

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Contents

- 147 The Queen's Awards for Exports and Technology
- 150 Philatelic Terms Explained: The Prince Consort Essay
- 151 Swinpex 90
 - Great Britain Philatelic Society
 - Tommy Atkins' Letters
 - Student Design Exhibition
- 152 National Postal Museum News
- 153 Exhibition Retrospect: Part 5 1980
- 156 Stampway to the World Competition
- 157 Posting Boxes Competition
- 158 Window Stamp Books: Mark IA, Mark II and Mark III Trials
- 160 1991 Special Issues
 - Thomas Hardy Stamps
 - Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
- 161 Six Month Digest
- 162 RSPCA Stamps
- Europa Stamps
- 163 Greetings Stamps
 - Penny Black Anniversary Stamps
- 164 Book Reviews
 - Penny Blacks on Blue Peter
- 165 British Special Issues: 1982 Christmas
- 166 Stamp World London 90
- 167 Commemorative Covers
 - New Railway Letter Stamps
- 168 March Digest
 - Machin News
 - New Stamp Books
 - Cylinder News

Editorial

In this month's *Bulletin* we feature the four stamps issued to mark the silver jubilee of The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology. The Award emblem will, I hope, be familiar to many readers and some of you may have been involved in companies which have received the awards. Despite all that has been written in a derogatory way about British industry and the British economy in recent years, we still have many internationally-known companies which lead the world in terms of manufacture and research. It is to be hoped that the stamps will be used with pride by many of these companies on their business mail.

The "Exhibition Retrospect" series of articles reaches its present conclusion with a review of the stamps, postmarks and souvenirs that promoted the last British international stamp exhibition at Earl's Court in 1980. I am told that the organisers are planning some interesting souvenirs for Stamp World London 90, details of which will be given in the "bumper" issues of the *Bulletin* to be published in April and May. Hopefully towards the end of the year, Mr Negus will provide us with a review of the exhibition and its souvenirs.

With this issue you will find a questionnaire about the *Bulletin* and I do hope that you will spend a few minutes completing it and returning it so I can judge how popular existing features are and see if there are areas of GB collecting that we might try to cover more fully in the future. All returned questionnaires will go into a draw and the senders of the first ten drawn will be sent a copy of the Royal Mail Penny Black Souvenir Book which is being published in May. Please return questionnaires by 30 April.

JOHN HOLMAN

Stop Press

On 14 February the Royal Mail were pleased to announce that a set of special stamps will be issued in August to commemorate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Post Office Chairman, Sir Bryan Nicholson, said: "We are delighted to have the honour of commemorating this very special day for the Queen Mother." Details of the stamps and issue date will be given later.

Queen's Awards Plates

Plates are colours as follows 1A (new blue) 1A (greenish yellow) 1A (magenta) 1A (black) 1A (silver) and 1B1B1B1B1B for both values and 2A2A2A2A2A and 2B2B2B2B2B 20p only.

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology

10 April 1990

Four stamps will be issued on 10 April to mark the 25th anniversary of the introduction of The Queen's Awards. The stamps will be in set-tenant pairs showing, respectively, the familiar Export and Technology Award emblems. There will be two pairs, at **20p** (basic inland first



class and EEC rate) and **37p** (Airmail Zone C).

The Queen's Awards are, in effect, a mirror of the diversity of marketing and technical skills which have sustained British industry during one of the most challenging periods in its history. The birth of the Awards in 1965 came at a time of considerable ferment in Britain — a ferment which the then Prime Minister (Harold Wilson) described as “the white heat of the technological revolution”. Electronics and computing were creating new technologies and industries at a pace never before known. At the same time, a new world of business opportunities in finance, tourism, leisure and entertainment was beginning to be explored.

The establishment of the Awards was recommended by a committee chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh. In the early years the winners received a single Award — known as The Queen's Award to Industry. By Royal Warrant of 1976, two separate Awards have been granted — for Export and Technological

Achievements. All organisations which operate regularly in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man as well as foreign companies with a UK subsidiary, are eligible for Awards. Also eligible are central and local government departments with industrial functions, research associations and educational institutions. The Awards are made by The Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister who is assisted by an advisory committee.

Applications for consideration have to be received at the Awards office by 31 October and the Awards are announced each year, in a supplement to *The London Gazette*, on The Queen's birthday (21 April). The Awards are presented by the Lord Lieutenants or, in the City of London, by the Lord Mayor. Companies granted the Award may fly the Award flag at their main premises and use the emblem on stationery, advertising and goods for five years. The emblem is the work of Abram Games, a foremost designer, who will be known to stamp collectors for his 1948 Olympic Games 3d and 1951 Festival of Britain 4d stamps and various Israeli issues.



In the first 25 years, there have been nearly 3,000 Award winners covering industrial and business activities as diverse as the export of



tractors, cars, computers, even whisky, smoked salmon and custard. Technology Awards have been made to companies involved in the production of life-saving drugs, telextext information services, disease-resistant potatoes and artificial limbs. Some have featured on Royal Mail stamps, for example the Giotto spacecraft (1986 Halley's Comet 22p) and the hovercraft. About 100 organisations were granted the Export Award in 1988 and about 40 received the Technological Achievements Award.

New Ground

Royal Mail stamps had a connection with one of the earliest Awards granted for colour-printing techniques used in stamp production. Appropriately on this occasion when Royal Mail stamps honour The Queen's Awards, further new ground is being broken. These stamps are the first to be produced by "Paintbox" — a revolutionary British electronic graphic-design system which produces artwork of complex designs in a fraction of the normal time. "Paintbox" was developed by Quantel Ltd of Newbury, Berks which received The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1988.

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Simon Broom and printed by The House of Questa in offset-lithography. Printing was in sheets of 100 on phosphor-coated paper. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 1½ and have PVA Dextrin gum.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 207) will cost £1.40; it was designed by Keith Bassford with text by Mike Barden and printed by Moore & Matthes Limited.

Stamp Cards

Postcards featuring enlargements of each of the four stamps will be available from 26 March, price 18p each. They are numbered 125A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices from 26 March, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau, the other for London SW. The Queen's Award office is located in the London SW1 district.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Price £1.64 UK (includes VAT), £1.43 overseas (no VAT). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 10 April.

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

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

London SW
London South Special Handstamp Centre
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. A pictorial First Day postmark, showing the arms of the City of London will be used at the London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 11 April, price 18p. This will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Related Issues

British industry and technology have featured on a number of issues since the 2½d Victory stamp of 1946. Information technology — a growth industry of the 1980s — featured on stamps in 1982 with major engineering works shown on the 1983 Europa issue. 1986 was "Industry Year" with four stamps in recognition. A fairly extensive and interesting thematic collection on British industry and Technological Achievements can be formed from stamps alone; to which could be added stamp book covers, postmarks and commemorative covers.

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology

Royal Mail First Day Cover



All organisations regularly as well as for UK subsidiaries. These are the advice of the assisted by that include government trade union nature of the fact that application scrutinised proves su

Export on three

A substantial and sustained increase in export earnings to a level which is outstanding for the products or services concerned and for the size of the applicant unit's operations. In addition, established exporters, who have a consistently high export performance but are unable to demonstrate dramatic export growth over three years, can have earlier export achievements taken into account. Consideration is given only to export orders which have been fulfilled – undelivered orders and estimates are ignored.

Technology applicants must satisfy equally stringent criteria:

A significant advance, leading to increased efficiency, in the application of technology to a production or development process in British industry or the production for sale of goods which incorporate new and advanced technological qualities. Innovation by itself, however, is not enough. Since a principal aim of this Award is to counteract the impression that Britain, despite winning many Nobel prizes for her natural inventiveness, often fails to exploit its applicants must also provide evidence of a product's commercial success.

