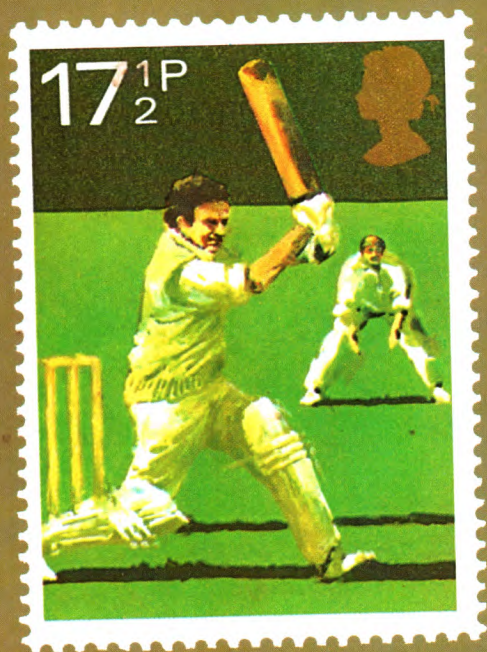


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 18 Number 1 September 1980



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The British Philatelic Exhibition of 1980 will soon be upon us, and for the second year in succession is to be held at the Wembley Conference Centre – from 1-4 October.

The move to Wembley in 1979 appears to have met with general approval because attendance figures broke all previous records. Nearly 11,000 people visited the new venue which afforded more space, permitting greater freedom for visitors to browse comfortably around the display area as well as the dealers stands complex.

For this occasion the Post Office has acquired a larger area for its stand, half of which will be given up for the purpose of easier and quicker facilities for customers waiting to be served at the counters. In addition four stamp vending machines will be sited on both the upper and lower floors of the Conference Centre occupied by BPE. It is hoped that this will assist visitors who may require stamps only for normal posting purposes, thus obviating the need to queue at the Post Office stand unnecessarily.

For those of us who are able, let us descend upon BPE 1980 and enjoy ourselves.

New Illustrated Stamp Books

No. 4 of the second series of illustrated stamp books to be issued on 24 September 1980 will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, and other offices as current stocks become exhausted.

Details of the make-up of each book is as follows:

50p book: 2 x 12p; 2 x 10p; 3 x 2p illustrating a 1897-1900 Daimler motor car..

£1 book: 10 x 10p depicting a Hurricane and a Wellington aircraft..

£1.20 book: 10 x 12p illustrating bottle kilns, Gladstone, Stoke-on-Trent..



Collecting Machin Definitives

Part 1

General review to date

To the collector of modern GB stamps, the Machin definitives are of particular interest. One of the attractions of the modern stamp is that it is alive and contemporary in its design and presentation. If it is a definitive there is the possibility of change between one printing and another, and always with something going on up ahead to reflect shifts in operational requirements, or new developments in printing processes. In other words it is postal history in the making.

Many such changes have occurred with the Machin definitives since the 4d, 1s and 1/9d values were issued with justifiable acclaim, on 5 June 1967. Activity has been more than adequate to maintain enthusiasm and interest during their eleven year history to date.



The Machin series, mostly printed by Harrison & Sons of High Wycombe, was the first to be issued by the Post Office on unwatermarked coated paper. For the early printings the paper looks creamy and has medium fluorescence under a UV lamp. It is called Original Coated Paper, or OCP, although there is some question as to whether this was just one of several coated papers used for the £sd issues. Fluorescent coated paper, FCP, appeared in 1971, firstly on the 10p bi-coloured stamp issued on 11 August. From then on this whiter and brilliantly fluorescent paper replaced OCP on all small format stamps, including those of the regional issues, and the 'to pay' labels.

Since 1974 a heavier paper has been used to improve the quality of printing and perforating on Harrison's high speed Jumelle press, installed during 1972.

Thinner paper has been found on some values, and this seems to have resulted from deliberate policy in respect of some se tenant coils, presumably to improve machine vending.



