

September 1992

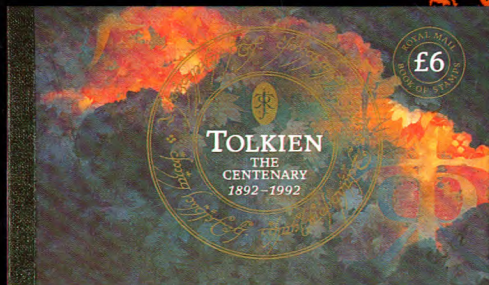
British Philatelic Bulletin



Royal Mail

Volume 30. No: 1 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 70p

*1992 marks the centenary of the birth of J. R. R. Tolkien, renowned author of **The Hobbit**, **The Lord of the Rings** and **The Silmarillion**. After serving in the First World War, he became a distinguished academic, was awarded the CBE and died in 1973.*



Five ways to show your collection at its best

Royal Mail albums for, left to right, First Day Covers (full size), Presentation Packs, Royal Mail Stamps, Stock Book, Postcards and First Day Covers (small size).



Front: First Day Cover album (full size) open.

Half the pleasure of collecting stamps is in the presentation.

And what finer way to display your collection than in an official Royal Mail album.

Whatever stamp products you collect, be they First Day Covers or Presentation Packs, Postcards or individual stamps, you'll find an album specifically designed to keep your Royal Mail products orderly and in first-rate condition.

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Royal Mail albums are made of hardwearing leather-look material with gold-embossed covers, and all can take continuation leaves to extend their capacity and keep your collection up to date.



Royal Mail

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The First Day Cover Album holds up to 70 covers (full size) or 40 (half size). Additional leaves in both sizes are available.

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The Royal Mail Stamp Album is specially designed to display British decimal stamps from 1970 to 1991.

All these products are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5TT. Most also on sale at Collections, philatelic counters, and selected post shops.

British Philatelic Bulletin

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20 Brandon Street
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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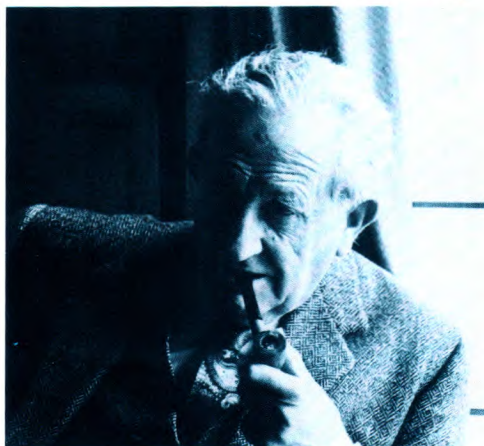
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Main Feature

Tolkien – The Anniversary

6



Preview of the Tolkien prestige stamp book to be issued on 27 October, commemorating the centenary of the birth of the author of *The Lord of the Rings*.

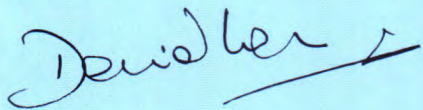
The book includes a mixed value pane containing five new definitive stamp variations.

New look Bulletin

It is some 12 months since I became General Manager of the Business Centre, Royal Mail Stamps. During this period I have brought together a number of the inland mail areas under a new business unit called Royal Mail National.

One of the most important teams in RM National is Stamps and Personal Mail. They have responsibility for the provision of excellent, customer driven services in the Philatelic, Social Mail, Retail Stamps and Postal Museum areas. It is very rewarding to see one of the signs of this new teamwork bearing fruit in the revision of the *Bulletin*, which this month appears with the Royal Mail logo – returning to the tradition of the early Bulletins which proudly bore the GPO symbol.

We have also taken the opportunity to make the Commemorative Covers section into a separate supplement. Thus we continue to meet the needs of cover collectors for details of forthcoming covers, but release space in the *Bulletin* to provide a more interesting and useful contents page and further information on Royal Mail philatelic products and services.



DAVID LANE
Director & General Manager
Royal Mail National

1993 Special Stamp Programme

Given below are the provisional dates of issue of the 1993 special stamp issues:

- 19 January – Swans
- 16 February – Marine Timekeepers
- 16 March – Orchids
- 11 May – CEPT: Art in the 20th Century
- 15 June – Roman Britain
- 20 July – Inland Waterways
- 14 September – Autumn
- 12 October – Channel Tunnel
- 9 November – Christmas

Preliminary information is given for the each issue; fuller details will be published nearer the time of issue.

Details are also given for the 1992 Christmas issue which will be fully previewed here next month.

As usual pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmarks will be available for the British Philatelic Bureau and alternative office(s) relevant to the particular stamp issue.

Christmas 1992

- Issue Date:* 10 November 1992
Format: Horizontal, 41 × 30mm
Designer: Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell
Designs: Arts and Crafts Movement
Stained Glass:
18p – Angel Gabriel
24p – Madonna and Child
28p – The Magi: Gold
33p – The Shepherds
39p – The Magi: Frankincense and Myrrh

Alternative Postmarks: (1) Pangbourne (Church has some of the stained glass illustrated on stamps).
(2) Bethlehem (Traditional)

Printer/Process: Harrison & Sons Limited/
Photogravure

NB: A book of 20 Christmas stamps at the second class rate will also be issued on 10 November 1992 with a new cover design by Karen Murray.

Swans

Reason for Issue: 600th anniversary of Abbotsbury Swannery in Dorset.
Issue Date: 19 January 1993
Format: Vertical, 30 × 41mm
Designer: David Gentleman
Designs: 18p – Red Beak Swan
24p – Cygnets
28p – Pair of Swans
33p – Swan Eggs
39p – Black Beak Swans
Alternative
Postmark: Abbotsbury
Printer/Process: Harrison & Sons Limited/
Photogravure

Marine Timekeepers

Reason for Issue: Tercentenary of the birth of John Harrison who perfected the marine chronometer.
Issue Date: 19 February 1993
Format: “Almost square”, 35 × 37mm
Designer: Howard Brown
Illustrator: David Penney
Design: Four different layers of Harrison’s clock H4.
Alternative
Postmark: Greenwich
Printer/Process: The House of Questa/
Lithography

Orchids

Reason for Issue: World Orchid Conference, Glasgow 29 April–4 May
Issue Date: 16 March 1993
Format: Horizontal, 41 × 30mm
Designer: Pandora Sellers
Designs: 18p – Dendrobium hellwigianum
24p – Paphiopedium Maudiae ‘Magnificum’
28p – Cymbidium lowianum
33p – Vanda Rothschildiana
39p – Dendrobium vexillarius var albiviride
Alternative
Postmark: Glasgow
Printer/Process: Harrison & Sons Limited/
Photogravure

CEPT: Art in the 20th century

Reason for Issue: Europa theme chosen by the Conference of European Posts & Telecommunications Administrations for 1993

Issue Date: 11 May 1993
Alternative
Postmark: London SW

Roman Britain

Reason for Issue: Anniversary of the Roman Occupation of Britain
Issue Date: 15 June 1993
Alternative
Postmark: Newcastle upon Tyne

Inland Waterways

Reason for Issue: Bicentenary of the Grand Union Canal
Issue Date: 20 July 1993
Alternative
Postmark: Birmingham

Note: This issue replaces the planned Shakespeare special stamps, announced here in February. This has been postponed, due to the delay in the opening of the new Globe Theatre, which is being built on the south bank of the Thames, opposite St. Paul’s Cathedral, near the site of the original theatre where many of Shakespeare’s plays were performed.