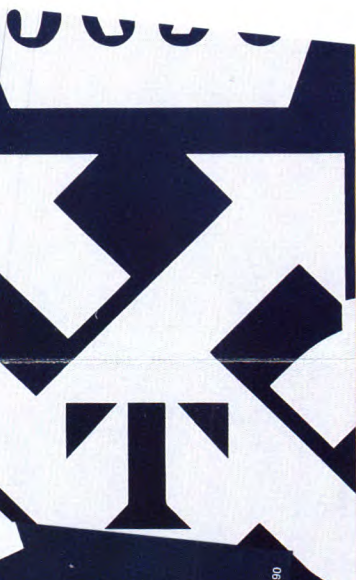
The Awards are announced each year on 21 April, The Queen's Birthday, and presented by the Lord Lieutenant or, in the City of London, by the Lord Mayor. Winners may fly the Queen's

This diversity is Technology Awards. Life-saving drugs, aircraft automatic landing systems, tungsten-halogen lamps, teletext information services, disease-resistant potatoes, brain scanners, high-yielding wheat and new types of artificial limbs are just some of the outstanding achievements which the Awards have recognised. Others include the Giotto spacecraft, which was featured on the Royal Mail stamps issued to celebrate the return of Halley's Comet in 1986, hovercraft, Hawker-Harrier jump-jets, and thermal-imaging cameras used to save life in natural disasters as far apart as Mexico and Armenia.

Royal Mail stamps had a connection with one of the earliest Awards granted – for colour-printing techniques used in stamp production. Appropriately on the occasion when



Mrs J Robinson
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DE7 4AB



The Queen's Awards
for Export and Technology
Royal Mail Mint Stamps



207100490

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.33 The Prince Consort Essay

Strictly speaking, the philatelic item known as the Prince Consort essay is not an essay at all. As explained in article 14 of this series (*Bulletin* July 1987), an essay is a design, either officially commissioned or privately produced, which was prepared as a possible stamp design but which was never adopted or was finally issued in an altered form.

The Prince Consort essay, designed like a Penny Black but portraying Prince Albert in place of Queen Victoria, was created by Henry Archer in the knowledge that it would never be issued as a postage stamp. Archer was the man whose experiments led to the perforating of stamps (see article 17, *Bulletin*, October 1987).

This “essay” — it is convenient to perpetuate the misnomer! — was printed by typography (i.e. letter-press or surface printing), a method which was cheaper than the recess-engraving process used for the 1d and 2d stamps then current (*circa* 1850). An engraver, Samuel W. Reynolds, is credited with the relief engraving of the die necessary to lay down a plate from which sheets of 36, 240 and 252 (21 panes of 12) of the essays were produced.

There has always been a little uncertainty concerning the full history of this essay. For instance, Stanley Gibbons and Robson Lowe both refer to a Robert E Branston as the man who engaged the engraver (Reynolds) on Archer’s behalf. However, Sir John Wilson, in *The Royal Philatelic Collection*, refers to Henry Archer and Robert Benson as the persons who submitted the essay to the Board of Inland Revenue, then responsible for the production and distribution of stamps to the post offices around the country.

Archer explained that he wanted to produce quantities of the essay to test his experimental perforating machines: but why could he not have used sheets of the imperforate 1d red, then on general sale? Surely, that would have been less expensive than laying down even a typographed plate and printing his own “stamps”?

A possible explanation is given by John

Easton in *British Postage Stamp Design* (Faber and Faber, 1943) when he credits Henry Archer with suggesting to the Post Office in 1851 that letter-press printing of stamps was cheaper than recess-printing but just as satisfactory from the security standpoint. To demonstrate this, Archer had laid down a letter-press plate to produce his Prince Consort essay which, quite obviously, would never become an issued stamp. When, in 1855, a new 4d stamp was required for letters to France under a new bi-lateral postal agreement, De La Rue (already printing fiscal stamps by letter-press) were awarded the contract, to the dismay of Perkins Bacon & Co who had enjoyed up to then the monopoly for producing postage stamps (1d and 2d), printing by recess.



Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté, a talented French engraver who had settled in London and worked as plain Ferdinand Joubert, was employed by De La Rue to engrave the relief die for the new 4d stamp and, subsequently, many others. Was it foresight on Archer’s part that all the Prince Consort essays carried the check letters “F” and “J” in the lower corners, or did he engage Ferdinand Joubert, and not Samuel Reynolds, to produce his Prince Consort essay die? After all, Archer and Joubert were important contemporary figures in the world of print and design around 1850 and could well have known one another.

The essay was eventually printed late in 1850 and appeared publicly in 1851, that is, three years before the Archer perforation trials were carried out on the Penny Red imperforate itself.

Examples of the essay can be found in most of the important collections of British stamps. They exist imperforate, rouletted and perforated and in black, blue, red and brown. Especially imperforate, there appears to have been little restriction on their availability to the public, few of whom were then stamp collectors.

The Royal Collection in Buckingham Palace and the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum include examples in various states and colours. Imperforate examples in the Royal Collection include those in black, red-brown (three shades), brown and blue. A rouletted example is there in red and fully perforated (gauge 16) essays are in black and in blue.

The NPM essays include a fine perforated example in black and an imperforate pair in blue lacking the inscriptions POSTAGE and ONE PENNY. A single of this rarity is also in the Royal Collection.

Rouletted and perforated copies seldom come on the market. The most recent realisation for an imperforate was £250 paid for a top right corner copy in brown, with full margins which was sold by Phillips in London on 16 November 1989.

Swinpex 90

The Swindon Philatelic Society is a holding a stamp fair, entitled "Swinpex" on Saturday 7 April, open from 10am to 5pm at the Drove Road School, Swindon. The school is close to the town centre and has ample car parking space. There will be at least 15 dealers in attendance and several specialist societies will be holding meetings at the fair; these include the British Society of Australian Philately, the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, and the East Africa British West Indies and Medical Philately study circles. Enquiries to: John Wood, 5 Brecon Close, SWINDON SN3 1JT, Tel. 0793-535560.

Scottish Philatelic Congress

The 61st Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies will be held in Falkirk Town Hall on 24 March 1990. The host society is Glasgow Thematic Society and the formal opening at 11am will be performed by Mrs Margaret Morris, Editor of the British Thematic Association's journal *Themescene*.

A commemorative handstamp, sponsored by the Scottish Post Office Board, will be in use

on mail posted at Congress. Some 30 dealers and the British Philatelic Bureau will be in attendance from 9.30am. On Sunday 25 March, a Collectors' Day will be held from 10am to 4pm when a number of societies will be represented and all collectors, society members or not, will be most welcome. Entrance is free on both days and there will be free car parking at the Town Hall. Further information can be obtained from the Hon Secretary of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies: Jack Barbour, 19 Hailes Grove, EDINBURGH EH13 0NE, Tel. 031-441 2409.

Great Britain Philatelic Society

A display entitled "1300-1900 - The Conventional and the Less Conventional" by Dr Robert Champion will be given at 11am on Saturday 17 March, followed by a display by the President's Guest at 2pm. The meeting will be held at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1; non-members welcome.

Details of the Society can be obtained from the Hon Membership Secretary: Anthony J Walker, 42 Jesmond Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE2 4PQ.

Tommy Atkins' Letters

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first postage stamp, Argyll Etkin Limited are sponsoring an exhibition under the above title at the National Army Museum from 6 April to the end of August. The exhibition will cover the history of the British Army Postal Services, and in particular the letters of the regular soldiers, which were sent from campaigns overseas, from 1792 to 1982. Many unique items from the Museum's archives, and collections of books and other objects will be on display.

Further details can be obtained from the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, LONDON SW3 4HT or Argyll Etkin Limited, 48 Conduit Street, LONDON W1R 9FB.

Student Design Exhibition

Readers are reminded that a touring exhibition featuring entries in the RSA Competition (see August 1989 *Bulletin*) can be seen at the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Cardiff until 7 March and at the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth from 12-24 March.

National Postal Museum News

Postcards

The last in the Postal Personalities series, designed to promote the Stamp World London 90 exhibition, will be issued on 3 May. They feature William Wyon and the Penny Black; Charles Heath and the Twopence Blue and William Mulready and the Mulready stationery design. The cards will cost 20p each. Earlier cards in this series were issued on 25 July and 17 October 1989 and 10 January 1990.

Three cards will be issued on 11 September showing subjects from the Museum's Postal Reform exhibition and another three on 13 November will reproduce Christmas posters produced for the Post Office in earlier years. Further details of these cards will be published nearer the time of issue.

All orders for Museum cards should be sent to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. A handling charge of 20p is raised on orders under £22, £1.75 above £22 (sent by registered post). Minimum order 60p.

