

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Front Cover

The front cover shows a caricature of J M Barrie dating from 1919, together with an illustration of Peter Pan fighting Captain Hook by Alice B Woodward in 1907 (courtesy Mary Evans Picture Library). The 50th anniversary of Barrie's death is being marked in August by the issue of a Scottish aerogramme. (see the page opposite)

Editorial

DOUGLAS N MUIR

Keep up to date

In this month's *Bulletin* we announce the issue of several items which are additions to the range. First of all, there is the next Scottish aerogramme marking the 50th anniversary of the death of J M Barrie, and then there is the new range and type of booklets. Both of these are due on 4 August. There is also news of six Scottish postcards being issued to celebrate the 850th anniversary of St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, Orkney.

Clearly, the most widely collected issues are the special stamps with their attendant covers, cards and packs. However, there is as much, if not more, interest in definitives and stationery. Changes are constantly taking place with printing variations of definitives, with new types of paper or phosphor being tried out, and, if successful, introduced on a wider range. Some of the older items go off sale at the Bureau and philatelic counters if they have been supplanted by other versions or if the values are no longer required. These changes are chronicled in the monthly *Digests* that appear in the *Bulletin*, but it is always possible that one or two could be missed. It is therefore important that you keep up to date with changes in the field that you collect and, of course, it is always cheaper to buy them direct at face value from the Post Office itself.

It is never possible to predict precisely what will happen in the future, although I try to give as much prior warning as is possible of any changes or new items. So the only way to make certain that you have everything is to obtain the items as they come out and not wait for changes to occur. While something may appear ordinary at the moment, over a period variations may take place which give it heightened interest. And changes of phosphor, for example, are likely to take place across the entire range of items issued, so such things as aerogrammes and other stationery are relevant and cheap additions to your collection, giving it added and more varied interest.

J M Barrie Scottish Aerogramme

4 August 1987

A new Scottish pictorial aerogramme featuring James M Barrie will be issued on 4 August and be available at all post offices in Scotland together with all philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau. Design and illustrations of Barrie and his birthplace are by Ann Ross Paterson in collaboration with Forth Studios Limited and printing is in offset lithography by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd. Cost is 30p each.

Sir James Matthew Barrie was born in 1860 in Kirriemuir and was educated in Edinburgh University. He died in 1937 and it is the 50th anniversary of his death that is being commemorated by this aerogramme. A Scottish playwright and novelist, he is best known for such stories as *Peter Pan* written in 1904 and *The Admirable Crichton* (1902). At the time of their publication these works gained him fame and wealth but subsequently his whimsical humour lost much of its appeal.

Barrie left Scotland in 1883 to work on the

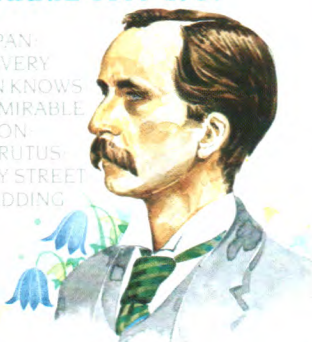
Nottingham *Daily Journal* before coming to London in 1885. He began writing novels such as *A Window in Thrums* (1889), "Thrums" being his home town of Kirriemuir, but it was not until he turned his attention to the theatre in 1890 that he became successful.

He is perhaps best remembered for *Peter Pan* the story of the boy who never grew up. By his bequest, the royalties of this go to a children's hospital and it is revived annually. Illustrations of the early part of the century were often admirable and one of these is shown on a panel of the aerogramme. It dates from 1921 (© Lucie Attwell Limited) and is reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Limited. The other panel on the aerogramme illustrates Barrie's birthplace at Kirriemuir, now a J M Barrie museum.

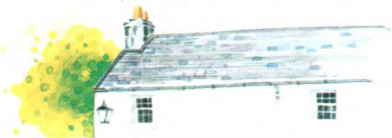
Barrie received his baronetcy in 1913 and the O M in 1922. He was Chancellor of Edinburgh University from 1930.

J M BARRIE 1860-1937

PETER PAN
WHAT EVERY
WOMAN KNOWS
THE ADMIRABLE
CRICHTON
DEAR BRUTUS
QUALITY STREET
THE WEDDING
GUEST



The birthplace at Kirriemuir, now a J M Barrie museum



TO OPEN SLIT HERE (G) FOSGLACH GEARR AN SGO

By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme
Toimhin phost-adhair (Linneartha)



SECOND FOLD HERE (AN) DARRA FILLSEACH AN SGO



Design and illustrations of J.M. Barrie and his characters by Ann Ross Peterson in collaboration with Fort Studios Limited. Peter Pan illustration © 1921 Lucie Abner Limited reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Limited. Printed by McCormack & Co. Limited for the British Post Office.

FIRST FLIGHT HERE IN AN AIRCRAFT PHILLIP AND AN AIRCRAFT



Part of the Barrie Scottish aerogramme showing Peter Pan.

Philately's PRO

The Stamp Collecting Promotion Council has selected Brian Toal to be its full time Public Relations Officer. For the past 17 years Brian has been employed by The Post Office, having been Manager of Overseas Philately and Sales Promotion.

The appointment is being initially financed by the British Philatelic Trust, The Post Office, the Crown Agents Stamp Company Limited and the postal administrations of Guernsey, Isle of Man and Jersey.

The Stamp Collecting Promotion Council is a part of the British Philatelic Federation and the Public Relations Officer will be based at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

Southampton Philatelic Counter

The philatelic counter at Above Bar Branch Office, Southampton will be moving on 6 July to Southampton Branch Office, 59 High Street, SOUTHAMPTON SO9 1WA.

NPM VR Handstamp

Due to unforeseen circumstances the National Postal Museum VR handstamp will be withdrawn on 3 July. The Museum apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.

National Postal Museum Programme

The National Postal Museum has announced its finalised programme for the rest of 1987 and its provisional programme for 1988.

The British Postal Mechanisation display has been extended until the end of August. On 8 September there will be a new display featuring the Machin head (marking the 20th anniversary of the introduction of the Machins) and will include a number of original casts recently acquired by the Museum. On the same day there will be an issue of three postcards showing Victorian letter boxes, issued to coincide with the stamps for Victorian Britain. There will also be a special handstamp. This also marks the Museum's 21st anniversary.

The main display for 1988 will be on Travelling Post Offices, marking the 150th anniversary of the first TPO. On 11 January 1988 there will be an issue of three cards featuring TPO material together with a special handstamp which will run for the course of the exhibition. Further postcard issues during the year will consist provisionally of a philatelic set of three on 6 May (with special handstamp), three stamp boxes in August and three further Monarchs' heads in November. The last will feature the three-quarter Downey head of George V, George VI and George VI with Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother).