Autumn

Reason for Issue: Second in the series of four ‘seasons’ stamp issues depicting natural aspects of Britain
Issue Date: 14 September 1993
Alternative
Postmark: Taunton

Channel Tunnel

Reason for Issue: To mark the opening
Issue Date: 12 October 1993
Alternative
Postmark: Folkestone

Christmas 1993

Reason for Issue: 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*
Issue Date: 9 November 1993
Alternative
Postmark: City of London

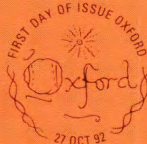
Stop Press

A reprint of the 4 x 33p stamp book will be available from philatelic outlets from 8 September. The stamps will now have PVA Dextrin gum, previously PVA gum.

Tolkien – The Anniversary

£6 Prestige Stamp Book

27 OCTOBER 1992



Steve Griffiths, Royal Mail's Product Manager – Definitive Stamps, writes:

A second prestige stamp book will be issued on 27 October to commemorate the centenary of the birth of J R R Tolkien. This date is bringing forward the traditional February launch in order to reposition the prestige stamp book range as a Christmas gift item.

Tolkien has undoubtedly been one of the most influential fantasy writers in the whole of literary history. His interest in Anglo-Saxon England combined with his love of Norse mythology led him to create a comparable mythology for England. This, in turn, inspired a huge range of domestic and overseas writers to develop this style of modern literature. Interest in 'Middle Earth' led to Tolkien becoming a cult figure in the 1960s. He initiated his mythical world in *The Hobbit*, then further refined and expanded his ideas in the world renown *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The first part of the latter was made into

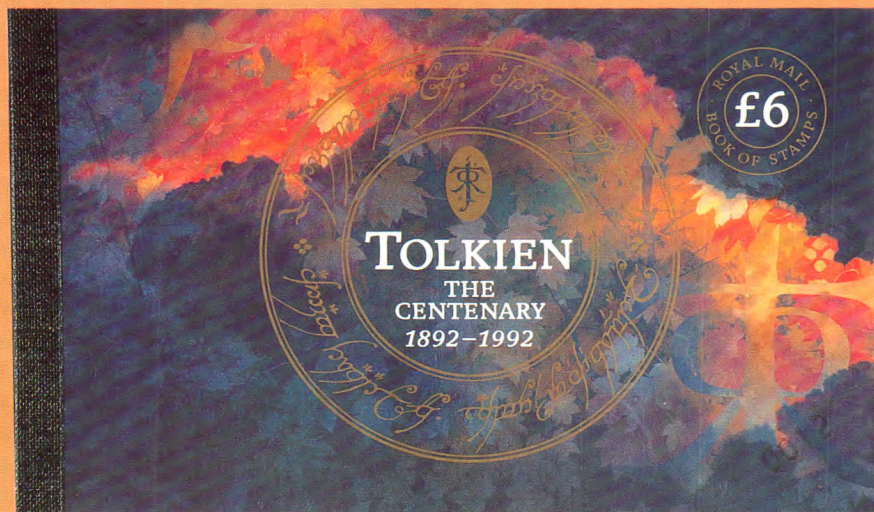
a full length animated film, but due to copyright problems the sequel has still to be made.

Tolkien wrote: *The Hobbit* (1937); *Farmer Giles of Ham* (1949); *The Fellowship of the Ring** (1954); *The Two Towers** (1954); *The Return of the King** (1955); *The adventures of Tom Bombadil* (1962); *Tree and Leaf* (1964); *Smith of Wootton Major* (1967); the record, 'Poems and Songs from Middle Earth' (1968); and *The Silmarillion* (published posthumously, 1978).

**Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

There are Tolkien appreciation societies throughout the Anglo Saxon world and much of Europe, including Poland.

Tolkien – The Anniversary has been written for Royal Mail by Neil Mattingley, with text sourced from the works of Tolkien. The book has been designed by The Partners who designed the Edward Lear stamps, first day cover and presentation pack; the Australian Bicentenary first day cover and pack; and the 1988 Collectors' Pack.





Stamp Panes

The four panes contain definitive stamps as follows:

1. 6 x 24p on Phosphor Coated Paper (PCP).
 2. 6 x 18p with centre phosphor band.
 3. Mixed pane containing 2 x 18p with phosphor band right, 2 x 24p with 2 phosphor bands, 2 x 39p with 2 phosphor bands, 1 x 1st class NVI with 2 phosphor bands, and 1 x 2nd class NVI with phosphor band right. The pane is completed with a central label showing Tolkien's initials J R R (John Ronald Reuel).
 4. 6 x 24p on Phosphor Coated Paper.
- The panes have all been printed in offset-litho by The House of Questa Ltd.

All stamps cover basic postal rates – 18p basic inland second class rate; 24p basic inland first class and EEC rate; and 39p basic airmail letter rate.

All panes have selvage, giving a miniature sheet effect, and also have a vertical column of rouletting near the binding margin for ease of removing the complete stamp pages from the book if desired.

Stamp Variations

The book will yield five new stamps:

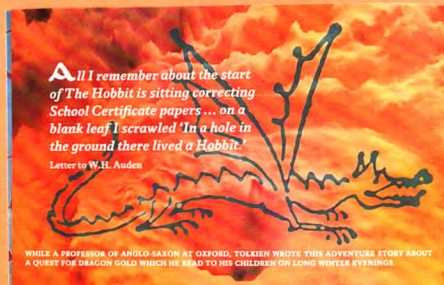
- 18p Litho centre band
- 18p Litho right band
- 24p Litho PCP
- 24p Litho 2 bands
- 39p Litho 2 bands

Illustrations

The Tolkien book is profusely illustrated with scenes from Tolkien's "Middle Earth". A portrait of Professor Tolkien appears on the inside front cover. There are numerous quotes from Tolkien's published works and from his letters to Milton Waldman (publisher), W H Arden, and Father Christmas letters to children.

The illustration in the margin of pane 1 shows the cover of the first edition of *The Hobbit*; pane 2 features the manuscript and front cover of *The Two Towers* (first volume of *The Lord of the Rings*), pane 3 shows heraldic emblems relating to the Silmarillion, designed by Tolkien, and pane 4 reproduces examples of one of the Runic alphabets invented by Tolkien.

On the back cover of the prestige book are details of a "Riddle of the Runes" competition. First prize will be a trip for two people on a Norwegian fiord-country cruise. Runner up prizes of centenary editions of *The Lord of the Rings* will be awarded.



THE FIRST EDITION OF THE HOBBIT APPEARED IN 1937.





Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 27 October, price 21p.

J R R Tolkien obtained his degree at Oxford, and returned in 1924 as first, Professor of Anglo Saxon, then, in 1945, Merton Professor of English. In 1918-1920 he worked on the editorial staff of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Tolkien wrote most of his works while living in Oxford. It is not surprising to see Oxford selected as the one of the two pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks, the other being the British Philatelic Bureau.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination specified on the application form, and stamps cancelled with either of the requested postmarks. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned no later than 26 October. The first day cover features the mixed pane, number 3 above.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for these pictorial postmarks, they should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope clearly marked "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to the Bureau or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peascode Street, WINDSOR SL4 1AA (Oxford

handstamp). Should collectors want their covers returned under cover, a suitably addressed envelope must also be enclosed (no stamp required on this envelope). First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors wanting standard, non pictorial, "First Day Of Issue" handstamps. Other special handstamps sponsored by commercial organisations and stamp dealers, are detailed 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 the World.

National Postal Museum Postcards

The Museum will issue four new postcards on 15 September, day of issue of the Green Issue stamps; three cards will feature postal artefacts: "Hen and Chickens" parcel cycle; Slogan postmarks dies; and Pearson Hill Stamp cancelling machine. The fourth card will reproduce the Machin head. The cards will cost 25p each and can be ordered, nearer the time, from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), KEB, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order £1; handling charge of 24p on orders up to £24, £2.14 over £24 (sent by registered post).

* Please note that there will now be four cards on 15 September, *not* five as originally announced.

Events

NPM = National Postal Museum

until 18 Oct 92. "Ten Years on – The British Army and the Falklands War" at National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, LONDON SW3.

