

British Philatelic Bulletin

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1987 Special Stamps Poll

In the February *Bulletin* we asked readers to nominate their favourite special stamp issue of 1987. More than 2,500 replies were received – over 800 more than for the 1986 poll. We thank all readers who sent in their votes and comments which have been carefully read. 1987 Yearbooks have been sent to the senders of the comments adjudged by us as particularly apt or interesting.

The results of the poll are as follows:

1. Flowers
2. Scottish Heraldry
3. Isaac Newton
4. Victorian Britain
5. Studio Pottery
6. Christmas
7. St John Ambulance
8. British Architects in Europe

The prize-winners are:

1. **Miss E D Holton of Luton** who said of the Pottery stamps: *The beauty of form and colour in the chosen pots is shown to advantage through the use of delicately shaded backgrounds and unobtrusive lettering making pleasing yet simple designs.*
2. **G L Bennett of Felixstowe** wrote of the Flowers issue: *They landed like a bouquet of colour and freshness onto my disappointingly dull doormat.*
3. **N W Clarke of King's Lynn** also chose the Flowers stamp, his comment was: *Because the dark background produces a "3-D" effect, which enhances the detail of the colourful and brilliantly executed flowers, to perfection – eye catching!*
4. **R F Pollard of Helston** favoured the Isaac Newton issue, his opinion stated: *The stamps are dynamically designed, decidedly different, definitely delightful.*
5. The Newton stamps were also praised by **Miss M Leech of Newport Pagnell** who wrote: *They provide a kaleidoscope of bright, charming colours and artistic detailed designs, guaranteed to liven up the philatelist's collection. You don't need gravity to be drawn to these stamps!*

We look forward to running a 1988 favourite stamp poll in the *Bulletin* early next year.

Editorial

JOHN HOLMAN

The poll results have reduced the space available for an editorial this month but there is just enough to remind you of the issue of the Armada stamps on 19 July and of the highly-acclaimed Armada exhibition on show at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich until 4 September. A free admission ticket to this exhibition will be enclosed with each presentation pack of the Armada stamps.

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Variations to Definitive Stamps

DAVID DALE

Manager Definitive Stamps Royal Mail Stamps & Philately

Four new varieties of low value definitive stamps will go on sale on 26 July from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. The stamps involved are the 2p, 4p, 5p and 75p values. In line with normal practice they are not regarded by Royal Mail Stamps & Philately as new issues meriting full first day of issue facilities. Nevertheless some collectors will find them of interest as they mark another step in the evolution of the Machin range.

Jeffery Matthews Colours

For the 4p and 5p, 26 July sees the introduction of the Jeffery Matthews colour standards. While they remain basically the same colour the stamps have been proofed to match this new range of standards which should have the effect of making the colours stronger and brighter, and of presenting The Queen's head to greater effect.

The change will be most significant for the 5p stamp which was printed on a graded background in the past and will now be solid. This will leave only the 28p and 31p of the current range with graded backgrounds and the intention is to phase out this type of stamp completely. A further aim is to print all definitives in the form of a light head on a dark background rather than the reverse as is the case with the present 13p. Both changes are intended to display the head better and taken with the introduction of the Jeffery Matthews colours they represent a consistent policy towards the definitive range.

New Stamp Printing Contracts

In addition to the colour exercise for the 4p and 5p values, all four stamps are now to be printed by Harrison & Sons in place of The House of Questa. This change of printer arises from the award by Royal Mail Stamps & Philately of new stamp printing contracts for definitive sheets and stamp books.

All low value definitive stamps in sheet form will now be printed by Harrison & Sons while The House of Questa will continue to print country definitives. The 20p value is also affected by this change and the first printing by Harrisons will be announced later.

Printing Details

All four stamps will be printed using the Jumelle press and APS perforator. The 2p, 4p and 5p stamps will be on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) and the 75p on coated, non-phosphor paper. The table gives the main points of interest for each stamp and the official description of the colour:

2p – first Harrison printing with redrawn value artwork and Jeffery Matthews colour standard: green.

4p – first printing to Jeffery Matthews colour standard: dark turquoise.

5p – first printing to Jeffery Matthews colour standard including change from graded to solid background: ash pink.

75p – first Harrison printing: dark grey.

The first stamps in the new Jeffery Matthews colour standard were issued in February - 2p and 75p, printed in litho by Questa; details were given in the February Bulletin (page 139).



2p and 75p stamps printed in Jeffery Matthews colour standard (left) with previous printings for comparison. Both printed in litho by Questa.



By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme

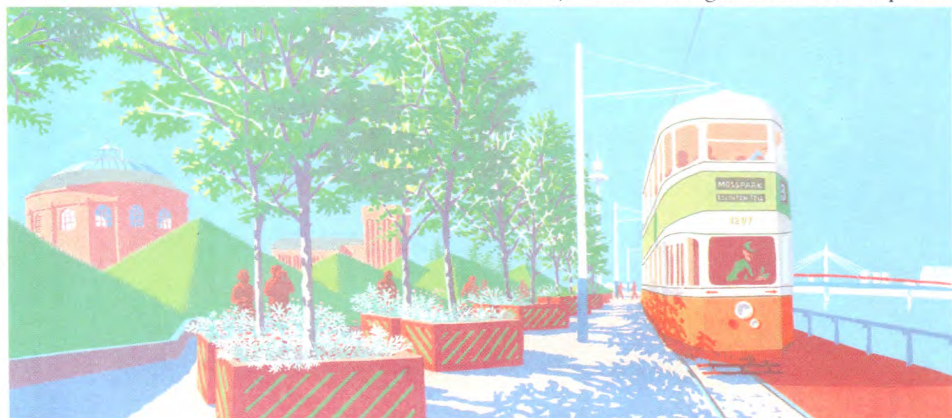
Scottish Aerogramme Office Ltd. Glasgow



Glasgow Garden Festival Aerogramme

Illustrated here is the Scottish aerogramme issued on 24 May to mark the second national garden festival currently on view in Glasgow (until 26 September). The aerogramme was designed by Andrew Davidson and printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd. It is available from all post offices in Scotland, the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, price 30p (includes 26p postage). The illustrations on the front and back panels show gardeners working on the flower beds and the Crystal Pavilion and the Clydesdale Bank Anniversary Tower. The larger illustration on the panel on the inner fold shows the Rotunda, Four Winds Pumping Station and one of the Glasgow Corporation trams which carries visitors around the Festival site.

Two earlier Scottish aerogrammes are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau. The first, issued on 4 August 1987, marks the 50th anniversary of the death of playwright and novelist Sir James Matthew Barrie, best-known for *Peter Pan* (illustrated in July 1987 *Bulletin*). The second, issued on 29 March 1988, marks the "Year of the Bible" in Scotland (see March 1988 *Bulletin*). These aerogrammes cost 30p each.



The Machin Head on Stamps

Part 2 Decimal Low Value Photogravure

DON STADDON

Machin head "A" has not been used for any of the low value decimal definitives printed by Harrison and Sons, the first 12 of which were issued in February 1971.

At the time, availability of the stamps was limited by a national postal strike, and most first day covers were delayed. Some did get through via a number of sub post offices and the Forces Post Office which remained open during the dispute and provided a limited mail delivery service.

Six of the 12 values have head "B" and six head "C". One of the head "B" stamps, the 9p, is bicoloured. A particular characteristic of these head "B" stamps is a missing screening dot 1mm from the left hand corner along the bottom edge of the design. On some stamps it is filled in slightly, but on others it appears clearly as a nick out of the background. Although the head itself is the same, this version is now classified as "B1".

