

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 22
Number 10
June 1985



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British Philatelic Bureau

If you want to write to
the British Philatelic Bureau,
the address is:
British Philatelic Bureau,
20 Brandon Street,
EDINBURGH,
EH3 5TT.

Editorial

Thematic collecting has greatly increased in popularity in recent years, and has become an important and accepted part of philately. As a type of stamp collecting, it is responsible for introducing many new and young collectors to the hobby, as well as catering for more specialised tastes. Its popularity is shown in the formation just over a year ago of the British Thematic Association to help collectors through thematic groups. As we have promised in past Philatelic Bulletins, we are pleased to begin a short series of six articles in this issue on thematic collecting, by Barbara Last. We hope that readers find it both informative and helpful with their collecting.

The Philatelic Bulletin has not increased in price since 5 April 1983 despite the postal tariff increase in 1984. It now contains 20 pages instead of 16 as a permanent feature (this month we have 24 pages), at no extra cost to subscribers. It is also the only national British philatelic magazine which is printed in full colour, and contains no advertisements. The Bulletin offers excellent value for money, and the yearly inland subscription is only £3.50 post free, delivered direct to your home address at the start of each month.

The growth and success of the Philatelic Bulletin since its humble beginnings in September 1963 can be largely attributed to the hard work, energy and enthusiasm of two people, the late Archie Page, and Frank Brench who is currently Assistant Editor. Next month, after almost eleven years in harness, Frank will be taking his well earned retirement. We hope he will continue to keep in touch with his many friends and colleagues, collectors and non-collectors alike, and that he will continue to contribute to the Bulletin from time to time. In the July issue, he will be writing the editorial, and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of his many friends and colleagues, of wishing Frank and his wife, Dorothy, a long and happy retirement.

Finally, we would like to thank all the readers who kindly wrote in to us about the 'April Fool' in the April Bulletin. We received so many letters we were unable to reply to them all individually, and they included some very interesting suggestions for gum flavours, and a first day cover!

CHARLES GOWEN

Thematics 1 – Wildlife

Thematic collecting is one of the most exciting ways of welding stamps, postal material, and personal knowledge of a subject into a cohesive story. Unlike an ordinary collection limited to the stamps of one country, the real fun of a thematic is the freedom to browse through a catalogue to pick out those issues particularly applicable to the theme, regardless of country of origin. Relevant stamps should be collected from all over the world, not just one country, as the development of the subject depends completely on the picture depicted on the stamp. The designs are more clearly seen on mint stamps. If, however, used stamps are preferred, choose very fine copies with a light cancel avoiding the important part of the design.

Choosing a subject depends entirely on one's interest, and the depth and quality of that interest. If the choice of theme is 'Paintings' it is not enough to gather such stamps together, for unless they are directed and developed according to a plan then the paintings will remain just a clutch of pretty miniature pictures, not a thematic collection. A fine thematic grouping can however be built up by

bringing together the paintings of a particular man, and arranging them to illustrate his development as an artist. In order to create a collection in this fashion a considerable background knowledge must be acquired of the subject, which with any luck may grow into a deeper interest than originally intended. Therefore it is important to pick a subject that will grip your imagination – if it does not live up to expectations it can be abandoned without great expense. Although all types of stamp collecting cost money like any other hobby, a thematic collection is cheaper to form than the equivalent in a straightforward stamp or postal history class. But it needs as much thought and consideration as a conventional stamp collection with a far wider-based general knowledge.

There are two basic points that might curb anyone's enthusiasm. It is possible to become discouraged if there are insufficient stamps issued on a particular subject to keep interest alive. Equally if the chosen theme is too wide in concept the sheer quantity of material can be intimidating. Thousands of sets in the catalogue depict various types of





wildlife. Some are so well designed and appealing that they prove irresistible also to non-collectors who are beguiled into buying quantities of animals, and then wonder what to do with them. Stockbooks are ideal as a temporary refuge, but do not show off the stamps to advantage like a properly mounted and written-up collection. 'Wildlife' is acceptable as an overall title but is otherwise far too general a term, and needs to be broken down into manageable portions that are of interest to you. Your specific liking might be for 'Cats', and they could be grouped very simply according to their breeds, and mounted with brief notes on their lives and habitats. Africa is justly proud of its abounding wildlife, and has game lodges as tourist attractions (Tanzania 1978) where visitors can watch the animals in their natural environment. Sierra Leone (1981) produced an enchanting set of se-tenant pairs depicting wildcat parents and cubs. One of the finest tigers came from India (1963), and early in 1984 Pakistan issued a snow leopard with the animal echoed in the first day cancellation so that the pictorial handstamp itself could be incorporated into the thematic scene.

Conservation is dear to many hearts, and its

various aspects make another good thematic subject. It can include Zambia's (1978) game warden and anti-poaching patrols, or accentuate the role of national breeding programmes. The snow leopard (Jersey 1984) in its high Asian snowfields has been hunted almost to extinction for its thick fur, and various zoos have tried to improve its survival rate by breeding it in captivity. Jersey Zoo and its Wildlife Preservation Trust has played an impressive part in the captive breeding programmes of endangered species whose situation is desperate because their natural habitats have been reduced or completely destroyed by Man. There are already a variety of extinct animals and birds on stamps that could form



another wildlife section. The Falkland Fox (1982) was still around when Darwin visited the islands 150 years ago, and the poor flightless Dodo (Mauritius 1953) had no defence against Man. Penrhyn (1978) commemorated Captain Cook's discovery of Hawaii by issuing se-tenant pairs, one stamp showing the High Chief's ceremonial clothing made from red and yellow feathers, and its companion stamp depicting the bird that provided a handful of feathers - the birds are now extinct for one cape alone necessitated the slaughter of 80,000 birds.



Birds form a most colourful and enthralling theme, and their portraits lend themselves happily to the miniature size of postage stamps. Once again the wide scope must be controlled and planned, and the simplest method is to list them alphabetically by country. But far more interest can be achieved if they are grouped into specific families or types of environment, and the world-wide variations within one family contrasted. Thus the common

Kingfisher (G.B. 1980) clearly shows its resemblance to the Blue-breasted and White-tailed Kingfishers of Sierra Leone (1980) and Australia (1978). Birds of prey are another fascinating sub-division that included the Californian Condor (USA 1971), which, with its huge wing-span of 9/10 feet, is the world's largest flying bird, and also the extraordinary Secretary Bird (Tanzania 1982), a long-legged hawk that runs after snakes and beats them to death. Only about ten Mauritius Kestrels survive (1984 set) due to the felling of vast forests, and the introduction of the macaque monkey that



eats the birds' fruit supply and devours their eggs. Various birds of prey have appeared recently in most attractive se-tenant strips that illustrate the life cycle of a particular bird such as Sandford's Sea Eagle (Solomons 1982) or Norfolk Island's Boobook Owl (1984).

Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service 30 July 1985

As part of the 350th Anniversary celebrations to commemorate the opening up of the Royal Mail to the public, The Post Office will issue on 30 July 1985, four new special postage stamps illustrating some of the services it offers: Datapost (17p), Postbus (22p), Parcel Post (31p), Letter Post (34p).

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'Bagshot' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover - price 15p - addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Bagshot' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched. The following charges will apply:

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
SERVICE 'A'	£1.49	£1.30
Deposit account customers	£1.43	£1.25
SERVICE 'B'	£1.34	£1.17

First day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 19 July 1985.

As part of the 350th Anniversary celebration this year to commemorate the opening up of the Royal Mail to the public, there is to be a re-enactment of the Proclamation made by King Charles I at Bagshot in 1635 in the presence of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

To mark the event a limited number of Post Office First Day Covers for the 350th Anniversary issue will be available. They will bear a full set of stamps cancelled on 30 July 1985 with the Bagshot first day of issue handstamp, and a special cachet is planned indicating that they had been aboard a helicopter of the Queen's Flight, piloted by His Royal Highness.



Other postal material can also be incorporated. Britain brought out a series of 35p stamp books in 1971 depicting birds on the covers; and among Australia's postal stationery is a series of pre-stamped envelopes and lettercards with birds as the subject of the printed stamp. These designs differ from any normal definitive stamps, and are only available in this form. Whatever the subject matter and planned grouping finally chosen, this type of additional relevant postal material is most worthy of consideration for inclusion in any thematic collection.

