

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Forum

COLIN PAWSON Stamp Production Manager

The Editor has asked me to tell you in the brief space allotted to this forum of the key points affecting the 1987 special stamp programme recently approved by the P.O. Board. You, hopefully, are waiting with interest for our 1986 issues while I have the schizophrenic responsibility of both planning future stamp programmes — 1988 now that 1987 is approved — and also ensuring that production of the year's programme progresses smoothly.

It is this lengthy lead time necessary for the accurate research, design and production of our special stamp issues that can give rise to the criticism that we are slow to respond to changes in the philatelists' wishes. Despite occasional allegations to the contrary, we are concerned about the cost to the collector of the hobby and I am pleased therefore to be able to give you this long range assurance for 1987 that the number of special stamp issues will be limited to eight and from then the recent increase in the number of five-stamp sets will cease — a fifth stamp being restricted to the Christmas issue.

Despite the limitation on the number of subjects that can be selected, requests continue to increase both in number and in range — from 'Rock and Roll Heroes' to the 'European Year for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises'. This is encouraging, demonstrating a sustained and growing awareness of the distinction that selection brings. Of course, the programme choice becomes even harder and apart from the formal criteria for eligibility — which have been published previously — we now also apply certain conventions — any topic which may conceivably be controversial or cause offence nationally or internationally is avoided e.g. political implications or propaganda, particular religious factions;

- no living person, other than Royalty is depicted;
- anniversaries are restricted generally to 50 years or multiples thereof;
- past and future years are considered to ensure a balance and variety of subjects taking one year with another;
- within a year's programme the aim is to provide a variety of categories of subjects.

Before a final decision by the P.O. Board our short-listed subjects are also subjected to qualitative market research amongst both committed and casual

collectors, adults and children. So you can see that our final choice is the result of a careful selection.

Finally, in response to specific requests from many collectors — and dealers — from the first issue in 1987, the year of issue will appear on the stamp in very small numerals. Details of the 1987 programme appear on page 128.

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Halley's Comet

18 February 1986

The return of Halley's Comet is being marked by the issue of four stamps on 18 February. Designed by Ralph Steadman, these do not take a historical or scientific view of the event but rather give an individual impression. However, the Comet is also historically important.

Halley's Comet is the only predictable comet that can be seen by the unaided eye. It returns every 75-80 years to the vicinity of our sun, passing close, sometimes very close, to the Earth itself. Records of its sighting go back at least until 240BC when it was reliably reported by Chinese astronomers. It was probably recorded well before this by the Babylonians and Chinese but records have not chanced to survive or have not yet been found. For its appearance in 164BC we have nightly observations in the astronomical diaries from Babylon and in 12BC detailed descriptions of a bushy star from China. Thereafter, the Comet was sighted regularly every 76 years or so up till the present day.

Movements of the stars were regarded in the



Halley's Comet as seen in the Bayeux Tapestry.

ancient past as important for everyday life and for divination of the future. When nights were not so brightly lit as now by artificial illumination, astronomical phenomena were more obvious and more frightening. Comets, in particular, were regarded as being connected with the deaths of kings and disasters and were thus often carefully recorded. In England, in 1066, Halley's Comet appeared before the Norman invasion and in retrospect was taken as an omen of defeat for Harold. It is recorded on the Bayeux Tapestry being observed by the court with the caption *isti mirant stella* (they wonder at the star). According to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* it first appeared on 24 April that year.

Edmond Halley (1656-1742), after whom the Comet is named, himself observed the Comet in 1682 from 26 August to 10 September. He relied on the observations made by John Flamsteed, his predecessor as Astronomer Royal, for his conclusion that this was the same comet as seen in 1531 and 1607. It was not until 1705 that his conclusions on the periodic return of the Comet were published in Latin in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society. He predicted that it would return "about the end of the year 1758 or the beginning of 1759". It was duly sighted on Christmas Day 1758, sixteen years after Halley's death.

A comet consists of a nucleus containing frozen gases and rocky material surrounded by a diffuse head or *coma*. Pointing away from this is a long luminous tail, many millions of miles in length. Halley's Comet has a nucleus six miles across with a mass of 220,000 million tons. The tail consists of dust particles which were impurities in the ices of the nucleus. As the Comet passes the sun the heat



Edmond Halley, by Richard Phillips 1721 or before, National Portrait Gallery.

vaporises the surface ices and it loses a layer of material. It has been calculated that the last time it passed by in 1910 it lost about 280 million tons, a layer about two yards deep. If the loss continues at this rate the Comet will last about another 170,000 years.

On 2 July 1985, the European Space Agency launched the spacecraft called Giotto from French Guiana to examine Halley's Comet as it passes. It is due to fly within 300 miles of the nucleus on 13 March with some ten experiments on board to find out more about the composition of the Comet. Giotto is so-named because the Florentine painter Giotto di Bondone depicted the Star of Bethlehem as a comet in his painting of 1303 *The Adoration of the Magi* in the Scrovegni (Arena) Chapel at Padua. The Comet had appeared in 1301.

The first day cancellation for the stamps from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh depicts the Giotto spacecraft while that from London SE10 (Greenwich) shows the Comet as depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.

A small exhibition is open until May at the British Museum in London — 'Halley's Comet in History' — showing some of the historical background to the sightings of the Comet, particularly relating to the Babylonians, with many of the original texts from the Museum's collections.

Technical Details

As reported last month the Halley's Comet stamps going on sale on 18 February show: 17p Halley as the Comet; 22p the Giotto spacecraft entering the Comet; 31p 'Maybe Twice in a Lifetime'; and 34p the orbit of the Comet round the sun.

Designed by Ralph Steadman, the stamps have been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd. In format they are horizontal, 41mm x 30mm, perf. 15 x 14 on unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper, printed in sheets of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum.

The cylinders used in the printing are:

17p

black	bistre	rosine	blue	grey-black	gold	deep brown
1A	1B	1C	3D	1E	1F	1G

22p

orange-vermilion	greenish-yellow	bright purple	new blue	black	gold
1A	1B	2C	1D	1E	1F

31p

black	greenish-yellow	bright purple	deep turquoise-blue	grey-black	gold
1A	1B	3C	1D	1E	1F

34p

blue	greenish-yellow	magenta	deep turquoise-blue	black	gold
1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F

PHQ Postcards

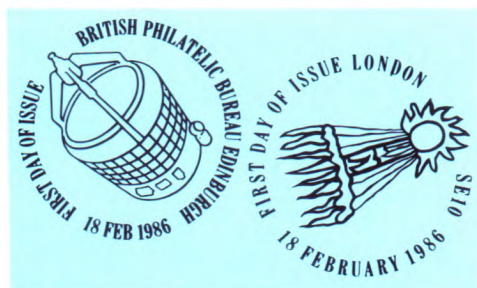
PHQ cards (Nos. 90A-D) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 4 February, price 14p each.

