

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Edward Lear

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New Museum Phone Number

The National Postal Museum now has a new telephone number: 01-239 5420. The old 432 exchange number will be discontinued shortly; callers should now use the new 239 number.

Philatelic Points of View

Last September the Royal Mail's Stamps & Philately Division initiated a series of six features entitled "Philatelic Points of View", which gave *Bulletin* readers the chance to air their views and make suggestions on a wide range of Royal Mail philatelic products. The items covered were as follows:

PHQ Cards and Postcard Albums
Royal Mail Stamp Album
Collectors Pack
Royal Mail Stock Book
FDCs and FDC Albums
Presentation Packs and Presentation Pack Albums

A Yearbook was offered to the person who sent in the best suggestion and there was a very enthusiastic response. All of the letters were read with interest and the Philately Department would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to write in. Unfortunately it took longer than expected to decide on the best suggestion but a verdict has now been reached. The prize-winning suggestion is that blank pages be produced for the *Royal Mail Stamp Album*. As this suggestion was in fact made by several people a draw was made to select the winner and her name is Miss Marina Warner. Congratulations! A yearbook will be on its way to you shortly.

The Philately Department are now looking closely at the proposal that blank pages be produced for the *Royal Mail Stamp Album*, and if it is decided to go ahead with the idea an announcement will be made in this magazine.

Next Month

To mark the *Bulletin's* 25th anniversary, the September issue will be a special enlarged edition and will contain details of the forthcoming Castles High Values and a competition.

Edward Lear

6 & 27 September 1988

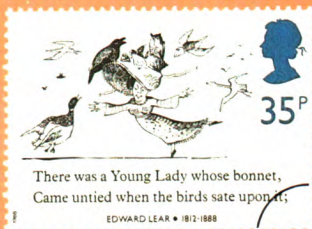
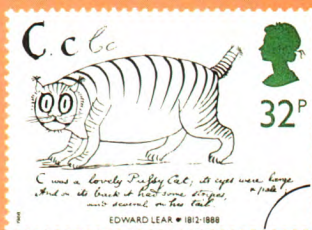
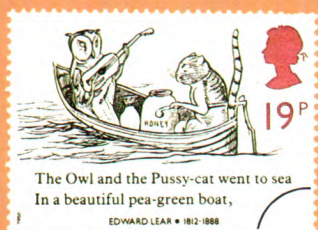


Four stamps will be issued on 6 September to commemorate the centenary of the death of Edward Lear, perhaps the best-known writer of nonsense verse. The stamps all feature drawings by Lear and are inscribed EDWARD LEAR 1812-1888. The stamps, illustrated here, are shown for the values it is proposed to introduce on 5 September; at the time of going to press these rate increases have not received the approval of the Post Office Users' National Council.

The final value, **35p** (Airmail Zone C) reproduces Lear's drawing for the limerick beginning "There was a Young Lady whose bonnet, Came untied when the birds sate upon it; ..."

All four stamps are printed in black on cream paper with The Queen's portrait in red (19p), yellow (27p), green (32p) and blue (35p). The four stamps are also being issued in miniature sheet format – see below.

These stamps are not the first to show Lear's



The **19p** stamp (for first class mail) features his illustration of his most famous verse and reproduces the first two lines: "The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea, In a beautiful pea-green boat, ..."

The **27p** value (Airmail Zone A) bears a self-portrait of Lear as a bird (1864) and a facsimile of his signature – "Yours affectionately, Edward Lear".

The **32p** stamp (Airmail Zone B) reproduces a Lear drawing of a cat, based on his own pet, Foss. The drawing is from an alphabet work and is so described – "C was a lovely Pussy Cat; its eyes were large & pale; And on its back it had some stripes, and several on his tail."

artistic ability – his painting of a Bewick's Swan was reproduced on the 31p stamp in the Linnean Society set issued on 19 January.

Edward Lear

Edward Lear was born in north London in 1812, the twentieth of 21 children; his father was a stockbroker. He was largely brought up by his sister Ann and his early years were frequently plagued by illness. Nevertheless he had a sense of fun and his sisters taught him to play the piano, draw and paint.

At age 15 he began to earn his living by selling sketches to stage coach passengers in the yards of coaching inns and a year later he

became an ornithological draughtsman. This led to a commission from the Zoological Society of London to make drawings of the exotic parrots in the Regents Park Zoo. The drawings were included in the book *Illustrations of the Family of Psittacidae, or Parrots*, published when Lear was just 19. In 1832, the President of the Zoological Society, Lord Stanley (later 13th Earl of Derby), a noted amateur zoologist, asked Lear to prepare drawings of the birds in his menagerie at his family home at Knowsley Hall near Liverpool. This work took six years and it was there that Lear wrote and illustrated the first of his limericks for the children of the household. Many of the verses are illustrated with birds and animals whose form Lear understood so well.

The detailed work involved in drawing birds put a strain on Lear's eyesight and the climate of the north west did not help his asthma and bronchitis. Assisted by Lord Derby, he went to live in Rome, an international centre for artists; he lived abroad, with frequent visits to England, for the rest of his days. Most of his work was landscape painting; many of his paintings of Italy and Greece were exhibited at the Royal Academy in London.

Happily his art and travelling did not curtail his enthusiasm for writing and drawing nonsense and in 1846, while in England, he published his first *Book of Nonsense* (further editions appeared in 1861, 1863 and 1870). In the same year he was invited by Queen Victoria to give her drawing lessons.

By 1867 Lear realised that he would never really become established as a painter and turned his attention more to verse. Over the next decade he poured his soul into his nonsense verses producing the Owl and the Pussy-Cat, the Jumbles, the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bo and the Dong with a Luminous Nose.

Although he lived alone, apart from his servant Giorgio and his striped cat Foss, Lear had many friends and wrote prolifically to them, usually illustrating his letters with comic drawings. He was a particular friend of Tennyson and composed musical settings of Tennyson's poems. Giorgio died in 1883 and Lear then lived alone with Foss. The cat died at the end of 1887 and was survived by his master by only two months. Lear died, sad and alone, in San Remo on 29 January 1888.

Lear's name will always be associated with the limerick, a form of verse first published in *Anecdotes and Adventures of Fifteen Young Ladies* and the *History of Sixteen Wonderful Old Women*

(1820). Limericks are usually of five lines, rhyming a b b a with the third and fourth lines half the length of the others. In Lear's limericks, the first and last lines were often the same.

The centenary of Lear's death was marked by a ceremony at Westminster Abbey on 6 June. Sir Hugh Casson, former President of the Royal Academy, unveiled a plaque to Lear and the audience enjoyed readings from Lear's work. The plaque refers to Lear's two careers as "painter and poet". The naturalist Sir David Attenborough described Lear as an "enchanter of children", the Dean of Westminster referred to him as a "...sad, funny, original, lonely, high-spirited, lovely, child-like man".

Lear's work and character is perhaps best summed up in his own words from *Nonsense Songs* (1871):

How pleased to know Mr Lear!
Who has written such volumes of stuff!
Some think him ill-tempered and queer,
But a few think him pleasant enough.

Technical Details

Designed by The Partners, the stamps have been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd. They are of horizontal format, measuring 41 x 30mm, printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation is 15 x 14.

