the earlier Victorian issues. The new stamp designs included two major changes. The word "Postage", which had been missing from both the Victorian ½d and 1¼d postcard stamps, was added vertically either side of the new design and a crown was placed above the head of the new King. The new stamps incorporated a profile of Edward VII based on a portrait by the Austrian artist Emil Fuchs. The postcards were prepared by De La Rue.

At the start of Edward VII's reign the format for both the inland and foreign postcards in single and reply versions remained identical to those of the previous issue. Subsequently, in 1908, the instruction that the address should be written on the front of postcards was removed. This change had been agreed for all foreign postcards at the UPU congress in Rome the previous year. The PO had previously considered such an amendment to inland cards, but had delayed the change only to be consistent with the wording on both inland and overseas cards.

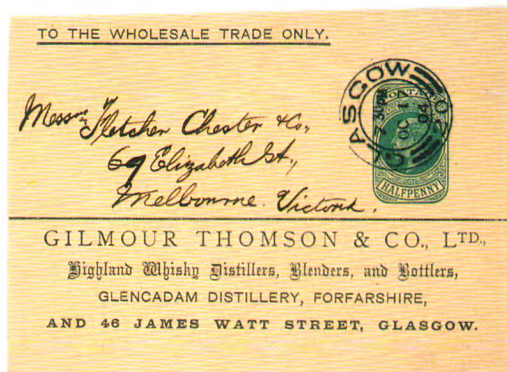
The choice of using both stout and thin inland postcards remained available to the public, the thin buff cards being the larger of the two sizes sold by the PO. However, following the precedent set shortly after the postcard was first introduced, cards were sold at a price above the value of the stamp to allow the stationery trade

fair competition with the PO.

Wrappers and Lettercards

Newspaper wrappers continued to be sold by the PO in much the same size and format as before, with the colours chosen for printing the stamp matching those for other stationery in the PO range. The shape of the ½d stamp remained tall and thin, with the word POSTAGE added across the top of the design, giving it more balance. The stamp for the 1d wrapper matched the oval shape used for Victorian issues, but now had a rather more fancy design for the border. There were no instructions printed on either value of newspaper wrappers, these having been abandoned towards the end of the last century.

Lettercards continued to be popular with the public at the beginning of the 20th century, the format used remaining identical to the Victorian issues, even down to the design of the 1d stamp with its eight pointed border. It was over a year after King Edward's death, while George V stamps were still being prepared, that a major change occurred to lettercards. For the first time in nearly 20 years, white card was used in their production.



1902 Post Office newspaper wrapper subsequently overprinted. The stamp is printed in a dark green colour, later changed to a yellow/green to ease identification in poor lighting conditions



The 1902 postcards for overseas (top) and inland destinations (below)



Combined Postage and Registration Stamps

In addition to the changes made to the design of embossed and letterpress postage stamps, one important change was also made to stamps impressed on registered envelopes. Ever since the introduction of the specially strengthened envelopes in 1878, all Victorian registration stamps paid only the basic registration fee of 2d, postage and any additional fee being prepaid by adding adhesive stamps of the correct value. The new design for the Edward VII stamps included both the basic registration fee and postage, so that for normal inland use, registered envelopes no longer needed to carry extra stamps. This idea of combining the cost of both these standard rates into one stamp was retained for all subsequent issues and has continued to the present day, the only exceptions being "Overseas" and Forces registered envelopes of later reigns.

The layout of registered envelopes remained unchanged until 1907 when the R in an oval frame on the front of the envelope was replaced by a box for the registration label, to conform to a UPU ruling of 1881. A year later the wording on the reverse was also amended as compensation then applied to both inland and overseas addressed registered mail.

1907 registered envelope with the addition of a box on the face for the newly introduced labels

New Printing Arrangements

In 1904 the colour of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d embossed and impressed stamps was changed from a dark blue/green to a lighter yellow green in line with similar changes which were made to the $\frac{1}{2}$ d adhesive stamps. Post Office staff working in poor light had experienced difficulties in distinguishing between the dark green $\frac{1}{2}$ d and the ultramarine $2\frac{1}{2}$ d adhesive stamps. Although this did not really effect stationery stamps, a similar change in colour was made to these to maintain consistency.