Se-tenant coil, Thrissel printed on thin paper

4p and 75p definitives printed by John Waddington of Kirkstall near Leeds, and at the House of Questa London, respectively, were issued on 30 January 1980. Being produced by photo offset lithography instead of photogravure as used by Harrisons, these new stamps are on a paper with a stronger surface to suit the different printing process. They are consequently more difficult to remove from the sheets. Other paper differences can be found on the large format Machin definitives which were recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinsons from 1970 to the beginning of 1977. At first, paper for these stamps was provided by Harrisons but later, in 1973, it was replaced by paper from other suppliers. This 'contractors' paper is noticeably whiter and thinner.



£.s.d.

Decimal

From time to time coatings of a non-standard nature have been used. For instance, a silicone coating was added to the 5p se-tenant coil stamps in 1972 in order to prevent dampness affecting the coils in vending machines. In 1976, varnish was applied either before or after printing of most of the 9p definitives from ink cylinder 12, and before printing of some 1/2p definitives from ink cylinder 8. This was apparently an expedient to overcome coating problems on a particular batch of paper. It can easily be distinguished with UV lamp.

Finally, as long ago as 1969, work was well advanced with the development of a coating incorporating phosphor, so as to save on the need of a separate printing process. First issued experimentally on a Machin 1s 6d definitive in that year, it was perfected sufficiently to come into standard use with the 11 1/2p, 13p and 15p definitives issued on 15 August 1979. One of its characteristics which will be noticed by collectors is a tendency of phosphor coated paper to curl.

There have been many variations in the way that phosphor has been applied since it was first used on GB stamps in 1959.

The single phosphor band on second class stamps to enable such mail to be mechanically segregated is generally found down the centre of the stamp. However, on some booklet panes notably the 50p, it is at either the right or left hand side.

Although on most Machin stamps the bands are 9.5 mm in width, those on the 50p booklets since

January 1977 have been 8 mm wide. On some booklets, starting with the 1978 Christmas booklet, the bands were deliberately foreshortened at top and bottom into bars, so as to prevent encroachment onto adjacent stamps. With the 1978 Christmas booklet this was necessary because the first class stamps with two bands were printed immediately above the second class stamps.

Different screens have been used for phosphor bands, either 150 screen or 250 screen. The difference can be seen under magnification. Some booklet panes contain stamps with mixed screens, part of the stamps having 150 screen phosphor, and the rest having 250 screen phosphor. Where screening is hard to identify it may have been caused by clogging of the cylinder. Phosphor bands are commonly printed by photogravure using one unit of the Jumelle machine. However, those on the 1980 Waddington printed 4p stamps were applied by letterpress.

On some occasions phosphor has been printed before the ink, and the effect can clearly be seen on some of the 11p stamps from ink cylinder 4, phosphor cylinder 30. A further notable occasion was during the transition of certain values from phosphor bands to phosphor coated paper. Due to inadequate supplies of such paper, and because the Jumelle unit was otherwise engaged it was decided, as an interim measure to print all over phosphor on to reels of standard paper with the aid of a spare printing machine. This paper had the stamp designs subsequently printed on the Jumelle.

The values affected were the 1p, 2p and 10p definitives issued in October 1979. These have subsequently gone over to phosphor coated paper.

The phosphor coating technique was still unperfected even in 1979 as exemplified by the emergency Chambon printing of the 10p definitives issued on 20 August 1979. Some of these stamps were on substandard phosphor coated paper which, to satisfy operational requirements had to have phosphor bands printed over the top.

The phosphor in regular use on the Machin stamps reacts violet after exposure to short wave UV light, but green phosphor was used in error during 1972 on a 2 1/2p printing from ink cylinder 10, phosphor cylinder 8.

A further variant is yellow or JET phosphor (so called after its finder Mr. J E Thompson). This was fully written up by Aubrey Walker in his recent series of articles in the Philatelic Bulletin, and resulted from a contaminant in the phosphor used on certain stamps from 1973.

The adhesive on Machins has changed from the



Stamps from the 1978 Christmas booklet



Mixed screens from booklet stamp

transparent and highly glazed gum arabic, through the synthetic polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) which appeared in 1968, to PVA with dextrin added in 1973. PVA can be white, or yellowish as the result of added dye. It may have a matt or satin finish.

The addition of dextrin imparts a bluish green colour to the adhesive and makes it more apparent to the eye.

