

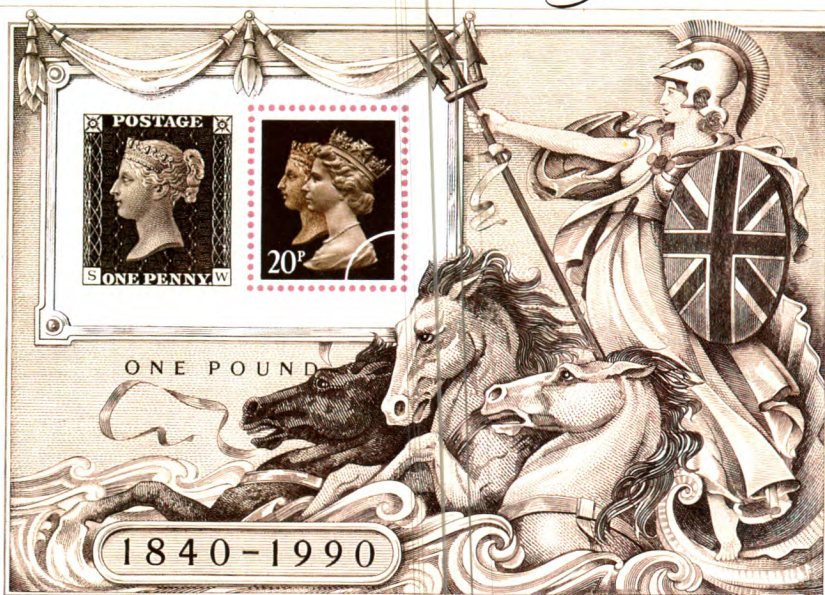
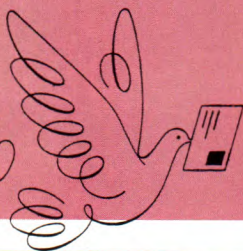
British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 27

Number 8

April 1990

Stamp World London 90



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Rowland Hill Exhibition

The National Postal Museum Rowland Hill exhibition (see pages 182-3) will close on 12 April. Details of Museum closures during April, to facilitate preparations for Stamp World London 90, were published in the March *Bulletin*.

Stamp World Slogan

A Stamp World slogan postmark will be used at over 200 sorting offices from 9 April to 12 May — full details will be published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



A stylized postmark for Stamp World London 90. The text 'STAMP WORLD' is at the top, followed by 'LONDON 90' and 'ALEXANDRA PALACE' on the next line. To the left of the main text, '3-13 MAY' is written vertically. To the right, 'VISIT' is written vertically. The entire postmark is enclosed in a rectangular border with horizontal lines on the top and bottom, and vertical lines on the sides.

Lincoln Philatelic Counter

The Philatelic Counter at Lincoln Post Office was closed on 7 March and the Philatelic Counter handstamp withdrawn from use. We regret that we were unable to give prior notice of the closure.

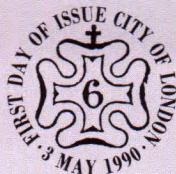
Corrections

We regret that a missing word altered the meaning of the paragraph about the Penny Black Anniversary stamp books in the March *Bulletin* (page 163). The word "book" should have appeared after "stamps" in line five of the final paragraph; there is a £2 Penny Black Anniversary stamps book but *not* a £2 Penny Black Anniversary stamp! Any confusion is regretted.

Please note that the Harrison/Walsall book to be issued on 17 April contains 4 x 20p Penny Black stamps (see page 173) *not* 4 x 15p as stated on page 168 of the March *Bulletin*.

Penny Black Miniature Sheet

3 May 1990



The highlight of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately's programme for 1990 must be the Penny Black Miniature Sheet to be issued on 3 May. The sheet is the third in the series of sheets issued to support the "Stamp World London 90" exhibition and marks the 150th anniversary of the issue of the Penny Black.

The sheet includes the 20p value of the Penny Black Anniversary definitive series (issued 10 January) and will sell at £1. Fifty pence of the premium will be used specifically for the Stamp World exhibition; further sums will be used in support of British philately.

In addition to the 20p special definitive, the sheet includes a reproduction, without lower corner letters, of the Penny Black itself and has as the background a detail from the famous Seahorse design of 1913. The Seahorse design was used on the George V 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 High Values — Britain's first pictorial stamps.



The famous Seahorse design

The Seahorse design was by Bertram Mackenall, the dies were engraved by J.A.C. Harrison. The first stamp, the 2s 6d value in sepia-brown was issued on 30 June 1913, followed by the 5s rose-carmine on 4 July and the 10s indigo-blue and £1 green on 1 August. The stamps were initially printed by Waterlow Bros & Layton; later the contract for the 2s 6d, 5s and 10s passed to De La Rue (1915-18) and to Bradbury, Wilkinson (1918-19). All these printings were on GvR single cypher watermarked paper. The dies of the 2s 6d, 5s and 10s stamps

were re-engraved by J.A.C. Harrison and stamps from these issued in October 1934. The printing was by Waterlow again on single cypher watermarked paper. This magnificent piece of engraving has always been popular with British collectors, rivalling the fine St George and Dragon design on the 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress stamp, also engraved by J.A.C. Harrison (design by H. Nelson).

Technical Details

The miniature sheet was designed by Sedley Place Design and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in recess (intaglio) and photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. The sheet measures 122 x 90mm and has PVA Dextrin gum. The 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamp was designed by Jeffery Matthews and is perforated 15 x 14 as the stamps from normal sheets of 200, issued in January.

Souvenir Book

On 3 May a Royal Mail Penny Black Souvenir Book will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum, price £6.95. The book contains the miniature sheet, the five Penny Black Anniversary Definitives and a replica Mulready lettersheet. Further details are given on page 179.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 3 May, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau, the other for London EC (location of the National Postal Museum).

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the miniature sheet cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 3 May.

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

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

London EC

London North Special Handstamp Centre
City of London LDO
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1AA

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. A pictorial First Day postmark, showing the arms of the City of London will be used at the London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA. Durham Post Office will be using a pictorial First Day handstamp showing the cathedral. Items for this postmark should be sent to: Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, Durham Post Office, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE. Post Office First Day postmarks will be applied in red ink.

A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 3 May - details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 4 May, price 18p. This will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Miniature Sheets

The first British Post Office miniature sheet was issued in March 1978 and contained the four Historic Building stamps. The sheet sold at a 10p premium towards the London 1980 international stamp exhibition. Two further sheets in support of this exhibition followed in October 1979 (Rowland Hill stamps) and May 1980 (London 1980 50p stamp). The premiums were 10p and 25p respectively.

The first of three sheets for the Stamp World London 90 exhibition was issued in September 1988 and contained the four Edward Lear stamps (22p premium). It was withdrawn from sale on 24 July 1989, the day before the issue of the second sheet containing Industrial Archaeology stamps (27p premium). This sheet remains on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters until 24 July 1990, price £1.40.



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New Aerogrammes

A new printing of the standard aerogramme will go on sale at the Bureau and philatelic counters on 17 April, price 30p. This will be similar to the aerogramme issued in September 1988 but has the new Royal Mail International logo and the design of the chevron (red and blue border) is now in reverse order in line with the format used by other postal administrations. The new logo was introduced on the pictorial aerogrammes issued on 1 August 1989.



A new Scottish aerogramme – the 31st since the series was introduced in 1974 — will be issued on 24 April to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the Forth Railway Bridge. The aerogramme will be on sale at all post offices in Scotland, at the Bureau and philatelic counters, price 40p. The imprinted stamp is a non value indicator (worded “Great Britain Postage Paid”) so the aerogramme can be used at any time (the current aerogramme postage is 30p).

New Stamp Books

Four new stamp books will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters

on 17 April; they will replace earlier books at post offices and retail outlets as stocks become exhausted. The new books comprise £1.50 and £2 books containing 10 x 15p and 10 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps printed by Questa, 80p 4 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps printed by Harrisons in covers produced by Walsall, and £1.16 4 x 29p definitives, printed by Walsall on phosphor coated paper.

As a result there will be eight new stamp variations, of interest to the specialist collector:

1. 15p PB definitive, litho Questa, perforated all sides
2. 20p PB definitive, litho Questa, perforated all sides
3. 20p PB definitive, photogravure Harrison, straight edge top & right
4. 20p PB definitive, photogravure Harrison, straight edge right & bottom
5. 29p litho Walsall, PCP, straight edge top
6. 29p litho Walsall, PCP, straight edge top & right
7. 29p litho Walsall, PCP, straight edge right & bottom
8. 29p litho Walsall, PCP, straight edge bottom

Note: Variations 1 from £1.50 book, 2 from £2 book, 3 & 4 from 80p book and 5-8 from £1.16 book.

PB = Penny Black; PCP = Phosphor Coated Paper

Royal Mail Stamps have been informed by the printers that some of the 4 x 20p books were perforated using the APS and some the “Rise and Fall” perforator. The differences between stamps perforated by these machines was described in last October’s *Bulletin*, page 26. It should be noted that this does not involve a change of perforation gauge and that the difference is of interest only to highly specialist collectors. There are substantial quantities of each type but not separately identified. There will not, therefore, be a dedicated philatelic distribution.

Correction: London Life Book

In the feature on the London Life prestige book (February *Bulletin*) we listed eight new definitive variations contained in that book. The 20p definitive, 2 bands, perforated on all sides was included in error; this variation is not new, having been introduced in the 50p machine book issued on 2 October 1989. Our apologies for any confusion.

Cruising Down the River

BARBARA LAST

When the Editor of the *Bulletin* asked me to write an article on London for publication shortly after issue of the "London Life" prestige book, I had no hesitation in choosing as my theme — the River Thames. The Thames is so redolent with history that I find myself spoilt for choice, so many of the buildings and people associated in some way with the river appear on stamps.

I begin my philatelic voyage at Westminster Pier. Downstream past the Tate Gallery on Mill Bank (where the magnificent Turner Collection is housed), we sail past the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst (GB 1968, S.G. 768), leader of the Suffragettes, still exhorting her "monstrous regiment of women" in the Victoria Tower Gardens next to the Houses of Parliament.

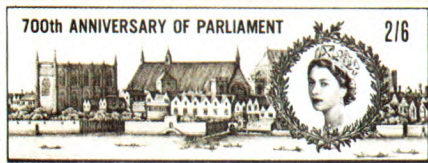
Edward the Confessor built Westminster Abbey and moved his royal residence from the Tower to the land between it and the river in order to oversee the work on his great church. It was consecrated in December 1065, and eight days later Edward died and now lies behind the high altar. The Confessor was a pious king, more concerned with things spiritual than things political, and he left rival claimants to his throne (Jersey 1986, S.G. 383). Harold of Wessex, slain at the Battle of Hastings, and William the Conqueror were both in turn crowned in the Abbey in 1066 (Jersey 1987, S.G. 424), the scene since then of coronations of all monarchs save two (Pitcairn 1978, miniature sheet), and most royal marriages. One of the finest stamps showing the Abbey and the Thames at Westminster is

squarish building; Hawkesmoor in 1753 added the twin western towers so familiar today (GB 1966, S.G. 687), and the great building has become a national shrine and memorial to the famous. The shield, saddle and helmet worn by Henry V (GB 1974, S.G. 960) at Agincourt in 1415 are in the Abbey museum. Henry VII, the first Tudor, built the chapel wherein he lies and the wondrous stone fan vaulting (GB 1966, S.G. 688) "suspended aloft as if my magic ... with the airy security of a cobweb". William Caxton set up England's first printing press (GB 1976, S.G. 1017) in the precincts in 1476 for the *Canterbury Tales* and *Morte D'Arthur* (GB 1976, S.G. 1014; 1985, S.G. 1294).