PHQ Cards

PHQ cards (Nos. 113A-D) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 22 August, price 15p each.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 193) will cost £1.35 and was designed by The Partners with text by Lear's biographer Vivian Noakes. The pack includes illustrations of Lear's drawings, mostly comic.

First Day Cover

The first day cover design shows Lear's signature in the form of a Victorian book plate. It costs 16p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and one at London N7 (Lear was born in north London).

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark.

Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 6 September.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to:

'British Philatelic Bureau' 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

'London N7' Philatelic Duty
Northern District PO
Upper Street
LONDON N1 1AA

Miniature Sheet

The four Lear stamps will be available in a miniature sheet format from 27 September. The sheet has a surround resembling the marbled end-papers found in Victorian books and bears the logo of the "Stamp World London 90" international stamp exhibition. The sheet will cost £1.35 which includes a premium which will be used to finance the exhibition, to be held at London's Alexandra Palace from 3-13 May

1990. Two further exhibition miniature sheets will be issued, one next year and one in 1990. The sheet has been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd using cylinders 1A 1B 3C 3D 1E 1F 1G; these numbers do not appear on the issued sheets.

A first day cover will be available, price 17p. This features the front cover of the book *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear*, with open pages showing some of Lear's drawings.

A first day cover service will be provided with special pictorial postmarks at the British Philatelic Bureau and London N22 (postal district for Alexandra Palace). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned by 27 September. On the first day of issue, collectors may send their own covers bearing the miniature sheet for postmarking to:

'British Philatelic Bureau' 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

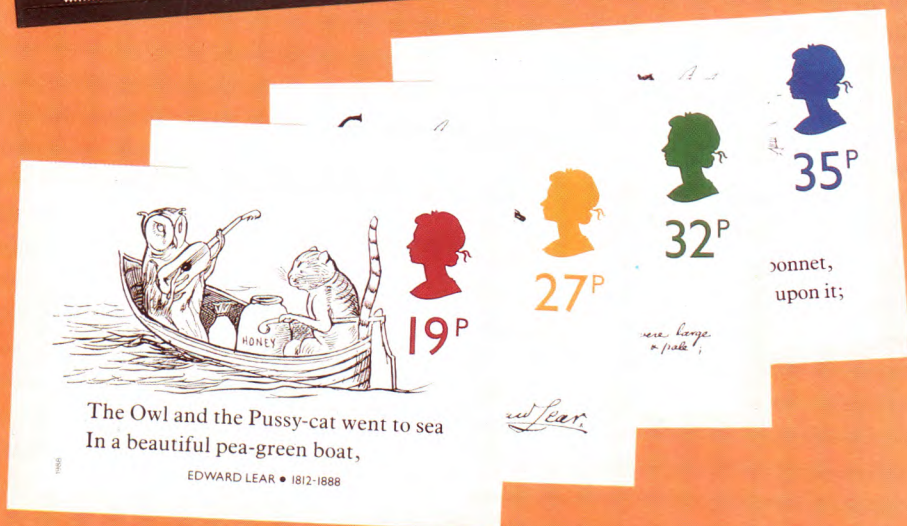
'London N22' Special Postmarks
Customer Services
Wood Green Sorting Office
1A Buckingham Road
LONDON N22 4TU



Edward Lear
VERSE FOR CHILDREN
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB





New Definitive Stamps

Several new definitive stamps and stamp books are due for issue at the end of August and early September to cover the proposed tariff increases, which if agreed by the Post Office Users' National Council, will come into force from 5 September.

Sheet Stamps

There will be eight new sheet stamps: 14p dark blue (second class mail), 19p flame (first class), 20p sea green, 23p light green (Europe, non EEC countries), 27p rust (aerogrammes & overseas postcards), 28p sand, 32p dark turquoise (Airmail Zone B) and 35p dark brown (Airmail Zone C). The new 20p and 28p stamps replace



the existing grey and blue versions, the new colours being part of the Jeffery Matthews colour scheme (detailed in David Dale's article in the July *Bulletin*).

All stamps are printed on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) except the 14p value which is on standard fluorescent paper with a centre phosphor band. All have been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Limited in sheets of 200, with PVA Dextrin gum. The cylinders used were as follows: 14p 10 (phosphor 41), 19p

1 and 2, 20p 11, 23p 6, 27p, 32p & 35p 1. These sheet stamps will be issued on 23 August.

Counter and Machine Books

A new range of standard counter and machine books are intended for issue on 5 September, day of the proposed tariff increase.

A new 50p machine-vended book will contain a pane of three stamps and a label. The stamps comprise 1 x 14p with phosphor band at right; 1 x 19p with two narrow phosphor bands clear of perforations and 1 x 19p with two bands, the right band being narrow and clear of the perforations. The label at top left of the pane reads "Please use the Postcode". The cylinders used were B1 (19p) B16 and B17 (14p) B76 (phosphor). The cover design features "The Yeomen of the Guard" - No. 1 in a new Gilbert & Sullivan series, designed by Lynda Gray.

The new £1 machine book contains 4 x 19p stamps with two phosphor bands and 2 x 14p stamps with single side band. Cylinders used were B6 B21 phosphor B78. The cover design shows Nicholas Nickelby, No. 2 in the Charles Dickens series, design by Liz Moyes.

The £1.40 and £1.90 counter books contain 10 x 14p and 10 x 19p stamps respectively. The 14p stamps have centre phosphor band, the 19p are on ACP. The cylinders used were B18, phosphor B49 and B62 and B19, phosphor B62 for the £1.40 book and B3 for the £1.90. The book covers give details of a special "Pocket Planner" promotion, a pocket guide designed to give advice on actions to be taken and people to be notified when moving house, getting married, expecting a baby, planning for retirement or coping with bereavement. The cover designs are by Allan Drummond.

All these standard books were printed by Harrisons in photogravure. The £1 book has imperf outer side edges, continuing the trial which commenced last September. Both 50p and £1 books have been perforated using the APS Chambon perforator.

Window Books

Five new window books are intended for issue

on 23 August. These are of a Mark II design, being smaller than the Mark I (August 1987) issue, the panes having narrower surrounding selvage.

The new 56p, 76p and £1.08 books contain, respectively, panes of four 14p, 19p and 27p stamps; the £1.40 and £1.90 books contain panes of ten 14p and 19p stamps. All are printed on ACP except the 56p and £1.40 books which contain 14p stamps with centre phosphor band. Details of bar codes and reference letters are set out below:

K	100074	76p
L	200071	76p
M	100081	£1.90
N	200088	£1.90
O	100098	56p
P	200095	56p
Q	100104	£1.40
R	200101	£1.40
S	100111	£1.08
T	200118	£1.08

The new sheet stamps and standard books will be available from all post offices as well as the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 23 August and 5 September respectively.

All window books will be available from the Bureau and philatelic counters and books coded L, N, P, R and T from post offices in the Bristol, Nottingham, Preston and York areas from 23 August.

It is intended to withdraw the 20p grey and 28p blue stamps from sale at post offices after close of business on 22 August and the 13p, 18p, 24p, 26p, 31p and 34p stamps on 9 September. All will remain on philatelic sale for a further year.

First Day Cover Facilities

A first day cover envelope for the new sheet stamps will be available approximately two weeks before 23 August, price 16p. First day posting boxes will be provided, as usual, at all main post offices. The standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamp will be applied. In addition pictorial First Day handstamps will be available at the Bureau and Windsor.