BARBARA LAST

The covers can be obtained at a cost of £3.00 each all inclusive, from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, on application. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT by 28 June at the latest. They will be available at Bagshot Park in the afternoon of 30 July.

Proceeds from the sale of these covers will go to a charity chosen by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Why Postage Due?

Too late for ½d rate

Probably the most difficult aspect of the work of the Post Office is the 'peak' and 'trough' nature of the demands put upon it. Nearly 70% of any day's postings are made for the early evening collection and this (which for the larger offices in the country comprises many thousands of items) must then be sorted, cancelled and despatched from the sorting office within the space of approximately four hours. Yet quite a high proportion of this mail — especially that of a commercial nature — is not so urgent as to require delivery by first post the following morning, and at various times the Post Office has attempted to persuade its customers

to indicate such items so that they could be separated out during primary sorting to be dealt with at a later stage, in the comparatively calm periods between urgent outward despatch and urgent inward delivery. The present day system, introduced on 16 September 1968, is the familiar First or Second Class Letter Post, but for 42 years prior to this, a similar two-tier arrangement existed specifically for commercial mail. It is to this system that the handstamps on the items illustrated refer.

From 1 October 1870 to 13 June 1921 the minimum 'Printed Paper Rate' — originally called the 'Book Post' and later the 'Halfpenny Packet Post' — was ½d., (for 2oz. up to 3/6/1918 and for 1oz. until 13/6/1921) and the 100% increase to 1d. introduced in 1921 was, obviously, a very unpopular measure. On 29 May 1922, the rate reverted to ½d. for 1oz. (the weight step was raised to 2oz. on 14/5/1923) but with the important condition that, to obtain next day delivery with this lower rate, items must be posted before a specified time — fixed at 3.30 p.m. in London. If posted for next day delivery later than this, the rate was 1d. Any items prepaid ½d. and posted after this time would be thrown out during primary sorting, but *unpaid* items — having no indication of their importance — must be assumed to be urgent and were thus delivered next day charged double the deficiency at the higher 1d. rate. Such a charge obviously required interpretation, hence the explanatory handstamp 'posted too late for ½d. rate', the distinctive humped mark illustrated being issued to many large towns (700 = P.O. Code Number for Sheffield).

On 1 May 1940, minimum Printed Paper Rate was raised to 1d. and the late posting rate to 1½d. thus giving rise to a new handstamp '3d. To Pay, too late for 1d. rate', now in the standard rectangular boxed format used for most instructional marks. The ½d. differential between the minimum and late posting rates was maintained for each subsequent rise (to 1½d. on 1/6/1951; 2d. on 1/6/1956 and 2½d. on 1/10/1961) until 17 May 1965 when the minimum rate became 3d. The late posting rate was then raised to 4d. thus creating the handstamp shown on the second cover illustrated.

Printed papers as a separate mail category disappeared with the introduction of two-tier postage in 1968. With this system, any unpaid item is charged double Second Class rate (except for a few items which can only be posted First Class) and is subject to any delay which the rest of the Second Class mail may suffer.

E. KEITH PARKER



Stamps of the Universities

The universities of Oxford and Cambridge had the privilege of organising internal mail services from the Middle Ages and an Act of the Long Parliament in 1656 confirmed these privileges. The Act was repealed in 1710, but the mail-carrying rights were retained.

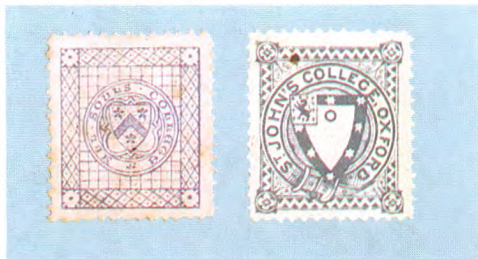
The charges due for carriage of letters sent by members of a college were debited to the senders and settled at the end of the term, but in 1871 Keble College, founded the previous year, issued an orange-vermilion stamp which showed the College Arms and was sold for ½d. In 1872 the colour was changed to rose-carmine and in 1876 a slightly larger stamp was issued in deep carmine. These three stamps were embossed, but later in 1876 a lithographed stamp was printed in blue, and was replaced in 1882 by a similar stamp prepared by a different printer. A 2d stamp for carriage of parcels was issued in 1876. Envelopes and postcards were also made available.

In November 1876 Merton College brought out an embossed bright blue stamp, also with the College Arms, which was sold for ½d. The following year it was reprinted in milky blue. In 1881 a lithographed stamp was issued in dull blue and in 1883 a new printing was made in mauve. Envelopes and postcards were also issued.

Lincoln College issued a 1d dark blue stamp in 1877 inscribed MESSAGE ONE PENNY. There were four printings between 1877 and 1884 with the colour varying between dark and light blue.



Hertford and Exeter Colleges followed with single issues in 1882, both with 'no value' stamps which were sold for ½d. The Hertford stamp was in mauve and the Exeter in salmon. They, too, had envelopes and postcards.



In 1884 All Souls and St. John's Colleges produced issues, both printed in blue. A stamp was prepared for Balliol but was not issued.

In Cambridge only three colleges issued stamps, Queens' had a ½d green in 1882, St. John's produced



Illustrations by courtesy of R M Willcocks

a ½d vermilion in 1884 and Selwyn had a ½d black on pink in 1884. All three were issued without any value inscribed.

In the 1880s the Postmaster General, Lord John Manners, objected to the issue of stamps as an infringement of his monopoly. The colleges had a meeting on 11 February 1885 and agreed to withdraw their stamps. However, Keble College continue to use its envelopes and postcards until 1886 and even after that produced envelopes with the College Arms on the flap which were sold at 8d a dozen and franked letters carried by messengers to any part of Oxford. These remained in use for many years. Even today some of the colleges use embossed stationery for internal correspondence.



In 1969 the Keble College authorities approached the Postmaster General for permission to issue a stamp to commemorate their centenary in 1970. This was granted and an attractive stamp was produced in blue, black and red depicting the College Arms and inscribed KEBLE COLLEGE CENTENARY OXFORD 1970. It was used on the front of letters for inter-college delivery and on the back of letters sent through the post as a souvenir.



The Oxford Union Society used the 1d red plate number stamps, either overprinted or underprinted O.U.S. in red between two wavy lines, on its mail between 1859 and 1880.

BILL NEWPORT

New Stamp Books with Illustrated Covers

On 23 July 1985 three new stamp books, values 50p, £1.30 and £1.54 will be issued. The 50p and £1.30 books are the fourth and last in the present series of books with illustrated covers. The 50p book designed by Peter Morter depicts the orchids 'Cymbidium' and 'Arpophyllum'. The £1.30 book illustrating trams, features car no. 120 and a 'D' class London tram, is designed by John Thirsk and contains 10 x 13p definitive stamps. The £1.54 book, number 14, designed by John Gibbs, continues with the Postal History theme commemorating the 350th anniversary of the opening of the Royal Posts to the public, and depicts contemporary illustrations of mounted and foot-post messengers. It contains 4 x 13p and 6 x 17p definitive stamps.

The books are available initially only from philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT. They will become available from post offices or vending machines as stocks of the existing books run out.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Both the stamps and booklet covers are printed by Harrison & Sons Limited; the stamps in photogravure on the Chambon press and the covers on the Libra bookmaking machine.

The stamps in the 50p book are printed in one format only with one 1p stamp above three 13p stamps on the right hand side and two 1p stamps above the two 4p stamps on the left hand side of the page. Each stamp in the 50p book will be printed with a single phosphor bar.

The 13p stamps in the £1.30 tram book will bear a single central phosphor bar.

In the postal history book the 17p stamps will bear two phosphor bars and the 13p stamps will have a single side phosphor bar. The layout will be five 17p stamps above one 17p and four 13p stamps.

Cylinder numbers of the stamps will appear periodically on all three books, that is on every eighth book for 50p stamp vended books and every sixth book for counter books.

All books, except the 50p machine vended book, appear with both left and right hand formats.