Seat of Government

Westminster Hall, the only surviving part of the original Palace of Westminster, was built by William Rufus, the Conqueror's son. It is central in Hollar's engraving, and is now incorporated as a vestibule of the present House of Commons. It was the government's legislative centre, quite separate from the financial centre in the City downstream, housing the King's Council as well as the Law Courts until 1882. After the Reformation the secularised St Stephen's Chapel (on left of Hollar) became the House of Commons. The Speaker's Chair was placed where the altar had been. Thus the traditional bow of a Member to the Speaker probably derives from a genuflection to the altar. The old oak hammer-beam roof of the Hall is famous (GB 1961, S.G. 629).

Many were condemned here to death — Charles I before his execution in nearby Whitehall in 1649; the sainted Sir Thomas More in 1535 (Vatican 1985, S.G. 829); Sir Walter Raleigh (GB, S.G. 926) before his execution outside after 12 years imprisonment in the Tower; and Guy Fawkes in 1606. The Gunpowder Plot (St Vincent Grenadines 1983, S.G. 265/6) to blow up King and Parliament has left the legacy of Bonfire Night on 5 November and the searching of the Commons' cellars before the State Opening of Parliament. Winston Churchill lay in State here and his statue (Gilbert & Ellice 1974, S.G. 242) stands nearby in



the British 1965 2s 6d 700th anniversary of Parliament stamp (S.G. 664).

That stamp reproduces an engraving by Hollar, dated 1647. The Abbey was then a plain

Parliament Square, together with that of another Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli (GB 1987, S.G. 1369).

The Palace of Westminster, reduced to smoking ruins in 1835, was rebuilt by Sir Charles Barry in the Gothic style (GB 1973, S.G. 939) to complement its neighbours, the Abbey and St Margaret's Church (Antiqua-Barbuda 1977, S.G. 295). The Commons interior of 1871 (Nevis 1988, S.G. 508) was rebuilt after the Blitz of the Second World War in the same style. St Stephen's clock tower, known as Big Ben, is a London landmark. Its chimes became the symbol of resistance during the Second World War, broadcast by the BBC from Bush House, Aldwych (Ascension 1982, S.G. 328). The Palace of Westminster came over on television from Alexandra Palace (GB 1990 Europa stamp) where the world's first television transmitter was erected in 1936 and where transmissions and colour trials took place.

Westminster Bridge

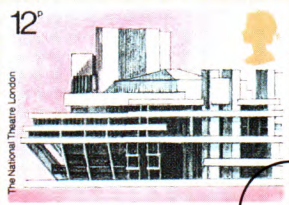
Westminster Bridge (Bermuda 1985, S.G. 506) was only the second stone bridge across the Thames. It was opened in 1750 in the face of powerful opposition from the Archbishop of Canterbury who owned the horse ferry, and the watermen who had to be compensated for loss of income. No dogs were allowed, and any graffiti louts could be hanged. Labeled's bridge was replaced by the present seven-arched cast-iron bridge in 1862. The whole of the Palace of Westminster and the present bridge was depicted in 1975 (GB, S.G. 988). Against the north end of the bridge is one of my favourite London statues — the beautiful bronze of Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni, who in AD61 led the British revolt against the Romans.

South Bank

Over on the south of the river lies Lambeth Palace, the official home of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Ramsey has been de-

picted on several stamps depicting scenes from the 1953 Coronation. Next door is St Thomas's Hospital, founded c. 1106. Early in the 15th century the Lord Mayor Richard Whittington provided "eight beds for young women who had done amiss", demanding secrecy for their ills "for he would not shame no young woman in no wise". Florence Nightingale's training School of Nursing started here. "The Lady of the Lamp" (Virgin Is 1983, S.G. 504) revolutionised the profession and made nursing respectable. The female operating theatre of 1821 of old St Thomas Hospital can be seen in Southwark Cathedral Chapter House.

Further downstream on the South Bank is the "culture" complex of arts and concert halls raised on derelict land flattened in the Second World War. The first development was the Royal Festival Hall in 1951 as part of the Festival of Britain (GB 1951, S.G. 513). The National



Theatre (GB 1975, S.G. 979) had Lawrence Olivier as its first director, and opened in 1976 with "Hamlet" (GB 1964, S.G. 650). Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (Liberia 1987, S.G. 1649) stood on nearby Bankside. The stone building was destroyed by the Puritans and its remains have recently been found during excavations.

Across the water is a fine view of the Victoria Embankment, the riverside road from Westminster to Blackfriars Bridge, built on 37 acres reclaimed by Victorian engineers. The



granite wall constructed 20 feet up above high-water mark incorporated the District Railway and London's first sewage and main drainage system. San Marino's 1980 se-tenant pair (S.G. 144/5) is particularly interesting. The 1850 view looking upstream, shows Rennie's London Bridge, as well as Southwark and Blackfriars bridges. Looking downstream in 1980, the modern skyline and Blackfriars Bridge are seen plus additional non-existent tower blocks put in by artistic licence. The ex First World War naval drillship HMS *President* is moored alongside. She and her companion (not in view) were decommissioned in 1988, and are now used for other purposes. For 40 years Scott's polar vessel *Discovery* (Australian Antarctic Territory 1979, S.G. 51) was also moored here before moving in 1986 to Dundee. Captain Scott himself (GB 1972, S.G. 900) stands in Waterloo Place sculptured in full Arctic kit by his wife, commissioned by the officers of *Discovery*.

The Victoria Embankment Gardens contain statues and memorials to a variety of the famous, including Gilbert and Sullivan (on British stamp book cover of 1988), the Scot Robert Burns (GB 1966, S.G. 685) and the engineer/shipbuilder I.K. Brunel (Nevis 1985, S.G. 318). It also contains the just recently refurbished York Watergate of 1626 which, before the land reclamation narrowed the river, gave direct access to boats on the Thames. Apart from the titles left behind by noble lords — York, Southampton, Northumberland, Villiers, etc — as street names off the Strand, the Watergate is the only visible survivor of yesterday.



Jeffery Matthews' London Montage of 1980 (GB miniature sheet, S.G. 1118) amalgamated

the best-known landmarks, although not to scale. Nelson's Column, shown on the hand-stamp used at the Trafalgar Square Philatelic Counter, is really only half the height of St Paul's Cathedral whose dome, high on the hill, now dominates the river. Within its crypt Lord Nelson lies in his black marble sarcophagus, designed for Cardinal Wolsey before his fall from royal favour four centuries ago.

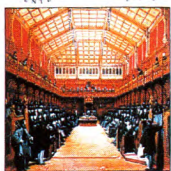
The Pool of London

London Bridge marks the upper limits of big-ship navigation and the Pool of London. The 12th century stone bridge was replaced by Rennie's in 1831. This now spans the Arizona Desert (British Honduras 1971, S.G. 322); it was replaced in 1971 by the present pre-stressed concrete bridge. Against London Bridge on the San Marino stamp is seen the spire-topped dome of the Wren church of St Magnus the Martyr, the saintly 12th century Norwegian earl of Orkney. Behind stands the Monument with its gilded ball marking the eastern limit of the Great Fire of 1666 which ravaged four-fifths of the City. The Monument height of 202 feet represents the distance from the outbreak of fire in the baker's shop in Pudding Lane. St Paul's and the graceful City churches were rebuilt by Wren, many to be destroyed in the Second World War.

In the Pool at Symon's Wharf lies the 11,500 ton cruiser HMS *Belfast* (South Georgia 1974, S.G. 41), a veteran of the Second World and Korean wars, and now a floating museum. She was the first to fire in the Battle of North Cape that sank the *Schamhorst*, and she led the 1944 D-Day Normandy Invasion. Opposite looking north, the City's tower blocks and Lloyd's blinding aluminium building (Tristan 1988, S.G. 457) probe the sky between St Paul's and the Tower. Here too is Tower Pier, the disembarking point for the Tower of London, saturated with history and misery.

Tower Bridge, that symbol of London, is the source of many handstamps. Built in 1894 it has a high-level footbridge with fabulous views. Just past it on the north bank is the Wapping Police Station, home of the Metropolitan River Police (GB 1979, S.G. 1103), sited where the original station of 1797 housed the first river police in the world.

Tower Hill gives access to the Dockland Light Railway which journeys behind Wapping high above the current commercial development of the Isle of Dogs to the terminus at Island Gardens. A Victorian foot tunnel under the Thames leads to Greenwich opposite, a gracious



NEVIS



TRISTAN DA CUNHA

and historic town fronted by elegant buildings and the dry-docked *Cutty Sark* and Chichester's *Gypsy Moth* (GB S.G. 781 and 751). Nearby Goddard's Eel & Pie House, founded exactly a century ago, still sells pies and mash with "liquor" (gravy). The hill behind the National Maritime Museum is crowned by the Old Royal Observatory, where standing astride the Prime Meridian, one foot rests in the western and the other in the eastern hemisphere (GB 1984, S.G. 1256).

The end of our voyage is in sight. Downstream from Greenwich, in Woolwich Reach, lies the gleaming machinery of the Flood Barrier (GB 1983, S.G. 1216) of 10 movable gates some



60 feet high, strung like a gargantuan necklace across the Thames. The closed gates seal the upper river from sea surges, and now prevent the previously not infrequent flooding of low-lying central London, where many drowned, and men rowed wherries in the Great Hall of Westminster.

Mrs Last's article provides both useful information for thematic collectors and suggestions for places to visit for those coming to London next month for "Stamp World London 90". Ed.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning the Penny Black Souvenir Book to be published by Royal Mail Stamps in May. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin* and send with your name and address on a postcard to: April Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 May.

The senders of the first four all-correct entries drawn will be sent the Souvenir Book. Answers and winners' names will be published in the July *Bulletin*.

1. Who engraved the dies of the Seahorses High Values of George V?
2. What was the premium on the Edward Lear miniature sheet?
3. In which year were Scottish aerogrammes first issued?
4. On what date was the Thames Barrier officially opened by HM The Queen?
5. A Thematic Stamp Collecting Competition has been arranged between Royal Mail Stamps and which famous philatelic firm?
6. Who is the author of *Postal History Annual*?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, the National Postal Museum, their agents and their families. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the January competition were: J Wilkes of Cornwall (first prize), A Constable of Warwickshire, E M Gauci of Malta, P Crichton of Hertfordshire and Mrs E Rothschild of New Zealand.

The answers were: 1. David Gentleman, 2. Day of the Americas, 3. Stan Laurel, 4. Otter, Badger, Hedgehog, Brown Hare, Red Squirrel (any two), 5. 27 February 1990, 6. Kew Gardens.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until September 1990. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau codes are quoted.