Presentation Pack

Designed by Cooper Thirkell, the presentation pack will cost £1.25. It has been printed with the incorrect serial number, 168 instead of 169.

First Day Cover

The first day cover was designed by Cooper Thirkell and costs 15p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' and 'London SE10' which is the local office for the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.



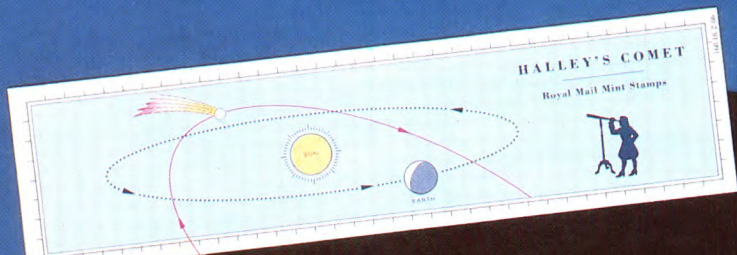
First day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and at Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 7 February 1986.

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the destination required with all four stamps and cancelled with either postmark. The charges will be £1.49 (inland) and £1.30 (overseas).

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmark 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 the British Philatelic Bureau or Special Postmark Duty, SEDO, 239 Borough High Street, LONDON SE1 1AA.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, price 15p, for use after the first day of issue, will go on sale at philatelic counters from 19 February.



Schroeder Chapel, Padua, an
predicted appearance.

Most comets are named after
but not this one. Dr. Edm
1742), a man with an astron
tistic interests, was Englar
omer Royal, a professor of
University, a captain in
Clerk and Secretary of
London. He is mainly re
person to calculate the
1531, 1607 and 1682, a
they were extremely simi

see a second time the same comet and the
it would return. Halley's
calculations were
made in 1695

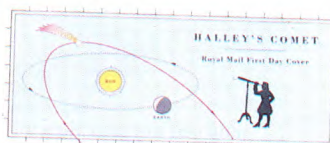


comet
The orbit is
the comet goes
direction to the
elongated. Wh
Sun (9 Feb
November 15



comet it, however, time
time Halley's comet passes the Sun
it loses mass, and scientists calcu
late that it lost about 280 million tons
late that it lost about 280 million tons
of gas and dust in 1910. This was
equivalent to the 'dirty snowball'
nucleus, the fount of all the comet's
activity. In the present time this nucleus is
yards deep. At the present time this nucleus is
miles across and has a mass of 220,000
it will last about another

craft back to Earth. The
on board. A camera produces a series
images of the inner comet and its nucleus in a
range of colours. microphones detect the dust
particles and magnetometers measure the
magnetic field. The composition of the gas and
dust released by the nucleus is monitored as a
dust released by the nucleus is monitored as a
function of distance from the nucleus and the
energy and density of the ionized gas is also
measured. In March 1986 the cloud around
nucleus is about one million miles across
it takes about 4 hours to get to the



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

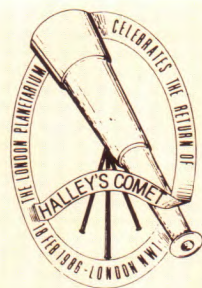


Halley's Comet Covers

The following are some of the commercial first day covers being prepared for the Halley's Comet issue.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich. Two official covers are being produced. One shows Giotto going to examine the comet and has the cancellation 'The Royal Observatory — Happy Returns to Halley'; the other shows a portrait of Halley with the Greenwich first day postmark. Prices — £3.50 each (£5 signed by Patrick Moore). Postage extra 30p (75p overseas). Cheques made payable to the National Maritime Museum with orders sent to the Philatelic Agents, The Royal Observatory, Westcliff House, Folkestone, KENT CT20 1SZ.

London Planetarium. This cover shows the portrait of Halley with his Comet with a special handstamp of London NW1, showing a telescope. Price £4 (signed by Patrick Moore or John Ebdon £7.50); with 17p stamp only £2.25. Overseas postage 50p extra. Cheques made payable to A. G. Bradbury at 2 Fairholm Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL.



K. & D. Covers. A cover showing the Royal Observatory at Herstmonceux Castle with a pictorial handstamp of the Observatory, Hailsham, Sussex will cost £2.50. Orders with remittance to K. & D. Covers, Freepost, LONDON SE17 2BR.

Ripon 1100 Festival. Illustrated with the Bayeux Tapestry depiction of the Comet a cover is being produced to mark the Ripon 1100 Festival. The handstamp will feature the Festival logo and covers cost £3 (£1.50 with single 22p stamp) — postage extra overseas 50p. Orders with remittance made payable to Ripon 1100 Festival Trust should be sent

to J. H. Cooper, 36 College Road, RIPON, North Yorkshire HG4 2HA.

British Interplanetary Society. The cover depicts Edmond Halley with an artist's impression of the encounter of Giotto with the Comet. The handstamp incorporates the Society logo being used at London SWDO. Price £4 (£2.50 with 22p stamp only) or £5.75 signed by different Giotto Project personnel. (Overseas add £1 each cover.)

Encounter Day souvenir cover. Serviced with a pictorial handstamp on 13 March inscribed 'Encounter Day' on the 22p stamp. Price £2.50 (£3.50 overseas). For both covers, cheques should be made payable to Bis Covers and sent to them at P.O. Box 257, HARROW HA2 8RG.

CoverCraft. A cover featuring Giotto with the logos of British Aerospace and the European Space Agency. Serviced with a special handstamp at Bristol the price is £4 (£2 with the 22p stamp only). Remittance with order to CoverCraft, P.O. Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

NPM Halley's Comet Card for Stampex

A special card featuring Halley's Comet will be issued by the National Postal Museum for Stampex on 4 March. Details of cost and availability will be given later but this is the photograph on which the card is based. It was taken by Photolabs, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh using the UK 1.2m Schmidt Telescope in Australia.



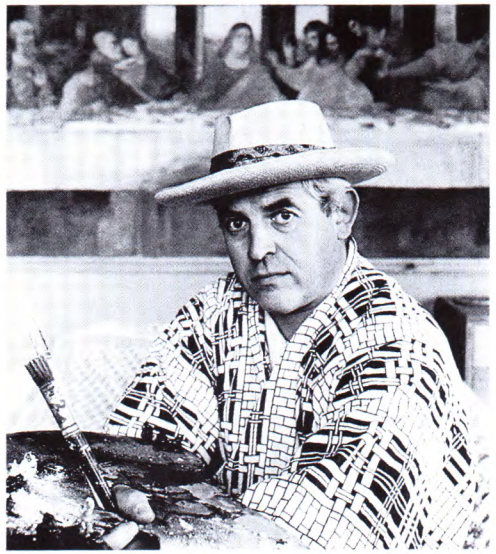
© 1985 Royal Observatory, Edinburgh

Ralph Steadman, designer

Ralph Steadman, the noted political cartoonist, was born on 15 May 1936. After training at the London College of Printing and Graphic Arts he began his drawing career in the mid 1950's and became a freelance for *Punch*, *Private Eye* and *The Daily Telegraph* during the 1960's. From 1978 to 1980 he was the political cartoonist of the *New Statesman*. He has written or illustrated a number of books and indeed is an award-winning book illustrator. In *Who's Who* he lists his recreations as gardening, collecting, goat husbandry and fishing.