A FDC service will be provided by the Bureau. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned to the Bureau by 23 August. Collectors wishing to prepare their own covers may send

stamped covers bearing the new stamps to receive the Bureau or Windsor postmarks. Such covers should be sent under outer cover marked "Special First Day Handstamp" to: Special Postmark Duty, British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Postmark Duty, Windsor PO, Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks, SL4 1AA.

No First Day of Issue postmarks will be available on 5 September although collectors wishing to prepare covers bearing book and roll stamps may post them to receive the Philatelic Counter handstamps or the permanent pictorial handstamps used at London EC (National Postal Museum and Tower of London), London SW (Buckingham Palace) or Twickenham (Heathrow Airport).

Presentation Pack

A new pack (No 15) containing one of each of the new sheet stamps will be available from 23 August, price £2.20, from the Bureau and philatelic counters.

Stamp Rolls

Four new rolls will be available from the Bureau and philatelic counters from 5 September: OL containing 500 x 14p stamps, longways delivery (roll value £70), PL 500 x 19p, longways delivery (£95), SD 1,000 x 14p, sideways delivery (£140) and a Mixed Value Roll containing 700 strips of 3 x 4p and 1 x 2p stamps (£98). The 14p stamps have centre phosphor band, the 19p stamps and Mixed Value strips are on ACP.

New Aerogramme

A new standard aerogramme will go on sale at the Bureau and philatelic counters on 5 September and at post offices as stocks of the existing aerogramme are used up. The new aerogramme, costing 27p, bears a new design of postage paid indicator and again includes the Machin portrait of The Queen which has not been used on aerogrammes since June 1986.

Please note that at the time of going to press the Post Office Users' National Council had not given approval for postal tariff increases. Should approval not be forthcoming, the stamps, books, rolls and aerogramme will not be issued on 23 August/5 September. Readers are advised to check with their local post office shortly before 23 August. Details of postal rate increases will be displayed in post offices.

Duke of Edinburgh Award, 1981

British Special Issues: No.148

FRANCIS KENNEDY

Just as The Queen's award to Industry is an incentive for business firms to produce and export goods for the benefit of the country's economy, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, launched in 1956, sought to encourage boys and girls to strive for excellence in a variety of leisure activities, but to concentrate on one chosen pursuit rather than be an all-rounder.

There are four classes within which activities are grouped: – Service (to the community); Expeditions, orienteering, Outward Bound and similar projects; Skills, advanced handicrafts, progress in philately and other mainly outdoor pursuits – this acknowledges the special needs of handicapped children; and Physical Recreation, gymnastics, track events and so on.

There are three levels of attainment and entrants to the scheme begin by aiming for a Bronze Award. This achieved, entry for the Silver Award is permitted: and, finally, winners of the Silver Award may enter for the coveted Gold Award. There is no competition, every candidate is on his own and is judged on individual merit.

Local community organisations appoint accredited examiners and, as far as possible, the same specialist examiner follows the entrant from the Bronze Award upward and, therefore, is able to assess the progress made, as well as the overall level of achievement.

The four stamps, designed by Philip Sharland and issued on 12 August 1981, embraced the four areas of "challenge to young people to achieve a certain standard of leisure-time activities with the *voluntary* help of adults." The qualification of help allowed was to prevent paid professional training giving an advantage to those who could afford it. The designs were: **14p** Expeditions – boy and girl hiker; **18p** Skills – girl working on pottery; **22p** Service – first aid; **25p** Physical Recreation – hurdler.

Exceptionally, printing was in lithography by John Waddington Ltd of Kirkstall, Leeds. A considerable number of plates were required for the printing – no fewer than ten plate combinations exist for the 14p value, with six, five and four respectively for the 18p, 22p and 25p

stamps. Dot and no dot panes exist for each plate. So good was the work that not even any minor printing flaws are recorded in the Gibbons *GB Specialised Catalogue*. The quantities sold before withdrawal on 11 August 1982 were: – 14p 43,174,000; 18p 10,292,000; 22p 9,989,000; 25p 9,519,000. A ¼ million sets of PHQ cards (Nos.54A-D) were ordered by the Post Office.



Armada: The Enterprise of England

BARBARA LAST

The story of the Armada 400 years ago was commemorated by The Post Office on 19 July by a se-tenant strip of five stamps depicting the salient events of the naval action. But the Armada was really only a small part of the complex power politics and the violent religious passions of the 16th century. No territorial changes were involved, but fear of invasion welded the English into one nation.

The story really starts with Henry VIII (GB, 1982, SG1187), who began building a navy, installing cannons on board. Autocratic and determined, he already had a daughter, Mary, but desired a son. He divorced Catholic Catherine of Aragon, his wife of 24 years, and married the Protestant Anne Boleyn in the face of papal prohibition. This broke with the Church of Rome and the establishment of the Church of England fuelled the religious battles that plagued England for the next 200 years.

Henry's third wife produced the longed-for son, the Protestant Edward VI, a delicate youth who was soon succeeded by his half-sister Mary. She was resolved to return her country to Rome, and plunged England into a bloodbath. In 1554, Mary married Prince Philip of Spain, a reticent, devout man who returned, after 19 months, to Spain as King Philip II. Mary died

Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, was the rightful queen of England. During her sister's reign Elizabeth had been imprisoned in the Tower of London or kept confined at Hatfield House (St Lucia, 1984, SG680). She had literally kept her head upon her shoulders by refusing to become involved in any Protestant plot to seize the throne.



King Philip II of Spain and Elizabeth I of England

It was considered inconceivable that any woman could rule alone without the guidance of a husband, but Elizabeth was determined to try, although for many years she flirted with kings, princes and nobles. Her brother-in-law, Philip, eager to return England to the Catholic fold, offered his hand; and extracts from her suitor Erik XIV's written proposal of marriage in 1561 are shown on a Swedish stamp of 1984.

Troubled and divided realm

Elizabeth set about restoring her troubled and divided realm by making frequent royal progresses among her people. She ended the French war, built up the navy, and re-established the Church of England. Mary, Queen of Scots fled from her Scottish subjects and for 18 years became her cousin's prisoner and the centre of constant intrigues to place her on the English throne.

English sailors refused to accept that Spain owned the seas and a monopoly of trade, and objected to the habits of the Spanish Inquisition. They invested quite deliberately in trade or downright piracy at the expense of Spain.



two years later. The marriage was commemorated by a special handstamp in 1980 and King Philip is featured on a Spanish stamp of 1962 (SG1497).

Elizabeth, a tall, pale, clever girl with fox-red hair, became Queen in 1558 (GB, 1968, SG771). Her Catholic subjects did not recognise her father's divorce and held that her cousin, the

In 1566, the Protestant Netherlands rebelled against their Spanish overlords, and the proximity of the occupying Spanish army (40 miles across the Channel) alarmed Elizabeth. She secretly abetted the rebels, and the Dutch “Sea Beggars”, authorised by William the Silent, Prince of Orange (Netherlands, 1933, SG408), blockaded the Spanish forces from the shelter of the shoals of the Dutch coast.