H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall, printers

NVI = Non Value Indicator stamps

PB = Penny Black Anniversary Definitive stamps

2 Oct	50p Aeroplanes machine book (DB226)
2 Oct	£1 Mills machine book (DB227)
2 Oct	£1.16 stamp book (DW055)
2 Oct	Lord Mayor stamp cards (AQ091)
2 Oct	10 x 2nd cl NVI book, H (UB006)
2 Oct	10 x 1st cl NVI book, H (UB001)
9 Oct	"Our World" book (PA111)
10 Oct	Mixed Value Roll (DC841)
16 Oct	15p Sideways Roll (DC039)
16 Oct	15p Vertical Roll (DC037)
16 Oct	20p Sideways Roll (DC040)
16 Oct	20p Vertical Roll (DC038)
17 Oct	Lord Mayor stamps (AS390)
17 Oct	Lord Mayor Pack (AP082)
17 Oct	Autumn Stampex exh. card (EQ013)
17 Oct	NPM Personalities cards (NQ900)
30 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ097)
30 Oct	Christmas Greetings cards (PA510)
3 Nov	Philatelia exh. card (EQ015)
14 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS392)
14 Nov	Christmas Pack (AP083)
14 Nov	Christmas aerogramme (QX011)
14 Nov	1989 Yearbook (AY017)
14 Nov	1989 Collectors Pack (AR017)
17 Nov	Stamp Expo exh. card (EQ016)
28 Nov	N Ireland 15p (IS150)
28 Nov	N Ireland 20p (IS200)
28 Nov	N Ireland 24p (IS240)
28 Nov	N Ireland 34p (IS340)
28 Nov	Scotland 15p (SS150)
28 Nov	Scotland 20p (SS200)
28 Nov	Scotland 24p (SS240)
28 Nov	Scotland 34p (SS340)
28 Nov	Wales 15p (WS150)
28 Nov	Wales 20p (WS200)
28 Nov	Wales 24p (WS240)
28 Nov	Wales 34p (WS340)
28 Nov	Country Stamp Pack (CP008)
— Nov	4 x 2nd cl NVI book, H/W (UB007)
— Nov	4 x 1st cl NVI book, H/W (UB008)
8 Jan	RSPCA stamp cards (AQ103)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv stamps (DS906)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv pack (DP012)

10 Jan	NPM Personalities cards (NQ901)
10 Jan	NPM Penny Black Maxi Card (NQ902)
23 Jan	RSPCA stamps (AS398)
23 Jan	RSPCA pack (AP084)
30 Jan	50p machine book, H (TB001)
30 Jan	£1 machine book, H (TB002)
30 Jan	60p stamp book, W (UB002)
30 Jan	80p stamp book, W (UB003)
30 Jan	£1.50 stamp book, H (UB004)
30 Jan	£2 stamp book, H (UB005)
30 Jan	£1 trial book, W (TB003)
6 Feb	Greetings Stamp Pack (JB001)
19 Feb	Europa stamp cards (AQ108)
27 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card (EQ017)
6 Mar	Europa stamps (AS403)
6 Mar	Europa pack (AP085)
13 Mar	50p Def — colour "sand" (DS502)
20 Mar	London Life Prestige Book (YB001)
26 Mar	Queen's Awards stamp cards (AQ113)

Forthcoming

10 Apr	Queen's Awards stamps and pack
17 Apr	Standard aerogramme — new logo
17 Apr	4 x 20p PB book H/W
17 Apr	10 x 15p PB book Q
17 Apr	10 x 20p PB book Q
17 Apr	4 x 29p book, PCP, W
24 Apr	Scot aerogramme (Forth Rail Bridge)
3 May	Penny Black Miniature Sheet
3 May	Penny Black Souvenir Book
3 May	Stamp World exh. card
3 May	NPM Personalities cards
3 May	PO Archives cards
21 May	Kew Gardens stamp cards
5 Jun	Kew Gardens stamps and pack
25 Jun	Thomas Hardy stamp cards
10 Jul	Thomas Hardy stamps and pack
17 Jul	Scot aerogramme (Glasgow)
—Jul	Queen Mother stamp cards
—Aug	Queen Mother stamps and pack
28 Aug	Gallantry stamp cards
11 Sep	Gallantry stamps
11 Sep	NPM Postal Reform cards

Notes:

- The NPM Personalities cards are issued in promotion of Stamp World London 90 and bear the exhibition logo on the reverse. They are listed on the Bureau stock list as SWL90 cards.*
- The 10 x 1st and 2nd class NVI books issued on 2 October have revised text — details of postal rates from 2 October. The previous issue (22 August) gave details of how to send for postal rate leaflets. Both Harrison printings.*
- The 4 x 1st and 4 x 2nd class NVI books issued in November and the 4 x 20p PB stamps book of 17*

April have stamps printed by Harrison in covers produced by Walsall.

4. All books issued on 30 January contain Penny Black Anniversary stamps. The £1 trial book has Mills No 1 cover design (as issued on 2 October) and can be found with the bottom edge of the pane perforated and cut straight.

Thematic Stamp Collecting Competition

To encourage the younger generation into stamp collecting Royal Mail Stamps have set up an exciting stamp collecting competition. The competition is being promoted through a new stamp collecting product from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd. The product consists of a range of six colourfully illustrated mini-albums supplied with a pack of 24 stamps on a popular



theme. The themes to choose from are: Animal Wildlife, Birds, Flowers, Ships, Sport, and Transport. Each album page has space for three stamps to be mounted as appropriate.

The albums are good value, priced at £1.25

each, and are available from W H Smiths and other leading retailers. Each album includes a postcard which can be sent off to obtain a free pack of album pages for collecting more stamps and a leaflet giving details about the competition and an entry form. The competition is easy to enter and everyone entering will receive a free pack of 12 postcards featuring enlargements of the popular 1989 "Birds" stamp designs.

Top prizes of £250, £100 and £50 will be awarded to the first, second and third best entries. What better way for a youngster to take an interest in stamps?

Royal Mail Exhibition Card

Royal Mail Exhibition Card number 4 will go on sale at both the Royal Mail Stamps stand at Stamp World London 90 and the British Philatelic Bureau on 3 May 1990, price £1.50. The card will bear stamps from one of the year's special issues and will carry a special "Royal Mail Exhibition Card No 4" cancellation. A cachet will be applied to cards sold at the Royal Mail Stamps stand at the exhibition. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition can obtain the card with cachet by writing to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. Price £1.50 plus handling charge. Orders must be received by the date the exhibition closes, i.e. 13 May.

Penny Black Anniversary Book

A new Royal Mail souvenir book entitled *The Penny Black Anniversary Book* will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum from 3 May, price £6.95.

Written by Tim Shackleton with a foreword by John B Marriott, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, the book tells the story of the introduction of the Penny Black, of the famous George V "Seahorses" stamps, of the Machin definitives and the recent Penny Black Anniversary Definitives. The book is profusely illustrated showing items from the Royal Collection as well as the National Postal Museum. Included is the "Penny Black Anniversary Collection" as well as the NPM. Included is the "Penny Black Anniversary Collection" comprising a set of the Penny Black stamps (10 January), the miniature sheet (3 May) and a reproduction Mulready lettersheet.

Greetings Stamps—1990

L F NEWBERY

The 1990 Greetings stamps went on sale on 6 February 1990, sold in a pack for £2. The pack comprises a pane of 10 different 20p Greetings stamps and a pane of 12 Greetings labels inside a red and yellow cover, all being enclosed in a sealed plastic cover which can be opened by tearing through a perforated strip.

This is the second in a series of Greetings stamps issues, the first being issued on 31 January 1989 with a pane of 10 stamps and 12 labels affixed to a gaily coloured booklet cover (see the May 1989 *Bulletin* for full details).

The Post Office News Release for the 1990 Greetings stamps was issued on 28 November 1989 and stated: "Where could you find Dennis the Menace teamed with the Mona Lisa, The Laughing Policeman and Comedian Stan Laurel? The answer is in a new book of stamps designed by the Royal Mail to put a smile on the face of the nation".

A second News Release, issued on 5 December 1989, in answer to the same question states: "The answer is in a bright new pack of first class stamps which has been designed by the Royal Mail to put a smile on the face of the nation when they go on sale in February".

What will philatelists call them — Books or Packs? As the issue forms part of the general series of stamp books and all that is needed to turn them into books is merely to affix the two

The ten 1990 Greetings stamps

panes to the cover, they could be termed "Loose Leaf Greetings Books". Further as the cover is similar in colour and format to the "Window Books" and with a crescent shaped cutout on the front cover enabling the stamps to be viewed they might even be termed "Loose Leaf Window Books" though this is extremely unlikely.

Production

Three firms were responsible for the production, namely: Moore and Matthes(Printers) Ltd (pack covers); Harrison and Sons Limited (stamps and labels) and Vernons Distributions Ltd (who initially assembled the pack).

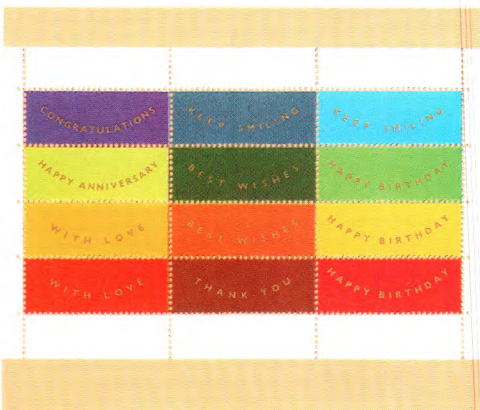
The card used for the pack cover comprises 240 gsm white art board coated two sides. The covers were printed 10 up (5 x 2) by offset-litho on a Konig & Bauer four-colour press in two passes. Varnish was incorporated in the ink to give a glossy surface. This is one of the first stamp products to bear the new Royal Mail logo, consisting of a crown in a white vertical oblong over which is laid a horizontal box bearing the title "Royal Mail" in yellow on a red background. This logo is now used on most Royal Mail literature. The crescent-shaped window is die cut and the spine and fore edge scored on the 10-up sheets singly fed. 500 cut and scored sheets are guillotined at a time on a Polar Mohr guillotine, first into columns and then into single covers.



Stamps & Labels

The stamps were printed by photogravure in a continuous roll on the Jumelle press, 12 panes up in two columns of six with the cylinder numbers opposite pane 4 column 1. The numbers are colours are: 2A (gold) 1B (greenish-yellow) 1C (bright rose-red) 1D (new blue) 1E (deep blue) 1F (grey-black) P93 (phosphor). The cylinder numbers were trimmed off in production and do not appear in the issued packs.

Each pane consisted of 10 different designs based on smiles in two rows of five with a margin on all four sides. Six of the 10 designs bleed onto the margin. Perforation was by rotary perforator at the time of printing, gauge 15 x 14. Three margins are perforated right across and the fourth, that could be used for binding, had just one extension hole opposite



Pane of 12 Greetings labels

each row. The stamps were printed on fluorescent coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Each stamp bears two phosphor bands. The designers of both stamps and labels were Michael Peters and Partners Ltd, with a number of artists contributing. The p for pence symbol is omitted from the value as is now customary with the pictorial issues.

The labels were printed by offset-litho in three colours and gold on the Roland press sheet fed, 16-up (4 x 4) with each pane of 12 labels (4 rows of 3) with margin on four sides. Perforation was on a Grover perforator with the perforation right across all four margins. The stamps and labels were cut to pane size, some stamps were cut and folded on a folding machine; others folded by hand. No marginal markings appear on the issued panes. The labels were printed on Harrison's HS8 clay-coated litho paper.



The stamps and covers were manually packed initially by Vernons Distributions Ltd of Liverpool. Later another mail order firm, PHM of High Wycombe, carried out the work.

First Day Covers

A Royal Mail first day cover was produced and pictorial "First Day" postmarks provided for the British Philatelic Bureau and Giggleswick. A number of handstamps were sponsored by stamp dealers including ones at Clowne, Chesterfield, Derbyshire (design shows a clown smiling); Ironbridge, Salop (Teddy Bear Museum) and Puncteston, Haverfordwest, Dyfed (Mr Punch).



The background story to this issue of Greetings stamps, by David Dale, Manager Definitive Stamps, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, was published in the January Bulletin (pages 99-100). Ed.

