

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Contents

- 99 Editorial
- Stampex '84
- 100 The Essays of Queen Elizabeth II: Part 2
- 102 New Philatelic Sales Counter
- 103 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection CXXI
The 1887 Issue — Pre-Issue Colour Trials
- 104 British Cattle Stamps Issue
Philatelic Counter Handstamps
Letter to the Editor
- 105 Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Stamps:
Decimal Booklet Pane Printings — Technical
Details
Changes in Perforation for Definitive Stamps
'From Pillar to Post': a Manchester Post
Box Walk
- 106 Sending Stamps in the Inland Registered Post
Donation to University of Sussex
Philatelic Unit
- 107 Posting Boxes
Special Issues for 1982
- 108 1985 Special Stamp Programme
Withdrawn Items
New Presentation Pack Album
- 109 Urban Renewal Stamps Issue
10 April 1984
- 111 British Special Stamps:
107. Telephone Centenary, 1976
- 112 Postcard Stories:
11. Oberammergau, 1984
- 113 Chillingham Wild Cattle
Book Reviews
- 114 Forthcoming Events
- 115 Stampex Competition Award
Forces Cover
Commemorative Covers

Stampex 84



This handstamp will be applied to mail posted at the exhibition on each day, 6-11 March 1984.

Editorial

This month we are continuing two regular features introduced in recent issues. These are the excellent contributions by Len Newbery on Decimal Booklet Pane Printings, and that by Don Staddon on the Queen Elizabeth II commemorative and special issue essays. Both are proving very popular judging by the letters we have received. The Bulletin's postbag is bulging with suggested improvements — most of them polite! Thank you for the interest shown; we will be replying in due course.

As regular readers know, this year's Stampex opens on 6 March. We will be attending, and hope to see many of our friends there. Our particular congratulations to Mr E A B Mattsson of Hull, winner of the 1984 Post Office Stampex trophy with an exhibit entitled "Great Britain, Plate 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D." Mr Mattsson also won the trophy in 1982.

We also wish both the organisers of Stampex and the participants continuing success. Now that the troubles of the past few months appear to be over, we can all look forward to the future. It is easy to forget that without the support of the ordinary collector (those not addicted to academic obscurity, financial overkill or other vices), there would be no hobby. Hopefully, as well as successful national stamp exhibitions, this year will see the further development of local and regional ones, for the continued benefit and enjoyment of those very important people, the ordinary collectors. For the Bulletin's part, we are happy to include details of local events when space permits (the cut-off date for receipt of information for inclusion in the Bulletin, is 6 weeks prior to publication).

Because of the large amount of material available this month, we have been unable to include an article on the Post Office sections involved with philately. In the April issue however, there will be a special feature on the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, showing the impact of computer technology on their operations. The days of affixing stamps to envelopes by hand could soon be gone forever — the machines are taking over!

We have just received preliminary details of the proposed special stamp programme for 1985. These are included in this issue, and readers will be able to plan ahead.

CHARLES GOWEN

The Essays of Queen Elizabeth II

Part 2

As March 1984 sees the issue of a set of Cattle stamps it seems appropriate to devote this second article on modern GB essays to the subject of animals.

Man's use of animals as servants and pets goes back into the distant past. We accept their presence in our lives as a matter of course, and it comes as something of a surprise when you count the many times they have appeared on British stamps. This article is concerned with some of them.

Of the special set of stamps on cattle not all of them are domesticated. Indeed, the unique Chillingham herd near Wooler in Northumberland are as wild as they come. Walled in during mediaeval times they have roamed freely in the estate and have been totally inbred for at least the last 700 years.

By contrast the animals depicted on the 1978 Horses stamps are all working breeds, from the miniature Shetland pony up to the massive Shire.

Essays produced for these stamps show one vital aspect of the work of the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee, and that is to see that the subjects are portrayed correctly.



On the first essay of the 11p stamp the Welsh pony was grey in colour and saddled. After consultation with the Welsh Pony and Cob Association the animal but not the background was completely changed. Also, the saddle was left off, being more appropriate to the scene and providing a better balance with the riding horses on the other stamps which were also without saddles.

There is not a great deal of difference between the second and third essay which was produced to adjust the colours only.



The final essays approved by Her Majesty the Queen are mounted on a special card and signed by the Post Office executive responsible.

In the example shown here the signature is that of Miss Florence Ladbury who worked in Postal Marketing from 1966, and retired in February 1983 as Assistant Stamp Production Manager.



Approved by HM The Queen 20.3.78
F. Ladbury

These final essays draw attention to another change made during the pre-production period. On the first essays the 10½p was the Thoroughbred and the 13p the Shetland pony. These two values were switched in the final production, to make the 10½p the Shetland pony and the 13p the Thoroughbred.

In looking through the extensive collection of essays housed in the National Postal Museum I noticed that value changes such as this are not uncommon, with 'marketing reasons' given in answer to my questions on the subject. This I interpreted to mean relevance or appeal of each value to the geographical area for which it is the basic rate. The appearance of the most appropriate stamp on inward letters from the UK will undoubtedly help to stimulate philatelic interest in British stamps.

The police were featured on a set issued on 26 September 1979, with a policewoman on horseback on the 11p value. This was the subject of several essays particularly to help decide the colour of the Queen's head.



These were the first essays with the Queen's head either in black or gold.

Second essays were produced with colour adjustments. One of these had the Queen's head in reddish brown.

On the final stamps on the Police set the Queen's head was silver. There is nothing of particular interest about the essays for the 1979 Derby stamps. They are very similar to the finished production.

What is of interest however is the idea of the basic design on the left and the Queen's head and value printed separately on the right. This broad white band would respond well to the phosphor reading equipment in the sorting offices.



First essay (b) followed by the second essay for this stamp show that there was a preference for the design to be stretched over the whole area and the head and value integrated within it. After all machine reading of the phosphor coating would be less important on a stamp to be used for overseas postage purposes.