Postmarks

Shown here is the Museum's new Maltese Cross handstamp which was introduced on 10 January and will remain in use until further notice. It replaces the handstamp used since July 1980.



Collectors may be interested to know that the Maltese Cross on the new handstamp is from a proof impression on a minute submitted by Mr William Bokenham, Superintending President of the Inland Office, to Colonel William Maberly, Secretary to the Post Office, dated 31 March 1840. The minute is in the Museum.

Collectors unable to visit the Museum may send in cards and covers for cancellation with

this Maltese Cross handstamp. They should bear at least 19p in stamps (second class postage plus 4p handstamping fee) and should be sent to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

Special one-day handstamps will be used on the days of issue of the new cards, mentioned above.

Special Exhibitions

An exhibition entitled "The Life and Work of Sir Rowland Hill" was opened by Dr David Hill, a descendant of Sir Rowland's brother Arthur, on 10 January. The exhibition is on view in the Museum's main gallery until Easter.

A major exhibition on Postal Reform and the Introduction of Uniform Penny Post will open on 24 April and will run for 12 months. This will be mounted in the ground floor and mezzanine display areas. At the same time the "open" Phillips display in the main gallery will be revised to display additional relevant material. It is also intended to display items relating to the 1890 jubilee and the 1940 centenary of Uniform Penny Post.

Please note that the Museum will be closed for the week commencing 16 April 1990 to allow the Postal Reform exhibition to be mounted and material prepared for Stamp World London 90. It will also be closed on 24 April for the official opening of the Postal Reform exhibition.

Special Offer

As a special offer to *Bulletin* readers, the Museum is able to offer Post Office press photographs of special stamps, mostly of the 1980s. These are available in packs of five different (Museum's choice) for £4 postpaid. Only one pack is available to each customer, all orders to be received by 30 April. The packs are offered subject to availability as stocks are limited. These photographs are issued to the press with the Post Office press notices giving details of forthcoming stamp issues.

All orders should be sent to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Exhibition Retrospect

Part 5: 1980

JAMES NEGUS

The Earls Court Exhibition Centre in west London saw the most recent of Britain's International Stamp Exhibitions. From 6 to 14 May was staged "London 1980", at that date the largest and finest ever in this country and one for which the greatest quantity of mementoes can be assembled.

London 1980 was under the patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie — a first for Britain — and was extensively supported by The Post Office. The event led to Britain's first ever miniature sheets, whose premiums helped finance the Exhibition. The surplus founded the British Philatelic Trust for the permanent benefit of philately.

A collection devoted to London 1980 could therefore start with the official issues. As aide-memoire they were:

1 March 1978 British Architecture set of four, designed by Ronald Maddox, face value 43½p; also the same as a miniature sheet with a 10p premium.

22 August 1979 Rowland Hill Death Centenary set of four, designed by Eric Stemp, face value 49½p, with, on 24 October 1979, the same as a miniature sheet with 10p premium.

17 October 1979 10p booklet of Machin definitives, designed by Hamper & Purcell, illustrated with The Post Office Exhibition stand. Further printings were issued on 12 January and 4 August 1980.

9 April 1980 London 1980 large 50p recess stamp, designed by Jeffery Matthews, engraved by Geoffrey Holt; the same (7 May 1980) as a miniature sheet with 25p premium.

7 May 1980 London Landmarks set of five, designed by Sir Hugh Casson, no miniature sheet.

Jeffery Matthews designed all three miniature sheets and the Exhibition logo itself.

The final two items were issued for first day use on the exhibition's second day. Collectors would have available, if they wished, many other things; there are gutter pairs of the stamps, presentation packs, and "PHQ cards", enlarged reproductions on postcards. An array of Post Office and commercial first day covers could be had and each issue saw its own selection of official and sponsored special postmarks.

Black prints of the Architecture and Hill sheets in photogravure were included in the Exhibition Catalogue, available only at Earls Court, price £2. Another black print, the 13p of the Rowland Hill set, came as a sheet inscribed "With the compliments of the British Post Office" and without gum.

As well as Britain, many Commonwealth and foreign countries issued stamps, booklets and miniature sheets for London 1980.

Publicity

Advance publicity in Britain was extensive. Clive Abbott's Rowland Hill aerogramme (24 October 1979) contained a message "Come to London for the 1980 Philatelic Exhibition". The London 1980 logo was also placed inside contemporary regular booklets, the 80p Military Aircraft (designer Peter Hutton) and £1 Industrial Archaeology (Norman Battershill), issued on 3 October 1979. The logo was repeated in the succeeding booklets, £1 Aircraft and £1.20 Archaeology, of 4 February 1980.



Fig. 1 Self-adhesive publicity label

Publicity labels for the Exhibition (Fig. 1) were self-adhesive. They were produced litho in



Fig. 2 Sheetlet of publicity labels

sheets of 16 (4 x 4), printed blue on white, as well as black on red, yellow or green. Also widely distributed in stamp magazines was a handsome sheetlet of 12 publicity labels, produced photo-litho by Questa (Fig. 2). The upper two rows reproduce definitives of six reigns, the lower rows notable London landmarks. Perforation is comb 14, the top margin being found either perforated-through or unperforated. Labels cancelled "Publicity Issue First Day" (24 January 1980) are known alongside normal postage stamps on illustrated, unaddressed cover, even though the sheetlet advised against such usage.

Printers' Souvenirs

The House of Questa was one of several security printers present at the Exhibition, each of whom

produced elegant souvenirs. These bear out why many of the non-postal items created for Exhibitions merit collection and study. In this instance they well illustrate printing processes.

Questa used a design of Clive Abbott's to publicise both Britain and the show with a sheetlet of four labels (Fig. 3): the version shown in the Exhibition Catalogue and the May 1980 *Philatelic Bulletin* were probably early press mock-ups, for they differ in details. As issued the sheet is perf. 14 with gum, printed photo-litho.

Walsall Security Printers reproduced in facsimile the Zürich 1843 4 rappen Cantonal stamp. They re-created it "on a 19th century litho stone press using the original craft techniques". This reproduction (Fig. 4) was issued on thick yellow paper without gum.

Harrison produced an ungummed sheet designed by Stuart Rose that combined three processes. The se-tenant labels with monarchs' heads are seen above the lithographed Exhibition logo (Fig. 5). Queen Elizabeth II by Arnold Machin is printed photogravure; Queen Victoria, engraved by Geoffrey Holt from the depiction on the Penny Black, is printed recess. The sheet surround is photogravure. At the Company stand an offset-litho press overprinted in black on to these sheets, already printed at High Wycombe for the photogravure and recess portions. Perforation (14) by Bickel perforator was also demonstrated.

Harrison also had available an example of

their five-colour photogravure. Sheets of 25 (5 x 5) labels reproduced classic paintings from The National Gallery, London, each label with serial number and artist's name at foot. The sheets were perforated $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, issued with gum, and presented loose in a card folder as "Masterpieces in Miniature" with the paintings listed. After the Exhibition this colourful sheet could be had from the printer at £1.50.

Postmarks

An operational slogan postmark for London 1980 was used for a lengthy campaign at London S.W.1 and W.C. from 2 July 1979 to 2 May 1980. Liverpool, Manchester and London



Fig. 3 Questa souvenir

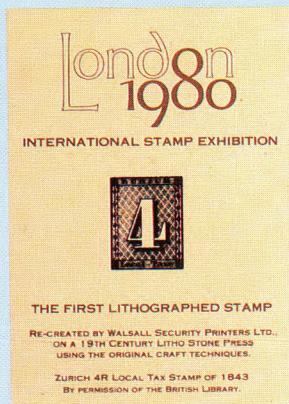


Fig. 4 Walsall souvenir

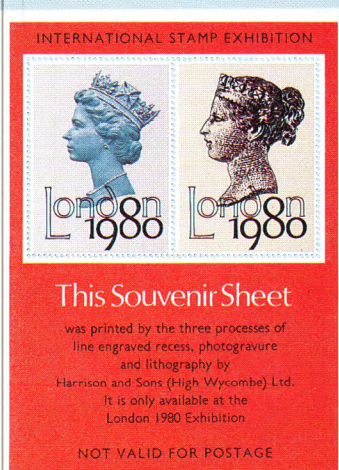
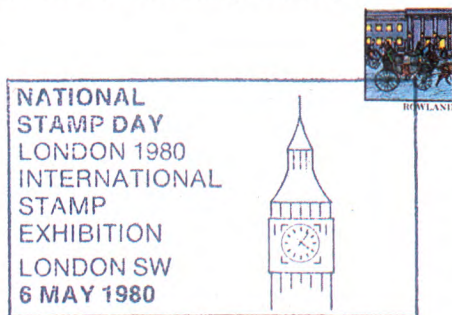


Fig. 5 Harrison souvenir

E.C. saw it in use from 2 July 1979 to 22 December 1979, then Edinburgh, Leeds and Plymouth from 31 December 1979 to 2 May 1980. The slogan is found attractively during the period on first day covers for the special stamps.