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

until 31 Dec 92. "Pictures in the Post" exhibition (story of picture postcards) at Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, BATH BA1 5LJ. Tel. 0225-60333.

until Feb 93. "Victorian Revenues & Other Fiscals" exhibition of material from the Phillips Collection at NPM, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 9.30-16.30.

until May 93. "People in the Post" exhibition at NPM.

12 Sep 92. Darlington Phil. Soc. Annual Stamp Fair at Art Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington. 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P F Lyons, 7 Orchard Road, DARLINGTON DL3 6HS. Tel. 0325-359910.

16-19 Sep 92. BIPEX (British International Postcard Exhibition) at Town Hall, Kensington LONDON W8.

26-27 Sep 92. British Telecom and Royal Mail Heritage Exhibition, (artefacts, etc) at Harris Conference Centre, Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston. Enquiries: Paul Gaywood, 7 Church Street, Kirkham, PRESTON PR4 2SE (enclose SAE).

13-18 Oct 92. Autumn Stampex/BPE at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1. Enquiries: STAMPEX, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT. *Note change from originally announced dates of 20-25 Oct.*

New Stamp Books

Two new machine stamp books will be issued on 22 September to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the founding of the office of Sheriff. Some 30,000 office holders are represented by the Shrievalty Association, which exists to protect, promote & strengthen

the ancient offices and traditions of Sheriff (including High Sheriffs of Counties, Sheriffs of the City of London & Sheriffs of Cities). Similar organisations exist in many other countries (notably the USA and Canada). Its head office is 14, Cumberland Street, Nottingham, NG1 3DS.

The 50p book contains two 24p and two 1p stamps, the £1 book has four 24p and two 2p stamps. The stamps are as those in the Archaeology and *Punch* series (September 1991-July 1992).

The book cover designs have been drawn by Jeffery Matthews from originals supplied by the "Sheriff's Millennium (1992) Ltd", showing the Arms and Crest with Helm and Mantling of the Shrievalty Association.



Eight new retail ("window") books also go on sale on 22 September: 4 × 1st class NVI, 4 × 2nd class, 10 × 1st class and 10 × 2nd class printed by Walsall; 10 × 1st class and 10 × 2nd class printed by Questa; and 10 × 1st class and 10 × 2nd class printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd. All eight books will contain the revised instructions regarding the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail, as first introduced in the books issued on 21 January 1992. The Olympic/Paralympic logos are now dropped from the front covers of the books. For the first time Harrisons are printing books containing 10 × 2nd class bright blue stamps with the Royal Mail cruciform logo.

All 10 new books will initially only be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and Philatelic counters. They will be available from machines, post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier issues are exhausted. As no new stamps are involved, no first day of issue facilities will be offered.

Encouraging Philatelists of the Future

There are about 1 million young collectors in the UK today and Royal Mail invest nearly £1 million annually in "Youth Philately". Most of today's adult stamp collectors and philatelists began collecting as children, most before their 12th birthday. In an age of computer games, videos and endless other leisure pursuits, it is important that adults who have gained pleasure from their stamp collecting consider how to ensure the hobby continues to grow and that future generations will find fun, knowledge, and interest in collecting stamps and related material. This article is being written for adult readers (parents, grandparents, teachers and others) and aims to offer some ideas to get young people – your own children, grandchildren, or children of relatives, neighbours and friends – interested in collecting and how to maintain that interest.

Royal Mail and Youth Philately

Firstly there are a number of organisations that assist collectors and can supply useful material for adults who want to start or help run a stamp club for young collectors. The Royal Mail runs the successful **Stamp Bug Club**, started in 1980. The 70,000 members receive many benefits including a colourful magazine *Stamp Bug News* six times a year and album pages for new issues of *British Stamps*. *SBN* contains useful background information about special stamps, for example the May 1992 issue tells the story of the Civil War with the aid of a free wall-chart map. Each issue contains a "Swap Special" for collectors wishing to exchange stamps and find pen pals.

Stamp Bug T-shirts, sweatshirts and other products are available – all make good presents for young collectors. The subscription to the Stamp Bug Club is a modest £3 for two years or just £5 for five years. Reduced rates apply to group membership. Full details and membership forms can be obtained from the Club's office – see Useful Addresses at the end of the article.

Stamp Bug Club is usually in evidence at Stampex with an activities area for young collectors. This has proved very popular – and not just with youngsters! An annual competition invites club members to submit a thematic page

from their albums – the latest winners featured in the June *Bulletin* (page 222). A brochure giving details of Stamp Bug Club is enclosed with this issue of the *Bulletin*. It includes an easy to enter competition with good prizes. Pass it on to any young collector you know. **The closing date for entries is 23 October 1992.** The winners will be announced in the December *Bulletin*.

Educational Resources

For teachers and school stamp clubs, Royal Mail produces some helpful educational material based on selected special issues. The schools pack for the Dinosaurs issue was particularly popular. Over 18,000 schools already receive this material. If you would like a pack for your philatelic society write to: Youth Philately, Royal Mail, address below. A useful 28 page booklet *How Royal Mail Special Stamps Are Produced* is also available by sending a 9 x 6" self-addressed envelope.

The **Post Office Education Service** provide useful material on the postal service rather than on stamp issues. The postal service affects all our lives and it is important that young people appreciate its importance. Today Royal Mail handles over 13,000 million items a year – almost as many in one day as were posted in an entire year in Victorian times. The address of the Education Service is given below.

Royal Mail is noted for the production of some fine films on the postal service and philately. Club organisers who want to use video and film material can obtain details of what is on offer from: Post Office Film and Video Library, address on page 13.

The National Postal Museum welcomes school parties by prior arrangement, groups are shown around the Museum by one of the custodians and usually a film or video can be included. For details write to the Museum's Schools Officer, address below. The Museum is open Monday-Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm, admission free. For a leaflet giving details of the Museum, also a list of books and postcards available from the Museum's shop contact the Museum's mail order department (address on page 13).

Philatelic Organisations' Youth

The main non-Post Office organisation promoting stamp collecting amongst young people is **Stamp Active**, launched at Stamp World London 90. This is designed for teachers, parents and youth leaders who are already, or potentially involved in stamp clubs for youngsters. Promoted by the British Philatelic Federation and designed by John Davies, himself a stamp club organiser, Stamp Active has already provided interesting ideas, activities and useful material to over 200 schools.

Stamp Active will supply new members with a professionally designed "Welcome Pack" containing free stamps, philatelic literature and innovative ideas for lively and fun stamp games. "Up-date" packs will be issued. Annual membership at £10 brings automatic affiliation to the BPF with benefits such as the BPF Handbook and *Stamp Mail* magazine. Further details from: British Philatelic Centre, or John Davies (on page 13).

The **British Philatelic Trust** operates a scheme for providing stamp clubs run by schools and youth organisations with basic reference material in the form of catalogues and handbooks. Over 400 clubs have been assisted to date and applications from clubs not previously supplied with such material are welcome. Interested stamp club organisers should write to the BPT Secretary: John Littlebury, at the British Philatelic Centre (see Useful Addresses, on page 13).

How individual collectors can help

We have looked at help to young collectors and stamp club leaders available from Royal Mail and philatelic organisations. However there is a lot that can be done by individual adult collectors to foster interest. To begin with, never throw away any stamps (other than those that are badly damaged and not worth collecting). Pass on any unwanted stamps to young collectors. Better still if you know a child who may be interested buy a cheap junior album, mount some stamps in it and give it as a present. A few minutes spent showing the young person the stamps with some stories about them may well start him or her on a lifetime's hobby. If the child is known to have a particular interest – sport, railways, flowers or animals make a point of showing him or her relevant stamps. Also keep any unwanted albums, catalogues, books and magazines – they may well be of interest to a young collector. Even if they show little interest at first, they may well look at the books/magazines at a later stage. Passing on literature is certainly much better than throwing it out – yet many collectors do so. Your local school's stamp club may welcome unwanted philatelic literature, or even your local library. It is worth enquiring.