The Wyon City Medal

Rowland Hill and his associates at the Treasury having considered the 2,600 suggestions made in response to the Treasury's Open Competition of 1839, as the best way to effect the prepayment of postage, deemed none of them entirely suitable. In his report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer sent on 6 December 1839, Hill wrote "...several of the communications (competition entries) display much ingenuity and contain many useful suggestions; still I am not aware that any plan has been prepared which, however excellent, is, as a whole, fit for adoption, I hope, however, by combining the suggestions of many, to propose a plan ...".

Hill then turned to the security printing firm of Perkins Bacon and Petch who had printed line engraved (recess-printed) revenue stamps for the Government since 1828, but had not entered the Treasury Competition because they were under the impression that the Government wanted 'some cheap kind of thing'. On 16 December 1839 Hill wrote authorising Perkins Bacon to engrave the die with a profile of Queen Victoria, subject to a sketch

being submitted for approval. The Queen's head on the 'stamp' was to be drawn from William Wyon's medal.

William Wyon was outstanding amongst the artists of the period, he had joined the Royal Mint in 1816, was Chief Engraver there between the years 1826–1851, and in 1838 he became the first engraver to receive a medal from the Royal Academy. In 1837 Wyon struck a portrait medal of the young Queen Victoria to commemorate her accession visit to the City of London on 9 November, 1837 where she took part in the celebration of Lord Mayor's Day. This portrait medal was destined to be adapted as the basis of all the stamps issued throughout the Queen's long reign. Today, the same qualities of sculptural base relief are to be found in the QE II machine head.

Examples of the City medal in silver and bronze can be seen in the R M Phillips Collection, housed at the National Postal Museum; opening hours 10.00 am – 4.30 pm Monday to Thursday and 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Friday.

JOHN MEMMOTT Assist. Curator



120. Energy Resources, 1978

Four special stamps issued by the Post Office on 25 January 1978 spotlighted the nation's wealth of energy resources — oil, coal, natural gas and the application of nuclear power to generate electricity. However, most existing forms of energy are not limitless and the stamps — designed by Peter Murdoch — were a reminder to us all of the need to conserve and use energy as efficiently as possible.

North Sea oil is the subject of the 9p stamp which depicts an oil rig — or to be more precise, an oil production platform, one of those enormous multi-legged structures which are the present-day 'citadels of the ocean' envisaged by Jules Verne. North Sea oil production has progressed steadily since the discoveries of the Forties field, north-east of Aberdeen, in 1970, and of the Brent field, north-east of the Shetlands, shortly afterwards. It reached about 100 million tonnes in 1980 as the millions of pounds spent on exploration and development began to show some return. Oil continues to be both exported and imported because of differences of quality.

Coal was represented on the 10½p stamp by the view of a modern pit-head. One of the problems of the National Coal Board, founded in 1947 when the British coal industry was brought under public ownership, is reconciling the development of new pits with the closure of uneconomic or 'worked-out' ones. Coal production — 120 million tonnes in 1983 — was somewhat retarded due to industrial disturbances in 1984.

Natural gas is symbolised by a gas flame rising from the sea on the 11p stamp. The British gas industry, nationalised in 1949, was reorganised as the British Gas Corporation on 1 January 1973. However it was the former Gas Council which made the courageous decision to convert virtually every household and factory to 'North Sea' (or natural) gas in 1967. Tapped from the methane-rich fields of the North Sea, the new gas was — and is — cleaner, safer and more controllable, and burns with twice the heat of old coal gas, though its traditional smell is an additive for reasons of safety.

Coal and petroleum are the major fuels used to generate electricity in Britain. The power they produce is shared out through a supergrid managed by the Central Electricity Generating Board,



responsible for the supply of electricity to the 12 area boards in England and Wales. Nuclear fission — represented on the 13p stamp by a nuclear power station and the uranium atom — and hydro-electric power are the other main sources of energy used today.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 5 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. The only recorded printing flaw was a break in the frame of the 13p stamp, adjacent to the figures of value. Quantities issued were: 9p 42,270,000; 10½p 10,630,000; 11p 9,950,000; and 13p 9,340,000.

JAMES WATSON

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale during June.

4 June: London Economic Summit Conference stamp.

25 June: Greenwich Meridian stamps, presentation pack and postcards.

28 June: ½p definitive (pcp); 3½p definitive (pcp); 12½p definitive (1 phos. bar); 20½p definitive (pcp); Pack of 3 Royal Mail Postage Labels — issued 1.5.84 at 32p; Scottish definitives 12½p and 20½p; Welsh definitives 12½p and 20½p; N. Ireland definitives 12½p and 20½p.

8. 'Going West' on the TPO

The first 'travelling post office' (mentioned last month) was an immediate success and more mail-sorting coaches were brought into use, notably on the new London & Birmingham Railway, opened in September 1838. In October of that year the first primitive trackside apparatus for the exchange of mail-bags while trains were in motion was established experimentally in Hertfordshire. Some ten years later a more efficient system of scoop nets on the trains and lineside was universally adopted on the fast-growing railways. These unique 'mail exchange' operations continued in use for more than a hundred years until finally overtaken by a combination of high-speed trains and improved technology and disbanded in October 1971.

Over the years the sorting tenders and carriages — and ultimately the travelling post offices — were developed over a vast railway network. Letters sorted *en route* were given distinctive handstamp cancellations which are now eagerly sought by collectors. However, the

present-day TPOs mainly handle mail which has already been postmarked and bagged, and only letters actually posted on the trains or collected from the 'late fee' boxes at the main railway termini now receive the coveted TPO postmarks.

Bearing in mind that the Great Western Railway is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, my 'Facet' this month is a picture postcard showing the interior of a TPO in the Edwardian era — the Post Office's 'lone ranger' is sorting letters on the Paddington to Plymouth and Penzance run. An appropriate postmark (superimposed inset) is similar to that which appears on the splendid National Postal Museum card No. SS 30, reproducing a GWR Land's End poster and postmark of 1907. 'Great Western' TPO cancellations came into use in 1895, and the phrases 'Going West' and 'Going East' were introduced in 1907, later (1931) being replaced by 'Great Western T.P.O. Up' (to the main terminal) or 'Down'.

MALCOLM JAMES



Decimal Stamp Books

Numbering Stamp Booklet Series and Issues

As stated on page 46, Philatelic Bulletin November 1984, the numbering in this column is that used by the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle in their 'Bookmark' Catalogue.

It would appear there has been some confusion between this numbering and that used by the Philatelic Bureau in their Order form/Price lists. In order to clarify the position a brief outline of the 'Bookmark' system is listed below.

The Decimal Stamp Booklets were introduced on 15 February 1971 to coincide with the changeover to Decimal Currency.

Initially there were four types of booklets—10p machine vended, 25p for second class postings, 30p for first class postings and 50p which contained a mixture of values suitable for both first and second class postings.

Each of the four types was given a series number with initial letters DB (Decimal Booklet) followed by an ongoing issue number, eg DB 1 (1)

DB 1 series of 10p machine vended booklets.

DB 2 series of 2nd class counter vended booklets.

DB 3 series of 1st class counter vended booklets.

DB 4 series of 1st/2nd class counter vended booklets.

The above series of books were all of the stitched bound type as was a series of special sponsored Prestige Books.

DB 5 series of Prestige Books.

With the introduction of the folded Swedish type booklets on 10 March 1976 fresh series of booklets were gradually introduced.

DB 6 series of 10p machine vended booklets.

DB 7 series of 2nd class counter vended books containing 10 stamps.

DB 8 series of 1st class counter vended books containing 10 stamps.

DB 9 series of 50p machine vended booklets.

DB 10 series of Christmas design cover counter books containing 20 definitive stamps.

DB 11 series of mixed rates counter books containing 6 x 1st class and 4 x 2nd class.

DB 12 series of Christmas design cover counter booklets containing 20 x Christmas commemoratives.

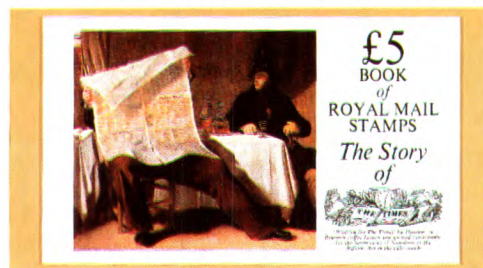
During the lifetime of the various series changes

in postal rates have occurred which have necessitated changes in booklet content to accommodate the new rates. As a result of these changes there may have been alteration in the prices of booklets.