In his artistic development an early influence and stimulus was the discovery of the art of the Dada movement, which he has described as the art of rejection of all values. He developed as a political cartoonist, though not involved politically himself. Rather, he reacted to political events and personalities, his standpoint based on his view of people — not seen in an abstract mass but rather as a “crowd of individuals with visible faults, real bowels and warm virtues”. He has also said that he depicts his fellow man as a “threatening mutation”.

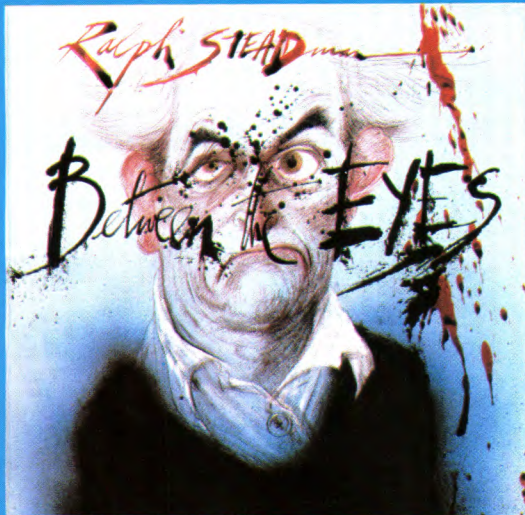
Steadman's striking, elongated style suits itself



well to the depiction of a comet as can be seen in the finished stamps.

This is the first set of stamps which he has designed for the Post Office, the original artwork being large scale paintings.

The self portrait cartoon shown here — *Between the Eyes* — is taken from the book produced for a retrospective exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall in 1984. A more immediately recognisable image is shown above.



How the Post Office was established in the Channel Islands

OW NEWPORT

The Post Office Act of 1711 not only raised postal rates, but contained a clause to protect the revenue by appointing Surveyors to supervise Postmasters to prevent them from fiddling and to make frequent searches to help stamp out the private carriage of correspondence. Parliament passed the Act raising the charges, but deleted the clause giving the power of search.

On 24 May 1715 the Postmasters General wrote to the Lords of the Treasury drawing their attention to the fact that the Post Office was the only branch of His Majesty's Revenues that had no proper surveys and checks on its inferior officers and deputies. They requested that six Surveyors be appointed to inspect the six main Post Roads and all the Cross Roads and Branches. They recommended a payment of £1 a day to cover remuneration and travelling expenses. The request received Treasury approval on 13 June 1715 and six Surveyors were appointed.

The job of the Surveyors was to protect the revenue and ensure that subordinates at various levels were doing their duty. They visited post offices throughout the land, checked the expenses and behaviour of the postmasters and their employees, investigated complaints from the public and implemented changes.

Christopher Saverland was a Surveyor from 1787 to 1810 and when the Act of Parliament establishing the postal service to the Channel Islands was passed he was sent over to the Islands to set up the post offices and appoint the Deputies. How he did it and the difficulties he encountered are described in this hitherto unpublished report.

JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF CHRISTOPHER SAVERLAND, SURVEYOR TO THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, FROM 1st FEBRUARY TO 5th APRIL 1794

February 1st — Left London for Southampton by Mr. Freeling's directions to acquaint the Deputy of that Place of Packets being about to be established between Weymouth, Guernsey and Jersey, and that Letters were not to be given to the Agents for those

Islands, as had been the custom heretofore, to be forwarded by private vessels; and also to enquire to which of the Islands before mentioned, letters for Alderney and Sark should be forwarded.

Left Southampton on the 2nd and arrived at Weymouth the 3rd to give the necessary Instruction to the deputy of that Place previous to the sailing of the 1st Packet which was appointed for Thursday the 6th and everything was ready, the Queen Charlotte, Captain Wood, arriving from Dover on the preceeding day. Received Mr. Freeling's Letter acquainting me that the Mail for the Islands would not be dispatched from London till Wednesday the 13th, took the opportunity occasioned by the delay of finishing my written Instructions to the Postmasters of Weymouth and the Islands. Thursday 13th — sailed from Weymouth in the Queen Charlotte, Capt. Wood, and the same evening came to an Anchor in Portland Bay. 14th — at 7 a.m. sailed from Portland and returned the next day, thick Weather blowing strong and not being able to see the Land. Sailed again at Night, made Alderney the



Christopher Saverland, Surveyor

next Morning, the 16th, and about Noon saw Guernsey, but having little Wind, and the tide against us we were obliged to put to sea again for the Night, and the next day about Noon came to an Anchor in Guernsey Road; and having delivered the Mail to the Person acting as Postmaster and seeing that the Cross Road Letters agreed with the Weymouth Bill, telling the London Letters three times over and taking account of them in order that no disputes might arise on the appointment of a Deputy; I sailed in the Packet from Guernsey for Jersey early the next morning the 18th — arrived in Jersey the same afternoon and delivered the Mail to the Deputy appointed by the Postmasters General, Mr. Chas. Wm. Le Geyt. Attended Mr. Le Geyt to instruct him in the business of his Office as constantly as it was possible for me to do, not being able to get a Bed in the Town of St. Helier, every house being crammed as full of Emigrants and Military as they could hold, and therefore being obliged to sleep on the Packet in the Pier and in the Road at a distance from the Town and very difficult and dangerous getting on board and on shore in the dark. 20th — sailed from Jersey and came the same day to Guernsey. 26th — sailed from Jersey in the Rover Packet, Capt. Bennett, and arrived there the same afternoon. 28th — sailed from Jersey and arrived the same day at Guernsey and took charge of the Post Office there, no Deputy being appointed.