John Hawkins and Francis Drake (St Kitts, 1970, SG221) barely escaped with their lives from a treacherous attack in Mexico, and from that day the two cousins waged an implacable war on Spain. Hawkins, acting as a double agent, brought in proof of the Ridolfi plot to depose Elizabeth. This cost the Duke of Norfolk his head and implicated Mary. Elizabeth was reluctant to shed the blood of a fellow sovereign, although she knew that while her cousin lived she would be the centre of every conspiracy. In Paris, in August 1572, French Huguenots (Protestants) were butchered in the St Bartholomew Eve Massacre (Republic of South Africa, 1988, 50c) and their leader Admiral Coligny was murdered. Other Huguenots fled to Holland and England.

In 1578, Hawkins became Treasurer and Comptroller of the Navy, and set about designing a new type of smaller galleon like the *Elizabeth Jonas* (GB, 1969, SG779) that was handier, faster and more manoeuvrable. Drake (GB, 1973, SG925) led increasingly daring raids, and returned to be knighted for the first English circumnavigation in 1580 with fabulous plunder, to the fury of Spain but the delight of his Queen.

It became obvious that war was inevitable. The Pope excommunicated Elizabeth and sent in undercover priests to stir up dissension. Philip annexed Portugal, her vast overseas territories and ships, and was determined to stop Elizabeth meddling in Holland and her sailors disrupting his Caribbean and Indies trade. In the summers of 1579/80 Spanish invaders landed in Ireland and were slaughtered.

Babington Plot

William the Silent was assassinated in 1584 by a Spanish agent, and the next year Elizabeth sent an army to Holland in her first open move to aid the Dutch. Finally, the Babington plot was uncovered. Elizabeth could no longer ignore proof of Mary's complicity in the threat to murder her and her ministers. On 8 February, 1587, Mary was executed at Fotheringhay and

shock waves reverberated round the world. The 400th anniversary of the death of Mary, Queen of Scots was marked by a Scottish aerogramme in April 1987.

Philip, emperor of half the world, and kin to the Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperors, gave orders for “the Enterprise of England” – an invincible Armada to rendezvous with Parma's army at Calais, and to protect and back up the invasion forces which would then assault and capture London, with the help of English Catholics.



English defences were constructed along the Thames; hill-top beacons were guarded by village look-outs; militias were trained, Sir Walter Raleigh (GB, 1973, SG926) being responsible for land defences in the southwest. The impatient Drake in *Elizabeth Bonaventure* (British Virgin Islands, 1970, SG242) was allowed to raid Cadiz in April 1587, so successfully that it delayed the Armada by a year.

The Armada

The Armada was the most powerful sailing fleet ever assembled, with ships of all sorts drawn from the Catholic states of Europe and blessed by the Pope as a crusade against heretical England. The 132 vessels were a task force laden with provisions for six months and 20,000 soldiers, priests, surgeons, gentlemen adventurers, plus justices and administrators ready to set up government in occupied London. The Duke of Medina Sidonia reluctantly took command on the death of Admiral Santa Cruz. He was no seaman, but an administrator whose aristocratic birth enabled him to smooth warring factions in his own fleet. His flagship was Santa Cruz's 100-ton *San Martin* (shown on a Paraguay stamp of 1987), the former Portuguese veteran of the Battle of the Azores.

This mighty fleet was sighted off The Lizard on 19 July (Old Calendar), and the cliffs were

lined with militia who followed the course of the sea battles that took place over a 14 day period. The Queen had declined help from Sweden, Scotland and Denmark, preferring to rely for the defence of her realm on her own people. Volunteers came flocking south, and men put nationality before religion. Lord Howard, the Queen's cousin, was in administrative command in the Queen's ship *Ark Royal* (St Vincent 1988 Armada 75c), with Drake as principal adviser on the *Revenge* (St Vincent \$5).



The Plymouth fleet had about 90 ships and 10,000 men with another 15 ships patrolling the Dover Strait watching for Parma's army. When news was brought of the enemy (GB, SG1400), the English fleet was trapped in Plymouth Sound for seven hours by wind and tide. By superb seamanship vessels were warped out on the ebb overnight to gain the wind gauge (GB, SG1401). The English were dumbfounded by the sheer size of the massive Armada, and knew only that they must not come within grappling distance or they would be overwhelmed. The Spanish were enraged by the fast, agile vessels which stayed just out of range of the Armada guns, but fired their own cannon as they dogged the enemy.

Medina Sidonia's primary task was to convey his military convoy safely to Parma's invasion army at Calais, and he placed his supply ships in the centre of a crescent formation, protecting the rear and sides with his fighting ships. His discipline aided the English. Frobisher's *Triumph* was cut off from the main fleet,

but he used the currents of Portland Race, and a sudden shift of wind drove the Armada on to the Isle of Wight (GB SG1402) and another inconclusive battle. Howard arranged his warships in four squadrons under himself, Drake, Hawkins (in *Victory*), and Frobisher (GB, 1972, SG898), knighting the last two captains on the quarterdeck of the *Ark Royal*.

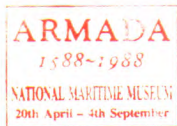
On 27 July, the Armada anchored in the open Calais roadstead, to find that Parma's blockaded invasion barges were unable to join the fleet. The English were frantic to break the enemy's battle array. They prepared eight fire-ships filled with combustibles that fired shot as they advanced, and floated them downwind on the midnight flood. The Spanish cut their cables and tried to escape (GB, SG1403), losing three vessels on the Flanders shoals under their lee before the wind changed. No longer did the English hold off, but came in line astern and danced away out of reach. The Battle of Gravelines was nine hours of chaos as "the smoke came down with the wind and wrapped them about like a cloak", before the Armada was driven away to the North Sea (GB, SG1404).

Invasion Doomed

Medina Sidonia knew that the invasion of England was doomed. It was now impossible to turn south against the wind, tide and English fleet, and the only way home was northwards by the circuitous and dangerous route round Scotland and Ireland. Spain lost some 11 ships and 8,000 men in the Channel battles, the English no ships and about 100 men. The battle had been won by the superior sailing qualities of the English ships, the clever use of local currents and natural hazards, and above all the weather, claimed as a heaven-sent Protestant defence – "God blew and they were scattered".

The year 1588 had one of the worst summers for tempests and violent September gales came early. Many Spanish ships were battle-damaged and not designed for northern waters and the cold of the North Sea, and sank.

Once sure that the Armada would not double back, the shadowing English fleet was called off. At Tilbury, Essex, about 20,000 men stood by ready for the invasion, and the Queen, magnificent in white velvet, diamonds and pearls reviewed her troops and made her stirring Armada speech. One of several special Armada handstamps used on 19 July commemorated this famous speech.



Royal Mail Stamp Products

National Maritime Museum meter mark

The so-called Armada Portrait (Tristan, 1980, SG286) can be seen at the fine Armada exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich together with many artifacts salvaged from the Spanish galleons. The gold cross of a Knight of Malta belonging to Captain Spinola was recovered from the galleass *Girona*, wrecked near the Giants Causeway. This cross, the Armada Medal and Drake's Drum, all depicted on the St Vincent set, are exhibited at Greenwich. The *San Juan de Sicilia*, a merchantman from Ragusa (now Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia), was blown up with her crew in Tobermory Bay, Isle of Mull. A slogan postmark in use at Oban until 26 September features one of the Armada ships associated with Tobermory.