Scottish Postcards Show Cathedrals

Six postcards were put on sale by the Scottish Post Office Board on 19 June featuring Scottish cathedrals. They are to commemorate the 850th anniversary of St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall Orkney and are available in special packs, price 84p. The six cathedrals featured are St Magnus; St Machar's, Aberdeen; Brechin; St Giles, Edinburgh; Dunblane; and St Mungo's, Glasgow. The postcards are reproductions of watercolours commissioned from Edinburgh architect and artist Chris Carter, and are on sale at main post offices and philatelic counters in Scotland, and at the National Postal Museum in London.

St Magnus Cathedral is almost alone in Scottish cathedrals in surviving the Reformation virtually intact. It was founded to contain the tomb of a royal Scandinavian saint, Magnus, who had shared the earldom of Orkney with his cousin Haakon who had him murdered. Its architecture reflects its Viking origins.

St Mungo's Cathedral in Glasgow was built over the site of the tomb of St Mungo or Kentigern, the patron saint of Glasgow. It is celebrated for its superb gothic crypt, once a place of pilgrimage.

St Giles, the High Kirk of Edinburgh, was raised to episcopal status for the coronation of Charles I in 1633. Its oldest features are four massive pre-14th century pillars. Much restored in the 19th century, it has retained its magnificent crown-spire.

Dunblane Cathedral has a legendary association with Blane of Bute, a sixth century Celtic saint of Irish origins. The fortified tower dates to the 12th century with later additions.

Brechin Cathedral stands on an ancient Pictish site of which the tall round tower is a visible reminder. The church was founded by King Nechtan in the 8th century and the tower which dates from the 10th century served as a refuge.

Of St Machar's Cathedral in Aberdeen only the nave with two west towers remain. Dating from the 14th century this is all that survived of a much bigger building which was demolished in the 17th century to make one of Cromwell's forts. The oak ceiling depicts the coats of arms of figures such as James IV, Margaret, Queen and Saint, Pope Leo X and the bishops and barons of Scotland.

The pack was designed by Forth Studios Ltd with text by Hubert Fenwick also translated into Gaelic by Ian MacDonald. Printing was by William Nimmo and Company Limited.



Above: Brechin Cathedral; below: St Machers.



Newton's Principia

BARBARA LAST

The Post Office has commemorated the 300th anniversary of Newton's great work *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* which was published in Latin in 1687. *Principia* was the work of genius. It explained the universal laws of science, and is probably the greatest contribution to science ever made by a single man.

In the 16th and 17th centuries the Church was being assailed by new ideas that questioned her centuries of religious techings. Enquiring minds sought for reason in the universe. They rejected irrational and superstitious doctrines, and divulged theories on what their eyes could see. Copernicus (1473/1543) reintroduced the heretical thought that the Earth was not the centre of the solar system, but revolves with the planets round the sun (France 1973 SG2058). His works were banned until 1822.

Girodano Bruno was burnt at the stake for expressing views that an outer sphere of stars encircled our universe, shouldering out and displacing "Heaven". Galileo, whose best-known invention was the telescope (Italy 1983 SG1800), and who died the year Newton was

enough to "fit into a quart pot." His father, a small landowner, had died two months previously, but Newton's birthplace, Woolsthorpe manor house still stands eight miles south of Grantham, Lincolnshire. When he was nearly three his mother packed him off to his grandmother in order to marry the wealthy rector from North Witham. He loathed his stepfather, and much has been made of the effect that jealousy and dislike had on his complex character, together with an unhappy motherless childhood. he developed a sound constitution, but at various times throughout his life seemed on the point of emotional collapse. A solitary man who hated controversy, he sometimes erupted in scathing, vindictive onslaughts on friend and foe alike.

Newton's career at Grantham Grammar School showed no sign of his later genius. When his stepfather died in 1653, his mother returned to Woolsthorpe. She took him away from school when he was 14 to help on the farm. But his disinterest in farming was total, and his fascination with mechanical devices and working models of sun-dials and water clocks, made a thoughtful uncle send him back to school to prepare for Cambridge. William Ayscough, rector of Burton Coggles, Lincs. was himself a Trinity man, and it is to him that the boy owed his education.

Few details of Newton's life as an undergraduate have survived. He found the university rigidly classical, but plunged into his own personal study of René Descartes' *Discours* (France 1937 SG574), and other scientific works by contemporary writers. He came to comprehend various mathematics far in advance of the teachings of Euclid, in which, according to his tutor, he lacked understanding. He took his degree in 1665, and returned to Woolsthorpe when the University closed because of the plague that was ravaging the land.

His mental activity at this period was extraordinary, and he said himself, "in the plague years of 1665/6 I was in my prime of age for invention, and minded mathematics and philosophy more than at any time since." The



born, shared Copernicus's beliefs but was forced by the Inquisition to recant. Whichever way the Church sought to suppress them, thoughts and ideas escaped to fuel the thirst for knowledge, each building on another's foundation. Thus, Newton allowed with uncharacteristic humility, "If I have seen further than other men, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." Isaac Newton (1642/1727) was born on Christmas Day, a sickly premature babe, tiny

foundations of his theories and general principles were laid then, although in many cases they did not come to fruition until many years later. He developed calculus, a new branch of advanced mathematics that he called “fluxions”, and used this later to calculate his gravitational theories. Unfortunately, he did not publish his calculus which led to bitter controversy with the German mathematician G W Leibniz (W Germany 1666 SG1423) who published his findings some 20 years later. They are now regarded as co-discoverers, as both developed calculus independently.

Scientists then believed that gravity was a force in the air, but according to Pemberton Newton “fell into a speculation on the power of gravity” which stayed constant whatever the distance from the centre of the Earth. It was at Woolsthorpe that Newton watched the famous apple fall. Was this the mysterious force he had been searching for that kept the moon tied to its orbit round the Earth, and the planets tethered to the Sun? By the age of 23 he had calculated most of his law of gravitation.

Woolsthorpe was also the scene of his pioneering experiments on the composition of light and colour. He bought a sixpenny triangular prism at Stourbridge fair, and demonstrated that a beam of visible white light shining through the prism split into the colours of the spectrum. And if these were directed through a second prism the colours reverted to white. By this experiment he proved that the separate colours of light are the basic elements, and that white light was a combination of colours. This is illustrated by Sarah Godwin’s 31p “Opticks” stamp with its flask of water and light refracted, an original and beautiful method of visually presenting a scientific concept.

Newton returned to Cambridge, and at the age of 26 succeeded Isaac Barrow as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics. He sorted out his earlier studies in optics. Following Galileo’s invention of the telescope, in 1668 Newton perfected the first practical reflecting telescope using a parabolic mirror to reflect and magnify the subject observed. It was six inches long with an aperture of one inch and with it he saw Jupiter’s moons (GB 1985 SG1283). It was the foundation from which our modern gigantic models evolved (GB 1966 SG701). Several territories illustrated Newton’s invention as part of their tribute to Halley.