In the second essay you will see that the value figures were slimmed down a little.





Yet another horse, and some sheep made their appearance on the se-tenant strip of five stamps issued in 1980 for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway 150th anniversary. The second essays show colour modifications from the first essays, especially in the background.

As a contrast to horses we had a four stamp set on dogs in 1979. There were six first essays, two of which were both for the Welsh Springer Spaniel.



In the second essays the Border Collie was dropped as it was felt that the chosen four would better represent England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Here again you will note that the values were switched round with the exception of the West Highland Terrier.

In the first instalment of Don Staddon's series of articles we referred to the illustrations on pages 71 & 72 as 'essays.' They are in fact 'proofs.' Sorry about that, Don.

The illustrations accompanying this article are supplied by kind permission of the Curator, National Postal Museum.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

A new philatelic sales counter will open at the Head Post Office, 3 Custom House Street, LONDONDERRY, BT48 6AA, on Tuesday 6 March 1984.

Hours of business at the new counter are 9 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 5 pm Monday to Friday, and 9 am to noon on Saturday.

It is not intended to issue a special handstamp to mark the event.

The 1887 Issue – Pre-Issue Colour Trials

The R M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps, housed at the National Postal Museum, is remarkable for many reasons, one of which is the number of examples of colour trials that it contains. These by the nature of their purpose, were not easily obtained by the private collector.

The 1887 Issue colour trials to be found in the collection include the perforated twopence-halfpenny and threepence in green on blue and in green on yellow, and the imperforate sixpence in purple on rose, all on watermarked paper (XL126). There are also fifteen different perforated trials of the one shilling (XL134).

Little can be gleaned from the De La Rue Journal of the printer's reasons for using these particular colours or of the Post Office's rationale for their final selections, but it can be reasonably assumed that the printer presented as wide a colour choice as was possible bearing in mind the need to incorporate

doubly fugitive inks (lilac or green). The Post Office's selection on the other hand was dictated by the need for ease of denomination, identification and operational requirements. However, the Journal does record a letter dated 11 November 1886 written by Warren William De La Rue to Sir Algernon West, the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, in which a paragraph is devoted to the difficulties encountered on the printing process.

"The most perfect printing plates will not ensure good work unless they be used with sufficient skill under proper conditions, and the registration of the bi-colour stamps has been a source of enormous difficulty. We made numerous experiments, and devised all sorts of machinery and appliances to achieve our object, but although we nearly succeeded in many instances, the results fell short of the perfection at which we aimed. We were led indeed almost to despair of



Letter to the Editor



success; but we at last succeeded in getting a machine constructed which would do the work satisfactorily; but that machine is most elaborate and consequently difficult to work with, besides which it had the disadvantage of having been very costly."

The Journal closes the year 1886 by recording one of the rare touches of humour to be found in the Correspondence Books of the manufacturing firm in the late Victorian period. The new issue was to be put on sale at the beginning of January 1887 and had been linked publicly with the celebrations connected with the Queen's Golden Jubilee. A set of the stamps, mounted in a book, was forwarded for the Queen's inspection. It was acknowledged from Windsor Castle on 20 December 1886.

"I am commanded by the Queen to thank you for the book of Postage Stamps which you have sent to Her Majesty and for giving her notice of the proposed change of design.

The Queen looked at the new stamps but did not give any opinion upon them."

J S Purcell, the controller of Stamps at Somerset House, sent this on to Warren William De La Rue, with a brief note on 29 December.

"I am afraid the Queen's mind is more set upon the Churchill incident than upon the stamps."

The philatelic aspect of Lord Randolph's resignation escaped the notice of his illustrious biographer.

JOHN MEMMOTT A/Curator

British Cattle Stamps Issue

We were unable to give details, in the December edition of the Philatelic Bulletin, of the cylinders used for the printing of the 'British Cattle' stamps. We are pleased to do so now.

16p : 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f.
20½p: 3a, 1b, 2c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.
26p : 1a, 1b, 3c, 1d, 2e, 1f.
28p : 3a, 2b, 1c, 2d, 2e, 1f.
31p : 3a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 1f.

Calling all Dockwras

Dear Sir

May I ask for your help with editorial mention of research which should be very helpful. Until 1794 most London Penny Post letters with the Dockwra type stamp have the name of the receiver written on the back in ink. The few who stamped it have been recorded, but no notice has been taken of manuscript names. If we can build a register of them and where they were, it will identify where many letters were posted that have no heading.

It will be a long job as there must be thousands, but Alfred Kirk has agreed to record all that are sent to him. Please list the Office letter in the Dockwra, date, name written on the back, and place heading the letter. If no date or place still include it. Some are scrawled, if you can't read it send a tracing or Xerox.

Please send to A J Kirk, 123 Benhill Road, Camberwell, LONDON SE5 7LZ, and keep the address to let him know of any more you get in the future. At the same time include stamped names, but make it clear they are stamped, to give details of these.

BLACKHEATH
London

Martin Willocks

Philatelic Counter Handstamps

On 9 April 1984, Carlisle and Bolton will have their own special pictorial handstamps cancelling mail posted at their philatelic counters.

These will bring the number of philatelic counters with their own postmark to 60.

Items for reposting should bear 3p in addition to the normal postage and should be sent to the offices shown below. The outer cover must be endorsed, 'special philatelic counter handstamp' and must bear normal postage. Items will not be back-dated with a postmark prior to that which appears on the cover. CARLISLE - handstamp depicts, 'The Carlisle Cross.' The Head Postmaster, Post Shop, 20-34 Warwick Road, CARLISLE, Cumbria, CA1 1AA. BOLTON - handstamp depicts, 'The Spinning Mule.' The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, 124 Deansgate, BOLTON, BL1 1AA.