It is thought that over a third of the Armada never returned, and about 60% of her men perished. Philip, fanatical in his perseverance, sent further unsuccessful armadas against England, and the war continued until peace was signed in 1604 between Philip III and England's James I, son of Mary, Queen of Scots. His cousin, Queen Elizabeth, wrote of the Armada "he [God] made the wynds and waters rise to scatter all myne enemies".

References

Royal Armada 400 years National Maritime Museum, (1988)

The Elizabethan Navy & the Armada of Spain (monograph No.17, National Maritime Museum, 1975)

Readers are reminded that the presentation pack for the Armada stamps contains a free admission ticket to the Armada exhibition at the National Maritime Museum. Details of a PO/Kellogg's Armada cover promotion were given in the May Bulletin.

Bulletin readers are reminded that Royal Mail Stamps & Philately sell albums for stamps, first day covers, presentation packs and postcards, also stock books.

The Stock Books are available in two sizes; 16 and 64 pages, both with double glassine interleaving, white pages with clear strips and protective edging strip at the page margin. The smaller book has a hard-backed cover with single linen-hinged pages and is available from the British Philatelic Bureau only. The larger book has a padded cover and double linen-hinged pages and is available from all philatelic counters as well as the Bureau.

Both books are attractively finished in a red cover with stylish Royal Mail gold blocking. The books are priced at £6.25 and £19.75 respectively. Orders by post should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Stock books are ideal for storing duplicate stamps or new issues until ready to mount them more permanently in albums. Some collectors prefer stock books to the more conventional album as the collection can more readily be supplemented or rearranged.

Details will be given next month of the Royal Mail Stamp Album.

Young Postcard Designers

Fifteen primary school children were treated to a special day out in London on 8 June as part of their prize for coming "top of the class" in a Royal Mail Competition which attracted more than 20,000 entries. The competition marked 150 years of publicly-funded education in England and Wales. A special stamp will be issued next year and Royal Mail postcards of the winning paintings in the competition will be given away free with presentation packs. The best paintings will also feature in a mobile exhibition which will tour schools throughout the land later this year.

Keith Fisher, General Manager of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately and chairman of the judging panel, praised the children's work— "Their paintings were terrific and the overall standard of entries was very high indeed... Paintings came flooding in from all over the UK. We were delighted with the response."

Mallard – Fifty Years On

PETER JOHNSON

Post Office publicity for the release of the Transport & Communications stamp issue on 10 May concentrated on the railway events commemorated on the 18p stamp: the 50th anniversary of the *Mallard*'s steam speed record and the 150th anniversary of the Travelling Post Office. These anniversaries were commemorated by the operation on 9 and 10 May of two Pullman trains hauled by *Mallard* and including



two sorting carriages (Nos. 80359/89 for the enthusiasts) in their formation. Another special train operated on 11 May to launch the new Dover-Manchester TPO service.

Postal Pullman

On 9 May the *Mallard* hauled "The Postal Pullman" from London Marylebone to Banbury with some 150 members of the national and philatelic press and invited guests on board. Ten postmen from the Great Western TPO were on board, sorting second class mail to demonstrate a working TPO. A single ring datestamp reading TRAVELLING POST OFFICE SECTION LONDON was used to cancel special covers (bearing only an 18p definitive unfortunately!) presented to the invited guests. Guests also received one of the new Hornby model TPO carriages painted in PO red and yellow livery – in this guise the real

thing has never worked with the mail exchange apparatus with which this model is equipped! (This new model is available from Hornby stockists.)

The journey to Banbury took about 1¾ hours. There being no turning facilities at Banbury, *Mallard* was exchanged for Class "47" 47515 *Night Mail* for the return to London.

Pennine Pullman

The next day the same train became "The Pennine Pullman", working from Manchester Victoria to Scarborough. York-based TPO staff did the sorting and handstamped the 18p PHQ cards given to guests with the Shrewsbury-York TPO datestamps. Two side 1 and one single ring datestamps were used. On returning to York, *Mallard* was exchanged for Class "47" 47609 *Fire Fly*, substituting for *Night Mail* which had failed after being run through the Old Oak Common Depot's carriage washer to smarten it up! The sorting staff also left at York – to make themselves ready for duty on that evening's York-Shrewsbury TPO.

The invitation, acceptance and menu cards for this special train reproduced the 18p stamp in blue, in a format slightly smaller than a PHQ card; the relevant text was overprinted onto the stamp.



Two of the handstamps used on the new TPO routes

Post Haste

Another train, using the same coaching stock, ran on 11 May when the Dover-Manchester TPO, one of the new TPO services brought into regular service on 16 May (see May *Bulletin*,

page 209), was introduced to the South East with a Dover-Reading working. Locomotive 47609 *Fire Fly* was used again, this time carrying a "Dover-Manchester Mail" headboard. At Tonbridge the train stopped whilst Mr Bill Cockburn, Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters, named Class "73" 73138 *Post Haste*. This locomotive then followed the train to Redhill where both locomotives were coupled together for the remainder of the journey to Reading.

Once again sorting was carried out, this time by newly recruited Dover-based staff. Except for the Inspector, an age restriction prevented most veterans of the South Eastern TPO (withdrawn in 1977) from applying to join the new service.

Guests were presented with a special cover, complete with coloured insert, which could be franked with the TRAVELLING POST OFFICE SECTION LONDON datestamp. On each of these trips the guests were also presented with a copy

of TPO – *The Story of the Travelling Post Office*, a 20 page full-colour booklet specially produced by the Post Office for the occasion. The booklet is available to collectors from the National Postal Museum – see *July Bulletin*. The souvenir covers and cards given to guests could be taken away or handed in on the TPO carriage for normal postal delivery.

Finally, the significance of that TRAVELLING POST OFFICE SECTION LONDON datestamp? Administratively, the TPOs are operated by a section now known as London Central Transport & TPOs, based at Old Street in London. The datestamp is sometimes used internally and is known to date from at least 1948.

The first part of Mr Johnson's article "Travelling Post Office Events" in the June Bulletin referred to the 1936 documentary film Night Mail. I regret this was not made clear by the heading and apologise for any confusion. Ed.

Gems of the R M Phillips Collection

155. Railway Letter Post Essays

Those familiar with the Phillips Collection will know that it contains many interesting items quite apart from actually issued postage stamps. Details of these sideline items are to be found under the heading "Stamps for Special Services" in chapter 10 of Robson Lowe's handbook on the collection: *The British Postage Stamp of the Nineteenth Century* (NPM 1968, 2nd edn 1979).

In panels 2 and 3 of display frame O in the Museum's main gallery, visitors can see various railway letter stamps and the essays illustrated here. Before 1891 railway companies were not allowed to carry letters for the general public although railway staff often arranged for the conveyance of urgent letters masquerading as parcels (which they were permitted to carry). An agreement was made between the PO and the railways which permitted the public to send letters provided that 1d postage had been paid to the PO in addition to the railway fee of 2d.

Originally it was intended to issue special 3d stamps and essays were prepared. However special PO stamps were never



issued and when the service started in February 1891 each railway issued its own 2d stamp. Such issues continued in use until the 1930s, thereafter railway parcel stamps were used on railway letters. British Rail discontinued the letter service in 1984.