Soon after he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1672 he presented his paper on the

nature of light and colour. This started an acrimonious feud with Robert Hooke which lasted until the latter’s death. Hooke had in 1664 published an identical experiment with a prism, but had not carried his own observations through to a logical conclusion. He refused to accept Newton’s deductions, and accused him unfairly of plagiarism. Newton’s abhorrence of controversy and sensitivity to criticism established a pattern. After the initial argument he habitually withdrew into himself, and wrote, “I see a man must either resolve to put out nothing new or become a slave to defend it.” The bitter disputes with Hooke caused him to delay publication of *Opticks* until after his rival’s death in 1704.



The mental distress of the arguments caused Newton to fall into a fit of deep melancholia. After his mother died he cut his human contacts. He buried himself in work, devoting himself to alchemical research and studies in science and theology, trying to unite scientific knowledge with scriptural teachings. Letters from Hooke in 1679 asking questions on planetary motion directed his mind to the hidden forces of nature, and he worked out correctly the principles of the movement of heavenly bodies, based on Kepler’s Laws (W Germany 1971 SG1594).

Hooke, Edmond Halley, and Christopher Wren, the astronomer better known as an architect, wrestled in London with the problem of planetary motion, Halley in particular being immersed in the behaviour of comets. Eventually, Halley offered to visit Newton in Cambridge in August 1684 in the hope of discovering what sort of curve a planet describes in its orbit round the Sun. Their mathematics were not equal to

the task, and they had heard rumours of Newton's "fluxions". The master immediately answered "An ellipse", and explained he had already worked it out. This is illustrated (22p) by a mathematical design showing the elliptical movement of planets of the solar system. Thus, Newton supplied mathematical proof of Kepler's theory first advanced in 1609. Newton's answer enabled Halley to predict the future movements of the great comet that now bears his name (GB 1986 SG1315).



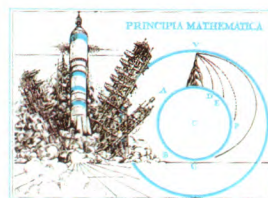
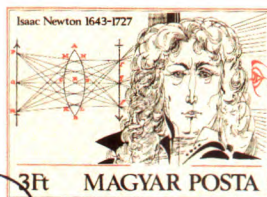
Halley was an endearing man, much liked for his qualities and sunny disposition, who managed to remain untouched by all the scientific bickering of his contemporaries. He was so impressed by Newton's genius, that he shelved his own work to persuade the great man to finish his *Principia*, which demonstrated the universal laws. He supported Newton through his intense labours, and with great personal generosity edited the *Principia*. Although rather a poor man he believed in its importance so passionately that he paid for its publication in 1687, the event we celebrate this year.

The masterpiece was well received except by Hooke who claimed it was based on his letters



of 1679/80. Furiously, Newton threatened he would not publish his *Principia* Book 3, but was persuaded eventually to do so after he had deleted every possible reference to Hooke. J L Lagrange (France 1958 SG1371), one of the leading 18th century mathematicians, referred to *Principia* as man's greatest work, remarking wistfully that Newton was the most fortunate genius "for there is but one universe, and it can happen to but one man in the world's history to be the interpreter of its laws". Hungary marked the 250th anniversary of Newton's death (1977 SG3111) with his sketched portrait and an optical diagram, together with a se-tenant label illustrating mechanics from *Principia*.

Outside events also had an effect. Newton took a leading part in defending Cambridge University when James II started to interfere illegally with its internal affairs. He was elected Member of Parliament for Cambridge to the Convention Parliament that placed William and Mary on the throne after the deposition of James II. Stress engendered by this, the rancorous exchanges with Hooke and Leibniz, together



with overwork on his book, caused a mental breakdown described as “a discomposure in head, or mind, or both”. He left Cambridge in 1696 to become Warden and then Master of the Royal Mint, an appointment of importance that he retained until he died. He was an able and efficient administrator, pursuing forgers with resolution. Although the Post Office ignored his death anniversary in 1977, the Royal Mint reproduced Newton’s portrait on the £1 note from the painting by Kneller. That same portrait has been the basis for several stamps. Ascension 1971 definitive SG139 depicts this portrait, his telescope and the famous apple.

Newton became President of the Royal Society when his enemy Hooke died, and remained so until his death. Queen Anne knighted him in 1705, the first scientist so honoured, and when he died in 1727 he was buried in Westminster Abbey. Newton might be one of the world’s greatest men, but he was not a very likeable character. Solitary and aloof, totally obsessed by work, he only left his chambers when forced to do so, his secretary remarking, “if he had not been minded, would go very carelessly, with shoes down at heel, stockings untied, and his head scarcely combed.” Intensely sensitive to criticism himself, as an autocratic President of the Royal Society he insisted on supervising and controlling the careers of his young associates whose works he ridiculed, and the Royal Society became hardly more than an expansion of his will. The Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed, supplied the lunar observations needed by Newton, who then published Flamsteed’s life-work without permission.

Newton’s *Principia* combined the contributions of many famous predecessors, and became the cornerstone of the scientific revolution on which our modern space achievements are based. His System explained how any projectile is subject to gravity, but if launched at sufficient speed will orbit the planet (34p), a law used again and again at every launch of a communication satellite or spy-in-the-sky. Sir Frank Whittle’s pioneer jet demonstrates Newton’s third law of motion – action and reaction.

There were several interesting first day hand-stamps to herald the new issue. The unit of force is known as the newton, and is roughly equivalent to the weight of the apple depicted dropping in free-fall at Woolsthorpe as a symbol of gravity. The Royal Society sponsored a hand-stamp as President 1703/27 at Crane Court EC4 which was the home of the Society at that time.



His original reflecting telescope was shown at Greenwich Old Observatory, and Trinity College comes from Cambridge.

Newton deduced that the rotation of the Earth would cause centrifugal force to be greater the nearer to the axis of rotation, and therefore the Earth would be flattened or elliptical at the poles in the Arctic in Lapland, and at the Equator in South America. This theory had been advanced by the Dane Tycho Brahe (1546/1601) in the face of the belief that the world was round. In 1736/7, some 10 years after Newton’s death, two French expeditions left to measure the Arcs of Meridian, the first to Lapland led by de Maupertius, and the other led by La Condamine to South America. Both expeditions vindicated the theory. Finland and France produced joint issues in 1986 but the French stamp shows both leaders.

Alexander Pope’s couplet appeals to me, but perhaps not to that enigma Newton:
 “Nature and Nature’s laws lay hid in night;
 God said, ‘Let Newton be!’ and all was light.”