A further change to the printing of all PO stationery occurred in 1911. On 1 January 1911 the contract for producing postal stationery was given to McCorquodale & Co who subsequently printed the vast majority of all PO stationery. (This firm had manufactured the linen-backed envelopes since 1878). Although Edward VII died in 1910, stationery incorporating stamps of his reign continued to be issued well into 1911 pending the release of the new George V issues in June, the subject of the next article.

© Colin Baker 1995

Varieties of Yesteryear - 8

**QV 1881 1d Lilac:
14-dot and 16-dot Varieties**

FRED GEE

From talking to other philatelists, I gain the impression that the varieties which have been the subjects of this series of articles, although they are all referred to in specialised catalogues, are not generally known to the average GB collector. There is, however, one "Variety of Yesteryear" which everybody seems to be aware of – the so-called 14-dot and 16-dot versions of the 1881 1d lilac.

There is an interesting background to the issue of this stamp. From the Penny Black in 1840 until the appearance of the 1d lilac in 1881 every postage stamp bore, in addition to its postal value, the single word **POSTAGE** – because that was the one purpose the stamps were intended to serve. Until 1881 there was a separate series of stamps – ignored by many collectors – which were intended solely for fiscal purposes and which carried the inscription **INLAND REVENUE**.

But then the Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1881 changed the existing order of things, and from that time on stamps were to serve both purposes. And so there appeared, as the first such stamp, the 1d lilac, bearing the inscription **POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE**. It was because this stamp was to be used for fiscal purposes as well as for postage that it was thought necessary to use a fugitive ink – hence the lilac shades, rather than the red-browns and pinks which had been used for the 1d postage stamps since the abandonment of the Penny Black in 1841.

Two Dies

There were two dies from which plates were made for the printing of the 1d lilac, and although die II lasted for over 20 years – that is, until the stamp was superseded in January 1902 by the Edward VII 1d – the original die was in use for only the first five months of the life of this issue, being replaced in December 1881 as the lettering on die I was considered not to be bold enough.

There are minor differences in the lettering of the two dies, but the easiest way to distinguish die I from die II printings is by counting the dots, or pearls, between the rectangular frame lines: die I has only 14 complete pearls in each

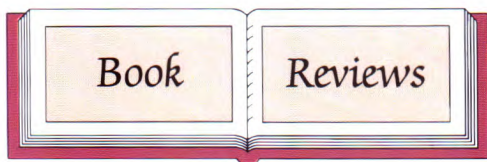


The two dies of the 1881 1d Lilac: Die 1 (14 dots) used as a revenue stamp; Die 2 (16 dots) used postally

corner of the design, whereas in each corner of die II there are 16 complete pearls.

Having been in use for more than 20 years to cover the basic inland letter rate, the 16-dot 1d lilac is a very common stamp. Not surprisingly, the 14-dot variety is harder to find, but not really scarce: for a few pounds you should be able to get a postally used copy or, for a little less, a copy which has been used for Revenue, as opposed to Postage, purposes – i.e. cancelled with a signature in ink. If you have the time to sort through them the best bet is to buy several old album pages of 1d lilacs – amongst them you would almost certainly find one or two 14-dot stamps.

© Fred Gee 1995



Bats in Philately is the latest thematic (topical) handbook published by the American Topical Association. Written by Thomas M Lera, this book includes detailed descriptions of each sub-order of bats shown on stamps. Included are sections on postal stationery and cancellations, and scientists who have studied bats. The core of the work is the checklist of bat stamps, giving country, year of issue, Scott catalogue number, family, genus, and species. There is also a listing of stamps showing stylised bats. The checklists include material not listed in the Scott catalogues. Another useful addition to the ATA handbook series.

64 pages. A5 size, card covers. ISBN: 0-935991-24-7. Price \$10 postpaid from: American Topical Association, PO Box 630, Johnstown PA 15907, USA.

The Stanley Gibbons Thematic Catalogues have proved their worth since the Birds catalogue was first published in 1983. The latest addition to the series, **Collect Aircraft on Stamps** by Alan

Sterckx, is likely to be amongst the most popular to date. This catalogue lists over 12,000 different stamps depicting more than 1400 different types of aircraft from the Montgolfier balloon to the latest supersonic fighter, from the jumbo jet to the smallest microlight. The most depicted aircraft is the ubiquitous DC-3, the most popular airship or balloon the LZ-127 Graf Zeppelin and the most frequently found individual airplane Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis.