Presents Problem Solved

What to give as birthday or Christmas presents is often a problem. There are numerous stamp products that can be considered – stamps themselves, a subscription for first day covers



(to arrive during the year), Royal Mail stamp cards, presentation packs, year packs or year book. Why not consider a subscription to the Stamp Bug Club, or to this *Bulletin*, or one of the other stamp magazines. Other possible gifts include packets of stamps, albums, kiloware (hours of fun here), tweezers, a magnifying glass or stock books. All too often adult collectors take all this for granted but to a novice collector philatelic equipment is usually most welcome. How about Royal Mail's stamp video *Michaela's Stamp Channel*, starring TV presenter Michaela Strachan? It gives good advice on collecting and is fun to watch. It is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £9.95 (£8.95 to members of Stamp Bug Club).

Regular Contact

It cannot be stressed enough that to keep youngsters interested in stamps, they need to come into regular contact with other collectors – so they can talk stamps, look at each other's collections, exchange stamps and generally get the feel of being part of a wide-spread, popular hobby. Talk to them as much as you can, take them along to local stamp fairs, exhibitions and events. If you can, visit the local Collections or philatelic counter, the National Postal Museum or other museums with stamp displays. Some local philatelic societies welcome young collectors and organise special events – enquire at your local library for details of societies in your area – or contact the British Philatelic Federation in London (071-251 5040) publishers of the annual *Philatelic Societies Directory*.

What do I talk to young collectors about? Well to begin with you can explain why people collect stamps – some like to study the designs, others are fascinated by the way stamps are printed, others have an interest in the postal service, or collect stamps associated with other hobbies. Stress the value of stamps in learning about history and geography, but in a way that does not make stamp collecting sound like an extension of school work. Tell them about your favourite stamps and ask them about the stamps they particularly like. Do not preach, or lay down the (philatelic) law – that may well turn the youngsters off stamps. They may make mistakes, but we all learn by our mistakes. (*I'm still learning, after 35 years! Ed*).

If there is a stamp shop in your area, take the child along or suggest they visit. You can find addresses in *Yellow Pages*, stamp magazines, or contact the Philatelic Traders' Society (Tel: 071-251 5040) who can advise of their members in

your area.

When you go on holiday or away on business send your protégé collector(s) a postcard bearing some attractive stamp(s), if possible posting it to get an interesting postmark. Postmark collecting can be as rewarding as stamp collecting – young collectors so encouraged could be the serious postmark collectors/postal historians of the future. Send covers from Stampex or other philatelic events where a souvenir cover and/or special postmark is in use. Most young people like receiving mail, and an item they can add to their collection is an added bonus.

It is important that young collectors are able to find out about new stamp issues. Forthcoming British stamps are advertised in the national press and on television. Posters are displayed in post offices and the stamps are sometimes mentioned in local newspaper articles and on local radio programmes. The popular "Blue Peter" programme has a regular "stamp spot" for each special issue.

Reading about Stamps

There are a number of useful publications for new collectors – for the very young collector (under eight) the Stanley Gibbons booklet *Enjoy Stamp Collecting* (£1.25) is probably the best – simple with lots of illustrations. For those a little older the Gibbons book *Stamp Collecting – How to Start* (£2.25) will be of value or Neill Granger's *The Beginner's Guide To Stamp Collecting* (Quintel Publishing Ltd, London £8.95). Rather more advanced, but suitable for 10-16 year olds, are *Stanley Gibbons Guide To Stamp Collecting* (£9.95) by the Editor of this *Bulletin*, and Anthony New's *The New Observer's Book Of Stamp Collecting* (Federick Warne, £3.99). Useful books for those intending a thematic stamp collection are James Watson's *Stamp Collecting – Collecting by Theme* (Stanley Gibbons, £2.25) and Alma Lee's *Introducing Thematic Collecting* (British Philatelic Trust/National Philatelic Society). For youngsters particularly keen on dinosaurs, Stuart Baldwin and Beverly Halstead's *Dinosaur Stamps Of the World* will be especially enjoyable (reviewed here August 1991).

For young collectors interested in the story of the post as well as in stamps, the delightful book *First Post: From Penny Black To The Present Day* by Peter Davies and Ben Maile will be of great interest. Beautifully produced with dozens of colour illustrations, it is remarkably good value at £14.95 and would make a lovely birthday or Christmas present (available from bookshops, published by Quiller Press).

Perhaps the most useful book for a young collectors of British stamps is the Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamp* checklist, published each November (1991 edition, £3.25). It provides a basic listing of all stamps from 1840 to date, with colour illustrations and check boxes for collectors to "tick off" the stamps they have. Country and Postage Due stamps are included, also the wartime issues of the Channel Islands. This reasonably priced catalogue is available from stamp and book shops, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and the National Postal Museum shop. The Bureau's stock list/order form for albums and books is available free on request.

It is hoped that this article provides some useful suggestions for adult readers who want their own children or the children of friends, relations or neighbours to enjoy stamp collecting - still the world's most popular collecting hobby. We would be pleased to hear of other ideas for encouraging young collectors and a selection of your ideas will be published here. Write to: Julietta Edgar, Youth Philately (Bulletin). Royal Mail, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON, EC1M5NS.

Editor's Note: Stamp Bug informs me that Special Stamp Bug Club versions of the 28p and 39p Green Issue stamp cards will be included in the September issue of Stamp Bug News. Send your subscription in now to be sure of these interesting cards.

Useful Addresses

Stamp Bug Club
Freepost
NORTHAMPTON NN3 1BR

Youth Philately
Royal Mail
76 Turnmill Street
LONDON EC1M5NS

PO Education Service
White Rose House
28A York Place
LEEDS LS1 3QT

PO Film & Video Library
PO Box 145
SITTINGBOURNE
Kent ME10 1NH

National Postal Museum
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Collections and Philatelic Counters
See *Bulletin*, June 1992, pp.226-9.

British Philatelic Federation,
British Philatelic Trust, and
Philatelic Traders Society
all at:

British Philatelic Centre
107 Charterhouse Street
LONDON EC1M 6PT

Stamp Active
3 Longfellow Road
BANBURY
Oxon OX16 9LB

Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd
Parkside
RINGWOOD
Hants BH24 3SH

Award for Map Stamps

The Map Stamps have recently been awarded the Italian Asiago prize for stamp design. This is the second time Royal Mail Stamps have won this prestigious award, it was previously won by the "Smiles" greetings stamps.



The Map Stamps proved popular with *Bulletin* readers, coming top of our "favourite stamp" poll of 1991. The stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and souvenir cards will be available from British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and Philatelic counters until 16 September 1992. Order now if you still require these stamps for your collection.

Decimal Stamp Books – 3

Memories Greetings Book

D G A MYALL

The fourth in Royal Mail's very successful series of books containing Greetings stamps and appropriate message labels went on sale on 28 January 1992. The 10 different stamps made a composite picture redolent with nostalgia and were illustrated in the December 1991 *Bulletin*. For the first time, the stamps and labels were also made available in a presentation pack, listed as G1, and sold under the code number JP001 by the British Philatelic Bureau and other philatelic outlets. Messrs. Trickett and Webb designed the pack as well as the stamps. It supplements the Memories theme very nicely, with additional material from the reign of George V. I particularly like the family snapshots; they look as if they were taken by a box Brownie camera.

The stamps were printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd on the Jumelle press and APS perforated. The book covers were made from a machine coated board and were printed on a Miller TP104 seven-colour offset press.