A particular feature of the synthetic adhesives is that they permit an increased output, and produce a more stable paper which does not curl as with gum arabic.

Some printings since 1973 have come out with PVA instead of PVAD. The only one which appears to have been intentional was the

Waddington 4p definitives released in January this year.

Most GB definitives are perforated 15 x 14. However the recent Waddington 4p and House of Questa stamps are perforated 13.5 x 14. Different perforators have been used from time and time, of which the Kamf perforator on Harrison's Jumelle machine produces sheets with a single extension hold in the side margin, and perforated through the top and bottom margins. An extra extension hole can be found in the side margins of some sheets. This occurs once with each rotation of the perforating cylinder. A number of printing presses have been employed in addition to the Jumelle, both at Harrisons and other printers, including



don't
forget
the
postcode



Different value settings on 10p sheet and booklet stamps

Enschede in Holland who produced an emergency run of 8p definitives during 1979. The Chambon press, mentioned earlier in connection with the 10p definitive, is used for the production of £1 telephone savings stamps. It produces sheets of 200 stamps made up of two panes of 100, 10 x 10 divided by a horizontal gutter or interpane margin. In some cases the printing characteristics of different machines can be identified.

Finally there have been minor changes in the design of stamps from time to time. These have resulted from the use of different master negatives, and variations in settings of the value.

Several head types exist, and some value types have been redrawn. Of the head types three are considered of particular significance to collectors. The first was used for the early Machin printings. The bottom of the portrait is very sharp and clear without shading, and tends to curve inwards. The second has a shaded base outline which merges with the background and makes it appear to curve outwards. The third has a slightly larger head, 20

mm against 19 mm, which brings the base nearer the bottom margin.

Value settings vary not only between sheet stamps from different cylinder, and booklets, but also have been found to vary between stamps on the same sheet. With sheet prints this results from the use of different master negatives of the head and value, which are brought together whenever a new cylinder is needed. As a result minor registration variations can occur. With booklet printings, adjustment of value settings seems to have been deliberate so as to produce a better balance when different values are brought together.

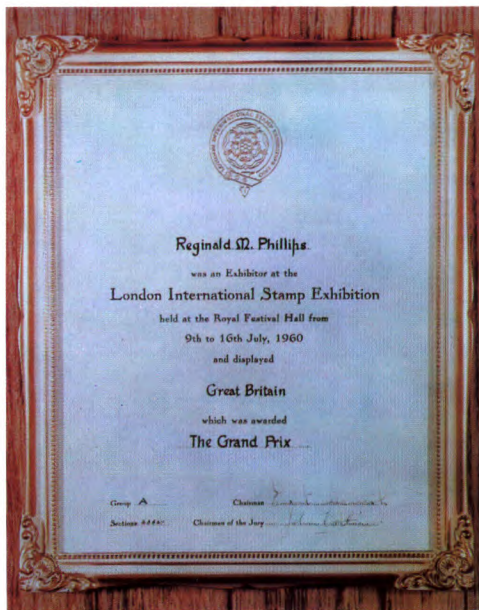
Footnote. Since this article was written, 2p and 5p definitives from the House of Questa, and a 20p definitive from Waddington were issued on 21 May 1980. They have the same technical characteristics as the earlier stamps from the same printers. At the same time a 50p reprint but without phosphor, from Harrisons, was released.

D W STADDON

London 1960

For a change, this month's "Gem" from the Phillips Collection is neither an expensive item of postal stationery nor a rare stamp or essay. Instead, the illustration is of the Grand Prix Award made to Mr Phillips at the London International Stamp Exhibition held at the Festival Hall in 1960. Following on from this award, in order that others might share in the enjoyment of this collection, Mr Phillips subsequently donated it to the nation in 1965.

While the dust is still settling after 'London 1980, we would like to take this opportunity of reminding readers (should they need it!) of the treasures housed in the National Postal Museum. The 'gems' of the Reginald M Phillips Collection are on permanent display throughout the year unlike the transitory exhibition we are now accustomed to. Twenty years on from 1960 it would be impossible to speculate on the impact the Reginald M Phillips Collection might have had, had it been shown at London 1980. Time has not dimmed the splendours of the collection but rather has enhanced its philatelic value and importance.