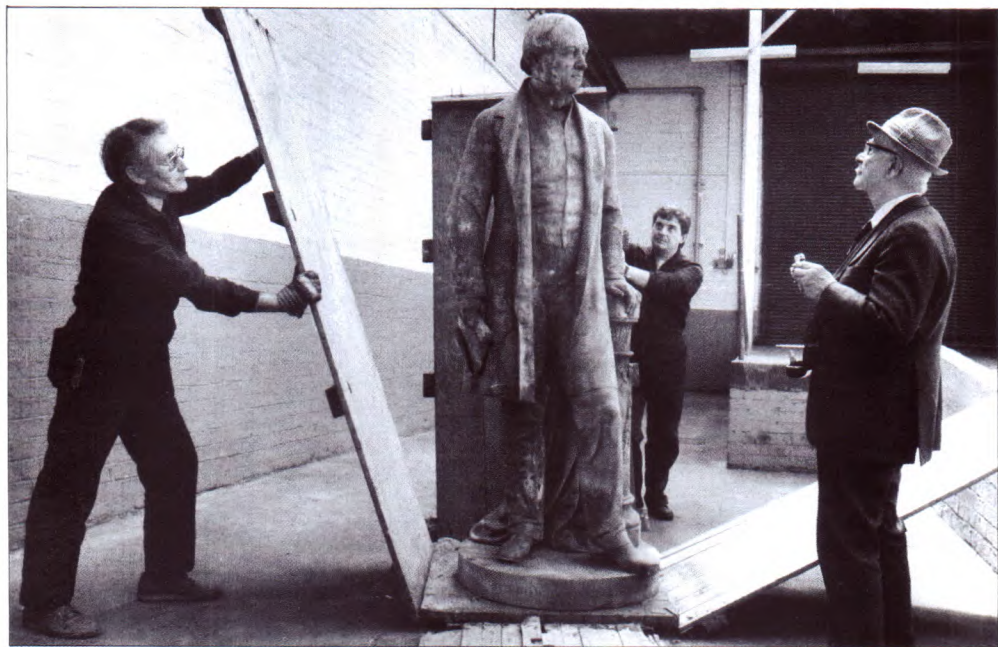
Rowland Hill Statue at Birmingham

Almost 50 years after being removed from public gaze due to the outbreak of World War II, a statue of Rowland Hill has been uncovered in Birmingham.

In 1868, the statue was commissioned by the people of Birmingham to commemorate the work of Sir Rowland Hill, who had lived and worked in the city after moving from Kidderminster, his birthplace. The statue was carved in marble by Peter Hollins and measures 9 feet in height. It was made for display in the Head Post Office in Victoria Square, Birmingham and shows Hill holding a roll of stamps in one hand and around the lower plinth is a scene showing a postman's daily work. Illustrated is the statue in its original site and when it was being uncrated on 6 May this year. *Gareth Kerr*

Capex Display at NPM

The display being provided by the National Postal Museum for the Court of Honour at Capex, the international stamp exhibition held in Toronto until 21 June, will go on show in the Museum from 8 July until the end of the month. It features material from the reign of George VI, specially researched and written up, with emphasis on artwork and essays rarely seen.



Postal Orders Redesigned

A new design of postal order was revealed on 1 June and will come into use as stocks of the old design run out at counters. It bears a new portrait of the Queen, the first time that a full-face portrait has ever appeared on postal orders. There will also be a new £20 denomination and this will be introduced on 6 July.

This first major design change since postal orders were introduced in 1881 is the work of the design firm Sedley Place Ltd in conjunction with the Post Office. The portrait is finely drawn in engraved style and is based on various photographs of the Queen supplied by the Palace. Colouring of the new postal orders is much bolder with more shading. There will be three colour categories: blue for 25p to £1; red for those from £2 to £9; and green for the £10 and £20 denominations. With the introduction of the £20 postal order (following successful trials in Scotland) there will be 19 denominations.

Postal orders with values up to £9 will have a new "ribbon" watermark in the form of a pegasus head in an alternate left/right position. The current repeat lettering PO watermark (on values of 25p to £1) will no longer be used. The £10 and £20 orders will retain the existing high value acorn/oak leaf watermark.

Cost of postal orders, over and above the denomination is 22p (up to £1), 34p (up to £10) and 51p (for the £20).

Old style postal orders will be valid for as long as stocks last. The redemption period for a postal order is 6 months.



Royal Mail Stock Books

Royal Mail stock books will go on sale from 3 August at all philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau. Approximately A4 in format they will be available in two sizes: with 8 double-sided pages, and with 32 double-sided pages. The stock books will feature double glassine interleaving, white pages and clear strips with a protective edging strip at the page margin. The smaller book comes in a hard-backed cover with single linen-hinged pages. The larger book has a padded cover and double linen-hinged pages.

Both books are attractively finished in a red cover with stylish Royal Mail gold blocking. These high quality books are priced at £6.25 for the 16 page book and £19.75 for the 64 page book.

0501 180058 NOT NEGOTIABLE 0501 180058

COUNTERFOIL **£20** **BRITISH POSTAL ORDER**

SENDER MUST FILL IN PAYEE'S NAME IN INK
PLEASE PAY

TO BE DETACHED AND KEPT
BY THE SENDER

TWENTY POUNDS
POSTAL ORDER
PAYABLE TO



TWENTY POUNDS
AT (POST OFFICE) **£20**

RECEIVED / SIGNATURE

ISSUING OFFICE
SPECIMEN
DATE STAMP

PAYING OFFICE
SPECIMEN
DATE STAMP

POSTAGE STAMPS
One or two Postage Stamps may
be added to the Postal Order
to a maximum value of nine pence,
in this space only.

New "Window" Stamp Books

4 August 1987

DAVID DALE

Five new stamp books with a radically different design go on sale at selected post offices and all philatelic counters on 4 August. To ordinary customers of the Post Office they will be promoted and sold as stamp books, but philatelists will need a term to distinguish them from the traditional stamp book and the name "window books" seems a good choice.

The purpose of the new books is to replace the existing counter books at £1.30 and £1.80 with a new product that will be more attractive to the many people who do not at present buy stamp books. One of the most significant features is that there will be books containing four as well as 10 stamps.

Some of the books are illustrated and the table lists the 10 variants of books so far produced.

The stamps are printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd. on the Chambon press with 10 panes of 10 per revolution or 20 panes of four. With PVA Dextrin gum, printing was on ACP (18p and 26p) or with the new ACP-type phosphor ink for the central phosphor band on the 13p. Only one perforating block has been used, firstly to perforate the panes of 10 and then, with the removal of some pins to perforate the fours. The main feature is a selvage surrounding each stamp pane to give the effect of small sheetlets. Cylinder numbers appear on one in five books.

Price	Stamp Contents	Cyl.No.	Bar Codes & Ref. Letters
72p	4 x 18p	B10	5014721 100012 A 5014721 200019 B
£1.80	10 x 18p	B9	5014721 100029 C 5014721 200026 D
52p	4 x 13p	B40	5014721 100036 E 5014721 200033 F
£1.30	10 x 13p	B39	5014721 100043 G 5014721 200040 H
£1.04	4 x 26p	B2	5014721 100050 I 5014721 200057 J

The covers are printed by Harrisons in three colours – red, yellow and black – on both the inside and outside. The two bands of red and yellow on the right hand side are varnished to give a shiny effect. The window through which the stamp is seen is first punched out before the cover is laminated to produce a shiny, glossy effect overall and a "pane" over the "window". The finished books are closed by a small tag at the right hand side. Overall finished sizes are 98mm x 60mm (10 stamps) and 75mm x 60mm (4 stamps).