The stamps for the book and the pack were printed from the same cylinders, viz: B1A gold, B1B lemon, B1C magenta, B1D brown ochre,

B1E new blue, B1F grey-black and B90 phosphor. The latter, unusually, printed two phosphor bars on these 1st-class non-value stamps. The cylinder numbers were engraved once in the left margin and appeared in one in every nine books.

Although the printers supplied complete sheets to Royal Mail for the presentation packs, no cylinder numbers appeared in these. This was because the left margin was removed from the sheets when the packs were assembled. Instead, the right margin was left on the panes in the packs. This margin contained some of the printer's markings, such as Autotron bars and registration crosses, that are trimmed away during bookmaking and which are not, therefore, usually seen.

The most interesting, in my opinion, is the pane with a large arrowhead in the centre of the margin. Arrowheads are engraved on Harrison cylinders in order to provide a marker for selecting sufficient from the printed web to correspond to a complete revolution of the cylinder. A common need for this is to provide

Part of a pane from the Memories presentation pack, showing the arrow at the centre.



a sheet for registration purposes, and there are many such registration sheets in the National Postal Museum, where they may be examined by appointment. However, the "Memories" registration sheet is not bounded by half arrows; had it been, it would have had only half a pane at top and bottom – see illustration.

The only mark which appears in both margins and, therefore, in both books and presentation packs, is the sheet number. This is a six-figure number printed vertically in black; the identical number appears four times: twice in each margin. However, since one or other margin is removed, it is impossible to find a book and a pack with the same number.

The complete pane consists of four rows of labels attached to two rows of stamps. In order to line these up exactly, the labels are not all of the same height. The first and third rows are nine perforation holes high and the others are 10. The Museum's registration sheet shows that the horizontal space between complete panes (the inter-pane gutter) is equal to that of a nine-hole label, with the middle pin removed. Part of this gutter is cut away when the books are trimmed to their finished size so that correctly trimmed booklet panes are flush with the covers and have top and bottom margins each with three holes. This extra trimming operation was not necessary for the panes in the presentation packs, and, in consequence, these have four holes in the top and bottom margins when correctly cut. This, and the fact that different side margins are retained, enables the origin of any loose pane to be ascertained.

Smiles Greetings Book

This resurgent book was issued on 3 March 1992 with a revised notice on the inside back cover announcing the extension of the validity of non-value stamps to EC countries. Apart from this, the books are virtually identical to those of the 1991 issue.

Wales Prestige Book

There is a little to add to the particulars of this book given in the January *Bulletin* and my comments here in May. The three panes of definitive stamps were printed in lithography by the House of Questa in the usual prestige book format of 12, (four rows by three columns) and no marginal markings survived the bookmaking process. The first pane was printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd in sheets of eight (four rows by two columns). This contained four of a contemporary special issue,

an innovation that began with the Alexandra Palace stamps in the "London Life" prestige book of March 1990.

The stamp chosen for this issue was the 39p of the Wintertime series, featuring the Welsh mountain sheep and illustrated in the December 1991 *Bulletin* (p.76). Harrisons also printed the sheet issue but, unlike the stamps in the Memories greetings book and pack, the two issues were printed from different cylinders. Those used for the sheet stamps were: 1A silver, 1B yellow, 2C yellow-orange, 1D grey, 1E vermilion, 3F new blue, and 3G black. The corresponding ones used for the book stamps were: 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 3F and 1G. There was no phosphor cylinder as the stamps were printed on phosphor coated paper.

Paper and Gums

One of the principle means of distinguishing modern British mint stamps, adopted by all major catalogues, is by the paper and gum. The Wales book provides a useful benchmark for three of these. If you compare the backs of the four panes you will see that there are three different papers. Harrisons made the paper for their pane; Coated Papers Ltd (CPL) made the other two.

Without getting too technical, different papers are required for photogravure printing, which uses spirit-based inks, and lithographic printing, which uses oil-based ones, and different coating materials are used to provide the correct printing surface. Also, paper which is to be overprinted with phosphor bars differs from that where the phosphor is incorporated into the coating during manufacture. The former is used mainly for stamps intended to prepay the basic 2nd-class inland letter rate and is usually gummed with PVA adhesive. The latter is used for other values and is usually gummed with PVA dextrin, which is somewhat darker than plain PVA. Harrisons tint their gums, Coated Papers Ltd do not and their gums appear much whiter than that on the Harrison paper.

So, the three papers used in this interesting book are:

1st pane, Harrison & Sons' photogravure paper, phosphor in the coating, tinted PVA dextrin gum;

2nd and 3rd panes, CPL lithography paper, overprinted with phosphor, untinted PVA gum,

4th pane, CPL lithography paper, phosphor in the coating, untinted PVA gum.

© D G A Myall

Royal Mail Philatelic Products

BARRY BURKE

Products Manager, Royal Mail

Last month, I wrote about the introduction of bar-codes on philatelic products over the coming months. With Collectors Packs and Presentation Packs we aim to introduce bar-codes without having to print them on the products themselves. This is because we felt that a bar-code would spoil the overall look of Packs and would take up space, placing a restriction on the layout of illustrations and text. So instead, we will print bar-codes on card or paper which can be inserted (coded side out, of course) inside the clear outer sachet. The bar-code can be scanned by the sales assistant to pick up product and price information and discarded by the customer if not wanted. At least, that was the original idea!

will know that over the last few years, we have frequently inserted free tickets for events or attractions appropriate to the stamp subject. Tickets giving free entry for children to London's Natural History Museum were contained in the Dinosaurs Pack and free entry tickets to The Gardens of the Rose were enclosed in the Roses Pack.

These, and other free ticket offers, proved very popular, with thousands of customers taking advantage of them. We plan more free entry or reduced price tickets in future Presentation Packs. However, not everybody is able to take advantage of a ticket offer if it is for a particular location, thus we are looking at other promotional ideas involving special offers of benefit to all customers.

Details have still to be finalised at time of writing; however, suffice to say, it will become even more worthwhile for customers to buy Presentation and Collectors Packs in the future. I hope to be able to give details of the first of these special offers in next month's *Bulletin* and aim to



Royal Mail Yearbook – a beautiful gift you will want to give – or keep!

We thought about this for a while and decided that to print disposable inserts just for bar-codes would be an expensive waste of paper. Instead, by printing promotional offers on inserts as well as bar-codes, we could make the exercise more worthwhile by giving additional value for money to customers buying Packs.

Readers who regularly buy Presentation Packs

give readers as much advance information as possible about future promotional offers.

It goes without saying that customers benefit from special offers and promotions by getting more from buying a product than just the product itself, but what the company making the special offer have to gain? Look in any supermarket or newspaper or magazine and you

soon find the range of promotional offers available at any one time is enormous. You will find money off coupons, competitions, FREE! prize draws, multi-pack offers ("buy two, get one FREE!!!"), bonus volume packs ("buy Sudso and get 20% extra free!!!"), etc, etc.

But why are manufacturers and retailers so generous in making all these wonderful offers to customers? Well, the obvious answer is to persuade customers to buy their products or to use their shop rather than another. Promotions can be designed to develop "customer loyalty" – persuading customers to stick with a particular brand during the course of a promotion (and, hopefully, thereafter) or to promote awareness and sales of a different product from the same manufacturer. If the promotion works, customer, retailer and manufacturer all get more from the purchase or sale of a product than they would have before the promotion.

What has all this to do with Presentation Packs? Well, as I am sure you will have realised, our motives for running special offers in Packs are not going to be too dissimilar to those of other companies making special offers: we want more people to be aware of (and hopefully buy) the wide range of philatelic products we have on offer. We want to attract more people into the hobby by making philatelic products more accessible. In particular, we should like collectors to think of products such as Presentation Packs and Yearbooks as potential gift items which can be attractive to fellow collectors and non-collectors alike.