The National Postal Museum is housed in London Chief Office, King Edward Street in the City of London. The museum is open to the public from 10am-4.30pm Mondays-Fridays. Visits by parties and schools are catered for, and bookings can be made by telephone (01-432 3851). The nearest Underground Station is St Paul's.

CHARLES GOWEN

Forces Covers

Ex Crusader-Spearpoint 80

The largest NATO exercise held since 1952 is remembered with the issue of a special cover depicting 1st British Corps spearhead sign surrounded by the flags of those nations taking part. Bearing a 12p Queen Mother Birthday stamp, the cover will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPS 8626.

A limited number of covers will be signed by Lt Gen Sir Peter Leng KCB MBE MC Commander of the 1st British Corps, price £5 each. Unsigned covers are 75p each. Orders with remittances made payable to: Philatelic A/C 1 PC Regt RE, should be accompanied by a 9" x 6" stamped addressed envelope and sent to: Philatelic Officer, 1 Postal and Courier Regiment RE BFPO 33.

Battle of Britain 'At Home' Day

A commemorative cover marking 'at home' day at RAF Finningley, Doncaster, will be available on

cancelled with a special handstamp. 1000 will be signed by the pilot of the aircraft and will retail at £1.00 each while 4000 unsigned covers will be available at 50p. Orders by post must include an additional 10p per cover as handling charge and should be sent to: Colin Joyner, Project Officer, Battle of Britain 'At Home' Day, Commemorative Cover, RAF Finningley, DONCASTER, S Yorks, DN9 3LQ. Remittances made payable to:- Battle of Britain, RAF Finningley Control A/C.

Withdrawal of Definitives

The 8p, 9p and 9½p definitive stamps, and the 9p Country definitive stamp will be withdrawn from sale at the close of business on Friday, 30 September 1980. They will, however, continue to be sold from the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters for a further twelve months.

Sport: Special Stamp Issue

10 October 1980

A set of special stamps commemorating centenaries will be issued on 10 October in honour of four of our more popular sports. The year 1880 saw the formation of The Amateur Athletics Association; The Welsh Rugby Union; The Amateur Boxing Association, and the first test match played in this country between England and Australia. The subjects and denominations of the stamps are: 'Athletics' (12p) 'Rugby' (13½p) 'Boxing' (15p) and 'Cricket' (17½p).

Printing Details

Designer: Robert Goldsmith
Printer: The House of Questa Ltd
Process: Offset litho
Paper: Coated, unwatermarked
Phosphor: Pre-treated
Adhesive: PVA dextrin
Format: Vertical
Size: 30mm x 41mm
Perforation: 14 x 14½
Sheet size: 100

Values and Colours:

12p — cyan, yellow, magenta, light brown, maroon, gold.
13½p — cyan, yellow, magenta, purple, pink, gold.
15p — cyan, yellow, magenta, dark blue, gold.
17½p — cyan, yellow, magenta, dark green, light brown, gold.

Presentation Packs

Presentation packs, price 72p, containing all four stamps will be available from 10 October 1980.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, including a choice of two pictorial handstamps; 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' and 'Cardiff'.

SERVICE A

This consists of the official first day cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled as requested, and despatched.

SERVICE B

Customers own pre-addressed covers, bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled and despatched.

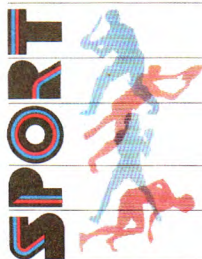
CHARGES

	Inland	Overseas
Service A	87½p	76p
Deposit account customers	83p	72p
Service B	77p	67p

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with Philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 1 October 1980.



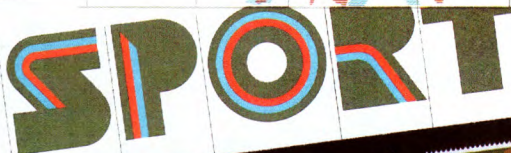
POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVER



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

The roots of much of modern international sport can be found in this country. In the last half of the nineteenth century casually-organised clubs in many sports and games felt

the need to found governing bodies whose rules for play could be agreed by all. Just about a century ago, too, international competition began to evolve.



...which has occasionally been controversially by the mutual respect of the cricketers.