In March 1976 a change in the "B" head appeared. It was first discovered on the 1p definitive in a 10p multi-value folded booklet pane of 2 x 1/2p, 1 x 6p and 3 x 1p stamps. The head still has two lines of shading in the hair and a pearl missing from the necklace, but the portrait is marginally bigger. The effect can be seen clearly at the base which is closer to the

bottom of the design. There is no longer a missing screening dot along the bottom edge. This head is classified as "B2" and is the only version of the "B" head to be found on stamps of higher than 10p denomination.

Six of the 13 stamps, including colour changes, at 10p or less have only the "B1" head. Six have both the "B1" and "B2" heads, having started with the former and changed over to the latter. One, the 7p brick red, has the "B2" head only. Head "C" was also modified during the early years of the decimal definitives. In the new version the profile has been strengthened by retouching, and the background altered to a uniform pale hue instead of being gradated.

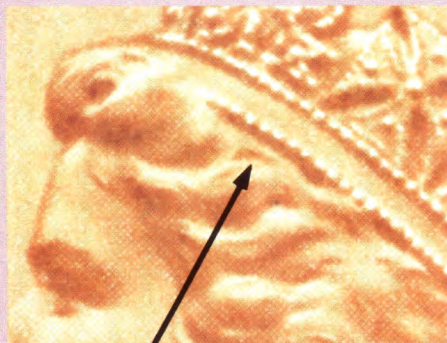
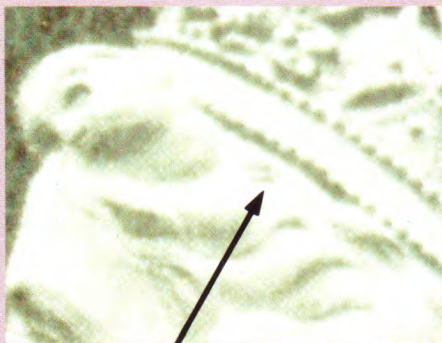
This new style head first appeared in October 1973 on the new 4 1/2p definitive. The head, classified as "D", was not used again until February 1976 when it reappeared on a clutch of new values – the 10p beige, 10 1/2p yellow, 11p rose and 20p grey.

Sixteen of the low value definitives have been the subject of colour changes for operational reasons. The 9p and 10p bicoloured stamps became single colour printings in February 1976. The 10 1/2p yellow also issued in February 1976 was altered two years later to a dull blue, reputedly as a result of sorting office complaints. Apparently the yellow was hard to distinguish





Heads B1 (3p bright blue) and B2 (18p grey green). On head B1 the shadow to the base of the portrait is quite pronounced and there is a missing screening dot 1mm from the left side. On head B2 the portrait is closer to the lower frame edge and there is no missing screening dot.



Heads A, B1 & B2 (18p grey green, B2) and C & D (10p beige, D) showing double and single hair shadow respectively.

in artificial light conditions. Other changes were made to release colours for new values, or to have colours more appropriate for sorting purposes during the years of rapid postal rate inflation.

In most cases the same basic head was used for the different colour stamps but there are exceptions. For example the 9p orange & black

has head "B1" but the 9p blue was given head "C". The 10p reddish brown (1971) also has head "B1" but the 10p beige (1976) was given head "D". Perhaps there are no major surprises here as the multi-positives would be needed for the single colour stamps.

What is more unusual is the 18p, in its original blue colour with head "C" being re-

placed by an 18p of a grey-green hue with head "B2". Perhaps it has something to do with the result which was a different head type and background to that used for the 13p second class rate stamps which has head "D".

Stamps which can be used as benchmarks for the four different head types include the following:

B1 – 3p bright blue and 4p light sepia

B2 – 18p grey green

C – 13p grey-green and 18p blue

D – 10p beige and 13p light brown

The Harrison printed low value definitives can be listed according to head types as follows:

Head B1

<i>Value</i>	<i>Sheets</i>	<i>Books</i>	<i>Coils</i>
1p	★	★	★
1½p	★	★	—
2p	★	★	★
3p bt blue	★	★	★
3p dk pink	★	★	★
4p lt sepia	★	—	—
4p peacock blue	—	★	★
5½p	★	—	—
6½p	★	—	★
7p red brown	★	—	★
8p	★	★	★
9p orange & blk	★	—	—
10p reddish brown	★	—	—

Head B2

<i>Value</i>	<i>Sheets</i>	<i>Books</i>	<i>Coils</i>
1p	★	★	★
2p	★	★	—
3p dk pink	★	★	—
4p peacock blue	—	★	★
6½p	★	★	★
7p red brown	★	★	★
7p brick red	★	—	—
8p	★	★	★
11½p sepia	★	—	—
11½p mushroom	★	★	★
12p emerald grn	★	★	★
13½p	★	—	—
15p	★	—	—
18p grey green	★	★	★
20½p	★	—	—
22p deep blue	★	—	—
22p yell-green	★	—	—
24p	★	—	—
26p	★	★	—
29p	★	—	—
34p	★	—	—



First use of B2 head – on 10p mixed value booklet pane, issued March 1976

Head C

<i>Value</i>	<i>Sheets</i>	<i>Books</i>	<i>Coils</i>
½p	★	★	★
2½p pink	★	★	★
2½p rose	★	—	★
3½p grey green	★	★	★
5p pale violet	★	—	—
5p red brown	—	★	—
6p	★	★	★
7½p	★	—	—
8½p	★	★	★
9p blue	★	★	★
9½p	★	—	—
12p yell-green	★	★	★
13p grey green	★	—	—
15½p	★	★	★
17½p	★	—	—
18p blue	★	—	—
19½p	★	—	—
25p	★	—	—
28p	★	—	—
31p	★	—	—



First use of D head – 4½p stamp of October 1973

Head D

Value	Sheets	Books	Coils
3½p red brown	★	★	—
4½p	★	★	★
10p beige	★	★	★
10½p yellow	★	—	—
10½p steel blue	★	—	—
11p	★	—	—
12½p	★	★	★
13p lt brown	★	★	★
14p	★	★	★
16p	★	★	★
16½p	★	—	—
17p lt green	★	—	—
17p steel blue	★	★	★
17½p	★	—	—
20p	★	—	—
23p	★	—	—
50p	★	—	—

★exists

—does not exist

Enschedé Printing

In 1979 the PO placed a warrant for a photogravure printing of 8p Machin definitives with Enschedé, a firm of printers in the Netherlands. This was the first time that a supply of low value definitives had been obtained from another printer than Harrisons, and to date the only time such a printing has been undertaken outside the UK.

The official reason given for this decision was the urgent requirement of a large quantity of 8p definitives for the second class letter rate at a time when the Harrison presses were fully engaged. Indeed Harrisons co-operated fully not only by supplying masters, phosphor ink, and

paper, but also in providing technical advice. The resultant stamps have the typical B2 head but with brighter highlights in The Queen's face and hair.



On the Enschedé printing (left), the p of the value slopes more to the right than on the Harrison stamp (right)

British Philatelic Trust

One of the most important functions of the British Philatelic Trust is the Schools Stamp Club Scheme under which school stamp clubs can be provided with grants of catalogues, books and stamp collecting material. To date over 210 school clubs have benefitted and the Trust welcomes applications from clubs which have not hitherto received a grant. Teachers-/stamp club organisers should write to the Trust at the address given below.

A similar grant scheme is operated for public libraries in the UK. Over 300 libraries have received help and more than 100 have applied for further grants.