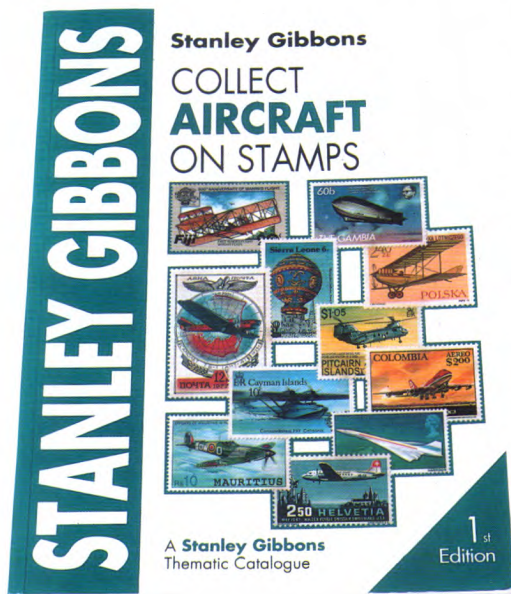
The introduction, headed "About This Book" sets out its criteria, explaining what is and what



is not included. There is a listing of the standard reference works which have been used in compiling this catalogue. The listings are arranged alphabetically by country, from Abu Dhabi to Zimbabwe. One stamp from each set is illustrated, the aircraft shown on each stamp is identified, and the SG catalogue number and price given. Set prices only are given where all stamps in a set feature aircraft.

Some 26 stamps are listed under Great Britain – from the 2½d value in the 1963 Lifeboat Conference set, showing Westland Widgeon III helicopter, (SG 639) to the 25p D-Day stamp of 1994 depicting a Douglas Boston being loaded with smoke canisters (SG 1824). Along the way we have stamps showing Concorde, Alcock and Brown's Vickers Vimy, the 1986 RAF History set of five, and a 1994 Greetings stamp featuring Biggles and Royal Aircraft Factory B.E. 2C. The British Post Office has never issued airmail stamps, countries which have figure more prominently in the listings, for example France, Italy, Spain, and the USA.

Users will find much useful information at the back of this book – beginning with a five-page "Chronology of Aviation Events and Anniversaries" (1670-1991). The Classification Index (11 pages) lists each Aircraft Type from Acrostar (light airplane) to Zselyi monoplane, indicating under which part of the Sectional Index each is classified. This 17-page Index lists



the various aircraft types under 11 main headings: Forerunners; Post-Wright Aircraft to 1914; Civil aircraft; Flying Boats and seaplanes since 1919; Helicopters; Military Aircraft; Experimental and Non-Production Aircraft; Gliders since 1914; Model Aircraft; Airports; and Aircraft Overprints. Most are subdivided into more detailed categories, for example Flying Boats and Seaplanes are categorised under: (a) Civil-passenger carrying; (b) long distance and racers; (c) Utility and mail planes; and (d) Military.

Referring back to the Classification Index, we find, for instance, that a "Farman F.40" is listed under F1 in the Sectional index – Military Aircraft – 1. 1914 to 1918 – all types (including post-war civil conversions not listed elsewhere). A "Miles Mohawk" is listed as C1(c) – Civil Aircraft – 1. 1919 to 1939, (c) Light aircraft and mailplanes. It is readily apparent that these indexes are most useful for collectors in arranging and writing-up their collections, providing ready-made classifications and subdivisions under which to organise an Aircraft thematic collection.

264 pages, A4 size, card covers. ISBN: 0-85259-374-0. Price £17.95 from good bookshops, stamp shops, Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or by post from: Stanley Gibbons, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. Postage £3 UK, £6 overseas. Free Credit Card Mail Order Hotline: 0800-611622.

Other SG Thematic Catalogues cover Birds (3rd edition, 1992), Butterflies and other Insects (1st edn, 1991); Chess (1st edn, 1992); Railways (2nd edn, 1990); and Ships (2nd edn, 1993).