At the Exhibition, special handstamps were in use, one for each day. Uniform in design concept, one is illustrated at Fig. 6. The complete set consists of National Stamp Day (6 May), Post Office Day (7th), Day of the Americas (8th), United Nations Day (9th), Youth Day (10th), Society Day (12th), Commonwealth Day (13th) and Europe Day (14th). None was used on Sunday 11th May.



Three sets of six postcards issued by the National Postal Museum at the time of London 1980 featured Edward VII and George V issues. Some saw use at the Exhibition. The Stampex souvenir sheet for 1979 depicted Rowland Hill and advertised the forthcoming International.

Earls Court was perhaps the best venue thus far for the International Exhibitions staged in London. Its 4,385 frames exceeded its predecessor of 1970 in number, many more dealers were present (190) and The Post Office stand was spectacular. Part of the Royal Collection was on show; the British Library exhibited from the Tapling Collection, while the National Postal Museum drew upon the unique material in the Post Office Collections. The Crown Agents and its client countries were present in force and many treasures could be seen in the Court of Honour.

George South was Chairman of the Executive Committee, supported by large numbers of leading amateur and professional philatelists among the specialist committees. Eminent collectors from many lands formed the 39 International Jurors.

To do London 1980 justice a very long article

indeed would be needed. The Exhibition is still remembered with pleasure ten years on and another first-class event is now imminent in Stamp World London 90 at Alexandra Palace.

Acknowledgements. Andrew Young kindly checked the drafts of my articles and readily lent material from the collection I have admired when displayed at recent national exhibitions. I also thank Colin Peachey for allowing extracts from the indispensable standard works of which he is a co-author: *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom* (1984); *Collecting Slogan Postmarks* (1986) and *Slogan Postmarks of the Seventies* (1980).

Stampway to the World Competition

On 6 December the Stamp Publicity Board held a grand prize giving ceremony at the Museum of Science & Engineering in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The event marked the success of the competition run in conjunction with the "Stampway to the World" exhibition at the Museum (24 August 1989 - 27 January 1990). A report on this fine exhibition was published in last November's *Bulletin*.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Terry Cooney, and the Royal Mail's Stamp Bug awarded three lucky first prize winners with the Royal Mail 1989 Year Book. Three runners-up received gift tokens, stock books and stamps from a local stamp dealer. Royal Mail 1989 Collectors' Packs were awarded to 100 lucky winners. A special cake was made for the occasion with a Penny Black cleverly iced on the top.

Maurice Gale, Chairman of the Stamp Publicity Board, was delighted with the response to the competition, commenting "... entries have continued to flood in since the event took place. SPB feel that the prize giving ceremony was an excellent finale to what has been a very successful venue for the Stampway to the World exhibition".

The exhibition will be on show at the Stamp World London 90 international stamp exhibition at Alexandra Palace, 3-13 May. Six panels, relating to the North East, are remaining at the Museum of Science & Engineering in Newcastle as the basis for a permanent stamp presence there.

Further information on the work of the SPB can be obtained from: Sandra Scase, Stamp Publicity Board, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT, Tel. 01-253 1231.

Posting Boxes

109. Victorian Wall Box

Norman Ledgand of Hampshire has submitted a photograph of a wall box in the village of Amberley, West Sussex. The main point of interest is the date "1637" above the box in the wall of the building. This would appear to be



one of the 1881 boxes manufactured by W T Allen & Company. This is described by Martin Robinson in his *Old Letter Boxes* as follows:

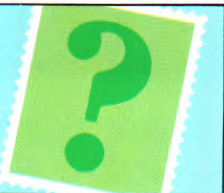
"In Allen's boxes the royal cipher and crown always appear at the top with the words POST OFFICE on the hood. The collection plate is mounted on the door in a beading rather than a recess and there is provision for a NEXT COLLECTION tablet in the top right-hand corner of the plate."

Mr Robinson's book is published by Shire Publications Ltd of Princes Risborough, Bucks. It was reviewed here in June 1987. Copies are available from the National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP, price £1.25 plus 20p handling charge.

Readers interested in letter boxes are reminded of the existence of the Letter Box Study Group — details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM, B28 9BS.

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies sent in by readers for this "Posting Boxes feature" — enough to last for the next few years. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning the Penny Black Souvenir Book to be published by Royal Mail Stamps in May. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin* and send with your name and address on a postcard to: March Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 28 April.

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

1. Which Prime Minister spoke of "the white heat of the technological revolution"?
2. How much was paid for an imperforate top right corner copy of the Prince Consort essay in November 1989?
3. Where was the "London 1980" international stamp exhibition held?
4. Which company printed the Queen's Awards stamps (10 April 1990)?
5. On what date are the Thomas Hardy stamps being issued?
6. Who designed the 1982 Christmas stamps?

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

The winners of the December competition were:

Mrs C Allison of Kent (first prize), B Dungate of Zimbabwe, H Best of East Sussex, W Inkster of Moray, J Fleming of Co Kerry, D Pope of Suffolk and I Brown of the Sultanate of Oman.

The answers were: 1. Thomas Hardy, 2. Purple, 3. 276,650, 4. 1840, 5. Bath, 6. Gloucester.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Window Stamp Books

Mark IA, Mark II and Mark III Trials

L F NEWBERY

This article is based on an examination of as yet unmounted material seen in the National Postal Museum, London. It supplements the author's earlier article "Window Books Prototypes" in the January 1989 *Bulletin* (pages 124-5). Given below are brief descriptions of the material deposited in the Museum; these trial books can be seen by prior arrangement.

For ease of reference, to this article, the books have been allocated numbers. Ed.

Mark IA Book Trials

Harrison & Sons Ltd.

1. "4 First Class Stamps" book, Code B. Laminated cover with window cut out, round clasp. Text and design as issued, inside unprinted. Four plain, gummed and perforated labels with E perforated margin affixed to back cover.



2. "10 Second Class Stamps" book. Code H. Laminated cover with window cut out, round clasp. Text and design as issued, inside unprinted. Ten plain, gummed and perforated labels with E perforated margin affixed to front cover. Pane folded between stamps 1 and 2 and 6 and 7.

Mark II Trials

Walsall Security Printers Ltd

3. A series of empty covers — design, text and

rate tables as issued. Mark II books laminated. Post Office window books Mark II 2nd class. Code O and P.

4. Post Office window books Mark III trial, 300gsm board. Litho printed empty covers, varnished, window not cut out. Code K and P. A manuscript note on the inside of the K cover, 300gsm board, notes that it was coated on both sides using A & W Dresse varnish.

5. Post Office window books Mark III trial, 250gsm board. Litho printed, ultra-violet cured varnish. Code P — window not cut out, not laminated; Code P — window cut out, laminated; Code K — window not cut out, not laminated.

6. Post Office window books Mark III trial, 300gsm board. Silk-screen, ultra-violet cured varnish. Code K window not cut out, not laminated.

Note: the above samples marked "Mark III" were in fact Mark II.

Mark III Book Trials

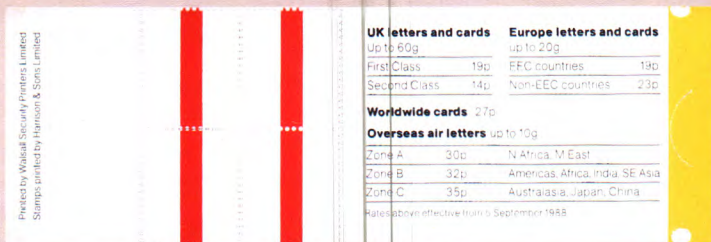
Walsall Security Printers Ltd

Examples are housed in a transparent envelope inside white presentation folders. All are dated "26/7/88".