All applications and/or enquiries about the two schemes should be addressed to The Secretary, British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

Exhibition Card

Collectors of PO exhibition cards are reminded that card No.2 will be available at the SYDPEX exhibition in Sydney, Australia from 30 July to 7 August. The card will be franked with two Australian Bicentenary stamps cancelled with a 30 July handstamp and will bear a Sydrex cachet. The cards can be obtained from the British PO agent at the exhibition. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition may order the card by post from: Max Stern & Co, 234 Flinders Street, Port Phillip Arcade, PO Box 997H GPO, Melbourne 3001, Australia, price £1.20 (or equivalent currency) plus £1 postage. Orders must be sent to arrive not later than 7 August.

Cards with 30 July cancel but without the Sydrex cachet can be obtained from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £1.20 plus usual handling charge.

The card will be available (with appropriate cachet) at the following exhibitions: Autumn Stampex/BPE, London (27 September-2 October) with Edward Lear/Verse for Children stamps; Filacept, The Hague (18-23 October) with Edward Lear stamps; ASDA National 88, New York (20-23 October) with Edward Lear stamps and Spring Stampex, London (28 February-5 March 1989) with Royal Society for the Protection of Bird stamps. Details of how to obtain cacheted cards will be published in the *Bulletin* at the appropriate time.

Card No.2 was issued on 1 June to coincide with the Finlandia exhibition in Helsinki (1-12 June). Cards franked with Transport stamps, cancelled 1 June but without Finlandia cachet are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £1.20 plus normal handling charge.

Posting Boxes

No.92 Featured this month are two examples of Edward VII wall boxes, not previously illustrated in this series. The first, in an elaborate brick housing, is situated in the Hertfordshire village of Standstead Abbots. The box itself is not unusual, being a type C wall box of the period 1904-10, but the brick housing is quite remarkable. It is likely to have been built at the cost of some local inhabitant(s) rather than the Post Office. There are examples of such ornamental housings at Rous Lench near Evesham; Lower Winchenden, near Aylesbury and Lower Kinton, Warwickshire – illustrated in Posting Boxes Nos. 22 (January 1981), 37

(June 1982) & 72 (June 1985) and 24 (March 1981). The Rous Lench box was illustrated on Midlands Postal Board postcard No.5 issued on 26 June 1981.



The second illustration shows the more usual siting of such a box – in a wall in the village of Great Torrington at the junction of the A386 road from Exeter to Plymouth. Again this is a C (small) type box built by W T Allen & Co of Upper Thames Street, Lambeth Hill, EC. Boxes of this type continued to be made until 1931.

Our thanks to Mr R L Stoneley of Ware and Mr H P Clark-Wilson of Torrington for sending photographs of these boxes.

Readers interested in posting boxes are reminded of the existence of the *Letter Box Study Group*, details available from the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9BS.

The Winter Olympics and British Postal History

BOB WILCOCK

This year sees the 80th anniversary of the Games of the IVth Olympiad held in London in 1908. For the first time, a winter sport was included in the programme. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement had wanted winter sports to be included from the first Olympiad in 1896, but London was the first Olympic host city to have the facilities and to be able to organise a competition. The event was figure skating, held in the Prince's Club at Knightsbridge on 28 and 29 October 1908, with a banquet at the Holborn Restaurant the following day at which the medals were presented.

The men's event was won by Ulrich Salchow of Sweden, whose name lives on in the jump he introduced, and who had already won the World Championship seven times before he took the Olympic title. Madge Syers of Britain took the women's event, and with her husband she took the bronze in the pairs to Hübler and Burger of Germany. Nikolai Panin of Russia took the Gold in the Special Figures competition, held only in 1908, requiring the competitors to produce precise and elaborate geometric patterns in the ice.

Not a single philatelic item is known relating to the 1908 figure skating competition (although the Games do provide some interesting postal history, as will be seen in a later article). The Olympic Winter Games have been held every four years since 1924 (apart from the War), but

Mint produced the Isle of Man Olympic crown coin (25p), although the slogan ambiguously refers to "USA Olympic Crown minted in Sutton" with no reference to the Isle of Man. The slogan was used in first and second class machines, and during the Christmas period 1980 appeared with the bulk mailing "Great Britain" circular date stamp.

BRITISH POST OFFICE
FEBRUARY 1980
SPONSOR DOG SLED RUN
LAKE PLACID
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.



The Isle of Man crown can be found in a combined coin and stamp first day cover, postmarked in Lake Placid on 1 February 1980, the day of issue of the US stamps. Robin Cousins, who won the men's figure skating Gold Medal for Britain, autographed some specially produced pictorial covers with a LAKE PLACID OLYMPIC ARENA STATION postmark of 21 February, the day he won the medal. Most collectors are unaware however that the British PO itself was represented in Lake Placid, and a special cachet was available on its stand.

Dog-sled racing had been an exhibition event at the 1932 Winter Olympics held in Lake Placid, and it was decided to hold a special dog-sled run in 1980 from the Lake Placid Resort hotel to the Ronald M. MacKenzie Memorial Sports Philatelic Exhibition in Saranac Lake. MacKenzie, who had been Postmaster of Lake Placid from 1954 to 1969, was the guiding force behind Lake Placid's bid for the 1980 Games, and first President of the Olympic Organising Committee. Sadly he died just over a year before the Games.

The dog-sled run was to take place on 2 February 1980, the day after the issue of the US



not until 1980 when the Games were held in Lake Placid, did the British Post Office enter the field of Winter Olympic philately.

Most collectors, whether of British or of Olympic postal history, are aware of just one item, the pictorial slogan sponsored by the Sutton Mint in use in Sutton, Epsom and Croydon in 1980 and early 1981. The Sutton



LAKE PLACID NY 1980 OLYMPIC ARENA STATION



FEB 21 80

Robin Cousins



WINTER OLYMPICS GOLD MEDAL
ROBIN COUSINS OF WESTBURY-ON-TRYM
BRISTOL, THE WORLD'S BEST FREE SKATER
TODAY WON BRITAIN THE GOLD MEDAL
FOR FIGURE SKATING.

Winter Olympic stamps, and it was to be a mail run, sponsored by the British PO through their US agents. For part of the route the sled and mail was to be carried by the Adirondack Railway, and the railway, along with the British PO were to backstamp the mail.

In the event, firstly the run was seen as low priority in the hectic build-up to the Games themselves, and received relatively little publicity, so that only something over 2,000 covers and cards were carried. Secondly, there was such severe cold on the day that the railway was unable to operate. The sled did get through, but there was no railway backstamp. Also it seems, the British PO backstamp was only intermittently applied, as was the Philatelic Exhibit cachet. All mail did however receive the large

and spectacular US Postal Service SLED DOG MAIL postmark.

A cover from the sled dog mail is an unusual item for any Olympic collection. For collectors of the growing number of British PO international exhibition souvenirs, the cachet will be an important forerunner.

The writer is a committee member of the Society of Olympic Collectors. Interested readers may obtain membership details from the Secretary: Kenneth Ballam, 152 Spring Road, BOURNEMOUTH BH1 4PX.

An exhibition of Olympic material, organised in collaboration with the Society of Olympic Collectors and the British Olympic Association, will be held at the National Postal Museum from 10 October till 30 December.



SLED DOG MAIL
FEBRUARY 2, 1980



MacKENZIE PHILATELIC EXHIBIT
STATION
SARANAC LAKE, NY 12983

How A Stamp Is Made

National Postal Museum Exhibition

This National Postal Museum exhibition illustrates the various stages of stamp production, from initial choice of design, through artwork and essays to the finished stamp. It concentrates on the photogravure-printed 1987 Scottish Heraldry issue with sections on the recess (intaglio) and offset-litho- printed 1984 Royal Mail and 1987 St John Ambulance sets.