The numbering on the Philatelic Bureau's Order form/Price lists is purely for accountancy purposes and consists of the letters DB followed by an ongoing issue number. This number just identifies the basic booklet.

'Book-
Bureau mark'
number number

50p Animals—Toulouse Goose	DB058	DB 9 (25)
£1.25 Railway LNER Mallard	DB059	DB 7 (24)
£1.46 Parcel Post Cent (9)	DB060	DB 11 (10)
50p Animals—Orkney Sheep	DB061	DB 9 (26)
£1.25 Railway SR/BR Clan Line	DB062	DB 7 (25)
£2.30 Christmas Discount 1984	DB081	DB 12 (1)



DB 5 (6) The Story of the Times Prestige Stamp Book—£5—8 January 1985

The book, one of the finest to date, has a white cover with white binding over the spine which is more attractive than the black borders of previous issues. British Philatelic Bureau Code DB089.

The covers of the book together with the four interleaves are illustrated in full colour whilst the stamp stubs are in basic colours. The text is in black.

The Times Literary Editor Philip Howard wrote the text for the Story of The Times which in words and pictures traces the paper's history from its founding—by a London coal merchant John Walter—to the present day and shows how a succession of campaigning editors, fast moving foreign correspondents and astute political journalists earned the paper its reputation as the 'Thunderer' and paper of record.

The Times story is carried throughout the entire book—covers, interleaves and stamp stubs with the exception of the outside back cover—this space being used to publicise philatelic items available from the Philatelic Bureau.

The sequence of interleaves and stamp panes is as follows:

Front cover, interleaf (How THE TIMES

STARTED), 17p (stub THE FOUNDING FATHERS), interleaf (SPEED THE PRESS), 13p (GET THE NEWS THROUGH), interleaf (THE FOURTH ESTATE), SE-TENANT PANE (stub THE TIMES IN TROUBLE), interleaf (HAIL TO THE CHIEF), 17p (stub MAKING THE NEWS), inside back cover (TIMES FUTURE).

Covers, interleaves and stamp panes are all sheet fed printed 12 up. In order to facilitate collating the component covers, interleaves and stamp panes are numbered 1-10 in the top margin. These numbers with all other marginal markings including cylinder numbers and traffic lights are trimmed off with the waste in the bookmaking and binding processes.

The books are sewn with white thread and the spine covered with a strip of white binding.

Printing Details

The paper used for the covers is Huntsman silk 250 gsm 432 x 508 mm, and for the interleaves Huntsman silk 115 gsm 432 x 508 mm.

The covers and interleaves, 12 up three columns x 4, were printed on a Roland Litho press.

The stamp panes also 12 up (3 x 4) were printed on a Rembrandt press. 17p (Founding Fathers) (3 x 2) Cylinder B6 on Advanced Coated Paper. 13p (Get the News Through) (3 x 3) Cylinder B13 Phos cylinder B65 with single centre band.

Se-tenant (Times in Trouble) (13.17.13, 4.34.4, 13.17.13)

Cylinders B8(4p), B15(13p), B2(34p), B12(17p) Phos cylinder B66

The phosphor bands are arranged so the 17p and 34p stamps have two and the 4p and 13p values have one side band on right or left.

17p (Making the News) (3 x 3) Cylinder B10 on advanced coated paper.

The cylinder numbers were placed above the stub in column I well clear of the resultant upper pane margin and the traffic lights in the upper right also well clear of the stamp pane in column III.

The sheets were perforated on a Grover perforator.

Text by Philip Howard, Literary Editor, The Times.

Design by David Driver, Head of Design, The Times.

It was felt to be in keeping with the tradition of The Times that hot metal should be used in the type setting.

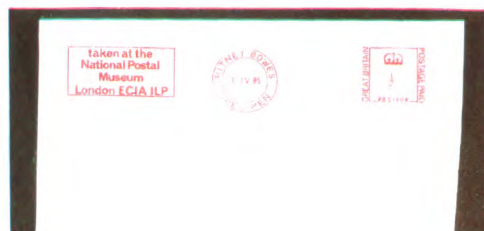
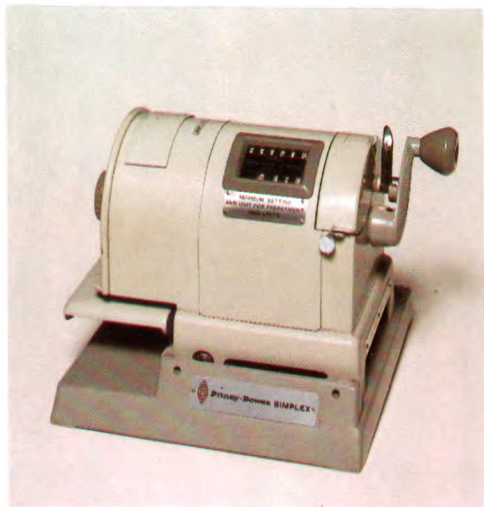
Text set in Monotype Times by Apex Typesetting, London.

The printing and book production by Harrison & Sons Limited.
L F NEWBERRY

Safety at Sea Exhibition

18 June – 30 August 1985

To coincide with the "Safety at Sea" stamp issue of 18 June 1985, the National Postal Museum is putting on a display in the Main Gallery featuring the growth of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, lighthouses and the Coastguard Service. The display will consist of original R.N.L.I. and associated material, covers, including one salvaged from the wreck of the 'Colombo', stamps, postcards and photographs. Also on show will be a series of models following the development of the lifeboat from the pulling and sailing type through the early self-righting to the Arun, Oakley and Waveney classes. The Museum is issuing a postcard, SS33, for this display. The card is based on the 2½d stamp from the 9th International Lifeboat Conference issue of 1963, designed by David Gentleman, price 20p each plus 18p post and packing; the Museum's



Maltese Cross hand stamp will be in operation and normal reposting facilities are available.

The Museum has recently installed a Pitney-Bowes Simplex meter franking machine (Fig. 1), with movable date so that visitors to the Museum may obtain a 'specimen' meter mark cancellation on their Museum postcards. (Fig. 2). It should be noted that cards franked in this way should *not* subsequently pass through the post. The machine is from the comprehensive collection of Pitney-Bowes machines and ephemera recently presented to the Museum by Mr Maurice Sheppard of Carlton, Nottingham.

The full address of the National Postal Museum is: King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON, EC1A 1LP. The nearest underground station is St. Paul's.

TONY GAMMONS

1990 – A Most Significant Year

1990 is going to be an important year for collectors throughout the world. It marks the 150th anniversary of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, and is the year in which the next great international stamp exhibition will be held in the United Kingdom. 1990 is also the centenary of the first international stamp exhibition held in London.

Plans are already in hand for this event – which will again be held in London, hopefully to coincide with the anniversary of the issue of the Penny Black.

London has established a reputation for organising superb stamp exhibitions: PHILYMPIA 1970, LONDON 1980 are still talked about. As a regular reader of this magazine you were perhaps able to visit them, and know for yourself what outstanding events they were.

But would a stamp collector who does not read a stamp magazine have known that these were stamp exhibitions? More importantly, would those who did not at the time collect stamps, but who might have been only too anxious to visit such prestigious events to find out 'what it is all about', have realised that stamps were involved?

Wanted a name – and you could win a Penny Black

What is needed is a name – and possibly even a logo – for the exhibition. A name that will say it all to everyone – stamps, London and 1990.

Simply write your idea for a name on a postcard and post it to The Editor, 1990, British Philatelic Bulletin, Room 104, 33 Grosvenor Place, LONDON, SW1X 1PX to arrive not later than Friday, August 30, 1985. The organising committee of the exhibition will consider all suggestions, and the one they like the best will become the official title of the exhibition.

If you feel able, you might also like to draw an exhibition logo, which will also be considered for adoption.

The sender of the name used for the exhibition will be awarded a fine used Penny Black (or a cash alternative of £50).

If a logo is adopted, a prize of a fine used Twopenny Blue (or a cash alternative of £100) will be awarded.

Put your thinking caps on today – can you come up with the name for London's next great international stamp exhibition?

Competition rules

The organisers reserve the right not to adopt any of the names and/or logos submitted. If any name and/or logo is selected, the organisers will retain all copyright to use same in whatever manner they should so decide or choose, and no further payments of any kind other than the initial prize as already indicated will be made.