The R M Phillips Collection can be seen at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm on Friday.

Stamp Books, October 1986-October 1987

L F NEWBERY

Introduction

The base paper used for the booklet stamps is of 70 grammes per square metre (gsm) specification, delivered in jumbo rolls of approximately 6,000 metres. Before going into stamp production, the rolls are coated, gummed and calendered, split and reeled into rolls of approximately 5,500 metres for use on the Jumelle press and for the Chambon machine into rolls of approximately 2,500 metres. The gum in general use is PVA Dextrin.

For gravure printing the coating has a chalk content, which is somewhat porous with a dull matt surface. The paper, now 96 gsm, is officially styled HS2 and known to philatelists as Fluorescent Coated Paper (FCP) and is used for stamps with phosphor bands – one for the second class rate and two for first class values. For printing the phosphor bands the ink used is made up with the phosphor SA (sulphanic acid) and Toluene in the formula. It is styled Lettalite B6.

For stamps without phosphor bands a phosphor activated by PABA (para amine benzic acid) is incorporated in the chalk coating. The paper is styled HS4 and is known to collectors as Phosphor Coated Paper (PCP).

For counter books stamps which are upright printed the phosphor cylinders have the bands etched in unbroken rings around the cylinder. For the machine booklets which have the stamps sideways printed the bands are etched in broken and/or unbroken bars along the length of the phosphor cylinders.

Counter Books

£1.30 – 10 x 13p (2 x 5) Single central phosphor band. Bound left and right.

£1.80 – 10 x 18p (2 x 5) Phosphor Coated or Advanced Coated Paper. Bound left and right.

Machine Books

Ex F1, H and J manual machines:

50p – 1p and 13p above 2 x 18p bound at the top. 1p with single phosphor band at left and 13p with single band at right, 2 x 18p two phosphor bands.

Ex K electronic machine:

50p – 1p above 2 x 5p on left and 3 x 13p on right, all with single central phosphor band. Bound at top.

£1 – 13p above 2 x 18p to left of 3 x 18p. 13p with phosphor band at left, 18p with two bands. Bound at top.

The normal position for the colour cylinder numbers in the 50p and £1 books is above the left hand top stamp and the phosphor number above the top right stamp.

20 October 1986

Value	Cover	Ink cyls	Phos cyls
£1.30	Teddy Bears	B12	B62
£1.80	Rabbits	B1; B2	–
50p	Roman Britain 2	B21 B24 B31/B32	B69
50p	Pond Life 3	B1 B24 B32	B68
£1	Mus Instruments 2	B1 B26	B70

Contents

Basic inland letter rates for first and second class mail were increased to 18p and 13p respectively from 20 October 1986. This necessitated a change in the composition of the stamp books. Five books with new cover designs and stamp content were issued to cater for the new rates. The stamps were printed on the Chambon press and covers printed and made up on the Libra book making machine. The format and content of the five books remained unchanged throughout 1987.



In error the initial printing of B21 B24 B32 phosphor B69 had the phosphor cylinder displaced resulting in the phosphor number being on the colour number and the phosphor band on the 1p being transposed to the right and on the 13p to the left. In subsequent printings the bands were correctly positioned.

A small proportion of a later printing had another displacement of the phosphor cylinder resulting in one book of a column of eight having colour cylinder numbers only and another book having the phosphor number only.

2 December 1986

A counter stamp book catering for Christmas card posting was sold at a 10p discount. The pane of ten 13p definitive stamps had single central phosphor bands and two line five-pointed stars back printed in blue over the gum. The stamps were printed on the Chambon press.

Value	Cover	Ink cyls	Phos cyls
£1.20	Shetland Cakes	B12	B62



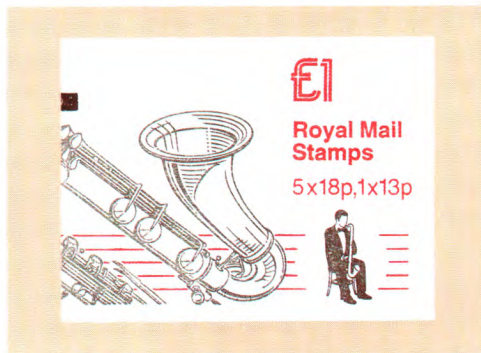
27 January 1987

During the early part of 1987, for counter and machine books, the phosphor was changed from sulphanic acid activated (SA) to PABA (para amine benzoic acid) activated. The varnish or "medium" was changed at the same time from toluene soluble to spirit soluble, in order to avoid pick-up from the coloured inks. The latter activator is that used as a dopant for Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) and has been used for all British phosphor coated papers since the unsuccessful experimental coating on the 1s 6d definitive in 1969, which used TPA (terephthalic acid).

The £1.30 counter book and the three machine books now had the phosphor bands

printed with their modified PABA ink – usually referred to as New Phosphor Ink (NPI). The stamps in the £1.80 counter book were printed on PCP to use up the remaining stock of that paper.

Value	Cover	Ink cyls	Phos cyls
£1.30	Keep in Touch	B12	B62
£1.80	Keep in Touch	B1, B2	–
50p	Roman Britain 3	B21 B4 B30	B69
50p	Pond Life 4	B1 B27 B30	B68
£1	Mus Instruments 3	B5 B26	B70



Two phosphor displacement varieties can be found in 50p Roman Britain books: (1) colour cylinder numbers in one book and phosphor cylinder number in another, the relative position of the phosphor bands being unaffected; (2) phosphor cylinder number below colour number B30 resulting in the transposition of the phosphor bands.

14 April 1987

The £1.80 counter book now contained 18p stamps printed on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP).

Value	Cover	Ink cyls	Phos cyls
£1.30	Gardening	B12, B36, B37	B62
£1.80	Gardening	B1, B2	–
50p	Cricket	B21 B4/B6 B30	B69
50p	Botanical Gardens 1	B1 B27 B32	B68
£1	Sherlock Holmes 1	B5 B26	B70



Two collectable varieties are to be found in the 50p Cricket book: (1) a small part of the B21 B6 B30 printing exists with the phosphor bands omitted in error; (2) a small quantity of the B21 B4 B30 phosphor B69 printing contains stamps with the phosphor bands with the former SA ink, usually referred to an “Old (or Original) Phosphor Ink”.

14 July 1987

Value	Cover	Ink cyls	Phos cyls
£1.30	Brighter Writer	B12; B37	B62
£1.80	Brighter Writer	B1; B2	–
50p	Cricket 2	B21 B4 B30	B69
50p	Botanical Gardens 2	B1 B27 B32	B68
£1	Sherlock Holmes 2	B5 B41	B70



As the result of phosphor displacement, £1.30 books can be found with colour cylinder B37 in one book and phosphor number B62 in another. The position of the phosphor bands was unaffected by this displacement which is found in booklets with stamps bound at left (column 1).