From the 1st to the 7th March in charge of the Post Office at Guernsey. 8th — sailed in the Packet from Guernsey and arrived at Jersey that Night. The 11th — sailed from Jersey and arrived the same Day at Guernsey — sailed again from Guernsey on the 16th and arrived at Jersey the 17th in the Morning. The 19th — sailed from Jersey and arrived the same afternoon at Guernsey. Having received Letters from Mr. Freeling by the Packet which arrived on the 21st that the Postmasters General had been pleased to appoint Mrs. Ann Watson to be their Deputy at Guernsey instead of Mr. Dougal, Mr. Dougal recommended to their Lordships by the Secretary of State, but who in all respects very unfit for the Employment, and having from my first landing in the Island continued the Office at Mrs. Watson's House, entrusted her with the Money arising from the Postage on Letters and assisted by her, her Son and Daughter, in the making up the Mails and delivering the Letters, they had received sufficient Instruction to enable me to put the Office immediately into their hands and to leave the Island, which I did the next day, the 22nd, sailed in the Royal Charlotte, Capt. Wood, for England; but having got only the length of the Gasketts it blew so violently and directly in our teeth that we were

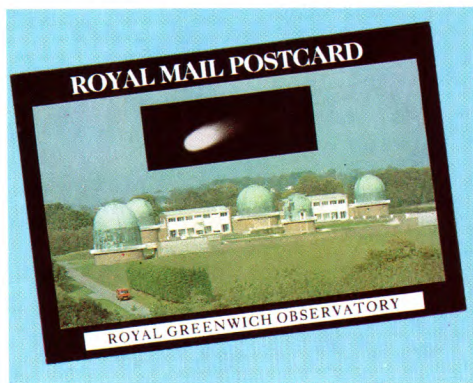
obliged to bear away and come to an Anchor in Guernsey Road. The 23rd in the Morning we sailed again and landed at Weymouth the next Morning. Stayed at Weymouth until the 27th to give some further Instructions to the Deputy, who indeed was not there on my first arrival on my way to the Islands. The Rover Packet arriving on the 27th with the news of an expected attack by the French on the Island of Jersey and their being no advices of the same in the mail from Lord Howe at Portsmouth, I thought as the Wind was then N.E. that his Lordship should be acquainted with all the circumstances I could collect from the Captain of the Packet, set off immediately, got to Portsmouth at 10 o'Clock that Night and instantly waited upon his Lordship, who was pleased to approve of my Conduct. The 29th, left Portsmouth and came to London where I stayed till the 3rd April consulting Mr. Freeling on several matters relating to my District and the charging of Letters for the Islands upon Weymouth altogether and respecting the Packet Postage of 2d on all Letters from Weymouth and the Islands. Left London April 3rd and came home the next day.

C. SAVERLAND
Surveyor G.P.O.

SEPR Halley's Comet Card

On 18 February a new postcard (SEPR 48) will be issued by South East Region showing the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux Castle, Hailsham, East Sussex, with an inset photograph of Halley's Comet taken in May 1910.

Cost is 14p mint or 46p serviced and may be ordered from: The Head Postmaster (Philatelic Counter), 51 Ship Street, BRIGHTON BN1 1AA (Girobank acc. No. 314 0210) or by cheque made payable to The Post Office. The first day of sale handstamp will feature a telescope.



The Early Days of the Postal Service

Part 2: 1642-1660

TONY GAMMONS

That the Civil War brought great disruption to the Posts in England cannot be denied. However, a diligent search through the calendars of State Papers will show that in the parts of the country that remained loyal to one side or the other for the duration of the war the postal service carried on much as before. That ordinary men and women tried to carry on writing 'social' letters to friends and relatives in 'enemy' parts of the country can be proved by reading the many intercepted letters to be found in State Papers.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Burlamachi and the Inland Letter Office had come under the control of Edmund Prideaux, MP for Lyme Regis and Chairman of a Committee of the House of Commons "for the Postmaster". In a report of that Committee the House resolved on 16 August 1642 "that Sir John Coke, Sir Francis Windebank and Mr Witherings are delinquents". On the same day, on the

advice of another committee, they resolved that "the sequestration of the Inland Letter Office to Philip Burlamachi is illegal and void and ought to be taken off". Although the House of Lords agreed with the latter resolution, it seems never to have been carried into effect, the Inland Office remaining in the hands of Prideaux, with Burlamachi acting as his agent. In 1644, despite opposition from the House of Lords, Prideaux was appointed Postmaster¹ and what has become known as 'the battle of the Patents' was over.

Prideaux's Administration

Although Prideaux made many improvements to the service, establishing a weekly "conveyance of letters into all parts of the Nation"², the Common Council of the City of London, dissatisfied with the official service, set up in 1649 a cheaper, more frequent Post of their own between London and Edinburgh. Prideaux suppressed this rogue post by using the army to intercept the mounted posts; but other 'Private' Posts continued to be a thorn in the official 'flesh'.

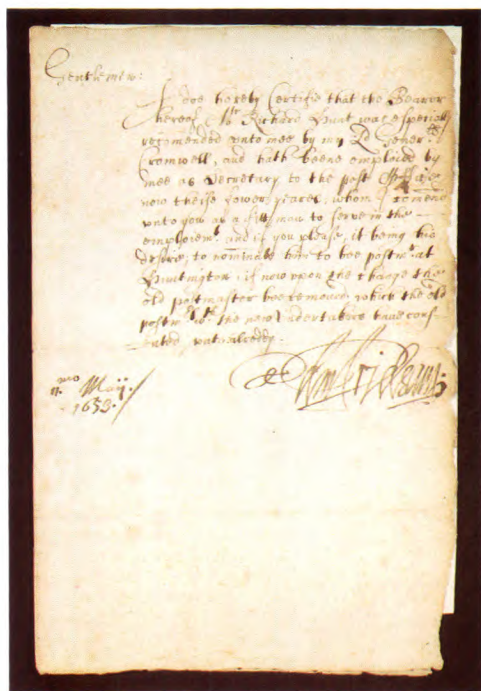
Prideaux, in a report to Parliament, stated that he had "saved the public the charge of maintaining post-masters to the amount of £7,000 per annum". It was probably this revelation that caused the Council of State to decide, on 7 November 1651, that "the office should be let to farm". Despite the apparent calm, others continued to press their claims, especially for the foreign service. Among the main contenders were Henry Robinson; Sir David Watkins, in trust for Thomas Witherings junior (the elder Thomas Witherings had died in 1651); Moore, Jessop and Billingsley, the former Postmaster of the Merchant Adventurers' post.

In May 1653 certain suggestions were made regarding the future carrying on of the Posts. Among these were that the Inland and Foreign Posts be placed under the same control, and that the inland rates should be as follows:

for Single* letters to places within	
100 miles of London	2d
over 100 miles	3d
to Ireland	6d
to Scotland	4d

*i.e. those made up of a single sheet of paper.

Prideaux's term came to an end in 1653 when the Council of State put the whole service up for tender.



Letter of 11 May 1653 signed by Edmund Prideaux.