At the beginning of 1995 the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) issued its revised regulations and guidelines for exhibiting at FIP exhibitions. These have now been published by the British Philatelic Trust's Working Group on International Affairs under the title **General and Special Regulations & Guidelines for the Evaluation of Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions**

The General Regulations comprise six articles, covering Competitive Exhibitions; Competitive Exhibits; Principles of Exhibit Composition; Criteria for Evaluation; Judging of Exhibits; and Concluding Provisions. The Special Regulations for the Evaluation of and Guidelines for Judging Exhibits are listed separately for Aerophilatelic; Astrophilatelic; Philatelic Literature; Maximaphily; Postal History; Postal Stationery;

Thematic; Traditional Philately; Revenue; and Youth exhibits. Anyone intending entering competitions at major exhibitions is advised to read these regulations and guidelines carefully. Most collectors do not compete at local or national, let alone international level, but some, nonetheless, may find judicious reading of this book of help in the formation and arrangement of their own collections. For instance, under "Principles of Exhibit Composition" for Postal Stationery exhibits, we find postal stationery "can be classified according to either: 1) the manner of its availability and usage; 2) the physical form of the paper or card; or 3) the postal or associated service for which it is intended." Furthermore, "the manner and availability and usage may be defined as follows: 1) Post Office Issues; 2) Official Service Issues; 3) Forces (Military) Issues; 4) Stamped to Order (Private) Issues – Stamped Stationery bearing stamps applied with postal administration approval and within specified regulations but to the order of private individuals or organisations."

100 pages, A5 size, card covers. Price £1 (payable in mint British stamp) from: British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

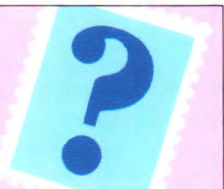
New from the pen of prolific author and *Bulletin* contributor James Mackay is **William Wallace: Brave Heart** – a detailed biography of the Scottish patriot (c.1272-1305) whose life is the subject of a new film (described by Dr Mackay in his introduction as "the celluloid exploits of Mel Gibson"). "No national hero", writes Mackay, "has ever excited greater admiration than William Wallace. No hero has remained such a shadowy figure, his life and actions beset by myths and contradictions." The book charts Wallace's life from his early days in Ayrshire to his horrific execution in Smithfield, London. It is an incredible story of a man who, without wealth or noble birth, rose to become Guardian of Scotland.

As yet Wallace has not been honoured on a postage stamp although he has featured on privately produced labels, and his memorial in Stirling was depicted on a recent postmark commemorating the opening of the town's new Royal Mail delivery office.

288 pages, hardbound. ISBN 1 85158 705 5. Price £14.99 from good bookshops or from the publishers: Mainstream Publishing Co (Edinburgh) Ltd, 7 Albany Street, EDINBURGH EH1 3UG

Competition

SPONSORED BY:
AVON APPROVALS



Win a four margin pair of GB 1840 2d Blues

The prizes for this month's competition have been supplied by AVON specialists in supplying stamps on APPROVAL since 1958.

* 1st prize: GB 1840 2d blue plate 1 – JC-JD, four margins pair, scarcer pale blue shade. J-D couple light creases, both cancelled by clear 80% complete black Maltese Cross. Fine colour, most attractive. SG6, catalogued £750 plus.

* 2nd prize: Canada, Quebec 1852-7 Cartier 10d blue plate proof overprint Specimen in carmine showing major re-entry doubling of "DA"-"PE". Original stamp SG cat. £6500+ mint. Estimated retail as proof £200+. Very fine.

* 3rd prize: GB 1840 1d black plated 1a – SH – very fine four margined worn plate example tied to small piece by attractive red Maltese Cross cancel. SG cat £200.



Unique new GB discovery from Avon Approvals

After nearly 40 years the GB 1957 World Scout Jamboree set has been unearthed at auction with perfin "B.P." (Baden-Powell?) including scroll insignia. Over 1.8 million Scouts sets were originally issued but only 1110 sets have been discovered with this perfin – making this one of the scarcest and most unusual finds of recent years. Demand is expected to be high as many thousands of GB and Scouts collectors will want to add these to their collections – yet only 1110 sets are available. Order early from Avon Approvals for £10 (blocks of four pro-rata). *Perfins to be illustrated next month. Ed.*

However if you request a selection of approvals and become a regular client spending £12+ on average per selection you can obtain your set FREE by deducting the £10 paid for one

set from monies due upon returning your third selection. By buying the Scouts set and spending the £12 minimum purchase per approval sending you get £58 worth of stamps for only £36 when this offer is combined with Avon's "We'll pay you £100 discounts promotion".