The organisers also reserve the right to amend any selected name and/or logo as they see fit. If it is decided to adopt a name and/or logo which is a combination of two or more of those submitted, then the prize will be in the form of the cash alternative which will be divided as appropriate among the senders of the name and/or logo so used. Once again the organisers will assume the full copyright of the name and/or logo without any further payments being made.

The organisers reserve the right to engage the services of a professional designer to adapt the selected logo for reproduction purposes: if the sender of the idea is able to produce the necessary artwork, a fee for this artwork will be paid, subject to negotiation.

All entries received will become the property of the organisers, who may choose to use any of the ideas for future events. If such use is ever made, a fee to be determined by the organisers will be paid to the sender.

It will not be possible to return any of the submitted ideas, nor to enter into any correspondence regarding this competition. The decisions of the organisers will be final.

Posting Boxes



No. 72 The wall posting box illustrated is located on a triangular green by the Church at Lower Winchendon in Buckinghamshire, a most attractive rural setting. The box is a small type C cast by Smith and Hawkes (later by Bernard P. Walker and the Eagle Range and Foundry Company) during the period 1871-1881. Our thanks to Mrs A M Brown of Great Missenden.

Royal Mail Postage Labels

The trial of the four microprocessor controlled postage label vending machines sited at Windsor Branch Office, London Chief Office, Shirley Branch Office and Cambridge HPO was completed on 30 April 1985. The results of the experiment have been evaluated, and it was concluded that the machines did not meet all the necessary Post Office

requirements for a nationally acceptable vending machine. There are no plans to extend the trial at the present time, though other plans are in hand to improve the external vending services at main post offices.

The two packs consisting of 2 labels (16½p and 17p) price 33p (from 28 June) and 32 labels (½p — 16p inclusive) price £2.64 will remain on sale until 30 April 1986. They will only be available by personal application from philatelic counters and Shirley B.O., or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT.

New Postcard

Midlands Postal Board

Midlands Postal Board postcard MPB 3 depicting Sir Rowland Hill's Statue at Kidderminster has been reprinted and is currently available. This is the ninth print of the card, and no first day of sale handstamp or first day of issue facilities were available. Mint cards are 14p each and they can be obtained by personal callers at philatelic counters in the Midlands Postal Region. They can also be obtained by mail order from the Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, St. James House, Trinity Road, DUDLEY, West Midlands, DY1 1AA. The postcard was first issued on 3 December 1974, and the eighth reprint was in February 1980.

British Philatelic Trust

Following the report in the May Philatelic Bulletin, as a result of talks with the British Philatelic Federation and the National Philatelic Society, the British Philatelic Trust (BPT) is pleased to announce two new schemes being offered to philatelic societies and stamp clubs in the United Kingdom.

Firstly, at the behest of the BPT, the British Philatelic Federation has invited all philatelic societies and stamp clubs including regional federations to participate in a proposed national bulk supply scheme for the purchase of medals and certificates for competition use. Depending on the extent of support for such a scheme, the BPT will provide a financial contribution, so that societies and clubs will have the opportunity of obtaining medals and certificates of good quality at value for money prices.

Secondly, the BPT has offered to make financial contributions to societies and clubs towards the expenses of visiting speakers who have some distance to travel. This is not meant to replace the hospitality normally offered by clubs and societies to their visitors, but to encourage an expansion of activities and enable those societies and clubs who for distance and other reasons have had difficulties in inviting speakers, to develop more ambitious and interesting programmes.

All societies and clubs are eligible for assistance under these schemes, but in the event of funds available being fully utilised in any period, preference will be given to societies and clubs affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation. Further details of these two schemes can be obtained on application to The Secretary, British Philatelic Trust, Alder House (Room 311), 1 Aldersgate Street, LONDON, EC1A 1AL.

Variation to Standard Aerogrammes

A litho printed version of the standard aerogramme (usually produced by McCorquodales in photo-gravure) has been produced by Waddingtons Security Print Ltd. for print quality trials.

The aerogrammes will be available from all Philatelic Counters and the British Philatelic Bureau from 4 June 1985. These items are not regarded as new issues and no first day of issue facilities will be offered.

The ADPS National Junior Stamp Competition

A national competition for all Junior School stamp clubs is being sponsored by the ADPS Stamp Dealers' Society. The competition consists of two parts, a series of questions designed to test entrants' knowledge of stamps and stamp collecting, and writing an essay entitled 'Why I like collecting stamps'. Prizes will be awarded to the winning school and the best individual entry, also to the runners up. Certificates of merit will also be awarded to all prize winners. The closing date for the

competition is Friday 18 October 1985.

Further information and entry forms are available from The Secretary, The ADPS Stamp Dealers Society, 48C Dyke Court, Gosport Road, LONDON E17 7NA. (The number of entry forms required should be stated).

British Philatelic Exhibition

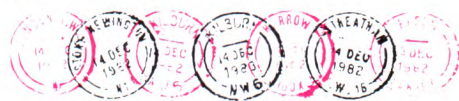
BPE 1985 will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society, using both halls in Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, LONDON SW1, from Tuesday 15 until Sunday 20 October 1985.

The prospectus and entry forms for BPE 1985 are available from: BPE, 27 John Adam Street, LONDON WC2N 6HZ.

Carlisle Philatelic Counter

From 3 June 1985 there will be revised opening hours for Carlisle Philatelic Counter. These will be from 9.00 am–1.00 pm, and 2.00 pm–4.30 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9.30 am–1.00 pm, and 2.00 pm–4.30 pm on Wednesday. The philatelic counter will be closed all day on Saturday.

Letter to the Editor



Dear Sir,

Your columns have been filled, at least partially, by letters concerning Rowland Hill and his avowedly but doubted 'obsessive' preference for postal stationery. There can, I submit, be no doubt that the main thrust of this scheme was towards the disastrously ridiculed Mulready covers and envelopes.

However, it seems that, in the 145 years since the Penny Black and Twopence Blue were introduced, little appreciation has been accorded to their having owed their very existence to illiteracy. The fact is that adhesive postage stamps were introduced so that illiterates could post letters.

That fact is one of the most amazing paradoxes.

To substantiate my averment, permit me, please, to refer to the second edition (February 1837) of *Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability* – which is to be found reproduced in *The Post Office of Fifty Years Ago 1837–1887* published by Cassell & Co. Ltd. with the profits devoted to the Benevolent (Post Office) Fund.

Rowland Hill wrote (page 42): “Economy and the public convenience would require that sheets of letter paper of every description should be stamped in the part used for the address; that wrappers, such as are used for newspapers, as well as covers made of cheap paper, should also be stamped; and that every Deputy Post-master and Letter Receiver, all over the kingdom should be required to keep them on sale . . . The stamp of the receiving house should be struck upon the frank-stamp to prevent the latter being used a second time”.

Those were, of course, what became the Mulready covers and envelopes. Then he continues – and I have italicised the relevant passages for emphasis – on pages 44 and 45: “The only objection which occurs to me to the universal adoption of this plan” (of the covers and envelopes) “is the following: Persons unaccustomed to write letters, would, perhaps, be at a loss how to proceed. They might send or take their letters to the Post Office without having had recourse to the stamp. It is true that on presentation of the letter, the Receiver instead of accepting the money as postage, might take it as the price of a cover, or band, in which the bringer might immediately enclose the letter, and then re-direct it. *But the bringer would sometimes be unable to write.* Perhaps this difficulty might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which the bringer might, by applying a little moisture, attach to the back of the letter, *so as to avoid the necessity for re-directing it*”.

The frantic impracticability of attaching the adhesive postage label to the back of the letter seems to have escaped the notice of the Father of Penny Postage. Just imagine looking at the face of the letter to discover that it was unstamped, turning it over to find that it was stamped, cancelling the back and once more turning the letter over in order to read the address and forward the communication through the usual channels!!

‘The bringer’ to whom Rowland Hill refers, the one who was ‘unable to write’ was the illiterate. His letter, if it was his letter, would have been written by a scribe or literate friend; or the letter might be that of his literate master or mistress – many servants in and before the 1840s were illiterate.

It was for them, then, that the ‘bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash’ was introduced. Adhesive postage stamps were, as I stated earlier, introduced so that illiterates could post letters.