Decimal Booklet Pane Printings – Technical Details

by L Newbery

Section IV – Printings of single value panes for Folded Stamp Booklets

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/ Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number
DP39/39A	10x12p	B4 — —	Jumelle	48 row Kampf	PCP/ PVA1/ Dex	4.1.80		
DP46/46A	10x11½p	B5 B36 1 CB	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	1.12.80	3 Dec 1980	5694
DP47/47A	10x14p	B3 — — B6 — —	Chambon	Chambon	PCP/ PVA1/ Dex	5.12.80 6.2.81	6 May 1981	5696
DP47E		B6 — —			FBO/ PVA/1 Dex	1.9.81		One part roll only used in error.
DP47/47A		B11 — — B14 — —			PCP/ PVA/1 Dex	8.10.81 13.10.81		
DP52/52A	10x12½p	B1 B36 1 CB B1 B49	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	5.11.81 28.7.82	9 Nov 1981	6042
DP54/54A	10x15½p	B7 — —	Chambon	Chambon	PCP/ PVA1/ Dex	19.11.81		

Changes in Perforation for Definitive Stamps

In the January issue we announced that new perforating dies were being used by The House of Questa for the printing of certain British definitive stamps. The 12½p and 16p Welsh country stamps were made available from the British Philatelic Bureau and all philatelic counters from 10 January 1984. The other stamps affected by this change will only be released when existing stocks of each value become exhausted, and further details will be announced when available.

These stamps are not regarded as new issues and no official first day facilities will be offered.

‘From Pillar to Post’: a Manchester Post Box Walk

This illustrated leaflet with map, published by the North Western Postal Board, provides a most unusual and interesting walk for visitors to Manchester – a tour of the several varieties of posting box, with a brief history of each, to be seen in that city. We look forward to seeing any other leaflets of this kind being planned in what would be a most interesting series of ‘walks through postal history.’ Copies available from Public Relations, North Western Postal Board, 79 Oxford Street, MANCHESTER M60 1DA.

Sending Stamps in the Inland Registered Post

Unobliterated, valid postage stamps fall within the Post Office's definition of 'money.' Compensation is not payable for 'money' items in the inland post unless sent by the Registered Letter Service and (with certain exceptions) enclosed in a Registered Letter envelope sold by the Post Office. Used stamps, however, and those no longer valid for postage, can be sent in the Registered Letter Service in any *suitable* envelope and compensation is payable in the event of loss or damage.

The Post Office in discussion with the British Philatelic Federation has agreed that the above distinction in conditions of posting is unnecessarily restrictive and has decided to simplify them. To meet the reasonable needs of philatelists, stamp dealers and others who send consignments of unobliterated valid postage stamps through the post and who require compensation in the event of loss or damage, the Post Office has decided that such stamps may from now on be sent in the Registered Letter Service in any *suitable* envelope, i.e. the need to use a Registered Letter envelope sold by the Post Office is waived.

Please note that, for compensation to be payable, unobliterated, valid postage stamps must continue to be sent by Registered post and the packaging should be adequate to protect the contents during transmission.

To assist its customers in assessing the type and quality of packaging required, the Post Office is pleased to give the following advice:

Single Stamps should be enclosed in a small cellophane/paper envelope which should then be taped to a piece of stiff cardboard. The item can then be posted in an ordinary envelope.

Sheets of Stamps and Album Leaves should be sandwiched between two sheets of stiff cardboard, each cardboard sheet being at least 25mm (1 in) larger all the way round than the stamps or album leaves. Small pieces of adhesive tape affixed in the centres of the four sides should be used to hold the two cardboard sheets together. A suitably sized manilla or – better still – cardboard envelope should be used to enclose the contents. The larger the sheet of stamps, the thicker the protective cardboard should be.

Stamp Albums should be wrapped in corrugated

paper or several thicknesses of newspaper, then wrapped in good quality brown paper and sealed with self-adhesive plastic tape. Quantities of albums should be packed in a suitably sized stout box, any empty spaces being filled with crushed newspaper or other suitable filler material to prevent movement of the contents. Where the album itself is of value, care should be taken to protect the corners, edges and spine by individually wrapping as above. The box should be sealed with adhesive plastic tape.

It is wise to include both the sender's address and the recipient's address on a piece of paper or card inside the package, as well as on the outside.

Donation to University of Sussex Philatelic Unit

The University of Sussex Philatelic Unit has recently received a significant donation of material relating to the advertisement pages of GB stamp booklets in the period 1891-1975. The donor, Mr S L Hills of Brighton, was appointed in 1954 by Messrs J Weiner Ltd., sole advertisement contractors for British PO stamp books, to develop this aspect of their operations. In 1970 the contract passed to Mr Hills' own company, Cannonsreach Ltd., and he continued to be associated with stamp books until 1975, when advertisements were discontinued. In the course of his duties Mr Hills was able to gratify a long-term interest in the twentieth-century history of advertising, and to build up an impressive collection of primary material, including sample booklets, paste-ups and galley proofs of advertisement pages, and facsimiles of the artwork for such special issues as the 'Stamps for Cooks' and 'Wedgwood' (1972) booklets. It is this collection which has now come to the University.

Some of the material assembled by Mr Hills formed the basis for his two series of articles on the subject, contributed to *Stamp Magazine* in 1969-70 and 1977. The articles themselves, thoroughly researched with the aid of Post Office records, furnish a lively record of the origin, history and advertising

content of GB stamp booklets. On the appearance of the first series, the late F Marcus Arman, FRSA, former Curator of the National Postal Museum, commented appreciatively on Mr Hills' diligence and ability to make 'dry bones' live. 'His historical asides,' Mr Arman continued, 'often humorous, provide a miniature social history of advertising over a period of no less than 78 years... The publication of this material should do much to popularise the collecting of these philatelic by-gones...'

Mr Hills' donation, like other material in the University of Sussex Philatelic Unit, is freely available to members of the philatelic public who wish to use the Unit for study. Intending visitors are asked to write to or telephone the Unit's Director, Mr C P Ravilious, University of Sussex Library, Falmer, BRIGHTON BN1 9QL (tel. Brighton 606755, Ext. 118).