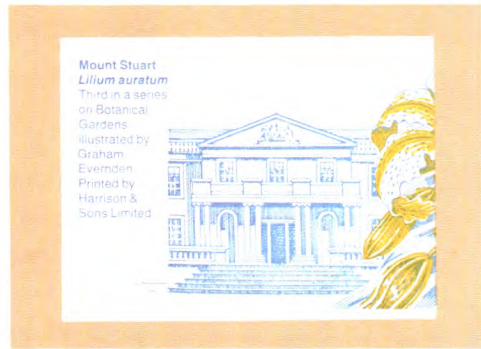
29 September 1987

Value	Cover	Ink cyls	Phos cyls
£1.30	Jolly Postman	B12; B36; B37	B62
£1.80	Jolly Postman	B1; B2	–
50p	Cricket 3	B21 B4 B30/B31	B69
50p	Botanical Gardens 3	B1 B43 B32	B68
£1	Sherlock Holmes 3	B5 B41	B70



As a result of phosphor displacement, £1.30 books can be found with colour cylinder B37 and phosphor cylinder B62 in separate books; this time from column 2 – ie books with stamps bound by right margin.

A displaced phosphor variety in the 50p Cricket book results in panes with the phosphor number B69 appearing under B4 of the B21 B4 B31 colour numbers.



On the original printing of the 50p Botanical Gardens book there was a typesetting error which resulted in “Mount Stewart” being spelt as “Mount Stuart”. The phosphor bands are normally 4½mm wide but in this issue two cylinders were used – the normal 4½mm and a narrower 4mm. The same cylinder numbers were used. Panes exist with displaced phosphor resulting in phosphor cylinder B68 appearing under B32 of the B1 B43 B32

30 October 1987

Value	Cover	Ink cyls	Phos cyls
50p	Botanical Gardens 3	B1 B24/B43 B32	B68



A further printing was made with the correct spelling “Stewart”. Again books can be found with both 4½ and 4mm bands.

The phosphor displacement, mentioned above, also exists on panes with 4½mm bands.

Cylinder News

The 24p definitive has recently been printed from cylinder 2, dot and no dot. New printings of the Northern Ireland 18p value are from plates Q3Q3 and Q4Q4.

The new Harrison printings of the 2p, 4p, 5p and 75p stamps (26 July) are from cylinders 16, 15, 10 and 1 respectively.

The cylinders noted for the booklets issued on 5 July are: 50p Zoo B21 B4 B30 *phos* B69; 50p Marine Life B1 B43 B32 *phos* B68; £1 B5 B41; £1.30 B37 and £1.80 B1.

The cylinder used for the 18p NL roll on ACP (3 May) was B1, for the mixed value roll on ACP (March) R4 R35.

The Museum Piece

Les Holding

Many visitors to the National Postal Museum will know Les, the Chief Custodian. Les's family has been associated with the Post Office since the last century, his ancestors supplied horses for the use of postal staff. Les has worked for the PO for 34 years; he came to the Museum in 1973 and has been Chief Custodian for the past six years. Amongst his many duties, Les is responsible for security of the premises and for showing parties of visitors the treasures of the Museum. He is perhaps at his best with parties of school children who readily appreciate his stories and quirky sense of humour.

Les retires from the Museum on 19 August and visitors will join his colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

New Postcards

Three new NPM cards depicting stamp boxes will be issued on 8 August. The cards bear reference numbers 88/7-9 and show: 88/7 Tunbridge Ware stamp boxes, 1860s-1870s; 88/8 Ormolu hexagonal stamp box compendium, c

1880 and 88/9 silver cigarette case in envelope form, Hallmark London 1881. This last includes an enamel replica of Queen Victoria 1d lilac stamp, with the postmarks and address added in 1885. All three boxes are in the NPM, the first two forming part of the Frank Godden and Ernest Hugen collections.

The cards cost 20p each and can be ordered from the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order 60p, postage 18p up to £18, £1.38 (registered post) over £18. Details of other NPM cards were published in the July *Bulletin* (page 253).



New Railway Letter Stamps

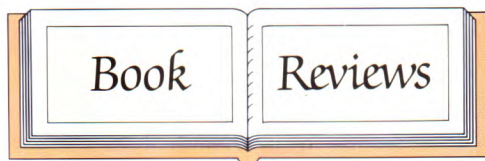
As mentioned in the May *Bulletin* (page 199), two new 20p railway letter stamps were issued by the Festiniog Railway on 10 May. The stamps, printed in a se-tenant pair, show the locomotives *Prince*, built in 1863, and *Merddin*



Emrys, built in 1879 and now returned to service after a rebuild. The stamps commemorate the 125th anniversary of the introduction of steam power to the railway, previously slate trains had run by gravity. Designed by Michael Seymour, the stamps were printed in sheets of 10 by Faulwood & Herbert Ltd of Brighton. They are available at face value, plus 25p postage from: Festiniog Railway Company (RLS Dept), PORTHMADOG, Gwynedd, LL49 9NF.

The Tallylyn Railway stamp scheduled for issue on 10 May has been delayed; the new issue date will be given later.





Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue, 1988 edition. 224pp, limp binding, £5.50, postage 75p UK, £1.50 overseas. Available from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

Both the 1986 and 1987 editions of this catalogue were completely sold out and this new edition will be welcomed by collectors who want a straight-forward listing of British stamps, more advanced than the *Collect British Stamps* checklist but less detailed than the *Specialised* volumes. The *Concise* listings are based on Part 1 of the standard S.G. catalogue but with additional coverage – watermark errors, phosphor band omitted varieties, first day covers, PHQ cards, presentation packs, year books, stamp books and Royal Mail Postage Labels (“Framas”). Included for the first time is a separate section listing specimen overprints, 1847-1948. Collectors of current definitives will find the “Decimal Machin Index”, giving the source of each listed stamp, of help.

UPU Specimen Stamps by James Bendon. 260pp, hardbound, £26.50 including postage. Available from the author at PO Box 6484, Limassol, Cyprus.

The Universal Postal Union was founded in 1874 (as the General Postal Union) to facilitate and regulate the exchange of international mails, and as of 1879 stamps were exchanged by the member nations. This was to keep them informed of each other’s “officially issued postal paper”. Normally these items (mainly stamps) were defaced in some manner, the most usual being a SPECIMEN overprint. This book lists and prices all those stamps which were overprinted in this manner for distribution by the UPU. It does not include any other stamps which may have been so overprinted for other reasons (such as printers’ or Post Office reference samples).

Postal stationery was also overprinted and exchanged, as were meter marks after 1920. But in 1948, the British Post Office and the Crown Agents ceased sending overprinted stamps, although unoverprinted samples are still sent to

this day. Only Costa Rica, Iraq and Paraguay sent overprinted stamps after 1948.

Clearly only very small quantities of stamps were ever overprinted for UPU distribution and all should in theory still remain in official archives and museums. Sources of those that exist on the philatelic market are said to be some “administrations disposing of unwanted duplicates or officials selling these with or without permission”.

Information has been gathered by studying existing official collections and the various archives. Useful appendices list the quantities required for distribution over the years and the membership dates of the many changing countries.

Well produced and full of interesting information for the specialist and researcher.

D.N.M.

Airgraphs and Australia by D J Collyer. 336pp, spiral bound with plastic cover protector, A\$39, including postage. Available from PO Box 201, Gladsville, NSW 2111, Australia.

The problem of getting mail quickly and efficiently from British troops to home during the Second World War was largely solved by the airgraph. Servicemen wrote their messages on special airgraph forms which were then photographed in miniature onto 16mm negative film; some 1,600 messages could be accommodated on 100 feet of film which, with spool and container, weighed only 5½ ounces. Back home the negatives were turned into 5 x 4 inch bromides which were enclosed in envelopes and posted on to the addressees.