We have been using the slogan "Beautiful Gifts You'll Want to Keep" for some time now in our TV advertising and it appears that more and more customers are buying philatelic products such as Presentation Packs to give to relatives or friends as presents, as well as to keep for their own collections. This can only be good for the hobby in the long term as it broadens awareness of stamps and demonstrates the educational potential of special issues. So if we occasionally have a special offer on a product you are not personally interested in or which you already have in your collection, why not take up the offer anyway and give the product as a present to someone you would like to share the pleasure of stamp collecting?

As well as giving details about the first of these offers, I hope next month, to be able to tell you about two new products designed with those who like the idea of giving (or, even better, receiving) stamp related products in mind.

The Green Issue First Day Postmarks

The "First Day of Issue" postmarks (Bureau, Torridon and standard, non-pictorial) will all be applied in green ink. Readers of the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins were asked for their views; the majority favoured the use of green ink. Details of the Bureau and Torridon pictorial postmarks were given in the July Bulletin. Posting boxes for the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps are provided at most main post offices.

Details of sponsored handstamps to be used on 15 September are given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* which is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT: £10 UK/Europe; £21.75 rest of the world. Sponsored handstamps will be applied in black ink unless green is specifically requested by the sponsor.

Postmark Slogan Fees

The fees charged for our Postmark Slogan service will increase from 1 September 1992. The new charges are:

Basic Charge	£150.00
Cost of First Die	£100.00
Additional Dies	£80.00
Time Charge Per Die Per Week	£25.00

Enquiries about the Postmark Slogan service should be addressed to: Mr K Menon, Royal Mail National, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

Visit Mail Rail – The Post Office's unique underground railway

Mail Rail – the Post Office's unique underground railway will be open to the public at London's Mount Pleasant sorting office on 28 and 29 October between 11am and 6pm. Guided tours will take visitors through the exciting operation of transporting mail deep beneath the streets of London. Go to the Phoenix Place entrance, Mount Pleasant sorting office, off Mount Pleasant, LONDON EC1A 1BB. Children under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult and Royal Mail regrets there are no facilities for disabled visitors. Contact for additional information: Derek Varrier on 071-239 2585.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No. 39 Aniline ink

Although usually associated philatelically with shades of red, the original aniline was concerned with the colour mauve and came about through the researches of an 18-year old chemistry student, William Henry Perkin (1838–1907) who was to become a very famous figure in the field of chemistry.

It was in 1856 that Perkin experimented unsuccessfully to synthesise quinine. One of the agents he worked with was coal tar from which he extracted a colourless derivative that became known as aniline, a product found to be suitable as a base for dye-stuffs. His first successes were with “mauveine” (which was subsequently used by De La Rue when ink-making for printing the 1881 1d lilac).

All anilines are basically water-soluble dyes which run when dampened. It was this soluble property that attracted stamp printers (mainly De La Rue) who had been asked to find “fugitive” inks which would immediately show up any attempt to remove a cancellation or

otherwise tamper with a stamp.

Stamps specifically catalogued as being in aniline scarlet are normally scarce among issues for Great Britain. (The 1911 George V issue of India provides two other rather different examples: the 1a. aniline carmine is priced the same as other shades of the 1a; and the 8a. bright aniline mauve only slightly more expensive than the other 8a. stamps.)

Although not described as “aniline”, the lilac (1½d-3d) and green (4d-1s) GB stamps of 1883–84 were printed in fugitive ink based on aniline. An example of true aniline in the Edward VII issues is the 10d dull reddish purple and aniline pink (detectable by the suffusion of the pink) listed, S.G. 310, at £150 unused and £110 used – way above the other shades of the 10d. Outstanding among the George V issues are the following: 1d aniline scarlet, S.G. 333, £95 unused, £55 used (compare with 1d scarlet, S.G. 332, £13 un. and £9 u.); 1d aniline scarlet, S.G. 343, £100 un., £55 u. (compare with 1d scarlet, S.G. 342, £150 un., 50p u.).

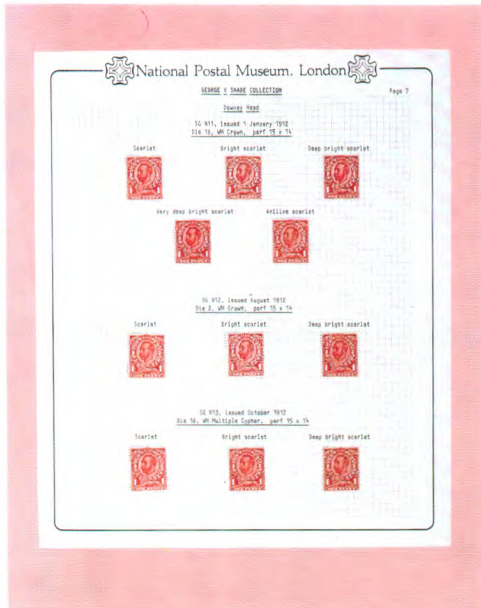
These two George V aniline stamps typify all true anilines. The entire impression is suffused giving a “heavy” look when seen against the common scarlet (non-aniline). Further evidence comes from the back of the stamp, the aniline printing having permeated the paper to the extent that a blurred impression of the design (in reverse) is clearly visible. Prices are taken from the *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue: Part 1 British Commonwealth*, 1992/93 edition.

To mark his valuable contributions to the study of chemistry, Dr Perkin was knighted in 1907, shortly before he died aged 70. During his distinguished career he was awarded the Royal and Davy Medals of the Royal Society. A plaque to commemorate the centenary of the discovery of the first aniline dye was unveiled at the Sudbury Methodist Church at Sudbury (near Wembley) on 8 September 1956 by Professor E D Hughes, FRS, a leading chemist of the University of London.

The National Postal Museum has recently acquired a good collection of George V shades. The page featured here shows shades of the 1d Downey head, including stamps in aniline scarlet. The collection can be seen by appointment with the Museum's Philatelic Officer. To see the different shades properly, the collection needs to be viewed in natural rather than artificial light.

© Kenneth F Chapman

Illustration courtesy of National Postal Museum



Christmas Aerogramme

Illustrated by Karen Murray BA (Hons)
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme



SECOND FOLD HERE

Sender's name and address
(please show postcode)

An aerogramme should not contain
any enclosure. If it does, it may be
surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.



Christmas 1992

Illustrated by Karen Murray BA (Hons)
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office

FIRST FOLD HERE



Shown here is the 1992 Christmas aerogramme to be issued on 6 October. It features festive designs as found on traditional Christmas cards. The illustrations are by Karen Murray. The aerogramme, produced by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited, will be available from post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters, price 44p (includes 34p postage). It will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on 24 December. Christmas aerogrammes were introduced in 1965 — a listing was published here in November 1991 (page 54).

The Organisation of British Philately

J A C Farmer of Hants has sent a long letter concerning the organisation of British philately. Space precludes publication in full; the salient points are:

"For many years British philately has been under-funded. For many years British philately has been fragmented and not well organised or structured. As a consequence stamp collectors in this country have had little incentive to support our hobby. There has been little co-operation between the trade and the collectors – we both need each other. We could also do with some real support from the British Post Office as happens with most other European countries." (*The Post Office does support philately – see, for instance, the article on Youth Philately in this Bulletin. Ed.*)

"The British Philatelic Federation should be the pinnacle and focal point of our hobby in this country. It should have no individual members *per se*, whether collectors or trade, but should be a federation of all societies, traders and other facets of the hobby and should be funded by everyone. This requires brave and fundamental steps to be taken by all interested parties. It cannot be done piecemeal. The future structure and way forward of the BPF is to be discussed at their forthcoming Congress in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 3-6 September 1992... The BPF handbook lists: *National Societies* (Royal Philatelic Society, National Philatelic Society, British Thematic Association, Civil Service, commercial firms, etc.) – 21 with 8705 members; *Specialist Societies* (British Aerophilatlic, British West Indies Study Circle etc.) – 96 with 22,386 members; and *Area Societies* (Aberconway – York) – 251 with 16,135 members – a total of = 368 associations with 47,226 members.