Posting Boxes

No 57. Our photograph this month is supplied by Mr Fred Fuzzens, a postal historian of Windsor. The box is an example of the Early Mainland (1856), fluted, with vertical posting aperture, situated in High Street, ETON, Berkshire. Thank you, Fred.



Special Issues for 1982

Issue and Date	Value	Issued
CHARLES DARWIN	15½p	40,637,400
10 February 1982	19½p	9,361,400
	26p	8,975,600
	29p	8,674,800
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS	15½p	40,169,000
24 March 1982	19½p	9,234,500
	26p	8,669,000
	29p	8,361,900
BRITISH THEATRE	15½p	41,492,200
28 April 1982	19½p	9,222,900
	26p	8,740,000
	29p	7,811,800
MARITIME HERITAGE	15½p	43,768,700
16 June 1982	19½p	10,559,500
	24p	11,839,000
	26p	9,694,100
	29p	8,823,900
BRITISH TEXTILES	15½p	40,144,500
23 July 1982	19½p	9,236,100
	26p	8,732,600
	29p	8,441,800
INFORMATION		
TECHNOLOGY	15½p	33,174,960
8 September 1982	26p	7,985,520
BRITISH MOTOR CARS	15½p	40,225,000
18 October 1982	19½p	9,162,600
	26p	8,762,500
	29p	8,449,000
CHRISTMAS '82	12½p	285,300,600
17 November 1982	15½p	148,757,500
	19½p	17,445,500
	26p	16,241,600
	29p	14,867,800

'CHARITY' STAMPS 1975

Some confusion has arisen over the number of 'Charity' stamps which were issued. The final number was 7,000,000.

1985 Special Stamp Programme

The Post Office has been issuing special stamps for 60 years but on a regular annual basis only since 1963.

It may be helpful for organisations and individuals to know, and philatelists to be reminded, of the criteria by which subjects are selected. These were originally published back in 1964 and in the main have proved clear and have been widely accepted and understood.

Since then however, the Post Office's stamp issuing policy has developed to encompass a far wider range of subjects, and the international aspect of the stamp programme has emphasized, in particular, Britain's contribution to the Commonwealth and to Europe.

The success of the special stamp programme over the past two decades has been such that the Post Office now receives hundreds of requests and suggestions for each year's programme. Because the selection of special stamp subjects is of interest and importance to so many organisations and individuals, the Post Office Board, when deciding upon the 1985 programme, felt it timely to review and update the original criteria to reflect current policy and to make these amplified criteria widely known.

They are:

- 1 To commemorate important anniversaries;
- 2 To celebrate events of national and international importance;
- 3 To reflect the British contribution to world affairs, in particular to the Commonwealth and Europe, in a variety of fields of activity including the arts and sciences;
- 4 To reflect the many and varied aspects of Britain and the British way of life;
- 5 To extend public patronage to the arts by encouraging the development of minuscule art;
- 6 To make a positive contribution to the Post Office's commercial targets as agreed with the Government.

The special stamp issues for 1985 will illustrate a wide variety of subjects from Films to Railways.

The year's programme begins with a set of stamps on Legend which coincides with the 500th anniversary of the printing by Caxton of Sir Thomas Malory's 'Morte d'Arthur,' a very fine

prose version of the Arthurian legends.

Next is an issue on Films to mark The Year of the British Film which will run from January to December 1985 to celebrate British achievements in the film industry.

Following on from the film set will be the annual Europa issue: the subject chosen by the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications is 'European Music Year'; 1985 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Handel, a naturalised Englishman who is regarded as a British composer.

'Safety at Sea' is the theme of the next issue, and as well as the Conference of the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities which will be held in Brighton in 1985, there are two relevant anniversaries – the 200th anniversary of the earliest form of Lifeboat (built by Lionel Lukin) and the 50th anniversary of the invention of radar.

The 'Fauna' series will be continued in 1985 with a set of stamps depicting Insects, on the occasion of the centenary of the Charter of the Royal Entomological Society.

The theme of Transport will also be continued with an issue on 'Rail Transport' to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Great Western Railway.

The year's programme will be completed with the traditional Christmas issue.

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale on 8 March 1984.

Commonwealth Day stamps and presentation packs.

New Presentation Pack Album

As an addition to the present range of albums, a presentation pack album will be introduced on 2 April 1984. It will go on sale at many post offices, all philatelic counters, and the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT.

The price including VAT is, £9.00 at philatelic counters and other offices, and £9.50 by post from the Philatelic Bureau.

The album measures 324mm x 279mm, accommodates 70 presentation packs, and is bound in honey-coloured Xiesta in the PVC range.

Urban Renewal Stamps Issue

10 April 1984



The Luftwaffe, the developers' bulldozer, vast crumbling tracts of Victorian slums and the motor car led to massive, and frequently catastrophic changes in our post war towns and cities. Today, public reaction against these changes, together with the economic recession, have led to new attitudes towards development, to a process of Urban Renewal which is celebrated by this issue of stamps.

Urban renewal operates within the existing structure of cities and accepts, rather than desires to alter, their unique characters. It revives areas of dereliction: in Liverpool the International Garden Festival will provide permanent parks out of waste

land and will act as a catalyst for economic regeneration. In Bristol, redundant docks buildings are being renovated and given new uses; the old commercial waterways now provide a magnificent inner city leisure facility. In Durham a new shopping centre is designed so that it is in character with the surrounding medieval town; in Perth new housing reflects the style and scale of traditional Scottish housing. These four schemes provide an example of the kind of work that is going on all over the country.

The stamps also celebrate the International Gardens Festival 84 as well as the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Chartered Institute of Building.

The subjects and denominations are as follows:

Liverpool Garden Festival (16p);

Milburngate Centre Durham (20½p);

City Docks Bristol (28p);

Commercial Street Redevelopment Perth (31p).