Rugby Union

The Welsh Rugby Union was formed at a meeting in the Castle Hotel, Neath towards the end of the 1890s season, on March 12, 1898. In fact, when representatives from 11 clubs (Bangor, Brecon, Cardiff, Llanelli, Llanidloes, Llanwrtyd, Llanwrthwl, Llanwrthwl, Llanwrthwl, Llanwrthwl, Llanwrthwl) met in the Castle Hotel, Neath, they agreed to form the Welsh Rugby Union.

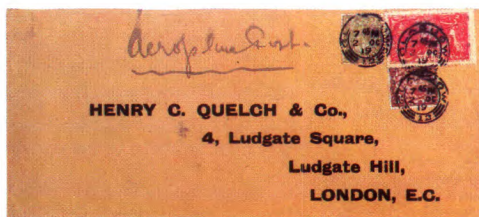


Our First Emergency Air Mail Service

The first British official air mail service (to commemorate the coronation of King George V) inaugurated on 9 September 1911 between London and Windsor, has made a great impression on collectors, due no doubt to the special pictorial stationery. It seems curious that there is not so much enthusiasm among philatelists for the second service just 8 years later, and dealt with by Mr Richard Beith in The Bulletin for September 1977 (Vol 15 No 1 p7).

An uncle of mine, the late Harold L Hayman, one of the world pioneers of Aero Philately made some notes which add to the story.

For several days prior to the emergency service, a plane left Hounslow for Brussels carrying the Dutch and Norwegian mails. On 30 September the initial internal flight was from Leeds in the Blackburn 'Kangaroo', when the Secretary of the Company travelled as a passenger with a number of letters which were posted as soon as London was reached. These bore the oval cachet, 'The North Sea Aerial Navigation Co Ltd - Leeds', which was



the office rubber stamp. The letters were post-marked, 'London 6 pm 30 Sept 1919'.

On arrival in London, the pilot Mr R V Kenworthy* was asked by the Government (sic) to carry the mails to Glasgow which he did the following morning. Consequently the London - Leeds service had to be abandoned.

On the same day, four other planes took off in perfect weather from Hounslow between 7.40 and 9.00 am for Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham and Newcastle, but on the following day, the plane to Newcastle crashed in a busy street in the City; fortunately the pilot escaped.



By Aeroplane



Miss Ostara
24 Corporation St.
Manchester

Below is a list of mail carried on flights and their numbers were in ratio to the distance they were conveyed. The largest number was between Glasgow and London (in fact over four fifths of the entire mails) and the smallest number between Bristol and London.

It seems that Harold Hayman obtained these figures from the Postmaster General in 1924.

The cover with 6/- air fee (1½d postage) flown on 2 October well illustrates the points made by Mr Beith, while that posted in Edinburgh on 3 October was delivered by motor van to Glasgow and flown to London on 4th for delivery to the addressee the following day.

The 90 articles of mail flown from London to Manchester on 1 October must have been posted the day before, as a result of the notification of the service on Monday, 29 September by the PMG – quoted by Mr Beith. The third cover illustrated is one of them.

Although Mr Beith gave the latest times of posting from various offices, senders were also requested to write on the envelope 'Per Air Mail'. Readers will see from the illustrations that this was interpreted to suit personal tastes.

*Mr Beith quotes 'R W' as the pilot's initials. I don't know which is correct.

GERALD DAVIS

Numbers of Letters carried from or to London

Date of flight	Bristol		Birmingham		Manchester		Newcastle		Glasgow	
	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN
Oct 1919										
1st	19	34	47	25	90	NONE	49	NONE	113	NONE
2nd	16	59	38	125	68	91	61	115	138	204
3rd	10	25	30	15	60	97	46	161	134	217
4th	22	15	28	35	49	59	49	157	113	248
5th	5	NONE	11	1	12	11	20	74	37	161
6th	3	25	2	8	4	NONE	6	NONE	9	45

NONE Indicates No Service

68. General Anniversaries, 1970

Once again the Post Office succeeded in the difficult task of combining five historic and memorable events in compatible style and, furthermore, persuaded two artists, Fritz Wegner and Marjorie Saynor, to produce uniform designs, both in format and presentation. All the stamps show people 'doing things' which focuses one's attention on the costume and dress of their respective periods. The stamps were issued on 1 April 1970.

The signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, on 6 April 1320, was a defiant answer to Robert the Bruce's excommunication by the Pope at the behest of Edward II of England – Robert had been crowned King of Scotland in 1306, and eventually defeated the English under Edward at Bannockburn. The Declaration led to the acknowledgment of Robert as the Scottish King, and of Scotland's independence, in 1328. The stamp shows the Abbott (the person presumed to be signing the Declaration) wielding an enormous quill-pen although, according to historians, no one actually signed it – the barons simply affixed their seals (5d.).

'The Lady with the Lamp', Florence Nightingale, 1820-1910, was born in Florence, and studied nursing at Kaiserswerth, near Düsseldorf, and in Paris. She courageously volunteered to take a team of nurses to the Crimea in the wake of the Allied landings – they arrived on the eve of Inkerman during the terrible winter of 1854-55, tended the wounded soldiers and battled against cholera and typhus. On her return to Britain, she founded a training college and nurses' home at St Thomas's Hospital. The stamp shows her attending patients in the makeshift military hospital at Scutari (9d.). The Crimean War ended with the fall of Sebastopol in September 1856: peace was signed in Paris six months later.

In 1620 the Puritan 'Pilgrim Fathers' sailed from Plymouth in the good ship *Mayflower* to seek a new life (and escape persecution) in America. It was not all 'plain sailing', however. The venture began in Leiden, Holland, when Puritan refugees negotiated for land in far-off Virginia and purchased a tiny ship, the *Speedwell*, which they sailed



to Southampton. Here they chartered another vessel, the *Mayflower*, a more substantial merchantman and whaler. Both ships set sail with about 120 pilgrims aboard, but the *Speedwell* sprang a leak and both vessels put in to Dartmouth. Again they set forth and again the tiny *Speedwell* was mercilessly buffeted off Land's End, and the ships headed for Plymouth – there the *Speedwell* was abandoned, and the *Mayflower*, 'creaking at the seams', finally sailed for the new World where it arrived, after two months, on 10 November 1620. The stamp shows the pilgrims about to board the *Mayflower* (1s.6d.). All three stamps were designed by Fritz Wegner, who was responsible for the previous year's Christmas stamps.

The 'Co-op' stamp (1s.) marks the signing of the International Co-operative Alliance in London in 1895 and depicts four of the signatories – Earl Grey of Great Britain; M Charles Robert of France; Professor Victor Bohmert of Germany; and De Keussler of Russia. The Alliance aimed to promote production and trade for the whole community on a non profit-making basis. The personalities of the Royal Astronomical Society (1s.9d.), founded in 1820 for the promotion of astronomy, are (left to right) Sir William Herschel (the first President), Francis Baily, and Sir John Herschel. In the background, a telescope. Both stamps were designed by Marjorie Saynor, a freelance illustrator and newcomer to stamp design who trained in Hull and at the Royal College of Art.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (6 x 20) on un-watermarked paper with two phosphor bands. Numerous flaws and varieties are recorded, including omissions of the gold (Queen's head), certain other colours and phosphor bands, white flaws and missing parts of the desk, and baron's shoe missing on the 5d. stamp, and a corner of the Union Jack missing on the *Mayflower* (1s.6d.).

Quantities sold were: 5d. 71,259,000; 9d. 10,590,120; 1s. 10,287,840; 1s.6d. 11,388,960; 1s.9d. 6,120,600; presentation packs, 120,564.

JAMES WATSON

The Philatelic Music Circle

To commemorate the centenary of the birth of Viennese composer, Robert Stolz, The Philatelic Music Circle have produced a postcard bearing a portrait of Stolz. The card with a 12p 'Music' stamp affixed, cancelled by a special handstamp will bear a cachet applied at the PMC convention to be held in London on 27 September 1980. Order forms and further details from David Copper, 27 Bank Drive, WISBECH, Cambs PE13 1PX. Customers in USA should write to C J SABADOS, 528 Rimini Road, Del Mar, CALIFORNIA 92014 USA.