Photogravure. A photogravure printing cylinder bears the design in the form of minute square dots etched into its surface – the deeper the etch the stronger the colour printed. Each cylinder prints one colour and the dots appear to be laid on top of one another to build up the required colour tone or shade.

When the final artwork is accepted, film is made separating out the various colours to be printed, one piece of film for each printed colour. This master photograph is then duplicated on a step and repeat camera to produce a large sheet by exposure under light to a “carbon tissue”, a paper covered with a film of gelatine. The tissue is transferred to the printing cylinder, developed by washing and the cylinder is then carefully etched with acid. At one of the photographic stages a fine screen is applied which creates the square dot pattern essential to tonal reproduction. Ink is applied to the cylinder and remains in the etched recesses until it contacts the paper under pressure when it prints the required image.

Shown in frame 2 are the “presentation visuals” of the Heraldry stamps – design ideas

commissioned from two artists, John Martin and Jeffery Matthews. The latter were chosen and in display case B are the colour separation negatives, twice stamp size, sandwiched between sheets of glass and sealed with opaque tape. From these, stamp-sized positives for the essays were made and those for the final essays of the 22p, 31p and 34p values and various positives for the 18p are in frames 5 and 6. In case C are the plates made to produce these essays. The actual proofs for these essays, in progressive form with each colour being added separately to build up the image, are in frames 7 and 8, together with the set submitted for The Queen’s approval.

In frames 9 to 16 are the multipositives of the double sheets as they are printed, together with the proof sheets which are checked and “spotted” for minor imperfections. Frames 17 to 22 contain progressive proofs of the full double printing sheets; the issued stamps, PHQ cards and presentation pack can be seen in frame 23.

The actual cylinder used for the printing of the 18p Heraldry stamp no longer exists; instead on display is the black cylinder of the 1988 Armada stamps – well worth seeing.



Recess (or Intaglio). Photogravure is a form of recess or intaglio printing in that the ink is held in recessed areas of the printing cylinder. But in recess printing itself there is no screen and no minute dots on the cylinder, rather scored lines or grooves. This gives stronger detail but less tonal quality.

The 1984 Royal Mail set, marking the bicentenary of the first mail coach run, was

printed in both recess (mail coaches) and gravure (Queen's head and value) on the Jumelle press. The five dies for this issue, engraved by Czeslaw Slania, are shown in case C. The master dies are engraved in reverse, from which the image is transferred under great pressure to a molette, or roller, of softer steel (with the image now appearing as printed). The molette is then used to duplicate the image the required number of times on to the cylinder by being rocked under great pressure (the image is now in reverse again). Printing then takes place from the cylinder as in gravure, on the same press, though the reels must be additionally dried. Shown in frame 24 are the various essays produced for this issue.

Offset Lithography. Unlike the gravure or recess processes, in lithography the printing surface is completely flat. There are no recessed areas; it depends on the principle of oil and water repelling each other – a chemical rather than a physical process.

On display in frames 25–28 are the presentation visuals, artwork, essays and separation negatives of the St John Ambulance set. Each colour has a separate zinc or aluminium plate – one of which for the 18p is shown in frame 27.

In printing, the plate does not come into direct contact with the paper. It shows the positive image and prints on to a “blanket” or rubber wrapped round a roller (which now has a negative image). This then “offsets” on to the paper and gives rise to the name “offset lithography”.

The National Postal Museum records its thanks to Harrison & Sons Ltd and The House of Questa for their considerable assistance in the preparation of this display. This exhibition continues until 30 September. The NPM is situated in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, London EC1, near St Paul's Cathedral. Open Monday–Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm, admission free.

The Museum Piece

Postcards

Bulletin readers who do not regularly visit the Museum may not be aware of the range of postcards currently on sale. The following sets of Museum cards can be obtained by postal order as well as at the Sales Counter:

Series **H1 Mail Coaches** (5 cards, issued 31 July 1984), price £1; **H2 Postmen, c. 1780–1936** (5 cards, 30 July 1985), price £1; **H3 PO Vehicles**

(4 cards, 14 January 1986), price 80p; **87/1–3 Queen Victoria Jubilee** (3 cards, 6 January 1987), price 60p; **87/4–6 Edward VII, George V & Edward VIII heads** (3 cards, 6 May 1987), price 60p; **87/7–9 Pillar Boxes** (3 cards, 8 September 1987), price 60p; **88/1–3 Travelling Post Offices** (3 cards, 11 January 1988), price 60p and **88/4–6 Transport Posters** (3 cards, 6 May 1988), price 60p. Cards 87/1–9 and 88/1–6 are available singly, price 20p each.

In addition there are two single Museum cards: **SS40** showing the SS *Hindustan* opening the P & O's new mail service east of Suez in 1843, issued in June 1986 for the “India-UK Mails” exhibition and an un-numbered card featuring a portrait of **Queen Victoria by Heinrich von Angeli**, issued in October 1986 for the British Philatelic Exhibition. Both cards cost 20p.

Other Post Office cards include all current **PHQ** issues (price 15p each) and card **SEPR 50** showing the first Mobile PO, issued by the former South Eastern Postal Region in September 1986 (price 14p). A Travelling Post Office card produced by the PO London & South East Public Relations Unit is available with the North West Night Down TPO handstamp of 20 January or 10 May 1988, price £1 each.



Illustrated here is a Victorian stamp box, the subject of one of three cards (reference **88/7–9**) to be issued on 8 August, price 20p each. The boxes featured are all on display in the NPM.

Orders for cards, minimum order 60p please, should be addressed to: National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. A handling charge of 18p is levied on orders of up to £18 in value, orders above £18 should include £1.38 to cover cost of despatch by registered post.

"Links"

Australian Bicentenary Souvenir Book

To commemorate the Australian bicentenary, Australia Post and the British Post Office have jointly produced a lavish souvenir book. Entitled *Links*, its theme is summed up in its subtitle "Australia & Britain – 200 Years of Heritage in Stamps". The Prince & Princess of Wales are shown on the front cover, standing in front of Ayers Rock, one of Australia's best-known landmarks.



The book is divided into 15 main sections beginning with "British Heritage" emphasising the close cultural and scientific links between the two countries. Amongst those illustrated are Australian writers Monica Dickens, Dr Germaine Greer and Patrick White. Many Australian "Place Names" are British – Richmond, Kew, Brighton, Canterbury, Newcastle, Windsor to name a few. Picture postcards from both British and Australian towns are illustrated.

The section "For King and Country" recalls co-operation during the two World Wars and the importance both countries now attach to the Commonwealth. The great days of the clipper ships come to life in the chapter on "The Emigrants". The pages devoted to "Australian Wildlife" are perhaps the most delightful in the book reproducing drawings of birds, plants and animals by Charles Lesueur and George Raper.

Since the Second World War, 4 million people have emigrated to Australia, 80% of whom have stayed. Journeys by sea and air are described and illustrated in the section "The Distance Narrows". A hundred years ago the voyage by steamship took about five weeks, 50 years ago it took 10 days by air.

On 9 May The Queen opened the new Parliament House in Canberra – this and its counterpart at Westminster are illustrated in the chapter on "Parliamentary Democracy" as is a scene from the highly popular "Yes Prime Minister" television programme. Text gives way to smiling portraits in the section entitled "The Royal Family" – all popular and regular visitors to Australia.

As the first British settlements in Australia were penal colonies the close links between the two legal systems is not surprising. Illustrated under "Equal Before the Law" are colonial mounted policemen of c 1885 and the High Court in Canberra. Another popular TV show – "Rumpole of the Bailey" is also featured.