7. "4 Second Class Stamps". 300gsm board. Cover "stamp" in blue without value and with white diagonal security line. Remainder of design and text, also rates tables and imprint, as issued. Four plain, gummed and perforated labels with E perforated margin affixed to inside front cover. Two 4mm red printed continuous bands simulating centre band phosphor runs from top to bottom. The books were sealed by means of a gum spot in top and bottom corner.

8. As above, but cover of 220gsm board.

9. "4 First Class Stamps". 300gsm board. Cover "stamp" orange without value but with white



Cover printed by Walsall, containing pane of four labels with red continuous bands

diagonal security bar. Remainder of design, text, rates table and imprint as issued. Pane of labels as Second Class book. The books were sealed by means of a gum spot in top and bottom corner.

10. As above, but with cover of 220gsm board.



11. "10 First Class Stamps". 250gsm board. Cover "stamp" orange without value but with white diagonal security line. Remainder of design and text as for Questa printings — no issues were made of Walsall printings with panes of 10. Rates table and imprint as for panes of 4 issues. Pane of 10 plain, gummed and perforated labels with margin affixed to inside front cover, folded between stamps 2 and 3 and 7 and 8. The books were sealed by means of a gum spot in top and bottom corner.

12. As last, but cover of board 220gsm.

13. "10 Second Class Stamps". 250gsm board. Cover "stamp" blue without value but with white diagonal security line. Remainder of design and text as for Questa printings — no issues were made of Walsall printings with panes of 10. Rates table and imprint as for the panes of 4 issues. Pane of labels as for First Class above.

14. "4 Worldwide Postcard Stamps". 300gsm board. Cover "stamp" brown without value but with white diagonal security line. Remainder of design and text as for the Harrison printings except the bar code. Walsall code reads 5 014721 100111, Harrison code 5 014721 200118. Rates table, imprint and pane of labels as for panes of 4 trials. The books were sealed by means of a spot of gum in the top and bottom corner.

15. As last, but cover board of 250gsm.

16. As last, but cover board of 220gsm.



Above — trial for Worldwide Postcard Stamps book;

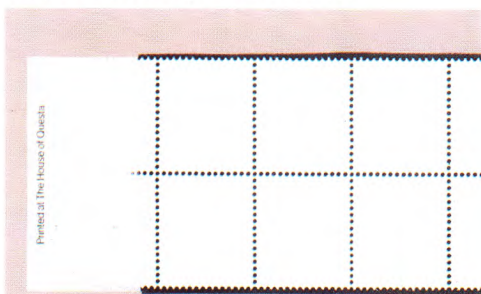
below — back cover of trial book by Questa, with red bar code



The House of Questa

Examples in bundles of 50 — packed five each way — secured with a rubber band with an end label in heat-sealed plastic.

17. "10 First Class Stamps". Cover "stamp" 19p orange with white diagonal security line. Text and design as issued except the bar code was printed in red. Pane of 10 plain, gummed and perforated labels with P perforated margin affixed to inside front cover, folded between stamps 2 and 3 and 7 and 8. Books not sealed. End label of bundle in pink with computer type text: 50 BOOKS/MARK III 19p/STAMP BOOKS.



Part of pane of 10 labels in Questa trial book

18. "10 Second Class Stamps". Cover "stamp" 14p blue with white diagonal security line. Text and design as issued except the bar code was printed in red. Pane of 10 plain, gummed and perforated labels with P perforation margin affixed to inside front covers, pane folded between stamps 2 and 3 and 7 and 8. Books not sealed. End label of bundle in blue with computer type text worded 50 BOOKS/Mark III 14p/STAMP BOOKS.

1991 Special Issues

Royal Mail Stamps & Philately will issue eight sets of special stamps next year. These will feature: Dogs; Science; Europa (Europe in Space); Sport; Roses; Ordnance Survey; Dinosaurs; and Christmas. Dates of issue and other information will be published in the *Bulletin* as it becomes available.

Thomas Hardy Stamps

The Thomas Hardy issue on 10 July will comprise two stamps, featuring well-known characters from his books. The stamps mark the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

171. Post Office Permit Essay

Featured this month is a design for a letter sheet, headed POST OFFICE PERMIT, one of several proposed by the so-called Mercantile Committee of 1838/9. This committee comprised London bankers and merchants who collected information about the effectiveness of Post Office services which they passed on to the Parliamentary Committee on Postal Reform under the chairmanship of Robert Wallace, MP for Greenock. The Mercantile Committee was vigorous in campaigning for uniform penny postage. The bound volume of the papers of the Committee contains a number of printed essays including the Post Office Permit essay produced by Charles Fenton Whiting and reproduced in the Committee's own newspaper *The Post Circular* dated 30 April 1839.



There are three examples of this essay in the Phillips Collection, one in black, one in green and this one in what has been described as "a curious shade of old rose". This is addressed by Rowland Hill to Dawson Turner and includes a letter, dated 22 June 1839, in which Hill says: "...I have the pleasure to send you a specimen which has been prepared by Whiting, of the stamp covers which it is proposed shall be employed for franking letters under the plan which I have submitted to Government".

The essay can be seen on page 11 of Volume 1 of the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum.

Six Month Digest

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

H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall, printers
NVI = Non Value Indicator stamps

5 Sep	Microscopes stamps (AS385)
5 Sep	Microscopes Pack (AP081)
19 Sep	10 x 2nd class NVI book, Q (DW056)
19 Sep	10 x 1st class NVI book, Q (DW057)
26 Sep	Definitive 15p bt blue (DS150)
26 Sep	Definitive 20p black (DS205)
26 Sep	Definitive 24p terracotta (DS241)
26 Sep	Definitive 29p purple (DS290)
26 Sep	Definitive 30p sage (DS300)
26 Sep	Definitive 34p slate (DS342)
26 Sep	Definitive 37p red (DS370)
26 Sep	Definitives Pack (DP011)
2 Oct	50p Aeroplanes machine book (DB226)
2 Oct	£1 Mills machine book (DB227)
2 Oct	£1.16 stamp book (DW055)
2 Oct	Lord Mayor stamp cards (AQ091)
2 Oct	10 x 2nd cl NVI book, H (UB006)
2 Oct	10 x 1st cl NVI book, H (UB001)
9 Oct	"Our World" book (PA111)
10 Oct	Mixed Value Roll (DC841)
16 Oct	15p Sideways Roll (DC039)
16 Oct	15p Vertical Roll (DC037)
16 Oct	20p Sideways Roll (DC040)
16 Oct	20p Vertical Roll (DC038)
17 Oct	Lord Mayor stamps (AS390)
17 Oct	Lord Mayor Pack (AP082)
17 Oct	Autumn Stampex exh. card (EQ013)
17 Oct	NPM Personalities cards (NQ900)
30 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ097)
30 Oct	Christmas Greetings cards (PA510)
3 Nov	Philatelia exh. card (EQ015)
14 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS392)
14 Nov	Christmas Pack (AP083)
14 Nov	Christmas aerogramme (QX011)
14 Nov	1989 Yearbook (AY017)
14 Nov	1989 Collectors Pack (AR017)
17 Nov	Stamp Expo exh. card (EQ016)
28 Nov	N Ireland 15p (IS150)
28 Nov	N Ireland 20p (IS200)
28 Nov	N Ireland 24p (IS240)
28 Nov	N Ireland 34p (IS340)
28 Nov	Scotland 15p (SS150)
28 Nov	Scotland 20p (SS200)
28 Nov	Scotland 24p (SS240)
28 Nov	Scotland 34p (SS340)

28 Nov	Wales 15p (WS150)
28 Nov	Wales 20p (WS200)
28 Nov	Wales 24p (WS240)
28 Nov	Wales 34p (WS340)
28 Nov	Country Stamp Pack (CP008)
—Nov	4 x 2nd cl NVI book, H (UB007)
—Nov	4 x 1st cl NVI book, H (UB008)
8 Jan	RSCPA stamp cards (AQ103)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv stamps (DS906)
10 Jan	Penny Black Anniv pack (DP012)