NPM Rowland Hill Exhibition

A special exhibition entitled "The Life and Work of Rowland Hill 1795-1879" was opened at the National Postal Museum by Dr David Hill (descendant of Rowland's brother Arthur) on 10 January, day of issue of the Penny Black Anniversary stamps. The exhibition, in the Museum's Main Gallery, continues until May.

The introduction of cheap postage had important economic and social consequences and brought Hill wide public acclaim and recognition. His friend, the Prime Minister, William Gladstone wrote on his death: "... his great plan ran like wild-fire through the civilised world, and never, perhaps, was a local invention ... and improvement applied in the lifetime of its author for the advantage of such vast multitudes of his fellow-creatures."

Rowland Hill was the third of the six sons of Thomas Wright Hill, an advocate of Free Trade and a man with a disregard for everything conventional. Thomas Hill instilled in all of his children a love of freedom and a hatred of injustice and tyranny in all their forms. Like his more famous son he was inventive and a born reformer.

Rowland's mother, too, was a remarkable woman; hardworking and courageous with all the practical commonsense that his father lacked. Sarah Hill strove hard to keep the family out of debt and to obtain for her children the education that she had missed. With such parents, and inspired by each other, the Hill children were to become, in time, an exceptionally brilliant and united family, making their mark in a century of remarkable men.

This exhibition follows Rowland Hill's life from his birth on 3 December 1795 at the family home in Kidderminster through his years as a teacher and educational reformer to his greatest achievement, the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage, which revolutionised the British postal system, and the Penny Black, the World's first adhesive postage stamp. Rowland Hill was also an artist, draughtsman, self-taught architect and inventor. Perhaps the greatest of his mechanical inventions was a rotary printing press which could have revolutionised the printing of newspapers as early as 1835 but for the Treasury's insistence that each page had to be separated for the 1½d tax stamp to be impressed before the news could be printed on it. He formed, with his brothers Edwin and Frederic, a small society for furthering inventions.

The second half of the display concentrates on Rowland Hill's campaign for postal reform, leading up to the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840, and the Hill family's involvement with the Post Office. Also on show are Hill's drawing instruments, a watercolour (painted at 13 years of age), his journal (showing entry for 6 May 1840) and part of his "autobiography" which was edited by Birkbeck Hill and published as *Life of Sir Rowland Hill & History of Penny Postage*. In the corner of the gallery the Rowland Hill Commemoration Plate is on display, including the silver-gilt casket made to contain the grant to Hill of the Freedom of London: This was presented to him shortly before his death.

At the opening ceremony, the NPM Manager, Mr Stan Goron, spoke of 10 January 1990 as being a very important day in Post Office history marking the 150th anniversary of the introduction of penny postage. It was interesting to note that in 1839/40 some 76 million letters were handled, approximately two-thirds of the number now handled each day. Letters then were not delivered to every household, today mail services are provided to no fewer than 24 million addresses.



(left to right) Colin Hey, biographer of Rowland Hill; Dr David Hill and Stan Goron, NPM Manager at the opening of the exhibition. Photo courtesy of Courier, Post Office staff newspaper

In his opening remarks, Dr David Hill mentioned (without names) the controversy over the invention of the postage stamp. Rowland Hill's main claim to fame he said concerned the system rather than the stamp — Hill was proud of the introduction of the penny post and he felt it would be 10 January that Sir Rowland would have celebrated. Hill saw the adhesive

stamp as "a variation on a theme" including stamped covers and stamped writing paper. Dr Hill was pleased to see that all three were still with us today - stamped covers (1st and 2nd class) are still on sale at post offices as well as stamped writing paper in the form of aerogrammes. He praised "the brilliant idea" of Penny Black Anniversary definitives rather than special (commemorative) stamps and joked that they should have been produced in sheets of 240 with corner letters! What, one wonders, would Rowland Hill have thought.

National Postal Museum News

Postal Reform Special Exhibition

A major special exhibition entitled "Postal Reform and the Penny Black" will be formally opened by Mr John Marriott, LVO, RDP, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, on 24 April. The exhibition will open to the public the following day and remain on display for the rest of 1990.

The exhibition will cover the period from 1830 to May 1840 and will show the need for postal reform and the various methods suggested to achieve this, starting with Charles Whiting's "Go Free" of 1830. The unique example of this will be on show for the first time; it was discovered in the Freeling papers in Post Office Archives. The exhibition moves on to examples of the work of the Mercantile Committee on Postage (1838-9) and of the entries to the Treasury Competition of 1839. Much new research has been carried out in regard to these entries.

Uniform postage began with the Fourpenny Post of December 1839; the Uniform Penny Post followed on 10 January 1840. Examples of covers at both rates will be shown together with relevant Post Office notices. Displays will illustrate the story of the designing and printing of the Penny Black and tell how the Mulready came about. The highlights of this section of the exhibition will be the proof sheet of the Penny Black (1 April 1840), unique imprimatur (registration) sheets and a first day cover of 6 May 1840 (illustrated on the front cover of the May 1989 *Bulletin*).

This exhibition has been designed by H & P Associates who have designed the Court of Honour and the Post Office stand at Stamp World London 90. A catalogue is being prepared of this exhibition, details of availability will be given in next month's *Bulletin*.

Postmarks

A special handstamp will be used on 24 April, day of the formal opening of the Postal Reform exhibition. Collectors unable to visit the Museum Sales Counter (where a posting box will be provided) on that day can send cards or covers for this handstamp to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.



The Museum's cachet to be applied to postcards sold at the NPM stand at Stamp World London 90

Friends of the NPM

Cross Post

The Autumn 1989 issue of the Association's journal is now available. This is the first by the new Editor, Doug. Myall, who has introduced an attractive new lay-out for the magazine. This issue contains an account of the Museum's Atlantic exhibition (February 1989/April 1990) by Tony Gammons, the NPM's Exhibitions Officer; a report of the Friends AGM last November; an article on the development of mail coaches, 1786-1836 by Richard Blake; Part 8 of Dr Stone's summary of the Peover Papers (17th century postal records) and Eric Ivens provides valuable advice on designing special handstamps. The Editor provides a useful account of "Phosphor Bars: Short, Notched and Inset", explaining the technical reasons for some unusual arrangements. This issue of *Cross Post* contains 32 pages and is well illustrated. Non-members may obtain copies from the Museum, price £2. The journal is sent free to Association members who may obtain additional copies at £1.25.

Details of the Association of Friends can be obtained from the Hon Secretary, Ray Pottle, c/o National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Stamp World London 90

Standholders

The following dealers will have stands at the international exhibition at Alexandra Palace next month:

A.J.H. Stamps (Auctions)