Cricket and tennis figure on the "joint" stamps and are given a section in the book, amongst the stars featured are Sir Donald Bradman and Ken Rosewall. The sporting links are continued under "Commonwealth Games" with action pictures of, amongst others, Australian swimmer Tracey Wickham and British decathlon champion Daley Thompson. "Football & Water Sports" features, not surprisingly, the Admiral's Cup and Annette Kellerman who, we are told "...popularised the one-piece bathing suit, thus emancipating women from the multiplicity of garments previously thought necessary, and making swimming a socially accepted activity for both sexes."

The final three chapters concern "Theatre, Music & Dance", "Pop Music" and "Cinema & Television" and remind us of the work of such diverse talents as Shakespeare, Dame Joan Sutherland, Dame Nellie Melba, "Dame" Edna Everage, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Charlie Chaplin, Peter Sellers, Sir David Attenborough and the stars of the enormously popular "Neighbours" soap opera. The book concludes with a useful bibliography and a photograph of the ship *Young Endeavour*, the British government's bicentennial gift to Australia.

Each book is supplied with the eight British and Australia stamps, price £3.95. *Links* is available from main post offices until 19 August and from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters until June 1989.

Royal Wedding, 1981

British Special Issues: No.147

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The Royal Wedding stamps of 1981 were notable as the first issue to mark the marriage of an heir-apparent to the throne of Great Britain. When Prince Charles's mother, then HRH Princess Elizabeth, heir-presumptive, married Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1947, a pictorial slogan cancellation of Wedding Bells and Ribbons entwining the initials "E" and "P" was as far as the Post Office felt able to go by way of commemoration.

Policies had been revised by 1972 when the Silver Wedding of The Queen and the Duke brought with it stamps picturing the Royal couple and bringing the Duke into collections of British stamps for the first time. A Lichfield portrait of HRH the Princess Anne (now the Princess Royal) and Captain Mark Phillips was the basis for Britain's first ever Royal Wedding stamps in 1973 and with that precedent, stamps for the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer were inevitable – and welcome.



The bridegroom's uncle-by-marriage, Lord Snowdon, took the photograph on which Jeffery Matthews based the simple, but effective, design on which the only clue to the occasion appeared in the lower left hand corner of the stamp – "29 July 1981". The original photograph was included in the official souvenir book *The Royal Wedding*. There were two values, the 14p basic inland first class letter rate and the 25p for overseas letters. The stamps went on sale on 22 July, a full week in advance of the wedding

and this gave everyone ample time to prepare covers for any of the many commemorative cancellations available up and down the country for this special event.

Each stamp was printed in seven colours and it speaks well for the printers, Harrison & Sons Ltd, that no major constant printing flaws are recorded and only two minor flaws, both on the 14p stamp: row 1, stamp 10 – spot on right earring; row 8, stamp 6 – diagonal line across Lady Diana's blouse.

The popularity of the issue became evident from the sales figures which were 87,040,000 for the 14p, double the usual figure for a 14p commemorative stamp, and 24,875,000 for the 25p, around two-and-a-half times the average for that denomination.

This was one of the few occasions when, in addition to the usual presentation pack, a special souvenir pack was issued. This was a 12-page illustrated booklet with a small transparent envelope containing the two stamps attached to the booklet's cover. A commemorative aerogramme was also issued and the usual PHQ cards.

Postal Mechanisation Meeting

Members of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle met at the National Postal Museum on 7 May. They were shown three PO films dealing with early letter and parcel sorting machines, postal coding and parcel label printing machinery. Members were fascinated to see some of the views of parcel sorting machines at Leeds and Salisbury and the Transorma machine at Brighton HPO in the late 1960s, shortly before it was taken out of service.

This was followed by an interesting talk on the Frama machines by Ron Garside of the PO Research Dept. Using the "reserve" machine, Mr Garside demonstrated the workings of the machine and explained fully its history and period of use at four British post offices (1 May 1984-30 April 1985). He patiently answered questions on the machine and about the stamp book machines currently in use. Members were able to operate the machine to obtain specimen labels (not valid for postage). These labels are available to all visitors to the Museum.

The Study Circle, founded in 1976, now has over 170 members; details of membership can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary: John Notton, 16 Crawshay Drive, Emmer Green, READING RG4 8SX.

Designing the Armada Stamps

GRAHAM EVERNDEN

The original brief given to me by the Post Office Design Advisor was to design a set of colourful stamps to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. It was suggested that the set of five stamps could be a se-tenant strip. This to me was a challenge. I already considered this set of stamps to be one of the most important sets to be issued by the Royal Mail for a very long time, but to be able to produce them as a rarely-issued se-tenant strip was an added bonus.

However, a se-tenant strip does have limitations, the main one being that there are only seven colours for all five stamps, as they are printed on the same sheet, instead of seven colours for each stamp.

The first thing I did was to read up about the Armada. I wasn't at this stage trying to find a design solution, but one very quickly presented itself. The more I researched the more convinced I became that there was only one solution, (especially as it was a se-tenant strip), and that was to show the progress of the Spanish Armada as it moved up the English Channel, looking towards England. The Armada would be moving from left to right along the strip of stamps.

Each stamp could show an important moment in its progress. Each could be captioned with its position and date, to add to the feeling of movement. The five stamps together would successfully show a panoramic view of a large sea battle.

The style of illustration with the correct detailing were to be the next consideration; for this I went to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich to hunt for references. I found what I was hoping for in the print room. Soon after the defeat of the Armada, a set of tapestries had been woven to commemorate the occasion. Sadly these were destroyed in a fire but fortunately a set of engravings had been made from the original tapestries; known as the John Pine engravings. These I felt were as close as I was going to get for authentic reference. They contained all that I required in style of drawing and correct content and detail. The ships and



Graham Evernden, born in 1947, studied Graphic Design at Maidstone College of Art. He worked in London as a graphic designer and illustrator, but eventually moved to Sussex where he now works from his studio, a converted oast house and barn, along with his artist wife Sue and their two children.

He has won the Gold Award for illustration from the New York Art Directors Club, and the Gold and Silver Awards for illustration from Design and Art Direction Annual.

He is also a printmaker and produces etchings of landscapes which are sold and distributed by one of the leading international original print dealers, CCA Galleries of London.

sails were drawn in a stylised way, very round with exaggerated curves. These were ideal basic shapes to work on, given the small scale of a stamp. The first drawings were made on blank stamp-sized paper; I wanted to make sure the basic shapes worked first.

I wanted the set of stamps to not only progress in time, but also from soft colours to harsh darks and lights; from calm to turmoil; from smooth seas to a raging storm at night; from the flag flying carnival atmosphere to the battered, ragged fleet that was driven off up the North Sea, to eventually find its way home to Spain around the north of Scotland and Ireland.

The artwork was painted, in water colour, as one single piece – 41 inches in length, four times the length of the finished stamps.