The window books are the first stamps product to carry a bar code which appears on the back. Each of the five books has two bar code variants and these can be distinguished by the numbers which appear under the bar as well as the individual letters which are also on the back.



The front covers of two of the booklets showing the stamps through the window



UK letters and cards

up to 60g

First class 18p

Second class 13p

Europe letters and cards

up to 20g

EEC countries 18p

Non-EEC countries 22p

Worldwide postcards 26p

Overseas air letters

up to 10g

Zone A 29p N Africa, M East

Zone B 31p Americas, Africa, India, SE Asia

Zone C 34p Australasia, Japan, China

Rates above effective from 20 October 1986

The bar code on the reverse of one of the booklets, and the inside cover

Initially, the books will be on sale from the British Philatelic Bureau and all philatelic counters. An operational test market to assess customer reaction will take place in the Bristol, Nottingham, Preston and York Letter Districts, and in these areas the usual £1.30 and £1.80 stamp books will be withdrawn from sale at all except philatelic counters. The market test is expected to last for six months.

With the selvage round the stamp panes, perforation quality will no longer be a problem and so there will be no pre-selection at the British Philatelic Bureau. Philatelic counters will be instructed to sell the books unopened.

The design of the covers was by Design House Consultants, both types being illustrated, the others being similar.



Two of the panes of stamps showing the selvages



The Railway Letter Service

JOHN HOLMAN

In the November 1986 issue of the *Bulletin* I updated earlier articles under this title, giving details of new railway letter stamps issued 1983-5 and with the briefest of details of some 1986 issues. The purpose of this article is to bring the record to the end of 1986. As before I deal with the railways in alphabetical order.

Festiniog Railway

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway to goods traffic, the Railway issued three 20p stamps on 18 April. Printed se-tenant, the stamps depict: Slate Trains crossing, 1836; locomotive *Livingston Thompson*, built in 1886 and locomotive *Linda*, built in 1893. The stamps were designed by Michael Seymour and printed by Faulwood & Herbert of Brighton. On the day of issue a special railway cancel showing a horse-drawn slate waggon of 1836 was used on the railway letter stamps. Covers posted on arrival at Porthmadog Station were given a special PO handstamp showing the front of a locomotive as the central motif.

A further special railway cancel was used on 1 May on letters despatched from Blaenau Ffestiniog Station. This commemorated the naming of British Rail locomotive *Robert F. Fairlie* and features the locomotive and the famous railway engineer whose unusual "double" locomotives are still in use on the Festiniog Railway. The stamps can be obtained from the

Railway at: RLS Dept., Harbour Station, PORTHMADOG, Gwynedd LL49 9NF.

Great Central Railway

No new stamps were issued during 1986 but the Company did arrange for special covers to be carried on 26-7 July at a "Leicester Mercury Fun Weekend", the design of the covers featuring the television character Postman Pat. One cover bears the two 20p stamps of 1982, the other the two 25p stamps of 1983. Orders for the stamps and covers should be addressed to: Commercial Manager, Great Central Rly, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics LE11 1SS.

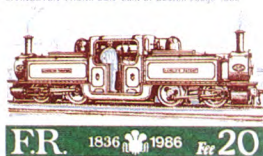
Nene Valley Railway

Very brief mention was made of this line's first issue in the November 1986 article. The Company became party to the Post Office's Railway Letter Agreement on 1 March, the first stamp being issued when the letter service started on 4 June. The 25p stamp (20p railway letter fee plus 5p towards the "Peterborough Extension Fund depicts British Railways standard class 5 locomotive No.73050 *City of Peterborough*. The stamps were designed by E. Roberts and printed in sheets of 12 by Fisherprint of Peterborough. A total of 800 sheets were produced, ie 9,600 stamps. The stamps issued to the public were perforated, gauge 11 but a few issued to the philatelic press in advance of issue were imperf.

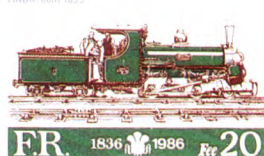
Slate trains crossing 1836



LIVINGSTON THOMPSON built at Boston Lodge 1886



LINDA built 1893



FESTINIOG RAILWAY COMPANY

0958

OPENED 20th APRIL 1836
RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS

Whitby and Pickering Railway 1836-1986 North Yorkshire Moors Railway



RAILWAY 10 LETTER



RAILWAY 20 LETTER



RAILWAY 10 LETTER

Stamps on first day covers were cancelled with the Railway's standard datestamp worded "NENE VALLEY RAILWAY/WANSFORD STATION" with the date and a representation of a silver chalice in the centre. This Romano-Christian chalice was found near the railway line and is now in the British Museum. Similar cancelling stamps will be introduced at other stations later.

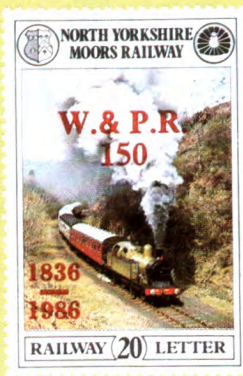
Orders/enquiries should be sent to: Nene Valley Rly, Wansford Station, Stibbington, PETERBOROUGH PE8 6LR.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Whitby & Pickering Rly, four stamps were issued on 26 May – two at 10p depicting a horse-drawn train of 1836 and a train at Pickering Station, one at 20p showing a profile of Whitby Abbey against the Railway's "wheel" logo and finally the original 20p definitive stamp of 1981 was re-issued overprinted "W. & P.R./150/1836/1986" in red. The 10p and new 20p stamps were printed se-tenant in sheets of nine by Larkfield Printing in black, blue, red, yellow and gold. The sheets bear a set of "traffic lights" in the left margin and the inscription "Whitby and Pickering Railway 1836-1986 North Yorkshire Moors Railway" in both top and bottom margins.



On 30 June Prince Edward was the guest of honour at a ceremony marking the re-opening of the line from Orton Mere Station into Peterborough. The Prince drove a train headed by locomotive *City of Peterborough* and this royal drive was featured in several national newspapers. To commemorate the royal opening a special cancel was used on railway letters on 30 June. It was circular and inscribed "N.V.R. PETERBOROUGH EXTENSION N.V.R./ROYAL OPENING" around the inside with the chalice motif and date in the centre. A further special cancel was used on 22 July, day of issue of the Royal Wedding stamps. This took the form of a lovers' knot (as used on the slogan postmark for Princess Elizabeth's wedding in 1947) with the initials "A" and "S" and the legend 22 JULY 1986/WANSFORD STATION".



On the day of issue three special railway cancels were used. The first takes the form of a first class railway ticket and was struck in brown ink. The second shows a steam locomotive-

hauled train with the station name GROS MONT struck in violet with the date added separately by a standard single-line rubber stamp. The third shows a "GR" letterbox and sheep with a steam-hauled train in the background, with the date "26th MAY 1986" contained in the smoke rings from the locomotive, struck in brown.