Printing Details

Ronald Maddox and Trickett & Webb designed the stamps which are printed by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd in photogravure. The format is horizontal measuring 41mm x 30mm, with 15 x 14 perforations on unwatermarked phosphor coated paper. There are 100 stamps per sheet and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 27 March 1984, price 13p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 152, designed by Trickett & Webb with illustrations by Ronald Maddox, will be available from 10 April, price £1.15.

Souvenir Covers

Souvenir covers — price 14p each — designed by Trickett & Webb and Ronald Maddox, will go on sale at philatelic counters only on the day after the stamp issue, 11 April 1984.

For customers who wish to send their stamped and fully addressed covers in an outer envelope to Liverpool for cancellation, the address is as follows; The Head Postmaster, Philatelic Section, Copperas Hill, LIVERPOOL L3 1AA.



On page 84 of the February Bulletin we inadvertently printed the word 'Perth.' It should have been 'Liverpool.' So sorry about this. The full reposting address appears opposite.



URBAN RENEWAL
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



URBAN RENEWAL
ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



107. Telephone Centenary, 1976

The Post Office left us in no doubt as to the nature of this commemoration — each of the four stamps issued on 10 March 1976 was inscribed 'Centenary of the first telephone call by Alexander Graham Bell.' The stamps were the work of Philip Sharland, an accomplished designer with several previous stamp issues safely 'tucked under his belt'. He highlighted the importance of the telephone to the community, featuring its use in everyday situations — 8½p housewife making a social call; 10p policeman making an emergency call; 11p a district nurse phoning her office (and possibly reporting a flat tyre!); and 13p a construction engineer making an 'on site' call.

It was on 10 March 1876 that Bell, having upset some sulphuric acid in his laboratory, summoned his assistant, Thomas Watson, from an adjacent room over the primitive telephone. It was the first practical use of a telephonic system he had been experimenting with and developing over the previous five years, and signalled the birth of a new era in mass communication. Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) was born in Edinburgh, the son of Alexander Melville Bell, a teacher of elocution, and was educated there and in London. In 1870 the Bell family emigrated to Brantford, Ontario: later Alexander Graham became professor of vocal physiology — settling in Boston he devoted himself to the teaching of deaf-mutes, promoting his father's book, *Visible Speech*.

Once Bell had conquered the problems of transmitting sound by electricity, the installation and use of the telephone spread like wildfire in Canada and the United States, and then, following Bell's demonstration of his invention before Queen Victoria at Osborne on the Isle of Wight, throughout Britain, where the first telephone exchange was opened by the Telephone Company Ltd. at Coleman Street adjacent to Moorgate in the City of London. In 1881 the Post Office started its own telephone service and took over the National Telephone Company in 1912. Bell later invented the photophone, an apparatus for transmitting articulate speech along a beam of light, and the graphophone — a type of phonograph. His inventions, but particularly that of the telephone, brought him fame and wealth.



The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. Among the listed varieties are a dark spot on the housewife's upper lip and a blue 'eye' in the Queen's head (8½p), a small figure '3' in the upper margin of the 10p stamp, and, on the 13p, two horizontal black lines above the 'ne' of 'telephone', also a large bump at the back of the Queen's head. The apparent flat tyre on the district nurse's 'Mini' occurs on every stamp and is, I suspect, an illusion caused by the car standing close to the kerb, although it could be argued that she is telephoning the local garage!

JAMES WATSON

11. Oberammergau 1984

This year the inhabitants of Oberammergau, a small, sleepy Bavarian village some 45 miles south-west of Munich, will be staging special 350th anniversary performances of their world famous Passion Play, which normally takes place every ten years. In 1633 the dreaded Black Death swept over the village, and when it mercifully abated in the following year, the inhabitants vowed to enact Christ's passion and death every ten years — this has been fulfilled with one or two exceptions, and it continues to exert a mesmeric hold over its audiences numbering up to 5,000 for each of the year's 100 performances.

The Oberammergau Passion Play has been likened to 'a Victorian illustrated Bible come to life'. The cast, including the principal character of Christ himself, is composed entirely of villagers who flood the immense set in their hundreds in the crowd scenes, welcoming Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The charm of the performance lies in its naive simplicity, even in the most dramatic scenes such as when Christ is seen dragging the colossal cross upon which, between two thieves, he is seen pathetically suspended for about 20 minutes until at

last his women lower him to earth with long white bandages. The music is a continuing oratorio, provided by an orchestra some 65 strong and a chorus of 50 singers — the village organist is both composer and conductor.

While the audience sits in a vast modern 'hangar', the actors perform on a vast stage 140 feet wide with a classical portico flanked by steps on either side leading up to the houses of the fantastic Caiaphas (who found Him guilty of blasphemy) and the austere Pontius Pilate (who ordered His crucifixion), under the open sky. Judas is eloquent in a passionate scene of repentance. It is a memorable performance which attracts visitors from all over the world. It is also now a highly commercial undertaking, providing the village craftsmen with opportunities to sell their carved wood and ivory souvenirs. My card shows the setting of the 'Passionspiel' in Oberammergau. Inquiries regarding dates, travel and accommodation should be addressed to: Inter-Church Travel, 13-17 New Burlington Place, LONDON W1X 2LB. Telephone 01-734 0942.

MALCOLM JAMES

Oberammergau. Das Passionsspielhaus gegen den Kofel.



Chillingham Wild Cattle

The Chillingham Wild cattle, sole survivors of their species to remain pure breeding and uncrossed with any domestic cattle, still live in their natural surroundings at Chillingham Park in Northumberland.

Until the 13th century their ancestors had roamed wild in the medieval Caledonian Forest which stretched from the North East Coast to the Clyde Estuary. Then in about 1260 a wall was built enclosing the Park and tradition has it that the herd was corralled as a valuable source of food. Being wild and fierce, they could not be driven away by the marauding Scots!