Farming the Posts 1653-1660

On 29 June 1653 the Posts Committee considered the various offers for running the Posts:

£

Henry Robinson	8,041 per annum
Ben. Andrewes	9,100 per annum
John Goldsmith	8,500 per annum
Ralph Kendell	1,103 per annum
John Manley	8,259 per annum
Richard Hicks	9,120 per annum
Richard Hill	8,160 per annum

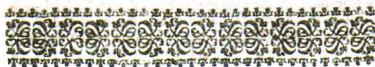
The Committee lost no time in making its choice and on 30 June the Council of State passed the following resolution: "John Manley to carry all packets, public and private, inland and foreign, according to the terms agreed on between him and a Committee of Council for that purpose, and to enter on the execution of the said office tonight, and receive the profits thereof, and a warrant to be drawn for that purpose; power given to him to stop all mails i.e. bags of letters carried by any person not authorised by him; and his office for postage of letters to be freed from all taxes". The terms agreed upon were for a payment by Manley of £10,000 a year, for two years, and not the £8,259 in Manley's tender.

On the same day Manley obtained a warrant which enabled him to put down the unofficial Post being run by Clement Oxenbridge and others. Manley, to quote Oxenbridge, "in the company of Mr. Prideaux, did, in ryotous manner, with swords and other weapons, by force breake into the house where the goods and letters of the Undertakers were and thrust their servants out of doors and after threatening speeches and many more outrages committed, required the Undertakers to receive no more letters". This incident virtually saw the end of the 'long distance' private posts although, as we shall see later, not the end of unofficial 'local' services.

In ordinance of 2 September 1654, "touching the Office of Postage of Letters, Inland and Foreign", Manley was styled 'Postmaster General'. Although it is generally thought that this title only came into being with the 1657 Act, in fact the title, either in the form of Postmaster General or 'Master of the Post Generall' had been in use from the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Manley's farm expired on 30 June 1655 and the Council of State appointed John Thurloe, Secretary of State and Cromwell's 'Spy Master', upon the same terms and conditions. In 1657 a Bill for settling of the Postage of England, Scotland and Ireland was laid before Parliament. It provided for the establishment of one General Post Office and one Postmaster

(1)



A Briefe of the Case and Title of Henry Robinson of London, Esquire, unto both the letter Offices, derived from Charles Lord Stanhop.

That the Office of Postmaster generall of the dominions of England, is one of the ancientest Offices of England. That the carriage of all letters both Inland and Forraigne, both of the Publick and Particulars, are members of, and incident, and belonging unto the said Office, together with the profits and perquisites thereby accruing, as appears by ancient Deeds and Customs beyond the memory of man.

That John Lord Stanhop had a grant of the said Office in the 22 of Eliz., 1557, under the Broad Seal: of England, and by himself his Deputy and agenes enjoyed the carriage of all letters by Post both Forraigne and Inland for about 40. yeares, until he dyed.

That Charles Lord Stanhop who is now living, had a reversion of the said Office, and by himself his Deputies and agenes, enjoyed the carriage of all letters, untill he was disturbed by one Matthew Dequeffer, who had been the Lord Stanhops Deputy for about 20. yeares together, under pretence of a new Office, for services to be done out of the Kings dominions, a reversion whereof Mr Witherings layes claime to.

That in 1624, the said Charles Lord Stanhop brought his action against the said Dequeffer for taking upon him the carriage of Merchants letters, and receiving money for the postage thereof, from London unto Antwerp, without the licence and against the will of the said Postmaster Generall, and recovered a Verdict against the said Dequeffer.

That the Parliament in the 3. of the last King upon report or a select Committee, taking notice of the said Dequeffers undue

Henry Robinson's claim to the Inland and Foreign Letter Offices, 1651.

General, to be appointed by the Lord Protector and his successors by Letters Patent.

The new Postmaster General, and his deputies (i.e. the postmasters), were to have "exclusive authority to carry inland and foreign letters; and horsing all through-Posts and persons riding by Post to and from any places upon any of the Post-roads, with the power to levy certain rates for conveyance of letters and horsing of Posts. Imposing penalties on any persons other than the PMG or his deputies, who shall set up Posts for the conveyancing of letters or horsing the Posts; providing for the forwarding by Post of Ship Letters, for the exercise of superintendence over the Postmaster by the Lord Protector and his successors, and giving power to the Lord Protector and his successors to farm the Post Office for life, on any term not exceeding eleven years."

The rates set by this, the first-ever Post Office Act, were only slightly altered from those of Witherings' day. In looking at the table of rates it is interesting to note that although single and double letters were charged by distance from London there was a 'per ounce' rate as well: 8d per oz under 80 miles, 1/- per oz over 80, to Scotland 1/6d per oz and to Ireland 2/- per oz. Per ounce rates were also applicable to

rates in Ireland and to 'Foreign countries'. There were also similar rates in Witherings' table and while I agree that these did not apply to single letters the 'payment by weight' campaigners of the 1830s were perhaps not so modern as they might have thought.

In August 1657 Thurloe's farm was renewed, at the same rent; but it was brought to an end and his office abolished on 11 October 1659 by an Act of Parliament which voided everything done between 19 April 1653 and 7 May 1659. The Post Office now passed into the hands of Dr. Benjamin Worsley, at a rent of £20,000 a year if he held it for seven years, or £15,000 if he held it for only one. Worsley's term did not last for long; on 3 January 1660 Parliament appointed a new Council and on 9 January the House of Commons resolved to "take the Post Office into its own hands". Soon after, the Council issued an order to apprehend Worsley and to bring him before the Council. In succession to Worsley, Secretary of State Thomas Scott seems to have taken over, with William Scott and Isaac Dorislaus managing the service for him. Scott's reign would have been brief, with the Restoration imminent Scott, who had been one of the men who signed the death warrant of Charles I, would probably have tried to flee the country. However, he was taken and executed on 17 October 1660 in the presence of the King. For a few months after the Restoration, Secretaries of State Sir Edward Nicholas and Sir William Morice took charge, with the long-serving senior Clerk, James Hicks, reporting directly to them.

References

¹ Commons Journal 7 September 1644.

² Ibid 21 March 1649.

Stampex 1986

Britain's national stamp exhibition, Stampex, will take place from 4 to 9 March at both of the Royal Horticultural halls in London SW1.

As in previous years the Post Office will have a special philatelic sales counter and display. A special National Postal Museum card featuring Halley's Comet will be issued on the first day of Stampex.

Telecom Valentine's Day Card

Telecom Technology Showcase are issuing a card for St. Valentine's Day featuring a poster for the Valentine greetings telegram of 1951. Price 10p mint or 40p with a first day cachet of 14 February. Orders to Telecom Technology Showcase, 135 Queen

Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AT including 40p for postage and cheques made out to British Telecommunications plc.



Posting Boxes

No. 80. John Hobbs writes that he has been studying Worthing letter boxes and has now photographed 83. This Edward VIII box is situated in Robson Road, Worthing but according to the records no Edward VIII box has been recorded in West Sussex. From the Carron Co., Falkirk it bears the reference number PB33, Type B in the Letter Box Study Group listing.