10 Jan	NPM Personalities cards (NQ901)
10 Jan	NPM Penny Black Maxi Card (NQ902)
23 Jan	RSPCA stamps (AS398)
23 Jan	RSPCA pack (AP084)
30 Jan	50p machine book, H (TB001)
30 Jan	£1 machine book, H (TB002)
30 Jan	60p stamp book, W (UB002)
30 Jan	80p stamp book, W (UB003)
30 Jan	£1.50 stamp book, H (UB004)
30 Jan	£2 stamp book, H (UB005)
30 Jan	£1 trial book, W (TB003)
6 Feb	Greetings Stamp Pack (JB001)
19 Feb	Europa stamp cards (AQ108)
27 Feb	Spring Stampex exh card (EQ017)

Forthcoming

6 Mar	Europa stamps and pack
13 Mar	50p Definitive — colour "sand"
20 Mar	London Life Prestige Book
26 Mar	Queen's Awards stamp cards
10 Apr	Queen's Awards stamps and pack
17 Apr	Standard aerogramme — new logo
24 Apr	Scot aerogramme (Forth Rail Bridge)
3 May	Penny Black Miniature Sheet
3 May	Penny Black Souvenir Book
3 May	Stamp World exh. card
3 May	NPM Personalities cards
3 May	PO Archives cards
21 May	Kew Gardens stamp cards
5 Jun	Kew Gardens stamps and pack

25 Jun
10 Jul
28 Aug

Thomas Hardy stamp cards
Thomas Hardy stamps and pack
Gallantry stamp cards

Notes:

1. The NPM Personalities cards are issued in promotion of Stamp World London 90 and bear the exhibition logo on the reverse. They are listed on the Bureau stock list as SWL90 cards.

2. The 10 x 1st and 2nd class NVI books issued on 2 October have revised text — details of postal rates from 2 October. The previous issue (22 August) gave details of how to send for postal rate leaflets. Both Harrison printings.

3. The 4 x 1st and 4 x 2nd class NVI books issued in November have stamps printed by Harrison in covers produced by Walsall.

4. All books issued on 30 January contain Penny Black Anniversary stamps; the £1 trial book has Mills No 1 cover design as issued on 2 October.

RSPCA Stamps

Some of the publicity material for these stamps, including the presentation pack and first day cover insert card, suggests that the issue of these stamps commemorates the 150th anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter to the Society. We have been asked, by the Privy Council Office, to point out that the RSPCA is not incorporated by Royal Charter and has never received such a grant.

Queen Victoria became the Society's Royal Patron in September 1837 and on 5 June 1840 agreed to the use of the term Royal in the Society's title. This privilege was communicated to the Society in a letter, now framed and hanging in the Society's library. The letter reads:

'Sir Henry Wheatley presents his compliments to Mr. Thomas, and in reply to his letter of the 2d inst. is commanded to convey to him Her Majesty's consent that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals be designated "Royal".'

The RSPCA stamps, issued on 23 January, have proved very popular; the four stamps feature a kitten (20p), rabbit (29p), duckling (34p) and puppy (37p). They are still on sale from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. Also on sale are presentation packs (£1.45), stamp cards (72p set of four) and souvenir covers (blank, 18p). Animal welfare is regarded more highly in Britain than in many countries; an article, by Barbara Last, outlining some of the important work of the RSPCA was published in the January *Bulletin* (pages 106-8).

Europa Stamps

Very brief mention was made in the February *Bulletin* of the Templeton Carpet Factory shown on the 37p Europa stamp. The People's Palace Museum in Glasgow have kindly sent further details, from the book *Victorian City* by Frank Worsdall (published by Richard Drew, Glasgow, 1982).



Kilmarnock was the first Scottish centre of the carpet-making industry. The modern industry in Glasgow really began in 1839 when James Templeton returned to the city after a period in Paisley where he manufactured shawls. Templeton occupied premises at the Mile End Mills, moving to a cotton mill beside Glasgow Green in 1856. As business grew, larger premises were required and in 1888 John Stewart Templeton commissioned William Leiper to design a building. The frontage (onto the Green) was to be ornamental, the remainder of the building functional. Leiper based his design on the Doge's Palace in Venice. "The walls", Mr Worsdall tells us, "are of bright red brick with coloured glazed bricks and mosaic. The red, blue and green of the main part of the elevation is balanced by a golden carpet-like frieze, obviously intended to act as an advertisement for the firm's wares".

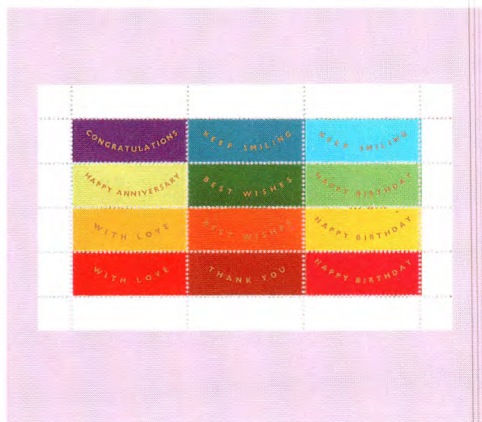
In November 1889 before the building was completed, a sudden wind brought part of it down on weaving sheds where 140 people were working; many were killed. The factory was rebuilt to the same, but stronger, design.

Says Mr Worsdall, "Templeton's is recognised today as the world's finest example of decorative brickwork — a strange distinction in a stone city, and for an architect who never before or after worked in that material".

Greetings Stamps

The labels included in the Greetings stamp pack, issued on 6 February, are illustrated here. The labels can be affixed with any of the 10 Greetings stamps to provide the desired message, Best Wishes, Congratulations, etc.

The colours and cylinders used for this issue are: 2A (gold) 1B (greenish-yellow) 1C (bright



rose-red) 1D (new blue) 1E (deep blue) 1F (grey-black) P93 (phosphor). Note that cylinder numbers were trimmed off in production and do not appear in the issued packs.

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the Royal Mail first day cover, is available from philatelic counters, price 18p. It will be available for one year.

Penny Black Anniversary Stamps

Further information can now be added to the preliminary details published in the December *Bulletin*.

The stamps were designed by Jeffery Matthews, FCSD, using the Wyon portrait of Queen Victoria and the Machin head of HM The Queen. Mr Matthews has designed many Royal Mail stamps including the 1978 25th Anniversary of Coronation, 1980 50p "London 1980", 1980 Queen Mother and 1980 Christmas stamps. He also designed the cover of the £1.60 1978 Christmas stamp book. Mr Matthews has done extensive work on stamp colours and devised the colours currently used for the definitive stamps.

The Presentation Pack for these stamps is numbered 21; it was designed by Sedley Place Limited and made and printed by Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd. The text was by Tim

Shackleton with Ken Chapman acting as Philatelic Advisor.

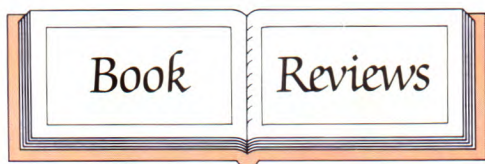
A Royal Mail souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, is available from philatelic counters, price 18p. This will be on sale for one year and will be suitable for use with special postmarks in May, including those to be used at Stamp World London 90.

Book Stamps

The cylinder numbers used for the Harrison printed books containing panes of 10 of the Penny Black Anniversary stamps were: £1.50 - B6 phosphor B84, £2 — B1A (black) B1B (cream). The plate numbers used for the litho-printed Walsall books (60p and 80p) were: W1 W1 W1 (both books). Three colour printing was used to make up the required overall colours - 15p bright blue and 20p black. The same numbers were used for the trial cover £1 machine book printed by Walsall (5 x 20p stamps).



David Dale, Manager Definitive Stamps, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, informs us that a printer's error has been detected on some of the early printings of £2 Penny Black Anniversary stamps. The error consists of a shift in the brown tint under Queen Victoria's head, giving Queen Elizabeth a brown nose. All the offending books discovered have been returned to the printers, and it is believed the error was limited to a small quantity. However since we could not examine the finished books without destroying them, it is possible that this error reached the public via the initial quantities distributed to the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. The error is relatively minor and does not affect the usefulness of the books or stamps to the general public, many of whom will probably not even notice it!