Commemorative Covers

Armada. CoverCraft has produced three first day covers for the Armada stamps: (1) Woburn Abbey, featuring the Armada portrait of Elizabeth I, (2) Royal Navy College Greenwich, featuring Lord Howard of Effingham and Sir Francis Drake and (3) Historical Association, featuring Philip II of Spain and Elizabeth I – all being full-colour reproductions of classic paintings. Each cover bears all five Armada stamps cancelled with a special handstamp, price £4.75 each or £13 the set of three. Signed editions are available, price £8.50 each (prices include post & packing in the UK). Orders/remittances/enquiries to: CoverCraft (Armada), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

London Tourist Board. The Board celebrates its silver jubilee this year with a commemorative cover produced by CoverCraft. Linked to the “London in Bloom” competition organised by the LTB, the cover features pictures of the winner of the 1987 Thames Television Front Garden Trophy and Buckingham Palace. It is available with the 1976 Roses stamps or the London 1980 50p stamp, price £3.25 or £2.75 respectively. Covers with the London 1980 stamp signed by His Grace The Duke of Westminster cost £10. Covers will bear a special Jubilee handstamp dated 26 July. Orders/remittances/enquiries to: CoverCraft (LTB), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

Cross Post

The Spring 1988 (Vol.2 No.2) issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, has recently been published. It contains a useful list of newly released stamp files in PO Archives, notes on the prepayment of postage in money, the payment of mail coach contractors and on the GPO Museum/Record Room in 1897 – the predecessor of the present PO Archives. Dr J W M Stone continues his summary of the more interesting entries in the “Peover Papers” – the earliest extant day-to-day record of PO administration. A report of the Friends’ second AGM (November 1987) is included.

Copies of *Cross Post* are available from the NPM, price £1.25 each (includes postage). Details of membership of the Friends can also be obtained from the Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP (SAE appreciated).

Letters to the Editor



Country Special Issues

Sir,

As a Welsh speaking Welshman, I write to thank and congratulate the Post Office on their production of a fine set of stamps to commemorate the translation of The Bible into Welsh. It is an honour for Wales that these stamps, which record an important Welsh anniversary, should be on sale throughout the United Kingdom. This particular anniversary is of relatively little or no significance to the rest of the UK. The PO issue “Country” definitive stamps but have never issued a “Country” commemorative stamp. Is there a case for such an issue in the PO stamp programme? Perhaps you could comment on this matter?

RICHARD G WATERS, Mold, Clywd

Aazam Vesamia, Manager Special Stamps, replies: I would like to thank Mr Waters for his kind comments on the Welsh Bible stamps. Certainly we are very pleased with the designs produced by Mr Keith Bowen.

Mr Waters’ suggestion that the stamps should have been issued as “country specials”, for sale only in Wales, is an interesting one, but there are a number of drawbacks. At the moment special stamps do an excellent job of publicising all over the UK the events and anniversaries which they commemorate. We would be reluctant to lose this advantage by confining some issues to the country to which the subject has most significance. The Royal Mail could also be accused, of course, of not considering future Welsh subjects (or for that matter Scottish or Irish ones) “important” enough to merit a full national issue. I should, however, be very interested to hear the views of other Bulletin readers on the subject of “country” specials.

Definitive Issues

Sir,

Over the years many definitives have been issued in bright, attractive colours, though, sadly, those for the two basic letter rates have, often been dull, dreary and depressing and none more so than the present pair. As it now seems likely that two new stamps will be needed, can we please have them in bright, cheerful colours.

W R McCONNEL, Alvescot, Oxford

The Men of the First Fleet

BARBARA LAST

Stanley Gibbons catalogue numbers refer to Australian stamps unless otherwise stated.

After the American Revolution it was no longer possible to send convicts to America, and the British government turned its eyes to Botany Bay, Australia, which Capt. Cook had discovered some 16 years before. King George III (SG 1019) authorised the establishment of a penal colony in New South Wales and it is the bicentenary of European settlement that Australia has been celebrating this year. Lord Sydney (SG 1020), Secretary of State in the Home Office, was responsible for ensuring that everything vital was taken to support several hundred people for two years; to make the new colony self-sufficient without back-up from home. Room had to be found for a vast multitude of items, including seed, implements, tools, building materials, animals, ammunition and medical supplies. The flagship loaded 10 extra six-pounders for the colony's future defence.



Capt. Arthur Phillip RN (SG 1021) was appointed in overall command; he was efficient, trustworthy and an excellent administrator of 49 who had had previous experience with convicts, farming and land-management. The Fleet consisted of 11 ships; two naval vessels, the frigate HMS *Sirius* (Capt. John Hunter), and the tiny brig-sloop *Supply* (Lt. H L Ball), six transports and three storeships. The transports were all modern, well-found vessels, three being hired for the whole voyage – the *Alexander*, the brig *Friendship* and the *Prince of Wales*. The other

three transports were chartered until cleared at NSW, whereupon they started a new charter to China with the East India Company – *Lady Penrhyn*, *Scarborough* and *Charlotte*. The three storeships, *Borrowdale*, *Golden Grove* and *Fishburn* were beamy North Country ships belonging to the same owner.

Overcrowded Prisons

British prison conditions in 1787 were, to our modern eyes, appalling – as depicted on a Norfolk Island stamp (SG 396). Chained felons, based on engravings from the *Newgate Calendar*, are shown as background details on the Australian George III and Lord Sydney stamps already mentioned. Crimes punishable by transportation included theft, highway robbery, forgery, vandalism and receiving stolen property. Many cases of poaching were committed by men desperate to feed starving families, and the trades of convicts varied widely.

The First Fleet

Oddly enough the precise numbers sailing in the First Fleet is not known, but it is thought to have been about 1,350, including some 760 convicts. Loading began at Deptford (Norfolk Is, SG 421) and other dockyards along the Thames. *Alexander* and *Lady Penrhyn* embarked their convicts at Woolwich on 6 January 1787, the other transports taking theirs on board at Plymouth and Portsmouth. Filthy, gaunt, tattered and diseased, the wretches were handcuffed below decks to prevent escape. Phillip reported angrily on the infamous state of the women, many almost naked and perished with cold. Sixteen prisoners died on *Alexander* during the four months of waiting.

The transports were fitted out with hammocks and mess tables, but had additional thick bulkheads built across between decks with loopholes designed to quell mutiny. Hatches, railed and fitted with crossbars and bolts, each had a sentry, and at all times an armed guard was stationed on the quarterdeck. Capt. Watkin Tench, commander of the Marine guard on *Sirius* was one of the men to keep a diary.

The Voyage

The Fleet set sail from Portsmouth on 13 May 1787, the date on which The Queen wished "Godspeed" to the Bicentennial Fleet on the re-enactment voyage 200 years later. A special handstamp was used on Portsmouth on 13 May 1987 to mark the sailing of the re-enactment fleet. Further handstamps used on 26 January 1988 – the bicentenary of the arrival at Sydney Cove – are detailed below.

The original First Fleet stopped for a week at Tenerife, then took advantage of the Trade Winds to Brazil. As Capt. Phillip had served in the past in the Portuguese Navy, his reception at



Rio on 6 August was most cordial. At the Cape, where they arrived on 13 October, Lt. King, second lieutenant of *Sirius*, noted that the Dutch supplied "Cattle, Wine & Cora for ye Voyage and bread for daily use" but that corn was difficult owing to a two-year famine. Capt. Tench recorded the Fleet's metamorphosis into Noah's Arks with live animals being taken on board for stocking the colony – cows, bulls, sheep, hogs, goats and poultry. The women on *Friendship* were divided between the other transports and replaced by sheep which Lt. Clark claimed would be "much more agreeable ship-mates than the women."

The Fleet left the Cape on 12 November on the last leg of the voyage. Capt. Phillip transferred to *Supply*, the fastest and handiest vessel, admirable for scouting and chivvying laggards, as he wished to inspect the site at Botany Bay. The eight-week passage was fast but wet, uncomfortable and bitterly cold. The Chaplain wrote of the prisoners huddled under their official issue of one blanket, "...our plates etc tumbling down, and we scarcely able to keep upon our seats."