Accrington, Lancs

Afinsa

Madrid, Spain

B Alan Ltd

London SE25

Willard S Allman

Ridgewood, NJ, USA

Alpha Stamps OE

Thessaloniki, Greece

Amateur Collector Ltd

London N2

Ameen Stamps

Houston, TX, USA

Argyll Etkin Ltd

London W1

J & M Arlington Ltd

London N14

John Auld

Harlow, Essex

Rowan S Baker

London SW5

J Barefoot Ltd

York

Leo Baresch Ltd

Hassocks, W Sussex

Bernard and Pascal Behr

Paris, France

Tony Bellow

Tickenham, Avon

Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd

Folkestone, Kent

Alan Berman

London SW6

Bettin & Turin & Associates

Beverly Hills, CA, USA

W P Bird

Old Windsor, Berks

Ritchie Bodily

London NW3

Alberto Bolaffi srl

Torino, Italy

A G Bond

Exeter, Devon

Frank J Buono

Binghamton, NY, USA

Cambridgeshire Philatelic

Auctions

Ely, Cambs

Cameo Stamps Ltd

London WC2

Ian Cameron

Leatherhead, Surrey

Candlish McCleery Ltd

Worcester

William Carson

Auckland, New Zealand

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions

Ltd

Derby

Christie's Robson Lowe

London SW1

The Classic Collector

Ottawa, Canada

Classic Philatelics

Huntington Beach, CA, USA

G Cleveland

North Harrow, Middx

Colonial Stamp Co

Los Angeles, CA, USA

Compass Philatelic Agency

Harrow, Middx

Continental Stamp Supplies Ltd

London WC2

Corbitt Stamps Ltd

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Corinphila

Zurich, Switzerland

Dauwalders

Salisbury, Wilts

Trevor Davis

London SW20

Downsway Stamp Co Ltd

Epsom, Surrey

Patrick & Barbara Earl

Nairn

Bud Elvgren

St Paul, MN, USA

Embassy Philatelists

London WC2

Engers Frimerker

Redalen, Norway

Ercole Gloria srl

Milano, Italy

Lars-Tore Eriksson

Kalmar, Sweden

European & Foreign Stamps

Pontypridd, South Wales

Euro-Yu Stamp Collecting

London W1

Davitt Felder Ltd

London W1

Ferris Stamp & Coin Co

Albany, NY, USA

Filasta sas

Rovereto, Italy

Folkestone Stamp Shop

Folkestone, Kent

Dale Forster

Portland, OR, USA

William A Fox

Hilton Head, SC, USA

France International

Morganville, NJ, USA

J A L Franks Ltd

London WC1

Göran Fredriksson

Goteborg, Sweden

Hugh Freeman

Victoria, Australia

Stanley Gibbons Ltd

London WC2

J.M.A. Gregson Ltd

Bristol

H and B Philatelists Ltd

Bristol

Habsburg-Feldman SA

Geneva, Switzerland

Aron R Halberstam Philatelists

Ltd

Brooklyn, NY, USA

Michael Hamilton

Newburgh, Dorset

Harmers of London Stamp

Auctioneers Ltd

London W1

Stewart Harris

Chelmsford, Essex

M & N Haworth

Clitheroe, Lancs

Healey & Wise

Tadworth, Surrey

Hellas Stamps Auctions

Thessaloniki, Greece

Kaj Hellman Ltd

Espoo, Finland

Hendon Stamp Company

London NW4

Rowland Hill Stamps

Kidderminster, Worcs

Mike Holt

Stourbridge, W Midlands

- Huys-Berlingin AG
Triesen, Liechtenstein
- IG Stamps
Otley, W Yorkshire
- Michael Jackson (Philatelists) Ltd
St Neots, Cambs
- Johnson Philatelics (Pty) Ltd
Port Elizabeth, S Africa
- Steven C Kander (Philatelists) Ltd
London W1
- Dave Kaplan
New York, USA
- Kirk's Stamp Company
Clipper Mills, CA, USA
- Heinrich Köhler
Wiesbaden, W Germany
- Stewart R Kusinitz
Fall River, Mass, USA
- W E Lea (Philatelists) Ltd
Esher, Surrey
- Art Leggett
Weston, Ont, USA
- S V Leverton & Co
Stammore, Middx
- Lighthouse Publications (UK)
Reigate, Surrey
- Lindner Publications Ltd
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
- John Lister Ltd
London WC2
- Filatelía Llach SL
Barcelona, Spain
- David Loffstadt
Bromley, Kent
- London Stamp Exchange Ltd
London WC2
- M & S Stamps
London WC2
- Greg Manning Co Inc
Montville, NJ, USA
- L W Martin Jr
Bellaire, TX, USA
- Mendip Philatelics
Highbridge, Somerset
- Messengers
Exeter
- Mills Philatelics
Goshen, NY, USA
- J R Mowbray (Philatelist) Ltd
Otaki Railway, New Zealand
- Robert Murray
Edinburgh
- Stephen Murray
Carlisle, Cumbria
- Muscott's
Godalming, Surrey
- Negev Holyland Stamps Ltd
Ilfracombe, Devon
- New England North Inc
Waban, MA, USA
- Bill O'Connell
Colby, Isle of Man
- Barry Oliver
Woking, Surrey
- Ormskirk Stamps
Hull, N Humberside
- Erik Paaskesen
Tervuren, Belgium
- Eric Paul (Stamps)
Manchester
- Will Payne
Buntingford, Herts
- Livio V Penco
Vancouver, Canada
- Philaclassica AG
Basel, Switzerland
- Philatelic Exporter Ltd
Radlett, Herts
- Philatrading Ltd
Lucerne, Switzerland
- Phillips
London W1
- Postal History Sales
Ripponden, W Yorkshire
- Postiljonen AB
Malmo, Sweden
- Prinz Publications (UK) Ltd
Hayle, Cornwall
- R F Stamps & Postcards
Rayleigh, Essex
- Chris Rainey
Basildon, Essex
- Brian Reeve
London WC2
- Richardson & Copp
Oxted, Surrey
- Peter C Rickenback
London NW3
- Wolfgang Roidl GmbH
Oettingen-Sainerholz,
W Germany
- Ross-Shiells Ltd
London EC2
- Alan Rothwell
Pantymwyn, Clwyd
- John Rouse
Reading
- Royale Stamp Co
London WC2
- Safe Albums (UK) Ltd
Finchampstead, Berks
- Sajal Philatelics
London SW17
- J Sanders (Philatelist) Ltd
Southampton
- Kenneth S Sargeant
Eastbourne, E Sussex
- Jacques C Schiff jr Inc
Ridgefield Park, NJ, USA
- Scotia Philately Ltd
Twickenham, Middx
- J Edward Sellars (Philatelists) Ltd
Bristol
- Ronald G Shelley
Hove, E Sussex
- Shields Stamps & Coins Pty Ltd
Victoria, Australia
- Peter Singer
Portland, OR, USA
- Solent Philatelic Auctions
Bristol
- Soluphil SA
Luxembourg
- South American Stamp Supplies
Peterborough
- Wolfgang de Souza
Greenford, Middx
- Stamp Magazine
Croydon, Surrey
- Stamps (magazine)
Penketh, Cheshire
- Allan L Steinhart
Toronto, Canada
- Rudolf Steltzer
Frankfurt, W Germany
- Paul Styllis Ltd
London WC2
- Paul Sussman
Marseille, France
- Martin Townsend
Hitchin, Herts
- Vera Trinder Ltd
London WC2
- Triple "S" Postal History Inc
Urbana, Ohio, USA
- Victoria Stamp Company
Ridgewood, NJ, USA
- Stephen Walter
Esher, Surrey
- Warwick & Warwick Ltd
Chester
- Werner Wetzel
Weinheim, W Germany
- Ronald Wilson
Reigate, Surrey
- Phil R Zwart bv
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Royal Mail Stamps & Philately will be in the West Hall of Alexandra Palace; the National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives in the East Hall.
Come and See Us.

25th Anniversary of Establishment of NPM

KEN HIND

The place of Reginald M Phillips (1888 - 1977) as founder of the National Postal Museum is rightly recognised on a plaque in the Museum. The story of the Museum's founding is one of the most fascinating in Post Office history. It starts — so far as the Post Office is concerned — in March 1962 with the receipt of a letter from the Prime Minister's Office. This asked for advice on a letter sent to the PM and referred to certain proposals from a private collector with an extensive collection of Great Britain stamps which it would seem might be the beginning of a British Postal Museum. The collector was R M Phillips.

The PM at the time was Harold Macmillan and it was not only through Africa that "the winds of change" were blowing. The Post Office itself, during the 1950s, had been gradually modifying its attitude towards philately and philatelists from one of virtual non-recognition to a somewhat guarded acknowledgement of their existence. The special stamp issuing policy had been "liberalised" slightly and in 1962 consideration was given to setting up a Philatelic Bureau.

The Post Office's suggested response to Phillips's letter was guarded but not unwelcoming; it contained the prophetic phrase "This is clearly not a matter that can be settled quickly". Then silence for a time while the Post Office considered the matter. There was a school of thought in the Post Office that felt that the matter of a Philatelic Bureau should be dealt with first, as, if that were agreed to, it would be relatively easy to graft a museum on to it. However, it became evident that a Philatelic Bureau was not in the immediate offing and in the autumn contact was made with Mr Phillips with a view to discussing his proposals.

Originally RMP had not envisaged the Post Office being involved but after the first contact he wrote to the Post Office saying: "... I have thought of a possible extension of (my) idea which might enable the Post Office and myself to be jointly identified with the creation of a GB stamp museum".

First Meeting

The first meeting with Post Office officials took place on 14 November 1962 and there was no doubt of the magnificence of RMP's ideas or his enthusiasm. While he did not expect the Post Office to commit itself immediately, he naturally looked for some positive response before he got down to working out the details of his scheme, and discussing them with the Post Office. On 3 December 1962 a letter was sent to him indicating that the Post Office would be "willing to give favourable consideration to any firm proposal that you might put forward".

Due to RMP's absence abroad the next meeting did not take place until July 1963, when RMP handed over a "Memorandum of the R M Phillips Plan for a National Postal Museum for Great Britain". This referred to "... the creation of a national home to provide a permanent and living record of Britain's pioneer work in postal communication which has done, and will always do so much to benefit mankind", and went on "... every possible encouragement should be given to the British Post Office to provide and further its interests in the future, and with that in view would suggest that the British Postal Museum should be incorporated with and run as part of the postal service". Thus was the flesh put on the bones of the original idea, and thus did RMP ensure full involvement of the Post Office in the project. So was the National Postal Museum conceived but, like many a large animal, the period of gestation was lengthy.

Slow Negotiations

In part this was due to the periodic absences on duty abroad of the PO officials, and to RMP's own absences abroad. But it was also due to the nature of the negotiations. These involved settling the arrangements for the setting up of the Museum; quite naturally both RMP and the Post Office were insistent that it should be worthy of the project. So anxious was RMP that nothing should be spared, that he gave £50,000 in cash towards the establishment and maintenance of the Museum. To ensure that the

Museum fully met requirements, the arrangements dealt with its siting, area, provision for students, lecture room, ventilation, management, etc. The negotiations also covered the arrangements for handing over RMP's unique collection of British Nineteenth Century Postage Stamps for exhibition in the Museum. These arrangements dealt with the identification of the collection, its cataloguing, the preparation of an account of the collection, and its exhibition in the Museum. In the event each album in the collection was identified by a specially printed flyleaf and each page by the words "R M Phillips Collection National Postal Museum" embossed on it, with its volume and page number. The account of the collection was written by Robson Lowe who, at RMP's suggestion, was subsequently appointed Honorary Philatelic Adviser to the Museum. Mr Lowe's book *The British Postage Stamp: being the history of the nineteenth century postage stamps based on the collection presented to the Nation by Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton* was first published in 1968 and is still available from the Museum. To ensure that the collection was properly exhibited, it was agreed that 41 open frames and 152 double-sided pull out frames in the Museum should be permanently allocated for the purpose.



Mr & Mrs Phillips with Postmaster General Anthony Wedgwood-Benn at the handing over of the Phillips Collection, 2 April 1965. Ken Hind is shown second from right

2 April 1965 - Red Letter Day

One feature of the negotiations was evident of the relationship that had grown up between RMP and the Post Office and of the single-mindedness with which RMP pursued his aim. Early in the negotiations RMP had envisaged handing over his collection under a Deed of Gift and setting up a trust. This would have created difficulties for the Post Office, particularly in

association with the separate organisation of its own collection of postage stamps which are Public Records under the *Public Record Act*. After several ways of getting round the difficulties had been considered, RMP agreed to give his collection to the Post Office (plus the £50,000) on the Post Office giving certain undertakings *binding in honour* only. This action was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Gift on 2 April 1965 by RMP and the Postmaster General, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn. On the same day Mr Benn made a statement in Parliament recording the event:

"... The Museum will be situated in a Post Office Building in Central London, and will be opened in about three years' time. The material in Mr. Phillips' collection, together with that from our own archives, will enable us to mount a series of exhibitions illustrating the development of the adhesive postage stamp from the days of the Treasury Competition. The concept of the adhesive postage stamp has been one of the great contributions of this country to the development of national and international communication, a contribution of which we in the Post Office are justly proud, and I am confident that the detailed story of the British stamp which will be presented will be of the greatest interest to the general public in this country and to visitors from abroad.

"I should like to take this opportunity to put on record my admiration for the great generosity and imagination of Mr. Phillips which has been an inspiring force in this project." (*Hansard*).

The collection that was handed over to the Post Office was the most comprehensive collection of 19th century British postage stamps in private hands, comprising over 2,200 pages in 45 volumes, together with the 35 volumes of the Dendy Marshall British Postmarks Collection. A selection from the Phillips Collection had been awarded the Grand Prix at the London International Stamp Exhibition in 1960. A particular feature of the collection is the immaculate lay-out and write-up in which RMP's wife (Mrs Elsa Phillips) was so closely and personally involved. Additional items, some actually acquired by RMP during negotiations, included Rowland Hill's original draft in his own handwriting to the Chancellor of the Exchequer outlining his scheme for Penny Postage, and an incomparable half sheet of 120 2d Blue stamps overprinted "Specimen".

Photographic Record

As part of the arrangements for handing over the collection, it was agreed that "life size" colour photographs should be made of the pages and that these should be handed over to RMP in albums similar to those of the original collection. A great deal of experiment and effort was necessary before photographs faithfully reproducing the range of shades in the collection were forthcoming. This photographic reproduction was later donated by RMP to the Sussex University Philatelic Unit.

Opening of the Museum

During negotiations the Post Office had been considering where the Museum might be sited. With re-arrangement of accommodation in King Edward Building, it became possible to earmark 2,000–3,000 square feet on the ground and first floors of that building for use from about 1967/8. Before that became completely available, a temporary Museum was opened by Mr Edward Short, Postmaster General, on 12 September 1966. The Museum proper was opened by HM The Queen on 19 February 1969 in the presence of HRH Prince Philip, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Mr John Stonehouse, Postmaster General, and a "distinguished

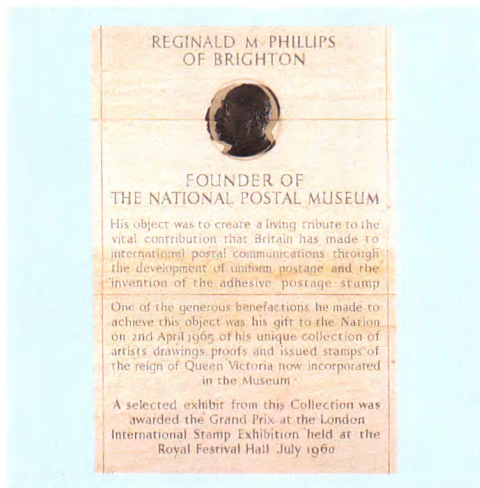
A Great Success

Before the Museum was opened there were some faint hearts who thought it might turn out to be a white elephant; they could not have been more mistaken. The 20,000 visitors each year include distinguished personalities in the postal or philatelic worlds, collectors of all kinds as well as groups from schools — attracted by the lectures and films put on in the specially designed lecture theatre (another RMP idea). The NPM also houses the Post Office's own collection of British stamps and its collection of stamps issued by other countries and distributed through the Universal Postal Union. The exhibitions of stamps on show are changed periodically.