The 1990 edition of the **British Philatelic Federation Yearbook and Philatelic Societies' Directory**, edited by Herbert Grimsey, is now available. It cannot be stressed too strongly that every serious collector should have this book — invaluable for details of national, local and specialist clubs and societies (several hundred are listed), stamp insurance companies, magazines, museums, philatelic bureaux, stamp slides and films, expertising services, etc., etc. 164 pages, card covers. Price £7 (free to BPF members) from: British Philatelic Federation, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

The long-awaited new (eighth) edition of **The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps** has recently been published. The last edition was published in 1986, quickly sold out, and was awarded the National Postal Museum Medal. It was a great improvement on previous editions and drew much favourable comment. A great deal of work has gone into further improving this catalogue as all those who compare this latest with earlier editions will quickly realise. In particular the listing of decimal booklets has been expanded, the cylinder numbers and perforation types being amalgamated for easier use. Varieties found on booklet panes and coil stamps are now included and priced and prices are newly given for postal stationery. Harrison cylinder blocks are now separately priced for the No Dot and Dot types. The cut-off date for listings in this edition was 25 April 1989, date of issue of the Walsall £1 book.

The catalogue opens with a helpful basic guide to all £sd and decimal values, giving the colour, date of issue and (where relevant) date of general withdrawal of each value. This is followed by an illustrated article on "The Genesis of the Machin Design" by Douglas N Muir of the National Postal Museum. The excellent listings are arranged in 23 sections covering four main groupings: Stamps; Cylinder and Plate Blocks; Booklets and Booklet Panes, and Other Items. There is, as section 24, a list of "Reference Sources". The main stamp listings are clearly divided as follows: Pre-decimal; Decimal Harri-

son; Decimal with Redrawn Numerals (Harrison); Decimal Non-Harrison; First Recess; High Values; Regional (Harrison); Regional (Questa and Waddington); Postage Due. This breakdown is very helpful as many collectors are now concentrating on particular aspects of Machin collecting as an overall collection is becoming so vast. Specialists involved with different papers, gums, phosphors, head and value types will find not only the information they require but clear illustrations and realistic market prices. The front cover bears the wording "Machins made intelligible" — this is not a false claim.

304 pages, card covers, available from stamp dealers or: Connoisseur Publications, 184 Portland Road, LONDON SE25 4QB, price £12.95, postage £1 UK, £2 overseas.

Penny Blacks on Blue Peter

The 8 January edition of the BBC programme "Blue Peter" included a feature on the Penny Black and the forthcoming Penny Black Anniversary stamps. The registration sheet of Penny Blacks, valued at £9 million, was taken from the National Postal Museum to the Blue Peter studio and was shown during the prog-



ramme. Featured here are (left to right) Terry Brown (Chief Custodian) and Stan Goron (Manager) of the NPM and Michael Cooke, John Leslie and Yvette Fielding of Blue Peter. (Photo courtesy of Courier, Post Office staff newspaper).

Stamp World London 90

In the past the Court of Honour at international stamp exhibitions has usually consisted of a heterogeneous assembly of invited exhibits from well known collections not in the competitive classes, augmented perhaps by important individual items from other sources. The Court of Honour at "Stamp World London 90" will present a completely new concept while remaining a centre piece and one of the main focal points of the exhibition.

The setting will be a specially designed walk-through area at the northern end of the Great Hall. The content will form an integrated whole, centred round the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black. Material on display will come primarily from the combined resources of the Royal Philatelic Collection (Buckingham Palace), the National Postal Museum and the British Library Philatelic Collections.

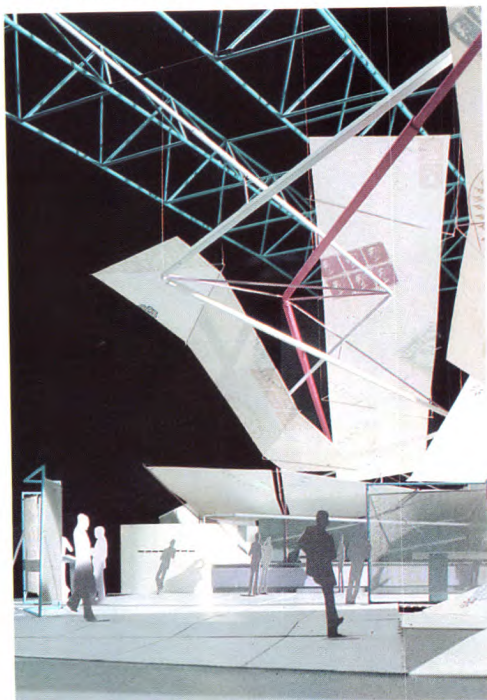
Work is now at an advanced stage as regards the selection and choice of individual items and planning the general arrangement and balance of the display. However when it is realised just what material is available, collectors will have some idea of the treat that is in store. The National Postal Museum have Penny Black proof and imprimatur sheets, the British Library postal history material from the Fletcher Collection and the resources of the famous Tapling Collection and the Royal Collection includes incomparable Treasury Essays and Penny Black proofs. It is intended to put on display such items as the block of ten Penny Blacks on first day cover and the two largest blocks of the

Black and Twopence Blue, and Mulready stationery.

5. Stamp issues of the world which followed the lead of Great Britain including especially those based on the design of the Penny Black, such as the 1847 Post Office Mauritius.

6. 1890 Exhibition and 50th Anniversary of Penny Postage.

7. 1940 Centenary of Penny Postage and 1990 150th Anniversary.



The Penny Black Office stand will cover 560 square

March Digest

Issued in March

6 March: Europa stamps, 2 x 20p, 29p, 37p

Designer: Paul Hogarth

Printing: Harrison & Sons Limited, photogravure, 30 x 41mm, printed on phosphor-coated paper in sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum

Bureau f.d. alternative handstamp: Glasgow

Presentation Pack: (No. 206) £1.30

7 March: Europa stamps souvenir cover, price 18p. Available from philatelic counters.

13 March: 50p definitive in "sand" — new Jeffery Matthews colour version of current colour, i.e. with solid background and light head

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, 21 x 24mm, non-phosphor paper, PVA Dextrin gum

No first day of issue facilities

20 March: £5 "London Life" Prestige Book. Contents: one pane of 4 x 20p Europa stamps showing Alexandra Palace, two panes of 6 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary definitives, and one mixed value pane of 15p, 20p, 50p, 1st and 2nd class definitives and 15p, 20p and 29p Penny Black Anniversary definitives. 50p in new Jeffery Matthews colour standard (sand).

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, Advanced Coated Paper except mixed value pane which has phosphor bands.

Bureau f.d. alternative handstamp: Tower Hill, London EC3

26 March: Queen's Awards stamp cards (Nos. 125A-D), 18p each

Withdrawn in March

6 March: Food & Farming stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover

20 March: 1989 £5 Prestige Book (Scots Connection)

ly announced) and with straight bottom edge, thus yielding a further stamp variety: 20p litho straight edge bottom and left. The panes with straight edges at bottom were not anticipated when the copy for the January *Bulletin* was prepared; I gather that they resulted from technical problems at the printers.

The February *Bulletin* reported Questa books with imperf binding margin; I am informed that only a small printing of the second class book was made in this format.

The Scottish 15p Country stamp has recently been printed from plates Q3Q3 and Q4Q4. *Ed.*

New Stamp Books

Four new books will go on philatelic sale on 17 April: 10 x 15p and 10 x 20p Penny Black stamps printed by Questa; 4 x 29p definitives, litho, phosphor coated paper by Walsall and 4 x 15p Penny Black stamps printed by Harrison in covers by Walsall. Further details will be published next month.

Cylinder News

The cylinders used in the machine books, printed by Harrisons, issued on 30 January were: 50p B3 (blue) B2A (black) B2B (cream) B85 (phosphor); £1 B3A (black) B3B (cream).

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Editor John Holman

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

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British Special Issues: No.158

FRANCIS KENNEDY

There is a family likeness between the 1975 Jane Austen bicentenary stamps, the Famous Authoresses issue of 1980 and the Christmas stamps of 1982. That is because all of them were designed by Barbara Brown who trained at the Royal College of Art in London and who is one of the few miniaturists able to produce finished artwork in stamp size.