This line has a rather prolific stamp and cover issuing policy but the stamps are generally quite attractive and the Company operates an efficient mail-order service. Details from: G D Calvert, North Yorkshire Moors Railway Letter Service, Glenclyffe, Gros mont, WHITBY, N Yorkshire YO22 5PA.

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

Railway letters carried on the Society's special excursion trains in the Irish Republic are no longer subject to value added tax. As a result, the railway letter fee was reduced from IR£1.23 to £1.10 from 17 March 1986 when the four £1.23 stamps issued in May 1985 were issued surcharged at the lower rate. For railway letters carried in Northern Ireland the rate remains 20p and the eight stamps of this denomination, also issued in May 1985, remain in use.

In connection with various rail tours the £1.10 and 20p stamps were overprinted with the name of the tour. The £1.10 stamps were so issued overprinted "1986 WESTERN TOUR" on 11 May, the 20p stamps "RAIL TOUR/1986" on 12 May.

Further overprints on the 20p stamps were issued for the "PORTRUSH FLYER", "BANGOR BELLE" and "STEAM ENTERPRISE" on 19 July, 25 August and 6 September. In all cases the overprinting was in black and only 300 of each issue were prepared.

A Belfast to Portrush train runs most Saturdays during the tourist season, the *Steam Enterprise* Belfast to Dublin train four times in the season, the *Bangor Belle* operates a shuttle service of four trips on each of two Saturdays and the *Rail Tour* runs from Belfast to Dublin and Galway and back by a different route, a round trip of 590 miles, spread over several days. The stamps can be used on any of the relevant services.

All covers seen by the writer have the railway letter stamps cancelled with a double-ring circular datestamp worded "RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND/T.P.O./FEE PAID" with the date across the centre, struck in blue or black ink. The *Bangor Belle* cover (25 August) also bears a circular cachet showing a

railway locomotive and the inscription "BAN-GOR BELLE/BELFAST-BANGOR/BANGOR-BELFAST/R.P.S.I.".

The stamps are available from the Society's Railway Letter Agent at: Drumconvis House, Coagh, COOKSTOWN, Co Tyrone BT80 0HF.

Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway

Four new 20p stamps were issued on 19 June 1986. They feature 1930s posters showing Greatstone and Dungeness, Captain J E P Howey (founder of the railway) and the locomotive *Northern Chief*. The stamps were printed se-tenant in miniature sheet format by Stephenson Print of Prescott, Merseyside whose imprint appears in the bottom sheet margin. A locomotive design is printed in the top sheet margin. For some reason, not explained, the company charges £1 for the sheet of four 20p stamps. The attractive designs will appeal to those interested in 1930s poster design as well as to railway letter stamp and railway thematic collectors.

New oval cancelling stamps have replaced the original circular datestamps; these were introduced at Hythe, New Romney and Dymchurch stations in December 1985. A similar stamp was introduced at Dungeness in April 1983. All are normally applied in black.

The new stamps, and some earlier issues, are available from: Commercial Manager, RHDR, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8PL.

West Somerset Railway

A new 20p stamp was issued on 30 May 1986. This commemorates the 10th anniversary of the start of the re-opening of the railway and features a GWR tank locomotive No. 6412. The stamp was printed in sheets of 10 by Status Printers of Minehead, sheets perforated through all four wide margins, with colours black, brown and yellow. A total of 1,000 sheets were prepared. The Company intends withdrawing this stamp one year after issue; any unsold stock will be destroyed by burning in the firebox of the locomotive depicted. The original 20p stamp in the design of the 1891 general railway letter stamps remains on sale.

The company has used a number of special cancels. Four have been recorded in 1986 – two marking the 10th anniversary of the re-opening from Minehead to Blue Anchor (28 March) and Minehead to Williton (28 August), both depicting a locomotive. A circular datestamp inscribed "WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY/FIRST DAY



OF ISSUE" was used on 30 May when the new stamp was released. A "WEST/SOMERSET/RAILWAY/CHRISTMAS/1986" handstamp, depicting a candle and holly, was used on 18 November. A new standard circular datestamp was introduced on 20 June replacing the rectangular datestamp used since the railway letter service was introduced in May 1985.

All enquiries regarding the Company's stamps and covers should be addressed to: Railway Postmaster, West Somerset Rly, Railway Station, MINEHEAD, Somerset TA24 5BG.

No new issues were released during 1986 by the Bluebell, East Somerset, Keighley & Worth Valley, Kent & East Sussex, Llanberis Lake, Ravenglass, Talyllyn, Vale of Rheidol or Welshpool & Llanfair railways. It has been confirmed that the Mid-Hants Railway has discontinued its letter service and withdrawn the 15p stamp from sale. In the last article I mentioned an adhesive stamp issued by the Gwili Railway in Dyfed. The Company has not signed the Railway letter Agreement so its "stamp" cannot be regarded as *bona fide*. The stamp was issued in January 1985, not August as I stated last time. It is printed in yellow and green, depicts a locomotive in the centre and is inscribed "RHEILFORD GWILI/GWILI RAILWAY". It was apparently used on first day covers bearing the Post Office's Famous Trains stamps and was cancelled with a boxed handstamp worded "GWILI RAILWAY/22 JAN 1985/RAILWAY LETTER SERVICE". The writer does not have an example in his collection, and neither stamp nor cover seem to be available from the Company.

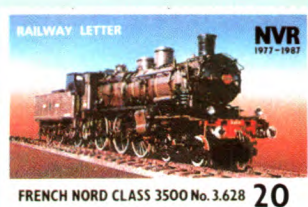
Since I penned the last article the Railway Philatelic Group has published a new (fifth)

edition of its handbook *Great Britain Railway Letter Stamps* compiled by David Potter. It covers the issues from 1957 to the end of 1985. Copies are available from the Group at: Stable Becks, Grasmere, AMBLESIDE, Cumbria, LA22 9PX, price £3.80 (postpaid UK). The catalogue was reviewed in August (page 253). Updates to the catalogue, now to be compiled by Neill Oakley, appear in the RPG's quarterly *Railway Philately*.

Orders for the stamps mentioned in this and previous articles should be sent to the relevant railway companies. Both current and many earlier issues are also available from the specialist dealer in these stamps: Harold Creamer, Swn-y-Wylan, Cae Eithin, Minffordd, PENRHYN-DEUDRAETH, Gwynedd LL48 6EL to whom the writer extends his thanks for assistance in the preparation of these notes.

Nene Valley Railway 10th Anniversary

On 1 June the Nene Valley Railway produced three 20p stamps to celebrate their 10th anniversary. They were designed by E Roberts and printed in offset by Fisherprint in sheetlets of 9 (three of each design). The stamps feature three locomotives: Swedish Class S No.1178; French Nord Class 3500 No.3.628; Battle of Britain Class - 92 Squadron. First day covers were produced for the anniversary. Information from Nene Valley Railway Ltd, Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR.



Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.14: Essays

An essay is the work an artist carries out with a view to its adoption as the finished design for a proposed postage stamp. Sometimes, the whole concept remains unadopted: sometimes minor, or even major, modifications are made before the design is finally adopted. However small the difference between the proposal and the finally issued stamp, the proposal remains an essay.

There are official and unofficial essays. The former result from commissions placed with an artist by a postal authority, or its deputed representative where philatelic agents undertake the entire production of the stamps. Unofficial essays result through private enterprise by artists who submit designs on chance. These are usually considered to be of lesser importance than official essays, unless the issued stamp in any way resembles the private effort, either because the commissioned artist has been influenced by something he has seen published unofficially, or because the Post Office brief led him to the same theme by chance.

The best known British essays are those submitted by many members of the public in response to the Treasury Competition of 1839 when the Post Office was preparing to implement Rowland Hill's scheme for a pre-paid penny post. Examples of the many weird and wonder suggestions now repose in major collections, especially those at Buckingham Palace and the National Postal Museum.

In the case of British commemorative stamps, two sets of designs have sometimes been prepared to stamp size, printed from small photogravure plates, so that the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee might compare them in the process of final selection. The unadopted designs, in this advanced state, are extremely interesting official essays which are kept securely in the archives and beyond the reach of collections who only see them on the rare occasions when they are exhibited as "might-have-beens".

The most remarkable modern British essays resulted from the Post Office and Royal Society of Arts bursary competition to encourage

minuscule design. Art students were invited to prepare a set of stamps featuring industrial archaeology. The winner was Stewart Cameron of the Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, whose designs were reproduced by Harrisons as fully-perforated photogravure stamps, complete with a denomination (5p) and the Queen's head embossed in gold, and included in the *Penrose Graphic Arts International Annual* of 1972 to illustrate an article by Stuart Rose, then Design Director of the Post Office. To avoid subsequent mis-use, each complete "stamp" in the block of 36 (containing a repetition of the four designs) was cancelled by wavy lines or part of a circular cancellation reading "PENROSE ANNUAL 1972". Each of these ungummed essays bears on the back the legend, "REPRODUCTION ONLY No Postal or Philatelic Value". Even so, examples extracted from the *Annual* find ready buyers!

New Cylinders and Plates

Recent printings of national and country definitives have taken place from the following cylinders and plates:

By Harrisons

13p National cylinder 14 (phos 41) on HS2
50p book (1st) cylinders B21 B6 B30 (phos B69) on HS2
£1.80 book cylinder B2

By Questa

5p National plates Q23, Q24
20p National plates Q7Q7/Q8Q8;
Q9Q9/Q10Q10
18p Scotland plates Q3Q3/Q4Q4
31p Northern Ireland Q5, Q6

Benhams Win Design Award

In the annual Fasson awards Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd won the premier award in their class – self-adhesive labels printed in four or more colours. This was for the design and printing of their "silk" covers, the entries having been the covers for the Flowers set and for Wisley Garden. This is the third time that Benhams have won an award, though the first they have gained the premier award. Other firms competing were Marks and Spencer, Prestige cookware, Raleigh Cycles and Silvikrin Hair products.

London Landmarks

British Special Issues: No.137

FRANCIS KENNEDY

No issue of British stamps has ever had such a distinguished designer as these five devoted to London Landmarks with royal associations.

The noted architect, Sir Hugh Casson, then President of the Royal Academy, and an outstanding artist, skilfully combined these two aspects of his talents to create some pleasingly unconventional glimpses of the London scene. Incidentally, Sir Hugh's knighthood (KCVO) is that of the Royal Victorian Order, an honour in the gift of the Monarch – a clear indication of his valuable services to the Crown. The issue was released on 7 May, 1980, the day after the opening of LONDON 1980, the international philatelic exhibition at Earls Court, London.

The view of Buckingham Palace was artfully allocated to the 10½p stamp which was then the overseas postcard rate and a certain winner among the tourists flocking to London. This stamp was an exception to the normal practice

of beginning an issue with the first class inland rate and the intention behind its issue was underlined by the extension of its general availability to three months (covering the tourist season) instead of the usual one month. The 12p, largely for inland consumption on first class letters, gave us the Albert Memorial, sideways on, a view which seems to have proved more appealing to Sir Hugh than the customary frontal approach of the picture postcard. The same unconventional approach to his subjects is evident in Sir Hugh's delicately tinted sketches of the Royal Opera House in Bow Street, Covent Garden (13½p), an unusual corner of Hampton Court (15p) and an unfamiliar aspect of Kensington Palace (17½p), now the London home of the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the royal family. Apart from the accurate delineation of the buildings, to be expected from an eminent architect, the theme of leafy London (except for Bow Street!) is carried through the issue adding a light touch of colour to a set of stamps which could have looked very dull in other hands. The Queen's head in silver (overlaid on a hidden green base for technical reasons) was not too obtrusive against the ample white space in the upper right corner of each stamp.

The history of the buildings involved ranges the centuries from the time when Cardinal Wolsey presented his palace at Hampton Court to a jealous King Henry VIII to the erection of the Albert Memorial following the Prince Consort's death in 1861. Although not universally popular, the Albert Memorial designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, is considered to represent the pinnacle of Victorian decorative architecture.

Printing was by Harrisons who captured the spirit of the original watercolours when printing in photogravure: sheets of 100 (two panes 5 x 10). Two prominent constant varieties are listed: 15p, retouched "H" of "Hampton"; 17½p, black dots near the small central window of Kensington Palace. Minor constant flaws exist on all values. Sales for this issue were: 10½p, 20,228,000; 12p, 48,242,000; 13½p, 12,557,000; 15p, 12,104,000; 17½p, 11,750,000.





Holmfirth Postcard Museum

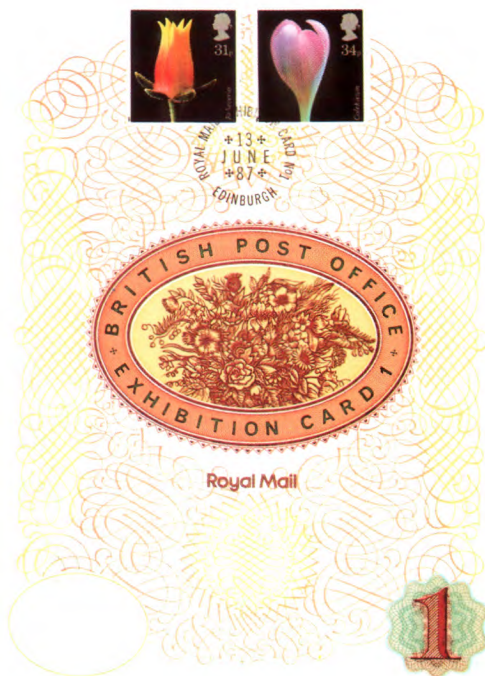
Ian McCaskill, BBC weatherman and postcard enthusiast, is shown here with Huddersfield's Head Postmaster, Arthur Walker, at the opening of Britain's only postcard museum at Holmfirth, West Yorkshire.