Alternatively you can just order the Scouts set or request approvals. Omniphil approval clients can also request approvals from AVON. You can stop any time. Write now enclosing payment or Access/Visa number plus expiry date. Please state all the countries you collect and whether you collect mint and used.

AVON APPROVALS
"B.P." Bulletin Offer
PO Box 29

STROUD
Glos GL6 6RW



To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: September Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL to arrive by 27 October. You may submit as many entries as you like but each must be posted separately. Multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

1. Who wrote a letter, requesting stamps, from HMS *Dreadnought* in 1887?
2. In which year did Slania obtain employment at the Stamp Printing Office in Stockholm?
3. Who won the Stamp '95 prize of a trip to the Singapore international stamp exhibition this month?
4. Where will the Olymphilex '96 exhibition be held?
5. Which firm obtained the contract for printing postal stationery from 1 January 1911?

The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*.

The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Avon Approvals.

The winners of the June competition were:

F Smith (Humburside), D Eddie (Lancs), M Jones (Canada), G Barry (Middx), A Walker-Smith (Derbyshire), D Parker (Middx), Miss L Wisner (Essex), Dr G Pegg (Avon), M Vargiu (Italy), P Gaywood (Oman), H Rawle (W Midlands), B Normanton (Australia), P Griffin (Sri Lanka), and R Bunnage (Mid Glamorgan).

The answers were: 1. Richard & Cuthbert Burbage, 2. 1933, 3. Colin Burbage, 4. national railway strike, 5. Bill Tonkin.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Posting Boxes

No. 156 Victorian Boxes

Our illustrations this month were submitted by Steve Standbridge of Gloucestershire and by an anonymous reader (posted from Chelmsford, Essex).

Mr Standbridge's transparencies show boxes at Toddington and Winchcombe stations on the restored Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway. At Winchcombe the wall-mounted box is the original one from Monmouth (Troy) station, the location from which the present Winchcombe station building was relocated. The station has been rebuilt by volunteers over a number of years and the restoration of the box is one of the

finishing touches to a superb job of work. At Toddington the station pillar box has been repainted in the GWR livery of chocolate and cream and is used for donations and smaller items of incoming mail. Notices on the boxes testify to their non-Royal Mail status. Details of the train services on the GWR can be obtained by phoning 01242 631405, or by writing to: GWR, Railway Station, Toddington, CHELTENHAM, Glos, GL54 5DT.



The anonymously-submitted photograph shows the superbly restored Penfold box at Laura Place, Bath, with the Royal Coat of Arms, Royal Cipher and POST OFFICE inscription picked out in gold paint. Penfolds are perhaps the most popular of all British posting boxes and have featured here on a number of occasions.

Readers interested in posting boxes should consider joining the Letter Box Study Group which has some 700 members. For details send a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.



Stamp '95

A Marks of Essex comments: "I visited the exhibition with my seven year old daughter. we both spent an enjoyable day there. She really appreciated the 'goody bag' and the Collectors Club treasure hunt. The exhibition was well laid out and the young collector was well catered for. As we left, my daughter said that she was looking forward to Stamp '96."

Shakespeare's Globe

Louis Wright of Cumbria writes to correct two errors in what he describes as "the excellent article on the Shakespeare's Globe stamps in the June *Bulletin*." On page 301 the year of death of Sam Wannamaker should be 1993 not 1973, and on page 303 the author of *Trilby* is du Maurier not du Marier. We thank Mr Wright for letting us keep the record straight.

Whilst correcting mistakes, the illustration of The Queen's 60th birthday stamp, referred to here in July (page 346) was in the May *Bulletin* (page 269), not April as stated.

Origin & Justification for First Day Covers

George Wilson of Devon writes: "I have collected first day covers (not just British) for many years and have had great pleasure from so doing. However I have never come across a justification for first day covers. Back in the 1950s I asked several old-time dealers how and why first day covers came about, but none could give me a proper reason. One suggested the practice dated from the days when there were several printings of special stamps and use on a cover posted on the first day of sale should prove stamps from the first printing. I guess that first day covers started in the 1920s as a sort of 'craze' which, perhaps surprisingly, has not gone the way of other philatelic crazes. Can any reader supply a reference from an old book or magazine giving the origin and philatelic justification for these covers? Even if, as I suspect, there is no rational justification today for first day covers, I will still continue to collect."