University Philatelic Unit

The opening of the Museum was not the end of RMP's interest in his collection, or in the activities of the Post Office. Even before the opening he had been considering what further contribution he could make and a few days after the NPM was opened the R M Phillips Gold Medal Award for Stamp Design was announced. This was an award to be made every five years by the Post Office, the award itself being an impressive gold medal bearing the effigy of RMP (a smaller version of the one on the plaque in the Museum). The first recipient was David Gentleman, whose contribution to modern British stamp design is well-known (*the presentation to Mr Gentleman was shown in the September 1989 Bulletin. Ed.*)

The National Postal Museum is now a well-accepted feature on the British philatelic scene. It is known first hand to the hundreds of thousands who have visited it, and at second hand to many who have read about it in philatelic magazines — in particular in this *Bulletin* in which it is regularly featured. Many may realise RMP's association with it, but few realise how much his zeal and enthusiasm was responsible for the translation of his original concepts into the reality that countless people enjoy and admire.

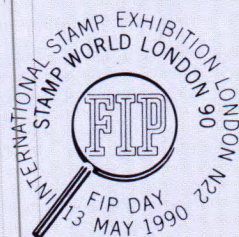


The Phillips plaque in the NPM

company". RMP showed Her Majesty his collection and The Queen examined with interest the plaque which, in accordance with the arrangements for establishing the Museum, had been set up to record Mr Phillips's gift. This includes a bronze effigy, prepared by Michael Rizzello and bronze lettering set in marble.

Ken Hind is a retired PO Senior Director who played a major role in the setting up of the National Postal Museum. In the course of negotiations he became a good friend of R M Phillips. Mr Hind remains a member of the NPM Board.

Stamp World London 90 Special Handstamps



Shown here are the special handstamps to be used on mail posted at Stamp World London 90 at Alexandra Palace 3-13 May. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition may send covers for handstamping to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1AA. Please state clearly which dates are required. All covers must bear 4p handstamping fee in addition to the normal rate of postage.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F. CHAPMAN

No.34 "Treasury" Roulette

Although Henry Archer's experiments for separating stamps (see Terms No. 17, October 1987), then being printed in imperforate sheets of 240, demonstrated in 1848 that rouletting was not the perfect answer, this method was still being explored in 1852-3. This time, the roulette wheel cut the paper margins between the stamps in shallow waves without removing any paper and leaving small uncut points which tore apart when the stamps were separated. Known as a "separate" roulette, there were three "waves" along the top and bottom of each stamp and, usually, four at each side. Because of assured official participation in these experiments, the resulting rare rouletted stamps are referred to as "Treasury" roulettes.

By 1852 the 1d red stamps in general use were being printed with Alphabet II check letters (see Terms No. 1, June 1986). Any alleged Treasury roulettes found in Alphabet I printings must be suspect. Further, they cannot be confused with the short-lived Archer roulettes of 1848 because these latter gauged 11½-12 are, also, on Alphabet I printings.

Treasury roulettes are only known used and seldom reach the market. A unique block of four, on a cover posted from Greenwich, London to Crediton, Devon on 20 December 1852 (the earliest recorded date) was found among some family correspondence sent to Stanley Gibbons for valuation in 1988. This fine cover was sold at Gibbons Auctions on 17 February 1989 for £11,000 (pre-sale estimate, £7,000). The Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum contains four Treasury roulettes, two separated examples on one cover and a unique vertical pair on another cover.

The Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace has two single Treasury roulettes on covers, respectively dated 15 July 1853 and 9 November 1853 (the latter a very late date) and, also, a used horizontal pair off cover and a single on piece, both the latter being undated.

Government Trial Perforations. Simultaneously with the Treasury roulettes, further perforating



Treasury Roulettes used on cover (Phillips Collection, National Postal Museum)

experiments were being carried out officially on machines built by David Napier & Sons to a pattern provided by Henry Archer when he sold his machine and patent to the Treasury in 1853 for £4,000. The Napier machines used gauges of perf 14 and perf 16, the distinguishing feature between the Archer perf 16 and "Government Trial" (Napier) perf 16 being that the latter is only found on stamps with Alphabet II lettering; Archer's perf 16 was on Alphabet I stamps, before the advent of Alphabet II.

As the Government adopted the perf 16 for regular use (until the introduction of perf 14 about three years later because it was found that the perf 16 stamps split along the perforations too easily and made the sheets difficult to handle), the Government Trial perforations can only be identified when on dated covers or pieces. These must be earlier than 28 January 1854 when the 1d red perf 16 stamps, Alphabet II, went on general sale for public use.

Special Handstamp Centres

Some confusion seems to have arisen over the type of postmarks to be applied at the new Special Handstamp Centres (SHC). Hopefully, the following notes will help clarify the situation.

The Centres will provide a quicker, more reliable and efficient service for customers. Employing staff working full-time on philatelic items, dedicated Centres will handle all items received requiring 'alternative' PICTORIAL "First Day of Issue" postmarks as well as SPONSORED SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS.

Local sorting offices continue to apply the standard, NON-PICTORIAL "First Day of Issue" cancellations and posting boxes are provided at main post offices as before.

For PICTORIAL "First Day of Issue" cancellations collectors will be given the address of both the office represented on the handstamp and the SHC and offered the choice of sending covers to either address. Covers sent to the designated office will be forwarded to the SHC for cancellation.

All philatelic mail will be sent to addressees directly from the SHC. Customers' enquiries should be made with the office to which the covers were originally posted.

SHC managers will take bookings for all privately sponsored special handstamps within their catchment area. Other offices within the catchment area may take initial enquiries from, and liaise with, sponsors but will book the work into the SHC and pass on all relevant details. SHC managers will offer advice on design of postmarks and can give out details of approved cover designers and manufacturers to customers.

Europa Stamps Cylinders

The cylinders and colours for the Europa stamps were as follows:

20p *Alexandra Palace* — 1A (silver) 1B (lemon) 1C (flesh) 1D (grey-brown) 2E (blue) 1F (grey-black) 1G (black)

20p *Glasgow School of Art* — 1A (silver) 1B (greenish-yellow) 3C (dull orange) 1D (blue) 3E (grey-black) 1F (black)

29p — 1A (silver) 1B (stone) 2C (orange) 1D (olive-sepia) 1E (grey-blue) 1F (grey-black) 1G (black)

37p — 1A (silver) 1B (greenish yellow) 2C (bright emerald) 1D (salmon) 1E (olive-sepia) 1F (bright blue) 1G (black)

Stamp World London 90 News

After several years in the planning stage, Stamp World London 90 is now only a few short weeks away. The organisers have taken great pains to ensure that the thousands of visitors to the exhibition will enjoy the time they spend at Alexandra Palace.

Since the East Hall has now been made available for the exclusive use of the exhibition it has been possible to use the additional space to provide greater comfort for visitors. Plenty of seating, often sadly lacking at international exhibitions, will be found in several parts of the complex. Wide gangways between the dealers stands and the exhibits will enable collectors to browse at leisure.

The Championship Class, consisting of 31 exhibits housed in 248 frames, is the largest ever to be presented at an international exhibition and will be the focal point of the East Hall.

Philatelic Literature

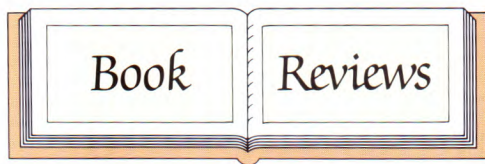
The East Hall will also accommodate ASCAT (L'Association Internationale des Catalogues), where collectors will have the opportunity of examining catalogues and magazines from all the major publishers from throughout the world. Additionally, copies of the literature exhibits will be located nearby, and a reading area is being provided for those who wish to study them. These books and journals are among the most recent research works from all parts of the globe and will be of great interest to all serious collectors.

Stampway Exhibition

Stampway to the World, the much-acclaimed introduction to the hobby, prepared by the Stamp Publicity Board, will be found in the West Arcade, as will the stand of the British Philatelic Federation. Further details of the Stampway exhibition are published elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Stamp Printers

Three British stamp printers will have stands at Stamp World London 90 — Harrison & Sons Limited; The House of Questa and Walsall Security Printers. Visitors to the Harrison stand will be able to see a video showing stamp engravers at work and there will be demonstrations of stamp engraving by, amongst others, Chris Matthews, engraver of the current Castle high value stamps. An article on stamp engraving by Chris was published in the November 1988 *Bulletin*.



Two more books from the hyper-active word processor of James Mackay are now available. In **Scottish Post Offices**, Mr Mackay provides researchers with a guide to Scottish offices. This new work replaces *Post Offices in Scotland* by Joe Henderson, published in 1966. The book opens with a section on Categories of Post Office. From the 17th century, the Post Office has used a nomenclature to distinguish between offices of varying importance. Over the centuries this has changed but the same basic system remains. The differences between Post Towns, Sub Offices, Railway Sub Offices, Postal Order Post Offices, etc are all explained. There follows a section showing how postmarks reflect the grades of offices and listings of abbreviations used in the main body of the work – a Directory of Post Offices. This is arranged alphabetically and gives dates of opening and closing and brief “History”, i.e. changes to the status and name of the office. Mr Mackay estimates that 95 per cent of the dates given by Henderson were incorrect, by up to as much as 40 years. The importance of this new work to students of Scottish postal history is thus made clear. 128 pages, card covers, price £10 UK, £12.20 overseas.

Users of Mr Mackay’s many postal history books will not need telling of the value of his **Postal History Annual**. The 1990 edition is now available, contains supplements to *Scottish Postmarks*, *Postmarks of England and Wales*, *Irish Postmarks*, *Irish Slogan Postmarks* and *Parcel Post of the British Isles*. In his introduction the author writes: “... many of the novelties reported in this volume arise from the drastic re-organisation of the Post Office which began late in 1986 and is still in process of implementation”. There have been numerous changes to postal markings as a result and Mr Mackay and his willing band of reporters are to be congratulated on ensuring that details are recorded for posterity. A look through this *Annual* will show just how much interest there is in modern postmarks, meters, printed postage impressions and the like. 94 pages, card covers, price £5.30 UK, £6.70 overseas. Both Mackay books are available from

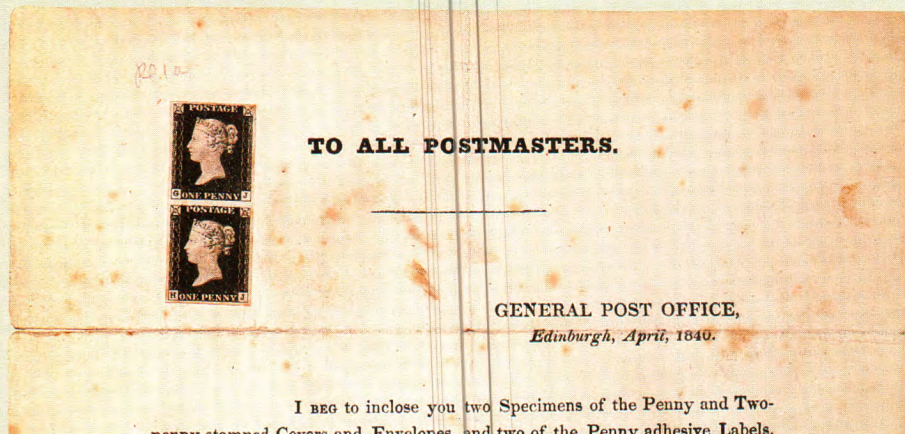
the author: 11 Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES, DG1 1LN.