It is a sobering thought – is it not? – that if there had been more literates in 1840 philately would not have existed.

Yours faithfully,
L N Williams

LONDON, NW11

Forthcoming Events

Steven's Stamp Sales

Fairs will be held by Stevens' Stamp Sales at the following locations:—

LOUGHTON: to be held on 15 June at the Methodist Church Hall, High Road, LOUGHTON, Essex.

SIDCUP: to be held from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 22 June and 27 July at the Emmanuel Church Hall, Hadlow Road, SIDCUP.

EAST HAM: to be held on 13 July at The Hartley Centre, 267 Barking Road, EAST HAM.

RAINHAM: to be held from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm on 14 July at The White Horse (Functions Room), High Street, RAINHAM.

SITTINGBOURNE: to be held on 20 July at the Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, SITTINGBOURNE.

Admission is free at all venues, and the fairs will be open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm unless otherwise shown. Further details can be obtained from: Dave Stevens, 18 Gayhurst Close, Rainham, GILLINGHAM, Kent ME8 9EA.

British Thematic Association

The British Thematic Association (BTA), the body formed in 1984 to promote thematic collecting in the UK, is looking to compile a register of collectors willing to give displays at societies and fairs. The BTA would like to hear from collectors who have won awards at federation, national or international level, and would be willing to give displays and help publicise the Association. Anyone planning a fair, exhibition or federation/county event, who would like some thematic exhibits and BTA literature, should contact the BTA Displays Organiser. Enquiries from dealers and fair organisers are welcomed. Anyone interested in participating or requiring further information, should write to: Anthony Field, 8 Wildcroft Gardens, EDGWARE, Middlesex HA8 6TJ.

Ray Watts — Stamp Fairs

Fairs will be held by Ray Watts — Stamp Fairs — at the following locations:—

ILFORD: to be held on 15 June, 20 July and 21 September at Ilford Labour Hall, 400 High Road, ILFORD.

BRENTWOOD: to be held on 13 July and 14 September at the Cathedral Social Centre, Ingrave Road, BRENTWOOD.

ROMFORD: to be held on 7 September at Wykeham Hall, Romford Market, ROMFORD.

Further details can be obtained from MM Watts, Ray Watts — Stamp Fairs, 157 Chelmsford Road, SHENFIELD, Essex.

Raflet Stamp Club

After serving present and former members of the Royal Air Force for over 27 years, the Raflet Stamp Club is now offering Associate Membership to present and former Royal Navy and Army personnel. The Club provides a comprehensive philatelic service and the subscription is £2 per year or £5 for three years. Further details can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Raflet Stamp Club, A G Groom, 6 Grove Court, Falkland Grove, DORKING, Surrey RH4 3DL.

Kentex 1985

Kentex 1985 which is being organised by the Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society, will be held at the Winter Gardens, Margate, on 8 and 9 June 1985. It will be opened by Ron Lobeck, the TVS weatherman, who will also display some of his collection. 8 June will be Kent Federation Day, and 9 June will celebrate the Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society's 75th anniversary. Several dealers will be in attendance, and there will also be a Post Office philatelic sales counter. There will be several other events including a special draw and 'on the spot' junior quiz. Admission is free, and car parking facilities and refreshments will be available. Further details can be obtained from the Publicity Officer of the Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society, D E F Murphy, 'Langano', Painters Forstal, FAVERSHAM, Kent ME13 0DU.

The Yorkshire Philatelic Association

The Bridlington and District Philatelic Society will act as host this year to the 39th Annual Convention of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association. This will be held at the Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington, on Saturday 15 June 1985. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary of the Bridlington and District Philatelic Society, Mr A Wilson, 6 Yordas Court, BRIDLINGTON, North Humberside, YO16 5YL.

Wakefield Philatelic Society

Wakefield Philatelic Society will be holding a Stamp Fair and display as part of the 1985 Wakefield Festival of Sport and Recreation on 20 July. This will be held at the Unity Hall, Westgate, Wakefield, from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. Admission will be free.

Welsh Philatelic Society

The Welsh Philatelic Society (WPS) will be holding its ninth annual summer residential weekend from the evening of Thursday 13 June to the mid-afternoon of Sunday 16 June. This will take place at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tan-y-Bwlch, Maentwrog. The weekend will include the Society AGM, a mini-auction, talks and displays. Booking for residential places is now closed, but non-residential participants are welcome. Further information can be obtained from Peter Brindley, Chairman of WPS, School of Plant Biology, University College of North Wales, BANGOR, Gwynedd, LL5 7UW, or the Society's Secretary, D Daunton, 21 Torkington Road, WILMSLOW, Cheshire, SK9 2AE.

Book Reviews

Collecting Modern First Day Covers

The fourth edition of this catalogue concentrates on the GB commemorative issues from the introduction of decimalisation up to the end of 1984. It lists all special handstamps in use on the day of each stamp issue, and has comprehensive listings for ordinary and commercial covers as well as sponsored covers. Circular date stamps and slogan postmarks are also listed. The catalogue is well illustrated including 8 pages in full colour.

The catalogue is an extremely useful handbook for collectors of modern GB first day covers, and contains much information not found elsewhere. It is available from stamp dealers at £3.95 or direct from the publisher: A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL. Orders by post should be accompanied by the appropriate remittance and 45p. should be added for postage and packing.

Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan Catalogue of Modern Commonwealth Stamps 1985 (21st Edition)

Following the changes made in 1984, this new edition of the Elizabethan Catalogue continues to use the same catalogue numbers and type as the Part I (British Commonwealth) Catalogue. It also includes priced listings of interest to the specialist collector on

inverted watermarks, missing colours, GB missing phosphors, major shades, booklets, significant plate and cylinder flaws and presentation and souvenir packs. Prices have been updated, with a number of significant increases.

Priced at £12.95 the Catalogue is available from most reputable bookshops and stamp dealers, also Stanley Gibbons, 399 Strand. Copies can also be obtained by post, and orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants BH24 3SH. For inland orders by post, £1.30 should be added for postage and packing, and £2.25 for overseas orders. (Surface Mail).

The Undated Circular Marks of the Midland Counties

This is the first publication to be produced by the Midland (GB) Postal History Society which was formed in 1975. It attempts to list every handstamp in undated circular form issued to sub offices in Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire (and Rutland), Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire (with Birmingham) and Worcestershire, during the period 1830-1859, a total of over 2,000 marks. The undated marks have been listed in chronological rather than alphabetical order to help postal historians and postmark collectors in piecing together postal delivery routes.

Among its features, the publication records the location of every mark in the Steel Impression Books of the Post Office Archives and its period of use in each known ink colour. The publication consists of 108 pages and has been produced in the vertical A4 format. It is available in two versions, either spirally bound or punched to fit any standard two-hole ring binder. The cost of the publication is £5.50 plus £1.00 for postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'The Midland (GB) Postal History Society' should be sent to John Calladine, Dunley House, Cranham, Gloucester GL4 8HQ. Unless otherwise specified, the spirally bound version will be supplied.

The Northeast of Scotland: A Philatelic Miscellany

This is a collection of essays by members and friends of the Aberdeen and North of Scotland Philatelic Society, published to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Society. The contents should prove of interest to social historians, railway enthusiasts and philatelists. It consists of seventy pages in A4 format, with several

illustrations, tables, map, diagrams, bibliographies and card covers. The price is £3.50 including postage and packing, and the usual trade terms will apply for orders of six or more. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to the Editor, Jeffrey C Stone, 20 Springfield Road, ABERDEEN AB1 7RR.

Forces Covers

40th Anniversary of VE Day

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of VE Day, and the victory of the allies over Nazi Germany on 8 May 1945, a special philatelic cover has been produced. The design of the cover consists of a circle containing a map of Europe overprinted with the letters VE, surrounded by the flags of the allies who helped ensure victory over Nazi Germany. Bearing a 17p Famous Trains stamp, the covers have been cancelled on 8 May 1985 with a BFPS 1945 specially designed handstamp. The price of the cover is £1.00 each. Orders with remittances made payable to 'Number 9 Account PCD RE' (or National Girobank account number 536 0102 for payment by Giro transfer), should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, PCD RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON, NW7 1PX, accompanied by a 9" x 7" stamped addressed envelope.

Royal Tournament

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate 'The Royal Tournament 1985'.