"There should be a Federation of National Societies, a Federation of Specialist Societies, and a Federation of Area Societies. The Area Societies should be further divided into eight groups as within BPF proposals of two/three counties or groups as at present."

Mr Farmer suggests that the BPF Management Committee should comprise a non-executive

President, active executive Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive, and Business Manager/Secretary (both paid), and five chairmen of committees.

To finance this restructured BPF Mr Farmer "proposes that all members of all societies shall pay an annual levy (of say £1.50 – 3p per week) to their federation. All county/group federations shall withhold a percentage (say 33%) for which they would be responsible for ploughing back into the hobby at local level. The National and Specialist federations will be expected to pass on the majority (99%) retaining only that necessary for maintaining lines of communication to their societies. Every £1 paid by a federation to the BPF would entitle it to one vote at the Annual General Meeting. As collectors are counted *per capita*, the trade subscription to the P.T.S. should be as a percentage of their turnover (say 5p per £100); some of this would be passed on to the BPF."

There is food for thought in these suggestions. Interested readers should write to Mr Farmer at: The Peppers, The Street, Crookham Village, FLEET, Hampshire, GU13 0SG.

More Variety Needed?

Martin Allen's letter in April has certainly sparked interest although most correspondents do not agree with his proposals for more stamps. John Davis, of Spain, wrote at length on the subject, widening his views to include a comment on the Special Stamps Criteria which was also published here in April. Here is part of Mr Davis's letter:

"If Martin Allen really means that he wants *more* British stamps, I think he must belong to a very small minority. He may possibly even be unique. I certainly do not know anyone else. Everyone here thinks there are too many. And surely he cannot be serious in wanting miniature sheets. I have never met anyone other than a stamp collector who has ever bought one. The implication is obvious.

"If Mr Allen simply wants *different* stamps, then I would support him. So would most of my fellow-collectors in this part of the world. The 'appeal' of many British stamps is poor. (Frankly, I sympathise with the rather stronger language of many critics but I know this upsets you.)

"With regard to shape, this should surely always balance the design. Normally it would be hard to justify circles or triangles or octagons but it would be refreshing to see varying rectangles from time to time. The 'nearly square'

format which seems to have become the norm for most British commemoratives does not lend itself to a pleasing presentation. If you ask any artist (as opposed to designer) he will tell you that a 5:4 ratio is usually about right.

"Leaving Mr Allen and going back a few pages to 'Special Stamps Criteria', Wedgy Benn did a mischief from which we have never recovered. It is high time that stamps ceased to be a target for everyone promoting a good cause or a pet interest. The present choice of commemoratives seems to me to depend almost entirely on the strength of the pressure groups and the expertise of those presenting their case. No wonder we finish up with such an odd lot. Cut the clap-trap and limit the choice to items and events that are of major interest to Britain."

Anthony New, author of *The New Observer's Book of Stamp Collecting*, also wrote on the need for several stamps in a set: "... why does it have to be almost invariably assumed that there must be several stamps for every subject, so increasing fourfold (or thereabouts) either the problem of satisfying demand for inclusion or the volume of the torrent of new issues (whichever way you care to look at it)? As for Mr Allen's suggestion of emulating certain 'wallpaper' merchants, how sad it is that even now there are people who do not understand the catastrophic harm that has been done to our hobby by such policies."

John Keens, of Middlesex, confesses to being "often amused by readers' letters complaining about the number of new issues, and the cost of collecting. Mr Martin Allen takes an entirely different view. I remember how excited I was when I saw a 1d Postal Centenary stamp on an envelope. The first commemorative stamp since the (1937) Coronation. Things have changed a lot since then; I have continued to collect and have changed direction many times. The world's greatest hobby is for pleasure; if collecting becomes an expensive nuisance then go into the garden instead. Stamp collecting can be anything you want it to be, but it will never be compulsory."

I agree with much of Mr Keen's comments. There is so much to stamp collecting that if one tires of any particular area, there is endless scope for starting again on another subject. The collector is spoiled for choice. As one who loathes gardening, I wouldn't advocate that as an alternative hobby to stamp collecting – perhaps a thematic collection of plants on stamps would make a satisfactory compromise.

Keith Sichel of Chantilly, France asks for "less stamps not more... even more selectivity in the selection of themes" and requests "stay with rectangular or square stamps". He hopes that the definitives will be left alone except for changes in value and "when required by a change of monarch". He describes the "funny shapes, absurd themes and other devices" of some countries as "mere catchpenny", continuing "at least with British stamps at present, the commercial interest is some extent ameliorated by the demands of good taste and common sense."

George Morris of Suffolk, describing himself as one of the "silent majority", wrote with some concise remarks as to numbers of stamps and design: "I would not wish to see more than the present eight or nine sets of special stamps per year with four or five stamps per set. Anything above these levels would, I believe, lead to a deterioration in standards, with collectors and philatelists having to amass a load of rubbish. There is plenty of that already by many foreign countries searching for hard currency. As to our designers having no imagination, our definitives being boring, there being no difference in sizes, etc, I must have collected stamps from a different Great Britain to Mr Allen. No Sir, a consensus of opinion among friends is that we are satisfied and happy with the present policies regarding the design and quantities of our country's stamps."

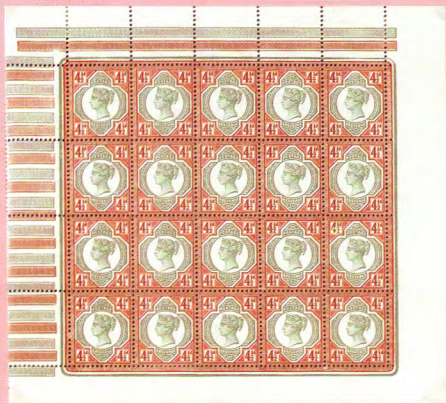
Gordon Mayling of Worcestershire does not want to see more British stamps, he is mindful of the cost to children and pensioners, fearing they might be "frightened off" by any increase in outlay on the hobby. However he agrees with Martin Allen in his opinion that the format of British stamps is boring. He continues: "with nothing better to look forward to every time a new set is issued than the same old square or rectangular shape, it is difficult to become excited. As a collector for the past 47 years, I have longed for the first ever British triangular, or even a rhombus or trapezium shaped stamp! Surely it is not beyond the wit of those responsible for the design and printing of British stamps to come up with something just a little bit out of the ordinary?"

All letters sent to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in "Postbag" The Editor regrets that he is unable to reply personally to all letters – to do so would seriously delay production of this, and the Postmark, Bulletin.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

201. 1892 4½d stamp

This month's Gems marks the centenary of the issue of the 4½d stamp in the so-called "Jubilee Issue". The stamp, printed in green and carmine, went on sale on 15 September 1892 and was produced to cover postage on parcels weighing over one but less than two pounds. The stamp was printed in sheets of 240 in 12 panes of 20.



Shown here is a splendid complete pane showing the make-up with line blocks between panels and the unbroken jubilee line. It can be seen on page 16 of Vol. XLII of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. On the following page in the collection is a complete left-hand bottom pane showing the constant dot variety – between the 4 and ½ of the value on the last (20th) stamp of the pane.

The Collection contains many magnificent panes and blocks of stamps, also colour trials, from the popular "Jubilee Issue". Some of the colour trials were featured in Gems No. 158 (November 1988).

The National Postal Museum, located in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1, is open Monday-Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm. Admission free. The Museum is a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and the Museum of London.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice – stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: September Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail National, 76-86 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS to arrive by 30 October.