A further useful guide **Emergency Services: War 1859-1950** has recently been published by Post Office Archives. In the Archives, miscellaneous records relating to Post Office operations in war time are grouped together as Post Class 56. This catalogue has been compiled to inform researchers of the material available for study. Early papers include documents relating to the South African War of 1899-1902, and 19th century notices and field manuals of the Post Office Rifles. The greater part of the collection, however, relates to the World Wars. During the Great War, the Post Office Rifles made a distinguished contribution to the war effort as a fighting unit; a spirit upheld in the Second World War by the Post Office Home Guard. The day to day work of the Post Office was the vital one of maintaining communications in war time. In 1914-18 this task principally involved the operation of postal services to the armed forces overseas. In 1939-45 were added the even more formidable problems of keeping home postal and telephone services operational in the face of enemy bombing. How this challenge was met can be found in official notices, reports and memoranda, and Regional and Departmental War Diaries. The collection is enhanced by the preservation of many photographs. The guide is available from Post Office Archives, 23 Glasshill Street, LONDON SE1 0BQ, price £1.50 postpaid.

The latest (fifth) edition of **Collect British Postmarks** by Dr J T Whitney provides a clear and concise guide to British postal markings from the 17th century to date, arranged in 24 sections from “The General Post” (early marks) to “British Post Offices Abroad”. Earlier editions of this book have proved successful and in this latest edition the scope has been widened further by the inclusion of more lists and detail. The pre-1840 provincial lists now contain over 6,000 items. Numeral, duplex and squared circle marks are now individually listed — more than 6,000 entries. Military collectors now have detailed lists of Second World War and post-war Field Post Offices. Many other smaller additions include Post Office Savings Bank slogans, Heathrow Airport, Island sub-office and Houses of Parliament postmarks. 324 pages, over 1,000 illustrations, good bibliography. Available from: J T Whitney, 75 Church Road, Hadleigh, BENFLEET, Essex, SS7 2DR, price £8, postage £1.

Gems from the RM Phillips Collection

172. Postmasters' Notice



Shortly before the issue of the Penny Black, notices were sent out to Postmasters and Sub-Postmasters from postal headquarters in London, Edinburgh and Dublin to inform them of the introduction of the stamps and the cancellation thereof. A notice dated 25 April 1840 began "It has been decided that Postage Stamps are to be brought into use forthwith, and as it will be necessary that every such Stamp should be cancelled at the Post Office or Sub Post Office where the Letter bearing the same may be posted, I herewith forward for your use an Obliterating Stamp, with which you will efface the Postage Stamp upon every Letter despatched from your office". The notice went on to give directions for the manufacture of the cancelling ink: 1 lb. Printer's red ink; 1 pint Linseed Oil and half-pint of the droppings of sweet oil; all "to be well mixed".

Shown here is part of the notice despatched from Edinburgh on 29 April to which was attached a pair of the Penny Black or "Penny adhesive Labels" as they were officially termed. Postmasters were required to "... carefully preserve" them, "in order to compare them in case of doubt with the stamped Letters that may pass through your Office".

If a Postmaster considered that a stamp on a letter was forged, he was not to detain the letter but was to "... take the Address, and report the circumstances" to the Secretary of the Post Office who would contact the addressee. The Postmasters were asked to note the corner letters on the stamps and were given instructions to apply the Cancelling Stamp to stamps and Mulready stationery. Letters bearing more than one stamp were to have the cancelling stamp applied to each adhesive stamp.

Samples of the Twopenny stamps were not available when this notice was sent out, samples were despatched with another notice dated 7 May together with samples of the "VR" Penny Black which was "to be applied to the Correspondence of Public Departments, and other Persons formerly enjoying the privilege of Official Franking". Subsequently the use of these official stamps was abandoned.

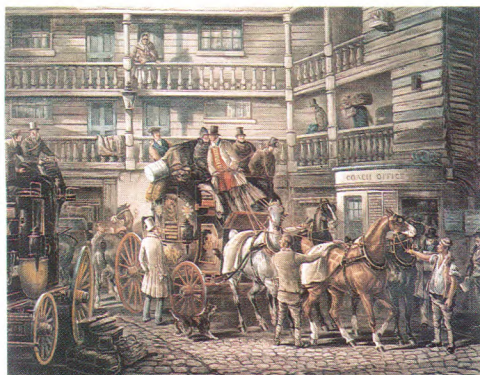
The 29 April notice, illustrated here, can be seen on page 5 of Volume 3 of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. The Museum is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm and Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission free.

New Products from Post Office Archives

The Post Office Archives will be presenting a display at Stamp World London 90 on the same stand as the National Postal Museum. To mark the special occasion, the Archives will also be offering for sale a range of attractive products appealing to a wide range of interests.

Historic Notices

Facsimiles of 14 of the perennially popular historic "Notices to the Public" will be available in packs at A4 and A5 size. Subjects range from the "Caution to Post Boys" of circa 1792 to Rowland Hill's notice concerning the disruption of mail caused by the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861.



The Olden Time, after C.C. Henderson, 1846: one of seven postcard subjects to be issued by Post Office Archives in May

Postcards

Seven colour postcards feature a mail coach scene, three contemporary illustrations of Victorian postmen's uniforms, an unusual 1857 design for a pillar box, Ripplingill's painting of "A Country Post Office, 1837", and a colourful Air Mail poster of 1925.

Prints

Whilst preparing for the Stamp World exhibition the Search Room staff at Freeling House unearthed material describing the arrangements for the Post Office jubilee celebration of 1890. A description of two 1840 engravings of the Inland Letter Office which were shown on that occasion led to a file which was found to contain the original steel plates. As a very special limited edition, therefore, Archives will be offering

collectors not reproductions but actual prints made from the original plates by modern craftsmen. The reappearance of these illustrations for the 150th anniversary commemoration could hardly be more appropriate.

Reproduction Maps

1990 marks another anniversary, as it will be 200 years since John Carey produced his *Survey of the High Roads from London*. These beautifully coloured maps, showing the major coach roads, inns and "gentlemen's seats" of the area around London, have been reproduced and will be sold in two sets: one for north of the River Thames and one for the south. They will be a delight to postal historians, collectors, or those who would simply like an exquisite map of their locality as it was 200 years ago framed on the wall.

Historical Miniatures

Finally Stamp World 90 will see the launch of a Post Office *Historical Miniatures* series, featuring high quality die-cast replicas of historical subjects. First in the series will be a painted model of the Penfold pillar box and an unpainted figurine of a London Letter Carrier of the 1860s, both 97mm high.

Availability

All these products will be launched exclusively at the Archives/NPM stand at Stamp World London 90 and mail orders will not be filled until the close of the exhibition, subject to availability of stock. Visitors to Alexandra Palace interested in these items will, we hope, make a point of coming to our stand in the East Hall.



A special cachet, illustrated here, will be available for application to Archives postcards purchased at the Stamp World stand. It should be noted that the cachet cannot be applied to postage stamps.

Post Office Archives is located at: Freeling House, 23 Glasshill Street, LONDON SE1 0BQ and is open to the public from 9am to 4.15pm Monday to Friday. A leaflet about the Archives can be obtained by writing to Freeling House. Various guides to the Archives have been published and are on sale at Freeling House and at the National Postal Museum.

1991 Special Stamps

The subjects for the 1991 programme were announced in last month's *Bulletin*. Preliminary information is now available.

The first of the eight issues — **Dogs** — marks the centenaries of two major organisations of interest to dog lovers — Crufts Dog Show and the National Canine Defence League. Organised by the Kennel Club, Crufts will be held in 1991 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham; it is considered the most important dog show in the world. The NCDL — the largest charity for dogs in the UK — is involved in the general welfare of dogs and campaigns on behalf of its 80,000 supporters to protect the rights of dogs.

The second issue — **Science** — will celebrate the bicentenaries of the birth of Michael Faraday (the "father of electricity") and Charles Babbage (the pioneer of computer science), as well as the 50th anniversary of the first flight of Whittle's jet engine.

Europe in Space is the theme chosen by the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) for the **Europa** stamps in 1991. In 1991, for the first time, a British astronaut will join an Anglo-Soviet space mission.

Sport features on a set of stamps celebrating two major events in 1991 — the World Student Games in Sheffield, and the Rugby Union World Cup. The International Federation of University Sport, which organises the student games, hope to attract more than 6,000 competitors from 130 countries. The Rugby Union World Cup will involve teams from 16 countries competing over a five week period.

Roses will provide the colour for stamps on **Flora**, marking the World Rose Convention in Belfast and the centenary of the Pteridological Society which promotes the study of ferns.

Stamps featuring maps will celebrate the bicentenary of the **Ordnance Survey**, the National Mapping Organisation of Great Britain, a civil service department which is also a

production organisation and publisher. This issue will be associated with the International Cartographic Conference being held in Bournemouth in 1991.

The stamps featuring **Dinosaurs** will mark the 150th anniversary of the first use of this name to describe the prehistoric creatures at the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1841. Fossilised remains of dinosaurs were first discovered in the UK.

The 1991 programme will be completed with the traditional **Christmas** issue.

The programme is provisional and subject to change. Details of dates of issue and values will be published later.

Stampway Moves to London

The Stamp Publicity Board's successful Stampway to the World exhibition will be on show at the Stamp World London 90 international exhibition at Alexandra Palace next month.

Stampway to London will cover 10 specific areas related to London and will be of interest to the Londoner as well as the visitor. As with Stampway to the World, it will appeal to both those who do not yet collect stamps and to existing collectors. It will take its audience on a miniature tour of London that captures the character and charm of the great city.

Enquiries about both Stampway exhibition should be addressed to: Sandra Scase, Stamp Publicity Board, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, Tel. 01-253 1231.

Events

The Coventry PS will be hosting the **Midland Philatelic Federation Spring Convention** at the Sibree Hall, Warwick Row, Coventry on 21 April (10am to 5pm). The event will include competitions and a stamp/postcard fair with over 15 dealers. Refreshments available, admission 25p. Further details from: Gordon Wishart, 72 Quinton Road, Cheylesmore, COVENTRY CV3 5FD.

Etchingham Parochial Church Council are staging the **Etchingham Stamp Festival** on 7 May; this will include an exhibition, Spring Fair and a Stamp Fair in the Village Hall. Dealers will be present. See "Commemorative Covers" for details of souvenir cover. Details from: The Rector, The Rectory, ETCHINGHAM, E Sussex, TN19 7AH.

The Wyon Dynasty

TONY GAMMONS

Exhibitions Officer, National Postal Museum

William Wyon is best known to philatelists as the engraver who created the head of the young Queen Victoria on the "City of London" medal struck to commemorate her Coronation visit to the Guildhall (Fig. 1). This head was used as the basis of many representations of the Queen on British and Colonial postage stamps during her



Fig. 1 Wyon's Guildhall medal, 1837

long reign. Wyon also submitted designs for the 1s and 10d embossed stamps issued in 1847/8 (Fig. 2).

William was born into an extremely talented family. His great-grandfather, George Wyon, was born in Cologne, coming to England in 1701 with George I's entourage as a "silver chaser". His son, George, was apprenticed to a goldsmith, and in 1775 was engaged by Matthew Boulton, proprietor of the famous "Soho" works and partner of James Watt, to manufacture "articles in cornelian" at Soho in Birmingham. He was also designer and modeller for the Silver Plate Company of Birmingham. The silver cup presented to John Wilkes in 1772 was embossed with the assassination of Julius Caesar from a cast by George Wyon. He died in 1796 at Birmingham where he had, for many years, carried on business as a die engraver and chaser. George Wyon had four sons, Thomas, the elder; Peter; George and James.

Thomas I

In 1796 Thomas went into business in Birmingham with his brother Peter as general die engravers. Their workshop was in Lionel Street, which was later to become the home of the Hill family's first school. Thomas moved to London in 1800 and on 30 September 1816 was appointed Chief Engraver of Seals. He died on 18 October 1830 in Nassau Street, London. He was the father of Thomas, Junior; Benjamin and Edward William who was to make his name as a sculptor and modeller.