The commemorative cover depicts 'Saint George and the Dragon' and bears a 17 pence 'Insect Stamp' cancelled with BFPS handstamp No. 1878 from 10 July - 27 July 1985. The standard cover is priced at £1.00. A limited number of covers signed by: Colonel I A Ferguson OBE, Director the Royal Tournament, are also on sale priced at £1.50. Orders with appropriate remittance made payable to 'Number 9 Account PCD RE' (Giro bank a/c No. 536 0102) should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, PCD RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON, NW7 1PX together with a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Commemorative Covers

The Naming of the Mumbles Lifeboat

A special commemorative philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the naming of the new Mumbles lifeboat, RNLB Ethel Anne Measures. The

cover will be a limited edition and the design on the cover shows the new lifeboat with the Mumbles Head in the background. The new lifeboat is a Tyne class, the most up to date lifeboat in the Institution's fleet. The boat is steel with an aluminium superstructure and is launched down a slipway and can reach speeds of 18 knots, twice that of its predecessors.

The cover will carry a 17p stamp depicting a lifeboat from the new Safety at Sea series and will be cancelled by a special handstamp. The price of the cover will be £1.50 for an ordinary cover and £2.50 for a cover signed by the coxswain. The lifeboat will be named on the morning of July 3rd by the President of the RNLI, HRH The Duke of Kent, at the Marina in Swansea and covers will be on sale there on that day or may be obtained by sending the cost of the cover plus 25p for postage and packing to the Regional Organiser, RNLI, Aberdare House, Mount Stuart Square, CARDIFF CF 6DJ.

Littlestone Lifeboat/Lionel Lukin

To coincide with the issue of the 'Safety at Sea' stamps on 18 June 1985, a special philatelic cover has been produced. This will feature a full colour picture of Lionel Lukin's Lowestoft Lifeboat on a rescue mission. (The stamp issue also celebrates the bicentenary of Lukin's insubmersible boat). The cover is being produced in conjunction with the Hythe RNLI, where Lukin lived for many years and also died. All proceeds from the sale of the cover will go to the RNLI.

The covers will be available cancelled with a special handstamp, and bearing the 17p 'Lifeboat' stamp from the Safety at Sea issue, will cost £1.25 each, plus 30p for postage and packing. The covers will also be available bearing the full set of stamps at £3.50 each, plus 30p for postage and packing. For an additional donation of £1.00 to the RNLI, covers will be available signed by the coxswain of the Littlestone lifeboat, and further details are available on request. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: RNLI, 19 St Hilda's Road, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 8HF.

Grace Darling Museum

A special philatelic cover is being produced for the Grace Darling Museum at Bamburgh, to coincide with the Safety at Sea stamp issue on 18 June 1985. Grace Darling, the daughter of the lighthouse keeper on Farne Island, was born in 1815 in the house which used to be Bamburgh Post Office. On 7 September 1838 when the steamer 'Forfarshire', was

wrecked, she urged her father to go to the relief of its crew and passengers, and rowed with him through the storm, rescuing nine survivors. The covers bearing the 17p value stamp from the Safety at Sea issue, cancelled with a specially commissioned handstamp, will cost £2.25. Bearing the full set of stamps the covers will cost £4.00 each. A limited number of covers bearing the full set of stamps and signed by the present curator of the Grace Darling Museum will also be available at £6.50. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing, but 50p should be added by overseas customers to cover airmail costs. Remittances should be made payable to A G Bradbury, and sent to him at: 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL.

Vintage Aircraft and Flying Association (Brooklands)

Plans are in the process of being finalised by the Vintage Aircraft and Flying Association (VAFA) for the production of a series of aerophilatelic flown covers and associated material in aid of the aviation side of the newly-formed Brooklands Museum. Brooklands can claim to be the cradle of British aviation with its history of unbroken aeroplane manufacture and development. A maximum of five philatelic covers per year will be produced to commemorate historic and current events including first flights. The first three covers will commemorate: the 50th anniversary of the First Flight of the Vickers Type 246 (Wellesley) Prototype on 19 June 1935, the 40th anniversary of the First Flight of the Vickers VCI Viking on 22 June 1945, and the 50th anniversary of the First Flight of the Hawker Hurricane on 6 November 1935.

Further details can be obtained from H Vogel, 4 Firlands, WEYBRIDGE, KT13 0HR.

Benham Individual 'Silk Look' Covers

For each special stamp issued by the British Post Office, individual covers depicting a picture, often chosen from original paintings or transparencies, are produced by Benhams. The picture is enclosed in an individual gold blocked border, and the stamp is matched with a pictorial handstamp.

Individual covers have already been produced in 1985 for the Famous Trains, Insects and Composers issues. The cost of the covers is £1.25 each. Back numbers are available and a standing order service is in operation for all future issues. Further information, including a free sample cover can be obtained on application to: Tony Buckingham, Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Stamp Shop, 8a and 8b The Old High Street, FOLKESTONE, Kent.

Newham School for the Deaf

To commemorate the visit by H.R.H. The Princess of Wales to the Newham School for the Deaf, on 14 May 1985, the Parent Teacher's Association has produced a philatelic cover illustrating a portrait of Her Royal Highness and a caption, 'Newham School for the Deaf welcomes H.R.H. The Princess of Wales'.

A special pictorial handstamp will be used to cancel the cover on 14 May 1985 and the following prices will apply: 1. the cover bearing a 17p 'Safety at Sea' stamp will cost £2, and 2. the cover bearing all four 'Safety at Sea' stamps will cost £4. These prices include postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to: 'The Parent Teacher's Association Newham School for the Deaf' should be sent to them at Tunmarsh Lane, LONDON, E13 9NB.

The funds raised will be donated to the cost of a new swimming pool for the School.

New Odeon Film Centre

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the opening of a new Odeon Film Centre in Bristol on 13 June 1985. The design of the cover features the famous Odeon sign, the well-known 'Rank Gong Man', and the latest James Bond movie logo. Bearing the 16p Mailcoach Bicentenary stamp showing the Bristol to London Mail, the covers will be cancelled by a special handstamp depicting the official British Film Year Logo. The price of the cover is £1.95. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Covercraft, 85 Belvedere Road, LONDON, SE19 2HX.

Kent County Cricket Club

A special cricket match will take place on the Goodwin Sands, Kent, on 1 July 1985, between the current Kent eleven and a side made up of noted cricketers and personalities. To mark the occasion, a photograph, in postcard form, of the Kent team is currently available. Three thousand postcards will be printed, 250 of which will be autographed by the entire team, and on the address side a full set of 'Safety at Sea' stamps will be affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting the KCCC logo, including the message, 'Deal Kent 1st July 1985 Cricket on Goodwin Sands'. The charge is £3.50 each, plus 25p return postage and packing. In addition 500 postcards as above, but signed by a number of international capped players will be available, price £3 each plus 25p for postage and packing. Finally, 2250 postcards are available bearing a 17p 'Safety at Sea' stamp, cancelled but not signed. The cost is £1.50 plus 25p postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to:

'Kent County Cricket Club (Goodwin Sands)' should be sent to: Kent County Cricket Club, Goodwin Sands, St. Lawrence Ground, CANTERBURY, CT1 3NZ.

Proceeds from the sales will be donated to the cost of a new stand at the ground.

International Gathering Scotland 1985

Glasgow, for the first time, is acting as Host City to the International Clan Gathering, to be held 25 May - 1 June 1985.

Pilgrim Philatelics have been appointed Philatelic Agents and are producing a special cover to commemorate this event. The cover will incorporate in the design a colour photograph of a Scottish Pipe Band marching in full regalia, mounted behind clear acetate for protection. A suitable special stamp will be used and cancelled in Glasgow with a philatelic changing-date postmark.

In addition, a choice of 72 different Clan Crests, in the form of rubber handstamps can be applied, enabling your cover to be personalised (state Clan Name required). These covers are priced at £2.00 each, including post & packing under separate cover. Orders to: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd., 33 St. George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX

175th Anniversary of the Humber Lifeboat Station

To coincide with the 175th Anniversary of the Humber Lifeboat Station and the Safety at Sea commemorative stamps issue, a postcard illustrating the 54ft Arun, City of Bradford IV, which is permanently stationed at Spurn Head, will be available. Brian Bevan, the coxswain, will sign a number of cards and all will be cancelled with a special Spurn Head handstamp. A donation from the proceeds will be made to the RNLI.