British Dogs, 1979

JAMES WATSON

Four favourite British dogs were featured on the Post Office's first special stamps for 1979 — issued on 7 February to coincide with the famous Cruft's Dog Show. The stamps were designed by artist and graphic designer Peter Barrett, whose paintings and book illustrations of wildlife have earned him an international reputation. For these, his first stamps, he avoided controversy by depicting canines from each of the four regions of the United Kingdom.

The origins of the Old English Sheepdog (9p) are rather obscure, but there is no doubt that he was traditionally the dog of the shepherd and the cattle drover, who needed a medium-sized dog of intelligence and patient temperament, able to control the flock or herd, obedient to his master's

commands, tough and hardy to withstand the rigours of a hard winter in the open. His agility and strength are belied by his thick, shaggy grey-and-white (or brown-and-white) coat. And of course he is a popular pet and show dog. The Welsh Springer Spaniel (10½p) is widely regarded as the most ancient of all British spaniels — in theory introduced by the Romans as a game dog — which found a refuge with the Celts in Wales. He was first recognised by the Kennel Club in 1902, and today's Springer is a handsome sporting dog with an active, merry temperament, distinctively rich red and white in colour; a delightful family companion.

The hardy little West Highland White Terrier (11p) was recognised as far back as 1870 and was reputedly used for hunting foxes, badgers and wild cats in the craggy Highlands of Scotland. A lovable pet and guard-dog, the 'Westie' won the Supreme Champion award at Cruft's in 1976. The Irish Setter (13p) is a sleek and handsome, poised animal, and one of the most popular breeds. He has the hue of 'solid mahogany' and is a champion of the show ring, gentle and affectionate.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. The quantities issued were as follows: 9p 49,790,000; 10½p 15,010,000; 11p 14,280,000; and 13p 13,930,000.

ACP Reprints

As reported last month, Questa reprints on ACP (2p and 5p National definitives and 17p Country issues from Wales and Northern Ireland) will be issued at philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau. The date has now been set as 25 February. There will be no special first day cover service for these stamps as they are not regarded as new issues by the Post Office.

On 7 January the 1p National definitive was released on ACP, printed in gravure by Harrisons. The regrettably late notification was due to supplies of the 1p stamps being urgently required. This printing from cylinder 14 uses the B2 Machin head. A previous 1983 printing from cylinder 12 used the B1 head.



Decimal Booklet Pane Printings

Technical Details (3)

L F NEWBERY

Section VI — Printings of multi value panes for Folded Counter Books.

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Stamp Type/Head	Cylinders Ink	Phos	Bars	Initial Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Stamp Booklets Issue	Cylinders
DP61	2 @ 12½p	T1/D1	B26	B55	LB	23.2.1983	23.2.1983	DB11 1st/2nd class £1.46	
	2 @ 12½p	T1/D1	—	—	RB			(9) Postal History (8)	B26
	6 @ 16p	T1/D1	B1	—	Two			Seahorse	B1
	2 @ 12½p	T1/D1	B26	B55	LB	28.2.1983			B55
	2 @ 12½p	T1/D1	—	—	RB				
	6 @ 16p	T1/D1	B5	—	Two				B26
The 16p in row 2 is position 10. The binding margin is on left.									B5
									B55
DP61A	as DP61 but margin on right and the 16p in row 2 is position 6.							(10) Postal History (9)	B26
								Parcel Post	B1
									B55
DP61/61A	2 @ 12½p	T1/D1	B39	B55	LB	4.1.1984			B26
	2 @ 12½p	T1/D1	—	—	RB				B5
	6 @ 16p	T1/D1	B5	—	—				B55
								(11) Postal History (10)	B26
								Silver Jubilee	B1
								Regionals	B55
									B26
									B5
									B55
								Column 1 only	B39
									B5
									B55
DP71	2 @ 13p	T2/D1	B4	B56	LB	12.6.1984	5.7.84	DB11 1st/2nd class £1.54	
	2 @ 13p	T2/D1	—	—	RB			(12) Postal History (11)	B4
	6 @ 17p	T2a/D1	B5	—	Two			To Pay labels	B5
The 17p in row 2 is position 10. The binding margin is on left.									B56
DP71A as DP71 but margin is on right and the 17p in row 2 is position 6.									B4
									B5
									B55
DP71/71A	2 @ 13p	T2/D1	B4	B55	LB	21.6.1984		Reversed phosphor bars.	B4
	2 @ 13p	T2/D1	—	—	RB				B5
	6 @ 17p	T2a/D1	B5	—	—				B55
DP71D	4 @ 13p	T2/D1	B4	B55	two	ERROR — Phosphor bars			
	2 @ 17p	T2a/D1	B5	—	LB	reversed. Printing date not		(13) Postal History (12)	B4
	2 @ 17p	T2a/D1	—	—	RB	recorded.		Embossed Stamps	B8
	2 @ 17p	T2a/D1	—	—	Two				B56
The 17p in row 2 is position 10. The binding margin is on left.									
DP71E as DP71D but margin is on right and the 17p in row 2 is position 6.									
DP71/71A	2 @ 13p	T2/D1	B4	B56	LB	8.11.1984		(14) Postal History (13)	B4
	2 @ 13p	T2/D1	—	—	RB			Surface printed	B8
	6 @ 17p	T2a/D1	B8	—	Two				B56
Issued 1983/4									
DP61/61A	(9) Seahorse		2,576,452			DP71/71A	(12) To Pay labels	2,279,725*	
	(10) Parcel Post		692,275				(13) Embossed stamps	123,325*	
	(11) Regionals		850,850				(14) Surface printed	n/a	
(*incomplete figures)									

Plate 2 of the Line Engraved Stamps

JOHN MEMMOTT

For this month's Gem from the R M Phillips Collection I have chosen the unique unused block of 33 penny blacks, from the upper left corner of a sheet printed on Plate 2. This plate was finished on 22 April 1840, registered on the same day at Somerset House and was destroyed on 19 November 1841.

This block, which was previously in the collections of Bertram McGowan, J B Seymour and Maurice Burrus, affords us the opportunity of briefly considering the purpose of the check letters which can be seen on the bottom corners of the stamps.

The Post Office had an enduring concern about the possibilities of forgeries and the introduction of the corner letters and their combination was due to the supposition, that they would constitute a further preventative measure against forgery of the stamps. It was thought that if a large number of forgeries were about with the same letters, they would immediately attract attention, while to make imitations with different letters would add considerably to the cost and difficulty of so doing.

Indeed it was no easy matter for the printers' workmen to get the letters placed exactly in the centre of the corner blocks.

The sheets of stamps were printed with the corner blocks blank and the check letters were added later with the aid of a punch and hammer. The difficulty of this operation resulted in a number of misplaced letters and errors which are today the delight of philatelists. The lettering in the left hand corner is in alphabetical sequence down the vertical columns and in the right hand along the horizontal row, as can be seen in the featured block of penny blacks.