Ever since this enclosure the herd has been inbreeding with no apparent ill effects — the longest inbreeding regime known to man. The principal key to their success lies in their system of 'Kingship' whereby the strongest and fittest bull becomes 'King' and leader of the herd, and also fathers all the calves that are born. In this way Nature ensures that the best available blood is carried forward to the next generation. Although the King Bull's position is often challenged by other jealous bulls, resulting in some spectacular fights, they seldom cause serious injury. Unlike humans, they soon assess which of the protagonists is likely to win, and back off accordingly, the loser going into temporary banishment from the herd. The Wild Cattle dislike the scent of humans, and if subjected to it, they will either remove themselves, or the people — whichever seems easiest to them! They are truly wild in all senses of the word and that is why they have to

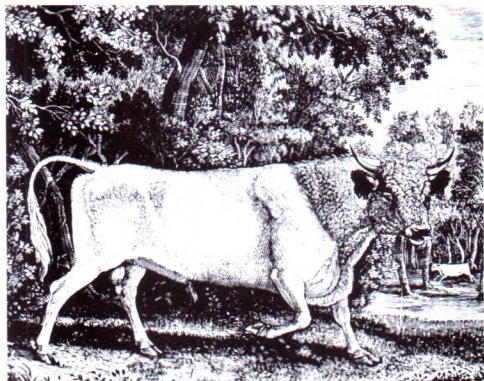
be treated with great respect. Thus all visitors to the Park must always be accompanied by the Warden who is specially trained to spot the early warning signals of possible trouble.

The Park itself is of great interest to botanists and historians alike. Having escaped the great agricultural improvements of the 18th and 19th centuries, it is a living museum of what Northumberland used to look like in the olden days. No sprays or chemical fertilisers are used, and it is obvious that the Wild Cattle have adapted themselves over the centuries to live and thrive on the relatively low quality grasses upon which no modern cattle could prosper.

In 1939 the 8th Earl of Tankerville set up the Chillingham Wild Cattle Association as a registered Charity to look after the herd. On his death in 1971 he bequeathed the herd (which had previously been his Family's private property) to the Association, thus ensuring their future at Chillingham. The Park is open from 1st April to 30th October on all days *except* Tuesdays, and provides visitors with one of the most unique attractions in Northumbria.

To commemorate the issue of the 'British Cattle' stamps on 6 March 1984, The Chillingham Wild Cattle Association is producing a special cover illustrating Chillingham Wild Cattle. It will be cancelled at Chillingham with a pictorial handstamp depicting the Association's Bull's head logo which is taken from a painting by Sir Edward Landseer. The covers, bearing the 20½p Chillingham Wild Bull stamp, will be available at £1 each. A limited number signed by the Dowager Countess of Tankerville, who is the President of the Association, will cost £3 each. In addition, a special numbered series of 100, bearing the full set of 'Cattle' stamps, will be signed by David Attenborough at a cost of £10 each.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'The Chillingham Wild Cattle Association Ltd' should be sent together with a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope to: The Secretary, Chillingham Wild Cattle Association Ltd., Estate House, Chillingham, ALNWICK, Northumberland NE66 5NJ.



Book Reviews

Philatelic Bulletin Volumes 1 and 2 Reprint

Readers may remember that a few years ago we gave details in the Bulletin of a non profit making scheme operated by Miss E M Parsons of Aberdeen, whereby it is possible to acquire or dispose of back

numbers. The scheme is still in operation and as far as we are aware, works well. Miss Parsons has now arranged, with our permission, a limited reprint of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Bulletin, down to the present format, bound together between a soft cover.

The reproduction is good and at £6 per copy, including postage and packing in the UK, not excessive. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Miss E M Parsons, 31 Redmoss Road, Nigg, ABERDEEN, AB1 4JD. Readers simply requiring more information are asked to include a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Twenty Years of First Day Postmarks

By Brian Pask & Colin G Peachey

The British Postmark Society is pleased to commemorate its 25th birthday by producing its first publication for over 10 years.

It was in 1963 that the GPO established its Philatelic Bureau and provided posting boxes at selected post offices in order that collectors' first day covers should receive special treatment. Thus the 'First Day of Issue' postmark was introduced, and this book tells the story of these postmarks, the way in which the services have developed, and the towns in the UK where philatelic facilities have been provided.

Much of the detail has appeared year by year in the Quarterly Bulletin of the British Postmark Society, but the opportunity has been taken on the 20th anniversary of the first postmark to produce one handy volume on the subject.

The book is produced in A5 format, is fully illustrated, and printed in offset litho, with a two-colour card cover and over 100 pages. It is available at £3.50 per copy plus 50p postage and packing, from: British Postmark Society, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts, HP1 1NH.

An Introduction to British Postal Mechanisation – Supplement November 1983

By Martin Robinson

In 1979 Douglas Muir and Martin Robinson produced their booklet *An Introduction to British Postal Mechanisation*, telling the story of the British Post Office's gradual adoption of automatic mail handling equipment and the impact of this on the collector of twentieth century postal history. A supplement was published in 1981 bringing the information up to date to the end of that year.

The latest supplement is a 24-page booklet (larger than the original booklet and its supplement) which traces the story of British Postal Mechanisation up to the end of 1983. It is intended both to update

and enlarge the information previously published and as a guide to what sort of material is available to the collector. The first part introduces the general reader to the subject and explains the Post Office's Mechanisation Plan. Full details follow of Mechanised Letter Offices opened in 1981, 1982 and 1983, and changes at established MLOs. Changes in idents, phosphor tape and postmarks are covered, and there is a section on postcode publicity. Further parts are devoted to recent very important discoveries amongst earlier material and to developments for the future. The booklet ends with an updated chronicle of events and a glossary of terms which it is hoped will help to make the subject more accessible to a wider public.

The booklet is published by the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle and costs £2.50 post paid from John Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, PINNER, Middlesex, HA5 3BW. For anyone wishing to take the opportunity of buying the original booklet and 1981 supplement as well as the 1983 supplement, the inclusive price is £3.50 post paid. Cheques payable to 'Postal Mechanisation Study Circle.'