Mr Collyer’s useful book, based on research at PO Archives, tells the story of the service and includes many fascinating photographs of postal and Kodak staff processing the airgraphs.

The book comprises 14 chapters in two sections, the first telling the story to May 1941, the setting up of the service to the Empire, PO operations in London, the Kodak operation (on premises made available by the PO), airgraph stationery, Christmas greetings and the airgraph services for prisoners of war.

Section 2 deals specifically with Australia with chapters on the special service at Christmas 1942 for Australian and New Zealand forces in the UK and the Middle East, the social history perspectives of the airgraph message, the preparations for and introduction of the Australian service, the air lines to Australia, the military influence and the censorship arrangements.

Commemorative Covers

James Chalmers. In August 1834 James Chalmers, a bookbinder and printer of Dundee, produced the first sample sheet of adhesive "stamps" and during the next few years he developed the idea of adhesive stamps and cancellations. In February 1838 he sent details of his proposals to the Secretary of the Post Office. To commemorate the 150th anniversary, the Dundee & District Philatelic Society produced two limited edition covers showing Chalmers, his stamp and postmark designs and the inscription "150th Anniversary of the Postmark". Serviced covers are available, price £1.25 each, from Colin G Campbell, 11 Denoon Terrace, DUNDEE DD2 2EL.

Armada. A commemorative cover marking the 400th anniversary of the sighting of the Armada has been produced by the British Forces Post Office. The design shows San Salvador passing Portland Castle. Covers are available bearing single, two or all five stamps cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service No 2179 handstamp, either unsigned or signed by the Captain of Portland Castle and the officer of the ship carrying the covers. Prices: unsigned single stamp £1.50, signed single stamp £2, signed two stamps £3, signed full set £3.75. Remittances should be made payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund", a large SAE should be enclosed with orders which should be sent to: Cdr R G D Williams, FAA Museum, RNAS YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HT.

York Castle Museum. To commemorate the Museum's 50th anniversary, a special cover has been prepared showing Museum street scenes and the anniversary logo. A special handstamp was used on 23 July. The Museum has attracted some 25 million visitors, an achievement also commemorated by this cover. Covers bearing the 1979 Rowland Hill stamps (showing street scenes) cost £3.25 postpaid UK, overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft Ltd, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Flying Scotsman. As part of the Australian Bicentenary celebrations, LNER locomotive "Flying Scotsman" will be going to Australia on tour on 9 August. A special cover is being produced by CoverCraft on behalf of the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee in conjunction with the Aus-steam '88 and Flying Scotsman Committees. Covers will bear British and Australian railway stamps, cancelled with a

London EC special handstamp and Melbourne postmark respectively. Price £5.50 postpaid UK, overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft Ltd, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Royal Birth. Pilgrim Philatelics are producing a cover for the birth of the child of the Duke & Duchess of York, the cover will incorporate a colour photograph set behind acetate. A pictorial postmark will be used to cancel the pair of 1986 Royal Wedding stamps. Price £3.85 postpaid in UK, overseas add £1. Other Royal Occasion covers are also available - list available for SAE. Orders/enquiries to: Pilgrim Philatelics, PO Box 20, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

Royal Birth. To honour the first child of the Duke & Duchess of York, Benham are co-sponsoring a special postmark and producing souvenir covers. Two covers will be available: (1) with Royal Wedding photographs, (2) with picture of the Duchess leaving hospital or an appropriate picture of the baby. These will cost £2 each and will be available four to six weeks after the birth. Orders to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Westcliff House, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SZ. Add 35p for postage.

Royal Birth. The first child of TRH The Duke and Duchess of York is expected to be born during August and to commemorate this happy event a special cover has been produced. This features All Saints Church in the Hampshire village of Dummer which, as Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess regularly attended. The covers are being sold in aid of a new church floor and a limited number will be signed by the Duchess's father and step-mother, Major Ronald and Mrs Susan Ferguson, the Rector, Rev Tom Kime and Miss Anne Pitcher, the artist, who gave her services freely for the design of the cover. A special handstamp will be used in Dummer on the day of the birth. Covers will be on sale at a sales point in the village the day after the birth. Enquiries regarding this cover and other Royal Birth souvenirs to: Rembrandt Philatelics, Regency House, Beacon Road, West End, SOUTHAMPTON SO3 3BS.

Robert Burns - Ellisland. In 1788 Robert Burns became the tenant of Ellisland Farm in the parish of Dunscore, Nithsdale. He began farming the land on 11 June 1788 and to mark the bicentenary a souvenir cover was produced and a special handstamp used at Dumfries. The

cover illustrates a scene from *Tam o Shanter*, Burns's great comic masterpiece. The pictorial handstamp features a view of Ellisland farmhouse. Fully serviced covers are available, price £1.50, from: Cutty Sark (UK) Ltd, 106 West Nile Street, GLASGOW G1 2QH.

Beatrix Potter. A new National Trust gallery celebrating the work of Beatrix Potter was officially opened on 28 July. A commemorative cover featuring a reproduction from an original Beatrix Potter drawing of Peter Rabbit is available with the 1979 9p Peter Rabbit stamp (and definitive) cancelled by a special handstamp. Price £2.95 postpaid UK, overseas add £1. Orders/enquiries to: CoverCraft Ltd, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

August Digest

Issued in August

8 August **NPM cards (3) - Stamp Boxes - Tunbridge Ware, Ormolu stamp box compendium, Silver cigarette case (88/7-9)** 20p each

22 August **Edward Lear PHQ cards (Nos. 113A-D)** 15p each

23 August* **National Definitives 14p dark blue, 19p flame, 20p sea-green, 23p light green, 27p rust, 28p sand, 32p dark turquoise, 35p dark brown.** All are in Jeffery Matthews colours **printing:** Harrison & Sons, photo-gravure, all ACP except 14p - one phosphor band. Sheets of 200

presentation pack: £2.20

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Windsor

23 August* **"Window" Stamp Books**

56p (4 x 14p) x 2 types

76p (4 x 19p) x 2 types

£1.08 (4 x 27p) x 2 types

£1.40 (10 x 14p) x 2 types

£1.90 (10 x 19p) x 2 types

printing (of stamps): Harrisons, photogravure, on the Chambon press, each pane with narrow selvage. 14p one phosphor band, 19p & 27p ACP

*Subject to tariff increase

Withdrawn in August

3 August **J M Barrie Scottish aerogramme**

Letters to the Editor



Easter Stamps

Sir,

I always look forward to my *Bulletin* arriving. I was very interested to read "A Thematic Collection with a Difference" by Ian Wilkinson in the March issue.

I was also interested to hear comments about the "Christian" postmark slogan that was used during the Easter season; it has given me a thought. We have stamps to commemorate all sorts of events, including Christmas stamps - every year - could we not have a set of stamps to depict "Good Friday" and Easter Day scenes in 1989? Perhaps we could hear readers' views on this?

J BEADLL (Miss), Canterbury, Kent

We would welcome readers' views on this matter. Christmas stamps have been issued annually since 1966; should we add Easter stamps to the stamp-issuing programme? Ed.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Holman

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

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