Arrival at Botany Bay

Supply arrived at Botany Bay on 18 January 1788, followed by the fast transports the next day and *Sirius* and her section the day after – an outstanding piece of seamanship and navigation across 15,000 miles of largely unknown ocean.



Botany Bay proved unsuitable with not enough water and a low marshy shore. Phillip, with three longboats, set off northwards for a better location (Norfolk Is, SG 436) which was discovered at Port Jackson. They found an inlet with a fresh water stream, a well-wooded shore and deep water "one of the finest harbours in the world, in which 100 sail o' line might ride in perfect security". This they called Sydney Cove, and on 26 January, now celebrated as Australia Day, the Colours were hoisted on shore and Governor Phillip and his principal officers drank the King's health and success to the settlement. The designs of the Australian stamps issued on 26 January 1988 (SG 1105/9) are based on paintings and sketches made by men of the First



Fleet, mainly by Lt. William Bradley RN of *Sirius*, and those who kept diaries and accounts of the voyage.

Three special Bicentenary handstamps were used at British Post Offices on 26 January 1988, showing *Sirius* (Portsmouth), a map of Australia

(Ryde, Isle of Wight) and fossils (Whitby, North Yorkshire). The Whitby postmark was used because of the local connection with Capt. Cook.



Not much is known about the civilians accompanying the Fleet. They included officials like the chaplain Richard Johnson and his wife Mary, surgeons, and Capt. David Collins RM who had been appointed Judge-Advocate of NSW. It would be his duty to preside over the formal inauguration of the colony and to establish courts. In addition there were 30 wives and 20 children of the Marines and about 24 convicts' children.

The three transports, now on charter to the East India Company, sailed to China, for tea, in May. *Lady Penrhyn* went via Tahiti, and while passing through the northern Cook Island group discovered Penrhyn Islands. The *Charlotte* and *Scarborough* sailed in company, the first ships to go direct from Australia to China. They sighted the Gilbert and Marshall Islands which they named, respectively, after the masters of the two vessels. The *Scarborough* became a transport of the Second Fleet of 1790 when conditions were

far worse, and there were two deaths on board her for every seven convicts embarked.

Judge-Advocate David Collins returned to England in 1796, but now as Lt-Col. RM he accepted a new appointment in 1803. At that time Van Diemen's Land was regarded as part of NSW and Governor King sent Collins to make a settlement in what is now Tasmania. HMS *Calcutta* and the transport *Ocean* arrived in February 1804 at Port Phillip with 337 convicts, wives and children. Collins considered the site unsuitable and transferred his party to Sullivan's Bay, now Hobart – shown on the 2s stamp in Australia's Tasmania Sesquicentenary set of 1953 (SG 270). The portrait of Lt-Governor Collins on a 3½d stamp in the same set comes from his book *An Account of the English Colony in NSW* (1804). The new settlement experienced many hardships.

The Sydney colony struggled for survival in the early years in the face of all kinds of grave shortages and acute hunger. The se-tenant strip of five 37c stamps issued by Australia Post on 13 April 1988 shows a panorama of Sydney in c 1808 by convict artist John Eyre. Each stamp also shows an earlier view painted by midshipman Raper, the unknown "Port Jackson" painter; George William Evans, free settler or Thomas Watling, transported for forgery. These views cover the years 1790-1803.

To commemorate the bicentenary, Australia Post has issued a number of sets of stamps, beginning with "The First Australians" in November 1984. Five of these sets have featured the sailing of the First Fleet from Portsmouth to Botany Bay and Sydney Cove. Australia Post has also made three "joint issues" to mark the bicentenary – with the US Post Office on 26 January 1988, with the New Zealand PO on 21 June 1988 and with the British PO also on 21 June. The British and Australian joint issue was described in the May Bulletin, and the details of the availability of Australia Post products in the UK are to be found in the May and June issues, pages 196 and 231 respectively.



Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.24 Specimen Stamps

Before the inception of the Universal Postal Union, new British stamps overprinted "Specimen" or "SPECIMEN" were circulated to postmasters for reference purposes and were also filed in the headquarters's archives.

From 1879 onwards, Great Britain, in common with other UPU member-postal administrations, sent sufficient supplies of every new face-different stamp (this meant ignoring changes of watermark, perforation or of plate numbers actually engraved in designs) overprinted "Specimen" to the UPU at Berne, Switzerland, from where they were distributed world-wide to other members. The purpose was to provide a reference against which any stamp on a letter from another country could be checked for validity as an issued postage stamp.



The practice continued until 1892 after which Britain sent unoverprinted supplies to Berne for all issues up to and including the 1s value. The overprint remained on the higher values, safeguarding against their illegitimate use as postage stamps should they fall into the hands of any unauthorised person outside the UPU staff.

It is the specimen stamps received by the British Post Office under this international exchange scheme which form the "Berne Collection" now on view in the National Postal Museum.

From 1928 overprints on all British Empire

new issues were dropped in favour of a "perfin" puncturing the stamps with the word SPECIMEN, but the British PO continued to use specimen overprints. In 1948 completely normal stamps from the first printing of each new issue were sent to Berne for distribution; specimen overprints and perfins were then discontinued.



Britain's first specimen stamp was created in 1847 when the embossed 1s green received the overprint before being stuck onto a Postmasters' Notice circulated to postmasters in Great Britain and Ireland announcing the issue of the stamp. The embossed 10d brown followed in 1848 and the embossed 6d lilac in 1854. Britain's first typographed – or surface-printed – postage stamp was the 4d carmine on blue paper, first issued in 1855 (to pay the agreed letter rate to France) and this was duly circulated to postmasters with the SPECIMEN overprint. Any line-engraved stamps with the overprint are from printings subsequent to 1847.

For a complete account of the printing, distribution and use of British specimen stamps, readers are referred to the standard work, *Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain* by Marcus Samuel and Alan Huggins (published by GB Philatelic Publications Ltd, 1980).

Specimen overprints of varying sizes can still be found on very modern Commonwealth stamps. These are normally issues from territories where philatelic agencies handle the designing, printing and philatelic distribution of all new stamps and the specimen sets are sent to the press in anticipation of early illustration as a form of publicity. Another, more official, source is when stamp printers seek the permission of the issuing authorities to distribute examples of their work to potential customers, with a "Specimen" overprint as a safeguard.

Gems of the R M Phillips Collection

No.154 Victorian Printing Methods



Many trials were undertaken in 1840 to select a new colour for the 1d value and the different shade of the 2d. Printing of the 1d in red-brown started in December 1840. As the new plate for the new 2d was not ready, a small plate was made which comprised 12 impressions (three horizontal rows of four) with the lower boxes without corner letters. These sheets were made to supply sample stamps on Postmasters' Notices distributed from London, Edinburgh and Dublin.

They were not intended for postal use but a few used examples are known. Three used examples are to be seen on page 4 of Volume

18 of the Phillips collection – one cancelled with a black Maltese Cross handstamp (stamp number 11 in the plate), one with London datestamp of 1866 (stamp 8) and one with a 1844 numeral cancel (stamp 4). Another used on an entire from Skibbereen in Ireland on 1 September 1841 is also in the collection.

These items can be seen in the open display – Victorian Printing Methods – of the R M Phillips collection at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm on Friday.

Commemorative Covers

Scottish Scout Camp. The world's first international patrol camp was held in Scotland in 1946 and since 1966 a special postmark has been used on mail posted at the camp. The 21st International Camp will be held at Blair Castle near Pitlochry from 19 to 29 July. Covers posted on the first day with Armada stamp are available at 50p, postage extra under separate cover. Mail actually posted at the Camp will receive a camp-post cachet. Covers posted on each of the 11 days are available at 50p each, collectors ordering the full set will receive "special bonus covers". All orders/enquiries to: Scout Association (BA), Scottish HQ, Fordell Firs, Hillend, DUNFERMLINE, Fife, KY11 5HQ.