The postcards will cost £1 for a signed edition bearing a 17p stamp, 50p for an unsigned 17p stamp. If extra stamps are required the necessary remittance should be included. Orders with appropriate remittance should be sent to David Webster, The Post Office, Easington, HULL, HU12 0TU by Wednesday 12 June 1985.

Air Sea Rescue at Cromer

To coincide with the issue of the Safety at Sea stamps on 18 June 1985, a special philatelic cover is being produced by Cromer RNLI. The covers will be available at £2.00 each, bearing the full set of Safety at Sea stamps cancelled with a special handstamp. In addition, a limited number of covers will be placed on board the Cromer lifeboat and will be 'rescued' by a helicopter from F Flight, 22nd Squadron RAF

Coltishall, during an air-sea exercise off Cromer Pier. These covers will bear the full set of Safety at Sea stamps cancelled with a special handstamp, also a special cachet, and will cost £3.00 each. In addition to the air-sea exercise, the British Pullman Carriages of the Venice Simplon Client Express will travel from Liverpool Street station to Cromer on 18 June, carrying a 16ft inshore lifeboat. This is to acknowledge the fact that earlier this century railways transported lifeboats free of charge.

Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'RNLI Cromer' should be sent to Box RNLI, Post Office, Church Street, CROMER, Norfolk, NR27 9AA, accompanied by an 8" x 5" stamped addressed envelope. All proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to RNLI funds.

½p Stamp, Last Day of General Sale

A limited number of special philatelic covers, bearing ½p cylinder blocks, have been produced to commemorate the last day of general sale of the ½p stamp. The covers have been printed in colour and numbered, and bear a cylinder block of 6 x ½p stamps, a choice of cylinder 8 dot and no dot is available, cancelled with a special Windsor pictorial postmark on 29 March 1985. The covers also include informative history details and bear a 'posted at Windsor' cachet. The price of the covers is £1.70 each, 3 for £4.80, or 10 for £14.50. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 4TD.

Captain Cook Study Unit

An official cover is being produced for the Captain Cook Study Unit commemorating his achievements in improving safety at sea. The covers will depict Captain Cook and HMS Endeavour and HMS Resolution on the 225th anniversary of his survey of the St Lawrence River Basin. Bearing the full set of Safety at Sea stamps, the covers will be registered and cancelled at Marton-in-Cleveland, Captain Cook's birthplace. The price of the covers, inclusive of postage and packing, is £3.50 for inland orders, and £4.10 for overseas orders. Payment should be made in sterling. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Travers Publications, should be sent to Travers Publications, 64 Corporation Road, REDCAR, Cleveland, TS10 1PB.

Tiptree Preserves Centenary

To commemorate one hundred years of jam making, Tiptree Preserves have commissioned a special philatelic cover. This illustrates strawberry picking

at the turn of the century. Bearing a 17p Insects stamp, the cover was cancelled with a first day of issue handstamp on 12 March 1985. The price of the cover is £1.00, and it can be obtained by sending the appropriate remittance to: the Company Secretary, Wilkin and Sons Ltd., Tiptree, COLCHESTER, CO5 0RE.

Ullapool, Ross-shire

For the Safety at Sea stamp issue on 18 June 1985, a special philatelic cover is being produced at Ullapool, Ross-shire. The cover is designed and signed by the artist, A R T Whitmarsh. Bearing the full set of Safety at Sea stamps, the covers will be cancelled by the ordinary Post Office first day of issue postmark. The cost of the covers is £4.00, post free. Only a limited number of covers are being produced and orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to A R T Whitmarsh, BRAES OF ULLAPOOL, Ross-shire IV26 2TP. This cover is part of a continuing series with one being produced each year for a special stamp issue relevant to some aspect of life in Ullapool. Further details are available on application.

Centenary of Coatbridge Burgh

To celebrate the centenary of Coatbridge Burgh a special philatelic cover is being issued on 25 June 1985. The cover depicts the Centenary Logo which features the first steam locomotive on the Glasgow-Garnkirch Railway, also an illustration of a horse-drawn coal train. The cover will bear a 17p or 31p Famous Trains stamp cancelled with a special handstamp on 25 June 1985. The price of the cover is £2.30 including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to J Fox, Coatbridge Library, Academy Street, COATBRIDGE ML5 3AW.

100th Anniversary of Hull and Barnsley Railway

A special philatelic cover is being produced on 9 July 1985 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hull and Barnsley Railway. The cover will feature a 'silk' illustration of a Hull and Barnsley F1-class locomotive No 1. Bearing the 7p value from the 1975 150th Anniversary of Public Railways issue plus one 12p value from the 1980 Liverpool-Manchester Railway set, the cover will be cancelled with a specially designed postmark incorporating the Hull and Barnsley railway crest at Hull, N Humberside. The covers will cost £1.25 each plus 30p for postage. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to the Hull and Barnsley Railway, 150 Southcoates Lane, HULL HU9 3AJ.

150th Anniversary of Berwick Life Service 1835-1985

The Berwick Ladies Lifeboat Guild is producing a special philatelic cover to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Berwick Lifeboat Service. The cover depicts an early and present-day lifeboat. Bearing the 17p Safety at Sea stamp, the cover will be cancelled with a specially-designed handstamp on 18 June 1985. The cost of the covers is £1.00 each, and a limited number are available signed by the Duke of Northumberland, the RNLI hon treasurer, at £5.00 each. All proceeds from sales of the covers will go to the Berwick Branch of the RNLI. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the RNLI should be sent to: The Hon Secretary, Mrs M F Thompson, Burnbank, Chapel Hill, Femwick, BERWICK-ON-TWEED, TD15 2PJ, accompanied by a 10"x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

The Bradford Delius Festival

The Bradford Delius Festival was held from 20-26 May 1985. It was arranged by the Recreation Division of the Bradford Metropolitan Council to celebrate the life and music of Frederick Delius and of British composers of the last one hundred years. A special philatelic cover has been produced for this event with an insert giving details of the Composers stamps and a biographical sketch of the life of Delius. Bearing a full set of Composers stamps, the covers have been cancelled on 14 May 1985, the first day of issue of the stamps, with a specially designed handstamp depicting St George's Hall, Bradford, where a large part of the Festival was held. The price of the covers is £3.00 each, including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Peter Scott (FDC) ADPS, 22 Commercial Street, SHIPLEY, West Yorkshire BD18 3SP.

Appledore Lifeboat Station

To coincide with the Safety at Sea special stamp issue on 18 June 1985, a special philatelic cover is being produced for the RNLI in conjunction with Appledore Lifeboat Station. Only a limited number of covers are being produced and all proceeds will be paid to the RNLI through Appledore Lifeboat Station. The cover will bear a cachet designed by Paul Deacon, Prison Officer/Artist, and much of the production work will be done by voluntary efforts of a group of staff and prisoners at Dartmoor Prison, working in their spare time to help the RNLI. Further details on the covers are available on application to L E Blake, Stamps, HMP Dartmoor, Princetown, YELVERTON, Devon PL20 6RH.

London Welsh Rugby Union Football Club Centenary

To commemorate the centenary of the London Welsh Rugby Union Football Club, a special philatelic cover was issued on 29 May 1985. The cover depicts the club's motif of a red dragon holding a flag. Bearing a 17p Welsh definitive stamp, the covers have been cancelled with a special handstamp on 29 May 1985. The price of the covers is £1.00 each. A limited number of covers signed by 7 London Welsh players who have represented the British Lions team are available at £5.00 each, or signed by Mr Clive Rees, a Wales and British Lions player and presently the Club Captain, are available at £2.00 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'London Welsh Rugby Football Club Centenary Fund' should be sent to: the Centenary Officer, London Welsh Rugby Football Club Centenary Fund, DPCS, Sweets Way, Whetstone, LONDON N20 0NU, together with a 9"x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

British Philatelic Bulletin

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by:
British Post Office
Postal Headquarters
Philatelic Marketing Section
Room 102-104
33 Grosvenor Place
LONDON
SW1X 1PX

to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscriptions (Inland, Europe and overseas)

Surface mail £3.50

Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:

British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters price 30p.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £4.00.

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