Four alphabets were employed down to the period when the letters were inserted in all four corners of the stamps (1864), at which time the letters were changed in type to sans-serif capitals. The first (alphabet 1) was in use from 1840 to 1852, it consisted of small Roman capitals and is found on Plates 1-131 of the One Penny Original Die, and on Plates 1-4 of the Two Pence.



'In Testimony of Gratitude'

JEAN FARRUGIA

Dr. Martin Daunt's recent book, *Royal Mail; the Post Office since 1840*, has stimulated fresh debate amongst postal historians on the achievements of Rowland Hill and how far they might have been distorted through self-evaluation, or that of his family; and how far, in fact, he deserves the mythical status in Post Office history that he has so long enjoyed. While the debate amongst historians continues, perhaps now is an appropriate time to look at the unique evidence on display at the National Postal Museum that reflects the high public esteem in which Hill was held a century or more ago.

This is the **Rowland Hill Presentation Plate**, a collection that forms perhaps the Museum's most impressive and beautiful display. Until 1948, these individual symbols of public gratitude to Rowland Hill had been held in the Hill family, having been handed down through its various members, including Pearson Hill, Sir Rowland's eldest son. Pearson had passed his whole career in the Post Office Secretariat, and being (like his father) something of an inventor, he also pioneered early stamp cancelling machines. In 1947 Pearson's sons, Major Robert de'Estre Hill and Colonel Henry Hill, had the silver cleaned and renovated for display at exhibitions being organised by the then British Philatelic Association. The interest it caused was, no doubt, what prompted them to then present the collection to the Post Office, on condition that it should be put on public display.

The centrepiece of the display is a large solid-silver table candelabrum, featuring Mercury, Messenger of the Gods, a world-wide symbol of the Post Office. Given in September 1839, it is inscribed 'To Rowland Hill Esq, presented by the inhabitants of Wolverhampton, in testimony of their high sense of his public services, as the Founder and able Advocate of the Plan of Universal Penny Postage'. Other items are two silver entrée dishes bearing the armorial crest of Sir Rowland Hill (probably purchased from money given by later admirers of his work); a silver salver and two highly wrought silver wine coolers. The salver had been presented to Hill in 1841 by a Mr Egerton Smith of Liverpool, one of the earliest supporters of Penny Postage, and it had been purchased with the pence contributed by

thousands of his fellow-townsmen. The wine coolers had been presented by Glasgow later in the same year, with an inscription stating that the gift was 'in testimony of gratitude' from a few gentlemen of that city.

Perhaps the most interesting piece in the collection is the silver-gilt casket made to contain a copy of the grant to Sir Rowland Hill in 1879 of the Freedom of London. Its decoration features the 'Mulready' stationery of 1840 (which itself was largely the work of Hill) and an enamelled replica of the '1d Red' of 1841. Too ill to attend the Guildhall, in accordance with ancient custom, Hill was presented in his sickroom with this highest honour the City could bestow, just a few weeks before his death. In concluding his formal address, the City Chamberlain said "We congratulate you that . . . you have been spared to witness the complete triumph of your postal principles, to receive acknowledgements from the State, and honours from your Sovereign. Detractors and obstructors you have outlived, or





The Candelabra with candle-holders replaced by fruit baskets.

they only survive to swell the ranks of those who applaud you. May your remaining days be consoled by the thought that your name and service can never be forgotten, and may the sunset of your life be brightened by the reflection that you have been permitted to become one of the greatest benefactors of mankind”.

Those who witnessed, at first hand, the results of Hill's work have had their say. Now let the debate continue.

Source: Post 33/ 5634 (P 10574/1949)

The promised article on the list of 1955 papers (Post 123) now open to the public has been postponed until a future issue.

New Cylinder Numbers

New cylinders and plates have been used in the printing of National definitives and Country issues. They will shortly be released from Stores as normal demand requires to offices in the areas concerned.

7p National cylinder 26

22p Wales plates Q2, Q4; Q1, Q3

PHQ Card Quantities

PHQ cards with enlarged illustrations of the stamp designs are issued with each set of special stamps. Quantities produced can now be given of cards from 1982 to 1984.

Card No.	Subject	Issue date	No. of cards produced (sets)
PHQ 57 A-D	Charles Darwin	27/1/82	265,000
PHQ 58 A-D	Youth Organisations	10/3/82	250,000
PHQ 59 A-D	British Theatre	14/4/82	235,000
PHQ 60 A-E	Maritime Heritage	2/6/82	250,000
PHQ 61 A-D	British Textiles	9/7/82	222,000
PHQ 62 A-B	Information Technology Year	25/8/82	240,000
PHQ 63 A-D	British Motor Cars	23/9/82	225,000
PHQ 64 A-E	Christmas	3/11/82	240,000
PHQ 65 A-D	British River Fishes	12/1/83	205,000
PHQ 66 A-D	Commonwealth Day	23/2/83	200,000
PHQ 67 A-C	Engineering Achievements	11/5/83	210,000
PHQ 68 A-E	British Army	22/6/83	195,000
PHQ 69 A-D	British Gardens	10/8/83	190,000
PHQ 70 A-D	British Fairs	21/9/83	190,000
PHQ 71 A-E	Christmas	2/11/83	210,000
PHQ 72 A-D	Heraldry	3/1/84	190,000
PHQ 73 A-E	Cattle	21/2/84	183,000
PHQ 74 A-D	Urban Renewal	27/3/84	210,000
PHQ 75 A-D	Europa	1/5/84	168,000
PHQ 76	Economic Summit	22/5/84	165,000
PHQ 77 A-D	Greenwich Meridian	12/6/84	170,000
PHQ 78 A-E	The Royal Mail	17/7/84	170,000
PHQ 79 A-D	British Council	11/9/84	161,000
PHQ 80 A-E	Christmas	6/11/84	230,000

Withdrawn Items from Post Offices

On 7 February 1986, all 16p definitives will be withdrawn from sale at normal post office counters. They will still be available from philatelic counters and the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh.

The stamps concerned are:

National definitives: 16p ACP

Scotland 16p PCP

16p ACP

Wales 16p PCP

Northern Ireland 16p PCP

Letters to the Editor



Postal Procedures

Sir,

Your December issue was a most excellent number, full of interest for the genuine stamp collector; however, I think it should be pointed out that John Palmer was never Postmaster of Bath (p.76). His first and only appointment was I believe Surveyor and Controller-General of the Post Office. It was Ralph Allen who was Postmaster of Bath and who as stated introduced the cross-posts (*Bulletin* Oct. 1973 p.9)

LEEDS

H. R. Lawrence

Too Many Stamps?

Sir,

I refer to your September 1985 issue and in particular the letter from Mrs Elisabeth Matthews in Middlesbrough expressing her opinion that the Post Office now issues too many stamps.