Essex Scout Jamboree A commemorative postmark will be used on mail posted at the 11th Essex Scout Jamboree, Great Leighs, Chelmsford from 30 July to 7 August. Three

postcards have been produced, price 75p serviced, £2 the set of three. Any dates may be requested. Orders/enquiries, before 23 July if possible, to: Scout & Cuide Stamps Club, 265 St Margaret's Road, TWICKENHAM TW1 1PR.

Welsh Folk Museum. To commemorate the Museum's 40th anniversary a special cover has been produced showing the popular May Day Fair logo. The covers will bear a 18p Welsh stamp cancelled with a special handstamp featuring the emblem of the National Museum of Wales, dated 1 July, price £2. Orders/enquiries to: 40th Anniversary Cover, Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, CARDIFF CF5 6XB.

St Paul's Church, Colwyn Bay. To commemorate its centenary, the Church has produced a commemorative cover showing the church with an insert card giving its history. A special handstamp will be used on 13 July. Covers, bearing the Welsh Bible stamps, cost £2.75, orders to: St Pauls Centenary Cover, 155 Conway Road, COLWYN BAY, Clwyd, LL29 7NA.

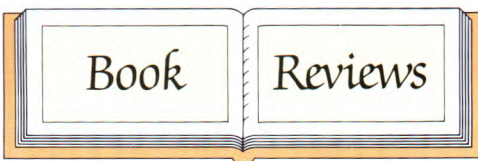
Wedgwood-Australian Bicentenary. Wedgwood's 200 year link with Australia is recalled by a souvenir cover illustrating one of the Sydney Cove medallions produced by Josiah Wedgwood to commemorate the landing of the first settlers there in 1788. Covers bearing the Bicentenary stamps, cancelled by a special handstamp featuring the Wedgwood Portland Vase, are available, price £3.50 (£3.80 overseas) from: Visitor Centre Manager, Wedgwood, Barlaston, STOKE-ON-TRENT ST12 9ES or J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL.

Mallard. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Mallard's record-breaking run, on 3 July 1938, a special handstamp will be used at Peterborough on 3 July. Designed by Mike Dempsey, designer of the Transport stamps, the cancel has been sponsored by The Designer's Own Company. Mallard cards, bearing the 18p Transport stamp and special handstamp can be ordered from the Company at: Penbryn Hall, MONTGOMERY, Powys, SY15 6TY, price £3.95 plus 95p post and packing.



Stornoway Sea Angling Club. The Club celebrates its silver jubilee this year with a souvenir cover on 2 August. The covers, bearing the 1986 22p Christmas stamp showing the Hebrides Tribute, cost £1.50 and should be ordered from F G Jefferson, Stornoway Sea Angling Club, South Beach Quay, STORNOWAY, Isle of Lewis, PA87 2BT.

Armada. One of the best known episodes in the Armada story is the speech of Queen Elizabeth to her troops at Tilbury: *I come to live or die amongst you all ...I know that I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a King of England too.* To commemorate this a full colour souvenir cover has been produced depicting a battle scene and a portrait of Elizabeth I. Covers with full set of Armada stamps, cancelled with a special Tilbury handstamp, cost £4.50 or £2.50 with single stamp. Overseas customers add 50p for airmail postage. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.



The British County Catalogue of Postal History. Vol 4 edited by R M Willcocks & B Jay. 152 pp, hardbound. £14.50 postpaid from: Vale Stamps, 21 Tranquil Vale, LONDON SE3 0BU.

The first County Catalogue covering the East Midlands and East Anglia was published 10 years ago. Collectors of handstamps used up to 1840/43 will welcome this new volume which covers Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Man, Kent, Lancashire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. For each county there is an introduction by a leading collector and each handstamp listed is described by measurement, colour and date and given a rarity value from 'A' (common, valued at under £4) to 'H' (over £100). Items coded 'Z' and 'GPO' are to be found only in archives. A useful and handsomely produced work.

TPO - The Story of the Travelling Post Office. 20pp, limp binding. Published by Royal Mail Letters. Price £1.50, postage 18p, from National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

This large-size, lavishly produced booklet has been published to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the TPO service and to mark the reorganisation of the network in May. Bill Cockburn, Managing Director of Royal Mail Letters, writes in his introduction of the importance of the TPOs, sorting on the move "...making good use of what would otherwise be unproductive transit time." In addition to a short history of the service and numerous facts and figures, the book contains many fine photographs of TPOs in operation and a useful map of the new network. A chapter "By Land, Sea and Air" reminds readers that all forms of transport - from bicycles to hovercraft - are used to get the mail delivered on time. Readers who recall the 1936 film *Night Mail* will welcome the inclusion of the text of W H Auden's poem beginning "This is the night mail crossing the border, Bringing the cheque and the postal order..."

July Digest

Issued in July

- 4 July **Armada PHQ cards (Nos.112 A-E)**
15p each
- 5 July **Stamp books: Children's Party Pack Promotion**
£1.80 (10 x 18p ACP) left & right
£1.30 (10 x 13p 1PB) left & right
London Zoo No.4 50p machine-
vended (2 x 18p 2PB, 1 x 13p 1PB,
1 x 1p 1PB)
Marine Life No.1 50p machine-
vended (3 x 13p 1PB, 2 x 5p 1PB, 1
x 1p 1PB) straight edges
Charles Dickens No.1 £1 (5 x 18p
2PB, 1 x 13p 1PB) straight edges
- 19 July **Armada stamps** 5 x 18p
designer: Graham Evernden
printing: Harrisons, photogravure,
41 x 30 mm, printed on phosphor-
coated paper, in sheets of 100 on
PVA Dextrin gum.
**Bureau f.d. service alternative
handstamp:** Plymouth
presentation pack: £1.12
- 26 July **2p, 4p, 5p and 75p definitives** in
Jeffery Matthews colours
printing: Harrison & Sons, photogra-
vure, ACP 2p, 4p & 5p, non-
phosphor 75p
1p Stamp Roll containing 1,000 x 1p,
longways delivery
printing: Harrison & Sons, ACP,
PVA/Dextrin gum

Withdrawn in July

- 13 July **July 1987 stamp books**
20 July **Scottish Heraldry – all items**
31 July **NPM BPE '86 Queen Victoria
card***
**NPM Victoria Jubilee stamp
cards***

**To be withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, but they will continue to be on sale at the National Postal Museum, London.*

New 1p Stamp Roll

A new stamp roll, produced specifically for a large user of the post, will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters on 26 July. The roll – code QL – will contain 1,000 1p stamps with longwise (vertical) delivery, printed on Advanced Coated Paper, 264

PVA/Dextrin gum. This is not regarded as a new issue and no first day of issue facilities will be available.

The current SC roll containing 1,000 1p stamps with sideways (horizontal) delivery will remain on sale for the time being.

British Postmark Bulletin

Readers of this *Bulletin* interested in special handstamps and postmark slogans are reminded that the Post Office also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin* which aims to give advance information on all forthcoming handstamps and slogans. Details are given so that collectors can send in covers to receive these cancellations. The *Postmark Bulletin*, published since 1971, is now compiled at the National Postal Museum in London together with the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and is despatched to subscribers from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. Annual subscriptions are: UK £7, Europe £9, Rest of World (Airmail) £16 and should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

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