Forthcoming Issues

4 Sep	50p book Sea Charts 4 (H)
4 Sep	£1 book Inspiration for Victory 4 (H)
4 Sep	£2 book Rowland Hill 4 (H)
4 Sep	10 x 1st book - Sainsbury's (Q)
4 Sep	10 x 1st book - Someone Special (H)
5 Sep	Communications stamps & pack
11 Sep	NVI Stamp Label (Revised)
26 Sep	Rugby League Centenary stamp cards
3 Oct	Rugby League Centenary stamps & pack
3 Oct	Rugby League Centenary Postcard Book
3 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
3 Oct	10 x 1st book - W H Smith (W)
23 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
30 Oct	Christmas stamps & pack
30 Oct	Christmas gift pack
30 Oct	Christmas stamp book (20 x 19p)
30 Oct	Christmas stamp book (10 x 25p)
30 Oct	Christmas stamp book (4 x 60p)
30 Oct	NPM postcards - Christmas
30 Oct	1995 Year Book
30 Oct	1995 Year Pack

Notes:

H = printed by Harrisons; Q = Questa;
W = Walsall.

The Someone Special book (4 September) is available in two versions - with and without a small black box near the barcode on the back.

New Railway aerogrammes (pack of six different designs) are scheduled for issue by the end of the year. Date to be announced. There will not now be a larger size railway aerogramme.

Priority Service Envelopes

New priority service envelopes were announced in the July *Bulletin* (page 322 and stop press insert). These will be available from 4 September from the British Philatelic Bureau and from post offices in the Midlands; South East; and North Thames & East Anglia regions of Post Office Counters Ltd. The envelopes will go on sale at offices in the South Wales & South West; North East; North Wales & North West; and Scotland & Northern Ireland regions in November. Prices as follows:

Size	Special Delivery	Registered	Registered Plus
C4	£4.00	£4.30	£4.90
C5	£3.30	£3.60	£4.20

Please note there will be no first day of issue facilities for these envelopes.

Events – September/October 1995

until 1 October: Display of Ascension 1982 150th Anniversary of Charles Darwin's Voyage issue (artwork, essays, proofs, issued stamps) at British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sunday 14.30-18.00. Enquiries: 0171-412 7635/6.

until April 1996: "Victorian Posts" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. Admission free. Enquiries: 0171-239 5420.

30 August-2 September. 1995 Picture Postcard Show (incorporating BIPEX) at Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1.

1-10 September: Singapore '95 – world philatelic exhibition, Singapore. Under FIP patronage. Enquiries: Singapore 95, PO Box 1995, Robinson Road, Singapore 9039.

9 September: Tiverton Stamp Club host to Inter-Club Competitions of the Wessex Philatelic Federation at Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton, Devon. 10.30-16.00. Ten dealers. Enquiries: Mary Claydon, Hazelhurst, Tiverton Road, Bampton, TIVERTON, Devon, EX16 9LJ.

23 September: Hampex '95 & Hampshire Federation Day at Hayling Island Middle School, Hayling Island. Enquiries: J H Jones, 01794-514902.

23 September: Philatelic Music Circle Convention, London. Enquiries: Ian Summers, 8 Alderwood Grove, Edenfield, BURY, Lancs, BL0 0HQ.

23 September: WOPEX '95 – Woking & District Phil Soc Stamp Fair & Exhibition at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Brewery Road, Woking. 10.00-17.00. Admission free. Dealers, auction, free valuations of philatelic material by Phillips, displays, refreshments. Enquiries: R Trevelyan, 01483-764339.

23 September: Preston & District PS Stamp & Postcard Fair & Exhibition at Canterbury Hall, Garstang Road, Preston, 10.00-16.00. 20 stamp & postcard dealers; free parking. Enquiries: P Gaywood, 01772-684302 or 01253 664100.

23-24 September: Annual Convention of Exhibition Study Group at The Century Tavern, Forty Avenue, Wembley. Starts 09.30 each day, annual dinner on 23 September. Enquiries: A Sabey, 0181-843 9920.

Out of the Arc ...