Forthcoming Events

Philatelic Weekend at Pendley

The annual residential philatelic weekend which takes place at Pendley Manor, Tring, will occur in May this year. Organised as usual by Douglas N Muir, Editor of *Stamp Collecting* and the *Philatelic Magazine* the course will include talks by Major Ronnie Spafford on the Falklands and the postal history of the war, by Peter Ibbotson on Mauritius and there will be a visit from a member of Harrisons, the printers, to explain printing techniques. The basic inclusive fee for the weekend is £39 plus VAT. Booking forms are available from the Secretary, Pendley Manor, TRING, Herts HP23 5QZ. The inclusive dates are Friday 11 to Sunday 13 May 1984.

National Philatelic Society Thematic Commission

A meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a Thematic Commission is to be held at 5pm on Wednesday, March 7, at the new hall of the Royal Horticultural Society, Greycourt Street, LONDON SW1, during 'Stampex'.

Those collectors who would be prepared to be actively involved in such a Commission are invited to come to this meeting.

It is hoped that such a Commission will be able to encourage and develop thematic collecting in the United Kingdom, particularly with a view to improving the standard of thematic displays from British entrants at both national and international stamp exhibitions.

Letchworth: the First Garden City

To coincide with the 'Urban Renewal' stamps issue on 10 April 1984 a special cover will be available featuring several aspects of Letchworth, the first garden city. 1000 covers only have been produced, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp at Letchworth. In addition a set of four covers, each bearing the same basic design but printed in different colours, will be available postmarked at each location featured on the stamps, viz: Liverpool, Perth, Durham and Bristol. Only 200 sets are offered.

The covers illustrate Letchworth, and Ebenezer Howard originator of the garden city and founder of what is now the Town and Country Planning Association.

Each cover will bear a full set of stamps for a cost of £3.50 and £12.50 for the set of four covers. Prices include return postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'A G Bradbury' should be sent to him at 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL.

Stampex Competition Award

The National Postal Museum Medal for the best collection of Great Britain 'Machin' Definitives was awarded to Mr A J Walker for his entry, 'Machin £s.d. Booklets 1967-1971' Congratulations Mr Walker.

Forces Covers

Royal Air Force, Hereford

The next in the series of flown Forces Covers (RFDC25) will be issued to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Granting of Freedom of Entry to Royal Air Force Hereford by the City of Hereford. The cover will bear the full set of 'Cattle' stamps issued on 6 March 1984, of which the 26p denomination depicts the Hereford Bull, and will be cancelled on first day of issue by BFPS 1828 handstamp. The Hereford theme is continued with a picture of the Handley Page Hereford bomber aircraft overflying the City and the Hereford Bull badge of the Station. The covers will be flown from

Hereford and signed by the Lord Mayor and the Station Commander. Collectors who wish to emulate the RAF Station motto and "Take the Bull by the Horns" should send £3.20 which includes postage and packing to the Director of Appeals, RAF Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON, NW9 5LL.

Commemorative Covers

Chartered Institute of Building

To commemorate its 150th anniversary the CIOB will issue a philatelic cover bearing all four 'Urban Renewal' stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamp on 10 April 1984. The covers will depict a modern building aspect together with the anniversary logo, and will be cancelled in Ascot, Berkshire, the headquarters of the CIOB. The cost is £3.25. In addition, the cover signed by the Institute's President, Hugh W. Try the charge is £5.25. These prices include postage and packing in the UK. A donation from sales will be devoted to '1984 Anniversary Fund Appeal'. Orders accompanied by remittances made payable to 'CIOB FDC A/C' should be sent to D. G. Taylor, 202 Somervell Road, HARROW, Middx., HA2 8TS.

J T Group of Companies

The building depicted on the 28p 'Urban Renewal' stamp is Bush House, Bristol, home of the Arnolfini Gallery, and headquarters of the J. T. Group of Companies who are responsible for the refurbishment of Bush House. To commemorate these facts, J. T. Group are offering a philatelic cover illustrating Bush House. With a full set of four 'Urban Renewal' stamps affixed the price is £3.25. Alternatively for the cover bearing the 28p 'Bristol' stamp only, the charge is £1.75. A special pictorial cancel will be applied. Prices include postage and packing in the UK. Overseas orders should include an extra £1 for postage. Orders accompanied by remittances should be made payable to, 'D. G. Taylor' and sent to him at, 202 Somervell Road, HARROW, Middx. HA2 8TS.

International Garden Festival Liverpool

Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd will produce the official commemorative covers for the International Garden Festival. There will be two, in the form of 'silks', featuring paintings illustrating differing concepts of the Festival. The specially designed gold border surrounding the paintings are based on the logo.

Two pictorial handstamps are offered, both at Liverpool. One will be the official Post Office first day of issue handstamp, while the second is privately sponsored by Benham's.

Throughout the Festival, which runs from May to October, there will be various covers available, all associated with different events taking place at the Festival. A number of signed covers will be available, and further details may be obtained from Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent CT21 5AT. Both covers will retail at £3 each plus 30p postage and packing for each. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'International Garden Festival Philatelic Agents', should be sent to the above address.

Battle of Tamaai Sudan

To mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Tamaai, Sudan, in which naval brigades from HMS Hecla, Euryalus, Briton, Dryad, Carysfort, Sphinx and Royal Marines were engaged, a commemorative cover will be available from 13 March 1984. The front of the cover will illustrate the ships' badges, a map of the action and some of the ships which took part. The cover will bear a 16p 'Cattle' stamp cancel with a BFPS 1831 special handstamp. The cost is 80p.

In addition the cover with a 28p 'Cattle' stamp, cancelled as above, but signed by Rear Admiral A J Tyndale-Biscoe CB OBE, descendant of midshipman E C Tyndale-Biscoe, HMS Euralyus, and, Major General Sir Jeremy Moore KCB OBE MC, Commander, Royal Marines, Falklands 1982, will be available price £2.

Signed by Major General Sir Jeremy Moore only, the cover with a 20½p 'Cattle' stamp affixed will cost £1.30.