The theme of this Christmas issue — carols — is hardly novel (thus underlining the annual problem of the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee) but the choice of carols it illustrates suggests a careful attempt by the artist to cover as wide a time range as possible with five designs.

12½p: *While Shepherds watched their flocks by night.* This is a typical Restoration carol composed by Nahum Tate who became Poet Laureate in 1690. It is based on St Luke's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 8-15 and first appeared in print in *Supplement to the New Version* (1700) and is now sung to a tune from *Este's Psalter* of 1592, this tune and Tate's verses being first brought together in the 1861 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

15½p: *The holly and the ivy.* This is based on a carol of the Middle Ages when religious and secular folklore contributed equally to the words of many carols, even to recalling pagan rites, hence the Puritan's urge to ban all carols. However, some of them survived orally, and in obscure broadsheets and this carol with its ancient fertility theme finally appeared in print in *Christmas Carols* published by Joshua Sylvester in 1861.

19½p: *I saw three ships come sailing in.* While post-Restoration carols predominated from 1660, among the survivors of the pre-Puritan era was this old carol based on the apochryphal legend of the Magi (the Three Kings) whose relics Barbarossa is said to have carried by ship from Milan to Cologne in 1162AD. Today's version of the carol first appeared in *Christian Carols Ancient and Modern* published by William Sandys in 1833.

26p: *We three Kings of Orient are.* American in origin, this is the most modern of the five carols covered by this issue. It was written by the Rev.

Dr. J H Hopkins, Rector of Christ's Church, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, about 1857. It first appeared in England in a collection of carols, *Christian Carols Old and New*, collated by Bramley and Stainer and published in 1878.

29p: *Good King Wenceslas looked out.* This comes from a collection of old carols and hymns edited by Theodoric Petri d'Albo and published in Finland in 1582 as *Piae Cantiones*. John Mason Neale and Thomas Helmore together produced an English version of the book in 1853 with the title, *Carols for Christmastide*. Today's tune for the carol was originally that for a Spring carol in *Piae Cantiones*, the English words being a versification by Neale of the legend of King Wenceslas of Bohemia, transposed to the winter season to provide a Christmas carol.



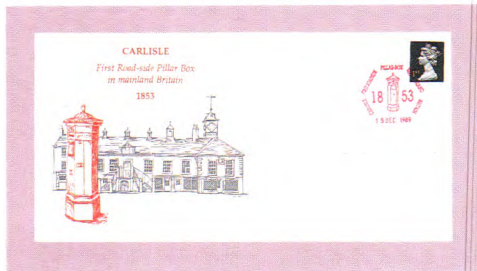
The customary Post Office "First Day of Issue" cancellations, used at Edinburgh (Bureau) and Bethlehem, Dyfed, were supplemented by a locally inspired "I saw Three Ships Exhibition" cancellation on the day of issue, 17 November 1982, at "(CINQUE PORT OF) HYTHE KENT". The PHQ cards for the issue were numbered 64A to 64E (240,000 of each were ordered), and a Christmas aerogramme designed by Lynda Grey was available at 27½p (postal face value 24p).

Total sales by the day of withdrawal (17 November 1983) were: 12½p — 285,300,600; 15½p — 148,757,500; 19½p — 17,445,500; 26p — 16,241,600 and 29p — 14,867,800.

Commemorative Covers

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

Carlisle Letter Box. On 15 December a replica Victorian "Penfold" box was brought into use in Carlisle City Centre; installed to commemorate the siting in Carlisle of the first roadside pillar box in mainland Britain. A Post Office cover has been produced for use with a special handstamp (applied in red ink) showing the box.



This handstamp was introduced on 15 December and remains in use until further notice. Only the commemorative covers posted in the Penfold box and items specially forwarded for reposting will be given this handstamp; other mail posted in the box will receive normal treatment. Covers serviced with the handstamp can be ordered from: Business Customer Care Manager, Carlisle Letter District Office, Junction Street, CARLISLE CA1 1AA, price 70p UK, 85p overseas (includes postage).

Forth Railway Bridge. This year celebrates the centenary of the cantilevered Forth Railway Bridge built between 1883 and 1890 by Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker. The bridge, 2,765 yards long, is considered one of the finest examples of engineering in the world. To celebrate the centenary a souvenir cover has been produced featuring a painting by Brian Lancaster showing the bridge from North



Queensferry. The cover bearing a Penny Black Anniversary stamp cancelled by a special Centennial handstamp is available price £2.95; signed by Brian Lancaster £8.75 or with full set of 1985 Famous Trains stamps £9.75. Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Europa/Philatelic Bureau. Royal Mail will issue four Europa stamps featuring buildings on 6 March. The 29p stamp depicts the British Philatelic Bureau building in Brandon Street, Edinburgh. A special cover featuring the building has been produced and a special handstamp, showing the imposing entrance, sponsored. A limited number of 100 covers have been signed by the Bureau's Manager, Tony Parton. Covers with full set of Europa stamps are £4.75, signed £7.75, or with single stamp £2.50 (overseas orders please add 50p). Orders/enquiries to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

New Railway Letter Stamps

The Talyllyn Railway issued a new 5p stamp on 1 January, for use with existing 20p stamps to make up the new railway letter rate of 25p. The



stamp, printed in sea green in sheets of 20, is based on the design of the original railway letter stamps of 1891. It is inscribed in English and Welsh and has the value expressed as 5c/5p.

A miniature sheet of four 25p/c stamps will be issued on 5 July to mark the 125th anniversary of the Talyllyn Railway Company and a single 25p/c stamp will follow on 10 October to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society.

Orders/enquiries to: Sara Eade, Postmaster, Dept TR Stamps, Talyllyn Railway, Wharf Station, TYWYN, Gwynedd, LL36 9EY.

March Digest

Issued in March

6 March: Europa stamps, 2 x 20p, 29p, 37p

Designer: Paul Hogarth

Printing: Harrison & Sons Limited, photogravure, 30 x 41mm, printed on phosphor-coated paper in sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum

Bureau f.d. alternative handstamp: Glasgow

Presentation Pack: (No. 206) £1.30

7 March: Europa stamps souvenir cover, price 18p. Available from philatelic counters.

13 March: 50p definitive in "sand" — new Jeffery Matthews colour version of current colour, i.e. with solid background and light head

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, 21 x 24mm, non-phosphor paper, PVA Dextrin gum

No first day of issue facilities

20 March: £5 "London Life" Prestige Book. Contents: one pane of 4 x 20p Europa stamps showing Alexandra Palace, two panes of 6 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary definitives, and one mixed value pane of 15p, 20p, 50p, 1st and 2nd class definitives and 15p, 20p and 29p Penny Black Anniversary definitives. 50p in new Jeffery Matthews colour standard (sand).

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, Advanced Coated Paper except mixed value pane which has phosphor bands.

Bureau f.d. alternative handstamp: Tower Hill, London EC3

26 March: Queen's Awards stamp cards (Nos. 125A-D), 18p each

Withdrawn in March

6 March: Food & Farming stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover

20 March: 1989 £5 Prestige Book (Scots Connection)

Machine News

Since the January *Bulletin* went to press I have received examples of the seven books issued on 30 January. The £1 machine trial book, printed by Walsall, comes in two formats — with perforated bottom edge of the pane (as previous-

ly announced) and with straight bottom edge, thus yielding a further stamp variety: 20p litho straight edge bottom and left. The panes with straight edges at bottom were not anticipated when the copy for the January *Bulletin* was prepared; I gather that they resulted from technical problems at the printers.

The February *Bulletin* reported Questa books with imperf binding margin; I am informed that only a small printing of the second class book was made in this format.

The Scottish 15p Country stamp has recently been printed from plates Q3Q3 and Q4Q4. *Ed.*

New Stamp Books

Four new books will go on philatelic sale on 17 April: 10 x 15p and 10 x 20p Penny Black stamps printed by Questa; 4 x 29p definitives, litho, phosphor coated paper by Walsall and 4 x 15p Penny Black stamps printed by Harrison in covers by Walsall. Further details will be published next month.

Cylinder News

The cylinders used in the machine books, printed by Harrisons, issued on 30 January were: 50p B3 (blue) B2A (black) B2B (cream) B85 (phosphor); £1 B3A (black) B3B (cream).

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