HM The Queen Mother — Lord Warden Cinque Ports

The Department of the Environment in association with Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, will produce a special philatelic cover coinciding with the issue, on 12 August, of the 12p Queen Mother's birthday stamp, and Her Majesty's tour of the Cinque Ports of which she is Lord Warden. The front of the cover will include a photograph of Her Majesty when she was installed as Lord Warden in 1979. It will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp which includes the words 'Walmer Castle', Her Majesty's official residence. The cost is £1.10 which includes return postage and packing. Orders should be sent to Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 24-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent CT21 5AT.

Forfarshire County Cricket Club

To commemorate the Centenary Year of Forfarshire Cricket Club, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, one of Scotland's premier County Cricket Clubs, a special cover will be available from 21 October 1980 bearing the Club's Crest and the special stamp.

A pictorial handstamp will be used to cancel all covers posted at the Club's ground, price £1.00 each.

Orders should be sent to Mr G D Harmiston, 33 Gotterstone Drive, DUNDEE, DD5 1QX together with remittances made payable to Forfarshire Cricket Club.

High Road to Birmingham

In an effort to raise funds for the provision of a 'scanner' for the Children's Hospital, Birmingham,

Mr John Nash, accompanied by his dog Nicky, set out – on foot – from John O'Groats to Birmingham on 13 July 1980. On route he climbed Ben Nevis, passed through Glasgow, scaled Scafell Peak, on through Kendal, Preston, Llanberis Pass, ascended Snowdon, and continued through Shrewsbury, Worcester, Stratford-on-Avon, arriving in Birmingham on Saturday, 9 August.

A commemorative cover marking this feat has been produced for £1.12 including return postage and packing. Orders should be sent to: Mr A Highfield, 302b Lichfield Road, New Invention, WILLENHALL, West Midlands WV11 3EN.

Test and County Cricket Board

To coincide with the issue of the 'Sport' stamps on 10 October the TCCB will offer a souvenir cover with all four stamps affixed, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp, price £1.50. Full details and order form for this and other philatelic items commemorating the England – Australia Centenary Test Match can be obtained from: TCCB (Stamps), 1 High Street, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 1NZ.

School Music Cover

To mark the 550th Year of Sponne School, Towcester, the Music Society will produce a special cover limited to 3,000. The cover will be issued on September 10 to coincide with the 'Music-British Conductors' stamps issue and will bear all four stamps cancelled with a special Sponne one day handstamp. Price of the cover is £2.00 (including post and packing under separate cover) from "Sponne Parent Association", Sponne School, TOWCESTER, Northants NN12 7DJ.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

A commemorative cover in honour of Sir Thomas Beecham, the founder of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, will be available from 10 September 1980. It will illustrate the Arms of the Orchestra and contain information about the history of the RPO and its conductors.

The cover will bear the 13½p 'Music' stamp cancelled with pictorial handstamp applied at the Royal Festival Hall, price £1.00. Order form and details of this and other philatelic items from: RPO (Stamps), 1 High Street, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 1NZ.

Farewell to the Sixpence Piece

On 30 June 1980 we said 'good-bye' to 429 years of history. By Royal Proclamation the sixpence piece, or 'tanner' as it is called, is no longer legal tender, from 1 July 1980.

As a tribute to this well-loved coin, a commemorative cover is currently available bearing a 15p 'London Landmarks' stamp, cancelled with a special handstamp which includes the date 30 June 1980.

The cover contains a descriptive card which holds an actual coin. The cost is £2.00, which includes return postage and outer cover. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Nordon Art Co Ltd, Exmoor House, Methuen Street, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants SO2 0FQ.

Leicester Tigers Rugby Football Club

1980 is the centenary year of the LTRFC and on 10 October, to coincide with the issue of the four 'Sports' stamps, a commemorative cover will be available. Bearing the full set of stamps, the cover will feature the Leicester team of 1880. It will be cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp, and an explanatory cachet will be applied denoting that the cover was posted in a posting box sited at Aylestone Road grounds. The price of the cover is £2.50 which includes postage and packing. In addition 200 covers, signed by the present first team, will be available at £7.50. Full details can be obtained from: Mr A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER LE2 6FJ.