Thomas Wyon Junior was born in Birmingham in 1792. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed to his father who instructed him in the art of engraving on steel. He joined the sculpture school at the Royal Academy and gained two silver prize medals. In 1809 he struck his first medal, which was presented to Lieutenant Pearce RN. He was awarded the gold medal of the Society of Arts for medal engraving in 1810, the die showing the head of Isis, was bought by the Society and used for striking its prize medals. On 20 November 1811 he was appointed probationer engraver at the Royal Mint where he produced bank tokens for Eng-



Fig. 2 Wyon's design for the 1s embossed stamp of 1847

land and Ireland and coins for the British Colonies and Hanover. He was appointed chief engraver to the Mint in October 1815 at the age of 23. The next year he brought out the new silver coinage for the United Kingdom (6d, 1s and 2s 6d) and in 1817 he struck the Maundy Money. Never a well man, Thomas died on 23 September 1817 at the Priory Farmhouse near Hastings (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3 Waterloo medal by Thomas Wyon Junior

Benjamin Wyon and Sons

Thomas Wyon I's second son Benjamin was born at Blackfriars in London on 9 January 1802. He received tuition from his elder brother, Thomas II, and in 1821 was awarded the gold medal of the Society of Arts for a medal die. He also gained the silver medal of the Royal Academy for a die of the head of Apollo. On 10 January 1831 he was appointed Chief Engraver of Seals and was responsible for the Great Seal of William IV. He later produced many medals, his signature on his work being "B. Wyon" or "Benj. Wyon". He died on 21 November 1858 (Fig. 4). He was the father of Joseph Shepherd Wyon, Alfred Benjamin Wyon and Allan Wyon.

Joseph was born on 28 July 1836 and was educated by his father and studied at the Royal Academy, where he gained two silver medals. His first important work was a medal of James Watt which, on the recommendation of Robert Stephenson, was adopted as the prize medal of the Institution of Civil Engineers. On 2 December 1858 he was appointed Chief Engraver of Seals, a post previously held by his father and grandfather. In his work he was aided by his brothers Alfred and Allan. His medals were often signed "J.S. and A.B. Wyon". He died at Winchester on 12 August 1873.

Alfred Benjamin Wyon was born on 28 September 1837 and was associated with his brother Joseph as an engraver of seals from July 1865, taking over as Chief Engraver in October

1837 on the death of his brother. He compiled a work on the "Great Seals of England" which was completed and published, after his death in June 1884, by his younger brother Allan.

Allan succeeded to the job of Chief Engraver of Seals on 20 June 1884, a post he held until 1901. He was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Numismatic Society of London and was at one time Treasurer and Vice President of the British Archaeological Association. He was married and had three daughters and two sons, the elder son, Allan G. Wyon, was a medallist, seal-engraver and sculptor.

To be continued.



Fig. 4 Reverse of Crimea medal by Benjamin Wyon

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin Editor.

Dam Busters. To commemorate the reunion of No. 617 Squadron Royal Air Force a special collection of personally autographed philatelic envelopes was produced entitled "Dam Busters at War". The covers are autographed by pilots and crew members who served with the Squadron between 1943 when it was formed and the end of the war in 1945. Each cover bears the special postmark used on 11 November 1989. Enquiries to: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA.

Europa — Philatelic Bureau. Shown here is the commemorative cover showing the British Philatelic Bureau produced by A G Bradbury and detailed in last month's *Bulletin*. Enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



Glasgow Thematic Society. A souvenir cover was produced for the 1990 Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies in Falkirk Town Hall on 24 March. The cover illustrates various themes including as a centre feature, a Penny Black. A special cancel was applied. An insert card in the cover gives a brief history of the Glasgow Thematic Society which is unique in the UK as the only society which caters for all thematic interests. Some of the covers were carried on a post bus from Glasgow to Falkirk and a special cachet "Carried by Post Bus" was applied. The Society has produced a special brochure with articles on thematics, aerophilately, Robert Burns and a history of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. Each brochure contains a "limited edition souvenir". Prices: blank cover 50p, serviced cover with

post bus cachet £1.25, brochure with souvenir £1.25. Orders/enquiries to: W. McKinlay, 47 Iain Road, Bearsden, GLASGOW G61 4PB.

75th Anniv of No 24 Squadron. A special cover (Ref. RFDC79 in Forces First Day Cover series) was issued on 23 January; this shows aircraft of No 24 Squadron and bears a full set of the RSPCA stamps cancelled by Forces handstamp 2216. The cover bears a cachet giving flight details of the 75th anniversary flight around the world and the signature of Wing Commander Farquar of the 24 Squadron. Price £4.25, remittances payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund" (JSPCF) and orders/enquiries to: Grp Capt W S O Randle, 60 Shelters Way, TADWORTH, Surrey, KT20 8QE.

60th Anniv of No 604 Squadron. Cover RFDC 80 was issued on 6 February to mark the 60th anniversary of No. 604 Squadron; it features a Red Baron's Fokker Triplane doing aerobatics and bears a cachet giving flight details of a trip in the only flying Fokker triplane and the signature of Peter Jarvis of Aerobatics International. The cover is franked with the full set of Greetings stamps cancelled by special Forces handstamp 2217. Price £4.75, remittances to JSPCF and orders/enquiries to Grp Capt Randle, address above.

75th Anniv of No 8 Squadron. Cover RFDC81 was issued on 6 March and shows aircraft of the Squadron and bears a flight cachet of the 75th anniversary trip and the signature of Wing Commander D Roncoroni, Officer Commanding No 8 Squadron. The cover has a full set of 1990 Europa stamps and British Forces handstamp 2219. Price £4.25, remittances to JSPCF, orders/enquiries to Grp Capt Randle, address above.

75th Anniv of No 10 Squadron. Cover RFDC82 will be issued on 10 April to commemorate the 75th anniversary and will feature aircraft of No 10 Squadron and bear a flight cachet of the special anniversary flight by a VC10 of No 10 Squadron and the signature of the Officer Commanding. The cover will be franked with the full set of Queen's Award stamps and cancelled with Forces handstamp 2220. Price £4.25, remittances to JSPCF, orders/enquiries to Grp Capt Randle, address above.

Etchingham Stamp Festival. Etchingham in East Sussex has two connections with philately: Henry Corbould, whose drawing of Queen Victoria was used for the Penny Black, is buried

in Etchingam church and Etchingam is the family home of Sarah Godwin, designer of the 1987 Isaac Newton stamps. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black and to raise funds for church repairs, a special cover has been produced. The design of the envelope was inspired by William Morris and draws on the wealth of structural ornamentation of Etchingam church. The cover, bearing the Penny Black miniature sheet and cancelled by an Etchingam Stamp Festival special handstamp of 3 May, costs £5 plus 50p postage. Covers signed by the Rector cost £6. Remittances to "Etchingam PCC"; orders/enquiries to The Rector, The Rectory, High Street, ETCHINGHAM, E Sussex, TN19 7AH.

CBI Silver Jubilee. Coinciding with the issue date of the stamps for the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology (10 April) is a cover and special handstamp to mark the silver jubilee of the Confederation of British Industry. Costing £4.75 with the full set of stamps (£8.75 signed by the CBI Director-General) covers can be obtained from A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stoneycote, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. (Overseas orders add 50p and remit in Sterling.)



Glasgow 1990. Glasgow City Council's 1990 Festivals Office have produced a special first day cover for the Glasgow pair of stamps in the Europa issue. The cover features aspects of the city's culture in design, music, art, theatre and architecture. Bearing the two Glasgow 1990 stamps cancelled by a handstamp in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh covers cost £3 from 'Stamps', Festivals Office, City Chambers, GLASGOW G2 1DU.

Saga. A special cover is being issued to mark Saga's second Queen's Award. The cover with the Queen's Awards stamps and special Folkestone handstamp of 10 April costs £4.50. Orders/enquiries to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Letters to the Editor



Writing Up Labels

Dear Sir,

The response to my letter published in the June 1989 *Bulletin* concerning Writing Up Labels has been overwhelming. To comply with the demand for labels, part deliveries of orders had to be introduced. I regret any inconvenience caused.

All collectors considering ordering a set of these labels are advised to expect part deliveries of a set, 1924 to 1988, for the time being, and they will receive the remainder of the labels as soon as possible, as well as labels for future issues.

All enquiries or information concerning delivery, etc. should be addressed to me as below.
ERIC FINLAY, 47 Briar Road, Armthorpe, DONCASTER, S Yorkshire, DN3 2EE.

Greetings Stamps

Dear Sir,

It was an excellent idea to introduce Greetings stamps and I have enjoyed sending cards adorned with Cupids, Roses and Teddybears — now judging by the preview in the January *Bulletin* the designers have excelled themselves in their interpretation of "Smiles". And how nice to see dear old Stan Laurel on a postage stamp in his centenary year. Is there any chance of seeing some of the "Rupert" characters on a future issue and some romantic scenes from paintings or films — say "Brief Encounter"?
N MONTFORT, Holt, Norfolk

Dear Sir,

I have just seen the illustrations of the stamps to be issued on 6 February. They are almost unbelievably awful and I shall have nothing to do with them. My only hope is that none of them goes abroad.

DR A M GOODBODY, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

These two letters illustrate the old saying "One man's meat is another man's poison". Ed.

April Digest

Issued in April

10 April: Queen's Awards stamps — 2 x 20p, 2 x 37p

Designer: Simon Broom

Printing: The House of Questa, offset-litho, 30 x 41mm, perforated 14 x 14½, phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum.

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: London SW

Presentation Pack: No. 207, price £1.40.

17 April: Standard aerogramme with new Royal Mail International logo, price 30p, pack of six £1.65.

17 April: £1.50 and £2 stamp books containing 10 x 15p and 10 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary Definitives

Printing: House of Questa, offset-litho, 15p has single phosphor band, 20p on advanced coated paper. Perf 15 x 14 on all sides

17 April: 80p stamp book containing 4 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary Definitives

Printing: Harrison & Sons Limited, photogravure, advanced coated paper, perf 15 x 14 with straight edges at top, right and bottom of pane. Stamp book covers produced by Walsall.

17 April: £1.16 stamp book containing 4 x 29p definitives

Printing: Walsall Security Printers, offset-litho, phosphor coated paper, straight edges at top, right and bottom of pane.

24 April: Scottish aerogramme - Forth Rail Bridge, price 30p.

Withdrawn in April

10 April: 1989 Anniversaries stamps, stamp cards, presentation pack and souvenir cover.

24 April: April 1989 50p and £1 machine books; 19p Scottish issued 8 November 1988.

30 April: July 1989 50p and £1 machine books and 50p book reprint (issued 8 August 1989).

1991 Prestige Book

The subject of the 1991 prestige book will be Agatha Christie; the book will be issued early in the year.

Royal Mail Football Postmark

Shown here is a commemorative cover recently produced to mark the 100th First Division meeting between Manchester United and Manchester City. The special handstamp was sponsored by Royal Mail (Customer Care) in Man-



chester, hence the Royal Mail logo on the cover — one in the Official Football Cover series produced by Dawn Cover Productions in conjunction with the Football Association and the Football League. The cover is available, price £2.30 postpaid, from Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT, Cheshire, SK3 8UD.

British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN - 0953-8119

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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by The Post Office.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Editor at:
National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £5.50
Rest of World (Airmail) £8.50

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Single copies from philatelic counters: 50p

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £5.50.

Printed in Great Britain by Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd for The Post Office.