Orders with remittances made payable to, 'FAA Museum', should be sent to, RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, YE OVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL, accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Abbey National Building Society

To commemorate the opening of the International Garden Festival, Liverpool, the Abbey National is offering a philatelic cover on 10 April with a special postmark.

The Abbey National Building Society, Britain's second biggest building society, who provide more funds to Urban Renewal projects and mortgages to inner city house purchase than any other building society, are a major exhibitor at the Festival.

The cost of the cover with all four 'Urban Renewal' stamps affixed is £3.50; with a single 16p stamp affixed, the charge is £2 (Overseas customers

please add £1.50). All covers will be cancelled with a special postmark with the legend 'Abbey National Building Society At The International Garden Festival Liverpool '84'.

Orders with remittances made payable to: 'Greenberg and Porter', should be sent to Abbey National Cover, Greenberg and Porter, 13 Fordyke Road, Becontree Heath, DAGENHAM, Essex, RM8 1PJ.

Commercial Street Redevelopment, Perth

A philatelic cover will be available from 10 April cancelled with a special postmark at Perth, commissioned by Perth & Kinross District Council (who own the development) and James Parr & Partners of Dundee (who are the architects), commemorating the Commercial Street Redevelopment, Perth. The redevelopment consists of 40 residential dwellings of a variety of types and sizes on the banks of the River Tay at Perth. Covers, priced £3.50 each, will bear all four 'Urban Renewal' stamps, in addition the cover with a single 31p 'Perth' stamp affixed will cost £2. Prices include postage and packing, (overseas customers please add £1.50).

Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Greenberg and Porter' should be sent to: Perth Covers, Greenberg and Porter, 13 Fordyke Road, Becontree Heath, DAGENHAM, Essex, RM8 1PJ.

British Veterinary Association

All five 'Cattle' stamps will be affixed to a commemorative cover commissioned by the British Veterinary Association, offered for sale on 6 March. The cover bears an illustration of a group of farm animals. The cost is £3.50 including packing and return postage. Orders with remittances made payable to 'A G Bradbury' should be sent to him at 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

Scottish Rugby Union

The 100th match between Scotland and England occurred at Murrayfield on 2 February. A commemorative cover is now available bearing a 16p Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) stamp cancelled with a special handstamp at Murrayfield on the day of the match. The front of the cover features five Scottish Thistles at the top and five English Roses at the bottom — each emblem representing ten matches between the two countries. The cost of the cover is £1 with a limited number signed by the team captains at £3 each. A 9" x 4" stamped addressed envelope should accompany all postal applications. Remittances made payable to 'Scottish Rugby Union' should be sent to: Scottish Rugby Union, Souvenir Commemorative Cover, Murrayfield, EDINBURGH, EH12 5PJ.

'Farmers Weekly' Golden Jubilee

To celebrate 50 years of publication and coinciding with the issue of the 'Cattle' stamps on 6 March, 'Farmers Weekly' is offering a philatelic cover illustrating the Golden Jubilee Logo. The covers will have all five 'Cattle' stamps affixed or the single 16p 'Highland Cow' stamp, as requested, and cancelled with a commemorative handstamp also depicting the logo. The handstamp will be applied at Sutton in Surrey, the headquarters of 'Farmers Weekly'.

Covers with the single stamp are £1.50 each and those bearing all five stamps are £3.50 each plus 20p postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'Business Press International' should be sent to: Room 1117 FDC, Surrey House, 1 Throwley Way, SUTTON, Surrey SU14 0QQ.

Royal Smithfield Show

A commemorative cover featuring 'Cheers', the current Royal Smithfield Show Supreme Champion will be available from 6 March. The covers will also depict the badge of the Royal Smithfield Club, organisers of the Show, and will be cancelled with a specially commissioned handstamp.

Autographed covers signed by a prominent member of the club are offered.

Orders with remittances made payable to: 'Havering Covers Ltd', should be sent to them at Dept. RS, Bates House, Church Road, Harold Wood, ROMFORD, Essex, RM3 0JA.

Prices including postage and packing are as follows: Cover with single 16p 'Cattle' stamp £1.75. With all five 'Cattle' stamps, £3.75. Autographed covers and all 'Cattle' stamps affixed, the charge is £5.75.

Rare Breeds Survival Trust

To coincide with the 'Cattle' stamps issue on 6 March, the Trust has commissioned a special commemorative cover and pictorial handstamp. The covers will bear a full set of the five stamps. Of the limited edition of 1000 covers, 100 will be signed by the President of the Society, His Grace the Duke of Wellington, and additionally a further 100 will be signed by Mr Norman Painting alias, 'Phil Archer'. Unsigned covers are £3.75 each while signed covers are £5.75 each, including postage and packing. When ordering please state which signature is required. Orders with remittances made payable to: 'A G Bradbury' should be sent to him at 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

Worcester Anniversaries

1984 is an important year for the City of Worcester, and three major events are remembered. February 23 is the 50th anniversary of the death of the composer

Edward Elgar. The 900th anniversary of Worcester Cathedral with a rededication ceremony will take place on 2 June, and it is Worcester's turn to be host for the Three Choirs Festival. To mark these events and a visit by the Prince of Wales to the City, a series of covers will be available. An order form and further information may be obtained from: Worcester Stamp Centre, 40 Broad Street, WORCESTER, WR1 3LR.

Ian Botham's Benefit Year

To commemorate Ian Botham's benefit year, a special cover will be available in April illustrating the Somerset County Cricket Club logo. A 16p 'Heraldry' stamp will be affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp at the County Cricket Club. 1000 covers only are offered, some of which will be signed by Ian Botham. Signed covers are £4.50 each while unsigned are £2.50 each. Remittances made payable to: 'F. Brocklehurst' should be sent to him at, 1 Park Avenue, MARKFIELD, Leics., LE6 0WA. The above prices include postage and packing.

Philatelic Bulletin

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