Curiosities from the Post Office Archives

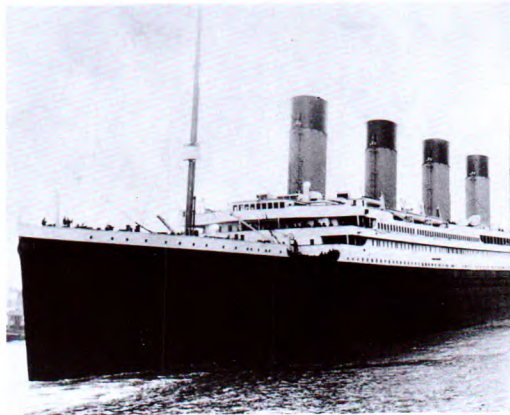
13. A Post Office on the Titanic!

Everybody has heard of the tragedy of the *Titanic* and all the people who went down with her, but I wonder how many are aware that the crew list included five postal workers. Two were British, J B Williamson and J R J Smith, with the other three being American, all of whom were manning the on-board Sea Post Office.

It would appear that when the ship was struck, all five began carrying the sacks of mail, some 200, to the upper deck in the hope of saving them. This disregard for personal safety and dedication to duty was all to no avail, as they too lost their lives.

Frank O'Neill
Customer Liaison Manager

The Titanic



Sea Post Cap

September/October Digest

To be issued in September/October

4 September: Priority Service envelopes – Special Delivery, Registered, Registered Plus – two sizes each.

Note: Collectors should order these envelopes from the British Philatelic Bureau.

4 September: Stamp Books – 50p Sea Charts 4; £1 Inspiration for Victory 4; £2 Rowland Hill 4.

4 September: Stamp Book – 10 x 1st Sainsbury's promotion.

Notes: (1) This is date of availability from Bureau and philatelic outlets. This book went on sale at Sainsbury's shops in June; (2) Date of philatelic availability of the above books has been brought forward one day from that originally announced.

4 September: Stamp Book – 10 x 1st "Someone Special" promotion.

5 September: Communications stamps and presentation pack

11 September: NVI Stamp Label (revised version of 1994 "Boots" label).

26 September: Rugby League Centenary stamp cards

3 October: Rugby League Centenary stamps, presentation pack, and postcard booklet.

3 October: 1995 Christmas aerogramme.

3 October: Stamp book – 10 x 1st – W H Smith promotion.

Note: Date of philatelic availability, on sale from Smiths shops from April

23 October: 1995 Christmas stamp cards

30 October: Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp books (10 x 19p, 10 x 25p, 4 x 60p), and gift pack (*to be confirmed*)

30 October: National Postal Museum Christmas postcards

30 October: 1995 Yearpack and Yearbook.

To be withdrawn in September/October

5 September: Stamp Books: 50p Coaching Inns 4; £1 Prime Ministers 4; £2 Postal Vehicles 3.

26 September: Medical Discoveries stamps, stamp cards & presentation pack.

4 October: Stamp books – 10 x 1st "You've Won" and "Next Time"; 10 x 1st and 10 x 2nd

printed by Questa; 4 x 60p with Christmas labels (all issued 4 October 94).

31 October: 1994 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and stamp books.

31 October: National Postal Museum 1994 Christmas postcards.

Note: Cards will be withdrawn from Bureau but remain on sale at NPM Shop.

Late News – Definitive Stamps

Specialist collectors of Machin stamps will be aware of a change to the fluor used on phosphor bands – see July Bulletin, page 325. 41p stamps printed by Enschedé and books of four and ten 1st class stamps printed by Walsall have been produced with the new fluor and are now available on request from the British Philatelic Bureau. Readers are reminded that the difference between the old and new fluor is only apparent under ultra-violet light.

The 10 x 1st "Someone Special" book, due on 4 September, will be available in two versions, enabling monitoring of the response to the promotion. Books sold by retailers will have a small black box printed near the bar code on the back cover. This box will not be on books sold over post office counters. Both types will be available to collectors from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets.

We regret the obituary of Mr Ian Barr was "cut short" on page 359 of last month's *Bulletin*. The last sentence should have read: Mr Barr's recreations were given in *Who's Who* (1995) as "composing serial, constructing a metaphysical system."

We record our congratulations to John Marriott, retiring Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, who has recently been honoured by HM The Queen with a knighthood of the Royal Victorian Order. Sir John's successor as Keeper is Mr Charles Goodwyn.