When I first read her letter I was in complete agreement and was tempted to write to you then, but refrained. I have now read your October issue and have seen the list of stamps for 1986. Reading this list so upset me that I am compelled to put pen to paper and support Mrs Matthews's opinion wholeheartedly.

It seems to me that the Post Office is very close to killing the goose that lays its golden egg. The issues for June, July and September 1986, namely 'Mediaeval Life', 'Sport' and 'Royal Air Force' seem, on the face of it, to have very little to do with 1986. My opinion is that the Post Office have set themselves the task of issuing 'seven or eight issues a year' and seem to be having difficulty in choosing relevant acceptable subjects. May I respectfully suggest that the Post Office very carefully reviews its attitude and what it is trying to do otherwise I for one will seriously have to consider the practicability of continuing to collect current GB stamps.

ROGER J. ATFIELD

Colin Pawson, Stamp Production Manager replies:

Mr. Atfield probably missed the announcement of the 1986 stamp programme in the Bulletin of February 1985 which gave brief reasons for issue. I say this because he has chosen to criticise as unnecessary the three issues whose reason is not immediately obvious from their titles. In fact the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book, the

holding of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh and the 50th anniversary of the formation of the RAF as we know it today are all sound reasons for stamp issues. I believe these issues contribute to a strong and well balanced programme in 1986.

I am concerned that Mr Atfield feels there are too many stamps — we are very much aware of the danger of allowing the cost of collecting GB stamps to rise too high. We keep a careful check on the cost and number of issues that are planned and will not allow this to rise above the present level. The total number for 1986 (36) is the same as for 1984 and 1985 and in future we shall aim to reduce this slightly to 33 per annum — typically consisting of seven issues of four stamps with a five stamps set at Christmas.

GB Country Definitives

Sir,

I should like to address myself to those amongst your readership who collect the definitive stamp issues of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. I am trying to determine whether or not certain country definitive cylinder blocks actually exist, as follows:

N. Ireland 10p 2-Band cylinder 1 dot (p30)

Scotland 11½p cylinder 7A6B no dot

Wales 11p cylinder 1 no dot (p30)

If any readers can confirm the existence of any of these cylinder blocks from their own collections, I should be grateful if they would get in touch with me at: 70, Moor Park Close, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8QT. This information is required for the purpose of maintaining the accuracy of the specialised catalogue produced by the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle: as ever, I should be pleased to supply details about membership of the Circle on request.

Peter Daniels

Hon. Secretary

British Decimal Stamps Study Circle

Industry Year Stamps

Further to the report in the January *Bulletin* about plates used on the Industry Year stamps issued on 14 January, more plates were subsequently used. The numbers are:

17p

Gold	Black	Magenta	Greenish-yellow	New Blue
3A3B	2A2B	2A2B	2A2B	2A2B

34p

Gold	Black	Magenta	Greenish-yellow	New Blue
2A2B	2A2B	3A3B	2A2B	2A2B

The Museum Piece

In September 1895 a fresh set of strikes of all handstamps in London E.C. was taken and added to a file on datestamps (Post 30/785 E15080/1897). These strikes are now in the National Postal Museum, London and a selection is shown here. The numbers in brackets indicate the number of dies.



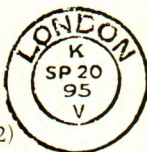
(4)



(42)



(12)



(25)

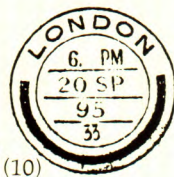


(25)



Machine dies

All the datestamps from the Inland Section and E.C., marked as used in machines.



(10)



(6)



(6)



(50)



(16)



(36)



(4)



(1)



(12)

Registered Letter Section



(1)



(1)



(1)



(1)



(1)



(1)



(1)



(1)



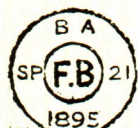
(1)



(1)

E.C. Section handstamps

A selection of the rarer handstamps from E.C. (6)



(3)



(2)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(8)

Inland Section handstamps

A selection of the rarer handstamps from Inland Section.



(2)



(4)



(2)

Commemorative Covers

Severn Railway Tunnel. On 9 January 1886 the first coal train went through the Severn Tunnel from Aberdare to Southampton; on 1 December 1886 the first passenger service started and on 1 September 1886 regular goods traffic began. The centenaries of these events are being marked by special pictorial postmarks. Cover price £1.80 each (£4.80 set of three).

Mersey Railway. On 20 January 1886 the then Prince of Wales opened the Mersey Railway with regular traffic introduced on 1 February. Special covers have been produced to mark these events price £1.80 each (£3.30 the pair).

Industry Year. A special first day cover for the Industry Year stamps was produced featuring the Blackpool Tower with a pictorial handstamp showing the same. A second cover with a picture of molten metal and the Birmingham pictorial postmark was also produced. Both covers are available at £3.50 each.

Orders with remittances for all of the above covers to: Benham (A. Buckingham) Ltd., Westcliff House, FOLKESTONE, Kent CT20 1SZ.

12p Left and Right Phosphor Bands. A first day cover with the Windsor postmark of 14 January was produced for the 12p definitive with left and right hand single phosphor band ex booklets. Price £1.50 each from G K Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

Industry Year — Dunster Mill. Dunster's Mill is one of the few water mills still working. A first day cover for the Industry Year stamps featuring the mill is available at £3 from John Nash, 5 South Road, WATCHET, Somerset TA23 0DA. All are signed by the miller with the first day cancel of Taunton.

Recorded Delivery Anniversary. The 25th anniversary of the recorded delivery service falls on 1 February 1986. A special cover to mark this will be cancelled with the Williton c.d.s. on 1 February and the other part of the slip will be included with the insert. Price £2 from John Nash, 5 South Road, WATCHET, Somerset TA23 0DA.

International Golf Show. A cover has been produced to mark the first International Golf Show at the Barbican, London EC2, from 5 to 8 February. Cancelled with a special handstamp of 5 February the cover can be obtained price £2 at the show or by post from Golf Shows Ltd., Suite 648, 162-168 Regent Street, LONDON W1R 5TB, cheques to be crossed a/c payee.

1987 Special Stamp Programme

The 1987 special stamp programme will comprise the following eight issues.

The first issue will be a continuation of the popular *Flora* theme. *Sir Isaac Newton* will be featured on the next issue marking the 400th anniversary of the publication of his *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy).

Depicted on the annual *Europa* issue will be the CEPT theme of *Modern Arts/Architecture*. Next will be a set featuring *Victorian Britain* — 1987 being the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession.

Scottish Heraldry will be the subject of the next issue marking the tercentenary of the revival of the Order of the Thistle. This will be followed by stamps for the *St. John Ambulance Brigade* marking the Brigade's centenary.

A set devoted to *Ceramics* will appear after this and the final issue will be for *Christmas* when the design treatment will be secular.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Douglas N. Muir

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