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

1. The 4½d stamp issued on 15 September 1892 was printed in which colours?
2. Who designed the Tolkien prestige stamp book?
3. What was the date of issue of the Scots Guards aerogramme?
4. How many office holders are represented by the Shrieverly Association?
5. What is the reason for the issue of the Swans stamps in January 1993?

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

The winners of the June competition were: D Johnston of Hampshire (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); M Sørensen of Denmark; F Zwanenburg of Netherlands; G Parker of Staffordshire; R Jack of London E17; and Dr D Callaghan of Hertfordshire (Green Issue presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Lynda Gray; 2. Stoke-on-Trent; 3. 23 June 1992; 4. 1884; 5. 6 February 1992.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until February 1993. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

3 Mar	Smiles Book Reprint (JB005)
10 Mar	Tennyson stamps (AS497)
10 Mar	Tennyson pack (AP103)
24 Mar	Revised £1 Castle (FS012)
24 Mar	Revised £1.50 Castle (FS152)
24 Mar	Revised £2 Castle (FS022)
24 Mar	Revised £5 Castle (FS052)
24 Mar	Revised Castles pack (FP008)
24 Mar	Europa stamp cards (AQ207)
31 Mar	10 x 2nd class book/Q (UB052)
7 Apr	Europa stamps (AS498)
7 Apr	Europa pack (AP104)
14 Apr	Scottish aerogramme (Q5029)
28 Apr	50p book – Archeology 3 (TB015)
28 Apr	£1 book – Punch 3 (TB016)
6 May	NPM People in the Post cards (NQ913)
2 Jun	Civil War stamp cards (AQ213)
16 Jun	Civil War stamps (AS505)
16 Jun	Civil War pack (AP105)
23 Jun	Scot Aerogramme/Scots Guards (QS030)
7 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamp cards (AQ218)
21 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamps (AS510)
21 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan pack (AP106)
28 Jul	50p book – Archeology 4 (TB017)
28 Jul	£1 book – Punch 4 (TB018)
28 Jul	78p book – Kellogg's Bran Flakes (UB053)

Forthcoming

1 Sep	Green Issue stamp cards
15 Sep	Green Issue stamps
15 Sep	Green Issue pack
15 Sep	NPM Artefacts postcards
15 Sep	NPM Machin postcard
22 Sep	50p book – Sheriff's Millennium
22 Sep	£1 book – Sheriff's Millennium
22 Sep	4 x 1st class book/W
22 Sep	4 x 2nd class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/W
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/H
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/H
22 Sep	10 x 1st class book/Q
22 Sep	10 x 2nd class book/Q
29 Sep	Single European Market stamp card
6 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
13 Oct	Single Euro Market stamp & pack
27 Oct	Tolkien Prestige Stamp Book

27 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
10 Nov	Christmas stamps and pack
10 Nov	Christmas stamp book
10 Nov	1992 Collectors' Pack
10 Nov	1992 Yearbook

1993

5 Jan	Swans stamp cards
19 Jan	Swans stamps and pack
19 Jan	Greetings stamp cards
2 Feb	Greetings stamps and pack
2 Feb	Marine Timekeepers stamp cards
16 Feb	Marine Timekeepers stamps and pack

Notes:

The NVI stamp books (22 September) include the revised wording about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail but do not have the Olympic/Paralympic logos on the front cover.

The Smiles Greetings book reprint (3 March) has revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail; the stamps are as the original issue of March 1991.

W = Printed by Walsall Security Printers;

H = Harrison & Sons; Q = House of Questa.

Royal Mail at Overseas Exhibition

It is intended that a member of the Royal Mail Stamps & Personal Mail team will be present at British Post Office stand at the Genova 92 exhibition, Genoa Exhibition Complex (18-27 September). Readers who make themselves known to our representative will receive a gift.

Gilbert & Sullivan Stamps – Cylinders & Colours

The cylinders and colours used were as follows:

18p 1A (bluish violet) 1B (lemon) 1C (bright rose-red) 1D (olive-bistre) 1E (blue) 1F (grey black) P1 (phosphor)

24p 1A (red-brown) 1B (lemon) 1C (bright rose-red) 1D (olive-bistre) 2E (blue) 1F (bistre) 1G (grey-black)

28p 1A (bright rose-red) 1B (lemon) 1C (olive bistre) 2D (blue) 1E (violet) 1F (bright green) 1G (grey black)

33p 1A (deep blue-green) 1B (lemon) 1C (bright rose-red) 1D (olive-bistre) 1E (blue) 1F (dull claret) 1G (grey black)

39p 1A (blue) 1B (lemon) 2C (bright rose-red) 1D (olive-bistre) 1E (lavender) 1F (bistre) 1G (purple-brown)

September Digest

Issued in September

1 September: The Green Issue stamp cards, Nos 146A-D, Price 21p each.

15 September: The Green Issue stamps – 24p, 28p, 33p, 39p.

Designers: Christopher Hall (24p); Lewis Fowler (28p); Sarah Jo Warren (33p); and Alice Newton-Mold (39p).

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 37 x 35mm, perf 14½ x 14, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum, Phosphor Coated Paper.

Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Torridon.

Presentation Pack: No. 230, price £1.55.

15 September: National Postal Museum Artefacts postcards – “Hen and Chickens” parcel cycle; Slogan postmark dies; Pearson Hill stamp cancelling machine. 25p each.

15 September: National Postal Museum Machin head postcard, price 25p.

16 September: The Green Issue Souvenir cover, price 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters for one year.

22 September: 50p and £1 books containing 2 x 1p and 2 x 24p stamps and 2 x 2p, 4 x 24p stamps and 2 labels respectively. Cover designs relate to Sheriff’s millennium.

Printing: Harrisons, photogravure. Both books contain stamps on ACP. The £1 book has straight edges at left and right sides of pane.

22 September: Stamp books containing non-value indicator (NVI) stamps – as books issued August 1991, January and March 1992. British Olympic/Paralympic logos removed from front cover but revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail inside.

4 x 1st class, printed by Walsall

4 x 2nd class, printed by Walsall

10 x 1st class, printed by Walsall

10 x 2nd class, printed by Walsall

10 x 1st class, printed by Harrison

10 x 2nd class, printed by Harrison

10 x 1st class, printed by Questa

10 x 2nd class, printed by Questa

29 September: Single European Market stamp card, price 21p.

Withdrawn in September

9 September: 50p and £1 stamp books – Archaeology and Punch No. 1.

13 September: Definitives – 17p, 22p, 26p, 27p, 31p, 32p, and 37p sheet stamps.

13 September: Definitives – 17p, 22p from rolls (coils).

13 September: Definitive Low Value New Issue Pack No. 22 (containing 10p, 17p, 22p, 26p, 27p, 31p and 33p stamps).

13 September: N. Ireland, Scotland, Wales Country Stamps – 17p, 22p, 26p, and 37p.

Note: Includes both types of Scotland 22p and 26p and Wales 22p, i.e. issues of December 1990 (PVA Dextrin gum) and May 1991 (PVA gum).

13 September: Country Stamps New Issue Pack No. 23 (contains 17p, 22p, 26p, and 37p stamps).

16 September: Maps stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

17 September: National Postal Museum “Maps and the Post Office” postcards.

Note: These cards are being withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau on 17 September; they will remain on sale at the National Postal Museum.

New Bulletin Subscriptions

To cover higher costs of production, new subscriptions to this *Bulletin* and to the *British Postmark Bulletin* will come into effect from 1 September 1992.

The new rates will be:

	UK/Europe	Rest of World
Philatelic Bulletin	£8.00	£11.50
Postmark Bulletin	£10.00	£21.75

The price of single copies, available from Collections, philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum, is increased to 70p.

We are taking the opportunity of making our subscriptions more flexible in the future. Details of joint subscriptions to both Bulletins, also two year subscriptions will be announced later in the year.