Fairfield Link with British Conductors Stamps

To coincide with the issue on 10 September 1980 of four stamps depicting famous British Conductors, Fairfield Halls are producing a Commemorative Cover depicting Sir Malcolm Sargent.

The envelope and special handstamp are the work of the designer, Clive Abbott.

Sir Malcolm has been chosen for the Fairfield Cover as he conducted the first concert at the Halls on 2 November 1962.

A limited edition of 2,000 covers may be ordered in advance from Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, CROYDON, Surrey CR9 1DG at £1.75 each + 20p postage.

150th Anniversary: Liverpool and Manchester Railway

A six week "Great Railway Exposition" at Liverpool Road Station, the first passenger railway station in the world, has been organised by the Greater Manchester Council. To record this celebration of the Railway's 150th Anniversary, 2 commemorative covers have been produced, each with their own special handstamp.

The first cover commemorates the Great Railway Exposition itself and bears its full colour logo. A full set of the Liverpool and Manchester

Railway postage stamps will be affixed and cancelled with an interchangeable date handstamp during the period of the Exposition ie 2 August to 14 September 1980. A cachet mark will also be given to the covers indicating that the item was posted at Liverpool Road Station.

The second cover will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the first passenger train. It will have a full colour reproduction of a painting of Liverpool Road Station during its heyday. Again a full set of the Liverpool and Manchester railway stamps will be affixed and they will receive a special handstamp cancellation on the 15 September, the date of the anniversary. The "Posted at Liverpool Road Station" cachet will also be applied.

The price of the Great Railway Exposition cover is £2. The price of the 150th Anniversary cover is £2.50. If both are ordered together a reduced price of £4 applies.

The 150th Anniversary of the first passenger train cover will also be available with the 55p British Rail carriage fee paid stamp affixed. The price of this item will be £3.50. All prices are inclusive of VAT.

Orders, or requests for further information, should be addressed to David M Sumner, Festival Administrator, The Great Railway Exposition, Liverpool Road Station, Liverpool Road, MANCHESTER M3 4JP.

Forthcoming Events

Cheltenham Philatelic Society

The Annual Stamp Fair will be held at The Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham on Saturday, 18 October 1980 from 10am to 5.30pm. 17 dealers will be offering a wide range of philatelic materials. Society Tombola will take place and refreshments will be available. Admission: adults 15p, children 5p.

Bromley and Beckenham Philatelic Society

Bromley and Beckenham Philatelic Society will be hosts at this year's Kent Federation Autumn Rally to be held on Saturday, 11 October in the Beckenham Public hall, from 12 noon to 5pm.

The programme will include County competitions, club displays, a Post Office display, a bidboard and several dealers' stands. Refreshments will be available and admission is free.

Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society

Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society have arranged a further Philatelic Weekend at Wansfel College of Residential Adult Education to be held

from Friday evening 17 October to Sunday afternoon 19 October 1980.

The weekend will start on Friday evening with dinner at 6.30 for 7pm, followed by the first lecture on the printing of stamps to be given by a representative from The House of Questa. The Saturday speakers include Mr L V Rapkin, who will talk about Germany – the 1872 to 1918 period – and Mrs F Rapkin, who will show material relating to the 1936 Olympics; Mr P Bennett will talk about the problem of colour in philately, and on Saturday evening Mr J B Marriot, the curator of the Queen's philatelic collection, will talk about Trinidad. On Sunday, Mr J Drake will talk on 'Thematics and how to collect them', and Mr Angus Parker will show Icelandic Postal History, and Yemen.

Periods have been set aside for informal discussions, students displays of one dozen sheets, and discussions on scientific aids in philately etc.

The all-in charge for the weekend is £22.00. Applications together with the full fee made payable to the County Council of Essex should be sent to the Registrar, Wansfel College, Theydon Bois, EPPING, Essex CM16 7LF. Early application is recommended because the course is limited to 24 students.

Postal Mechanisation Study Circle

The Annual General Meeting of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle will be held at the Wembley Conference Centre, Wembley, Middlesex in the Chelsea room at 10.30am on Saturday, 4 October 1980 (during the British Philatelic Exhibition). Further details about the Study Circle are available from the Secretary, John Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, PINNER, Middlesex HA5 3BW.

Philatelic Bulletin

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