The Museum, based on the Holmfirth firm Bamforth's, famous for the saucy seaside postcards, also has the Kirklees postcard collection of 30,000 cards, the gift of American collector Major Robert Scherer, former curator of the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia.

Sited in the Museum's foyer is a permanent display depicting the history and development of postcards issued by the Post Office and a Victorian pillar box.

Exhibition Card

The exhibition card which was first put on sale on 13 June is illustrated here. Last month details were given as to printing and availability. Cost is £1 and, as shown here, it can be obtained from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon St., EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.



Gems of the R M Phillips Collection

147. The Early Letterpress Era

Essays by Hooper which formed part of the 1879 tender by McCorquodale for the printing of the new 1d stamp. These were not acceptable and the contract went to De La Rue.

These items can be seen in Frame 32 of the open display of the R M Phillips collection at the National Postal Museum during normal hours – 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4.00pm on Fridays.



Heraldry Covers

The following are some of the commercial covers being prepared for the Scottish Heraldry issue of 21 July.

Queens School, Rheindahlen. Marking the last day of Queens School a Forces cover is being produced. The cancellation will feature the Queens School lion. Bearing the full set of Heraldry stamps the cover costs £3 and is available from the Headmaster, Queens School Rheindahlen, BFPO 40, with cheques made payable to Queens School Rheindahlen.

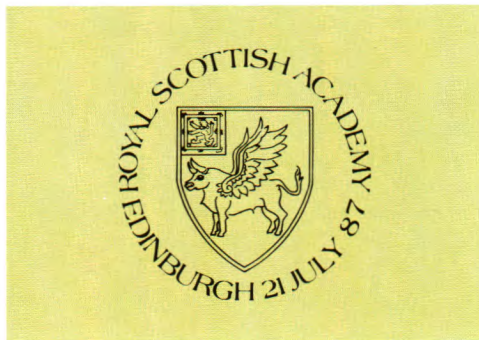
National Trust for Scotland. A set of four covers is being published showing the coats of arms of the Duke of Atholl, the Earl of Elgin, Burnett of Leys and Irvine of Drum. The four postmarks are from each of the family seats. Cost is £3.50 each cover (£14 a set of four, £5.50 each signed). A £2 donation goes to the National Trust for Scotland. They are available from Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Westcliffe House, Folkestone CT20 1SZ.



Mary Queen of Scots. Marking the 400th anniversary of the death of Mary, Queen of Scots a cover is being produced with a hand-stamp at Fotheringhay, Peterborough. Cost is £4.25 with the full set of stamps (£7.50 signed, £2.25 single stamp). Orders to A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, Leicester LE2 6GL (overseas add 50p).



Royal Scottish Academy. On the 31p stamp are the arms of the Royal Scottish Academy and a cover is being produced for this with a larger version of the arms as an illustration. With that stamp only the cover costs £2.45 (complete set £4.75, signed £8) from CoverCraft, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.



Scottish Heraldry Cylinders

The cylinder numbers and colours printed of the Scottish Heraldry stamps to be issued on 21 July are as follows:

18p

Black 1A	Lemon 1B	Scarlet 1C	Blue 1D	Deep green 1E	Slate 1F	Brown 1G
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22p

Black 1A	Greenish yellow 1B	Carmine 1C	New blue 1D	Deep green 1E	Grey 1F	Lake brown 1G
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31p

Black 1A	Greenish yellow 1B	Scarlet 1C	New blue 1D	Dull green 2E	Grey 1F	Grey- black 1G
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34p

Black 1A	Greenish yellow 1B	Scarlet 1C	Deep ultra- marine 1D	Dull green 1E	Grey 1F	Yellow- brown 1G
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BPF Congress 1988 at Liverpool

The British Philatelic Federation is holding its 70th Congress at the University of Liverpool between Thursday and Sunday 22-25 September, 1988. The Liverpool Philatelic Society will be hosting the event in its centenary year.

The venue will be Camatic House with accommodation at the nearby Dale Hall. "Philatelic Exhibitions" will be the theme of Congress and a prospectus will be published early next year.

Letters to the Editor



150th Anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, 1980

Sir,

I was pleased to see the article by Francis Kennedy in the May *Bulletin*.

Although the rudimentary couplings between the vehicles forming the train were depicted on this set of stamps, it is of interest to note that no connection whatsoever was shown between the locomotive and its tender! There should, of course, have been a coupling bar and a flexible water hose. Another surprising omission from this otherwise excellent stamp was any form of springing on the locomotive.

These features figure prominently in the Science Museum drawing of Stephenson's *Rocket* as reproduced in the Museum's booklet *The British Railway Locomotive 1803 - 1853* published by HMSO in 1958, and which I had hitherto assumed to have been the basis for the illustration used on the stamp.

Spalding

J L SLATER

Stamp Fading

Sir,

How intriguing to see the faded 10p stamp in Aubrey Walker's article in the May *Bulletin* (Postage Stamps, the Pursuit of Quality, page 196).

I did some stamp fading using the long daylight hours of Shetland in 1979 and produced some rather dramatic results. Whilst some stamps appeared to be unaffected, some changed colour and some lost almost all their picture.

The most significant colour losses were seen in the 2½p (magenta), 6p, 8p, 10½p (yellow) and 11p, and major colour changes were seen in the 7p (purple-brown) and 50p, but my stamps were subjected to many days of daylight – hardly “normal” treatment!

It would be very interesting to know more about the tests that the Post Office carries out for colour stability and what criteria they adopt. May I suggest that this be the subject for a future article?

Aberdeen

M F LANGHURST

We shall certainly try to have an article on colour in the not too distant future. Ed.

258

Mary, Queen of Scots Aerogramme

Sir,

I must protest at the caption on the Mary, Queen of Scots aerogramme showing the ruins of Fotheringhay Castle as “near Kettering”. The postal address is *Peterborough* and there has always been a close relationship between the village and Peterborough. The Vicar there is a Canon of Peterborough Cathedral and, most importantly, Mary was buried from Fotheringhay in Peterborough Cathedral on 1 August 1587. I have seen a copy of the print in the Falcon Inn at Fotheringhay and it bears no reference to Kettering!

Peterborough

GEORGE E DIXON



“In Days Gone By ...”

Sir,

I was most interested in the stamp “cut ups” as shown on page 184 of the April *Bulletin*.

Enclosed please find a photograph of a “cut up” made by an uncle of mine at camp during World War I (about 1914 or 1915). The parrot “contains” the following: Canada (Queen Victoria and King George V definitives with perfins); Netherlands; U S A; Denmark; Great Britain; and Netherlands.

Further to Mr Griffin's letter on page 210 of

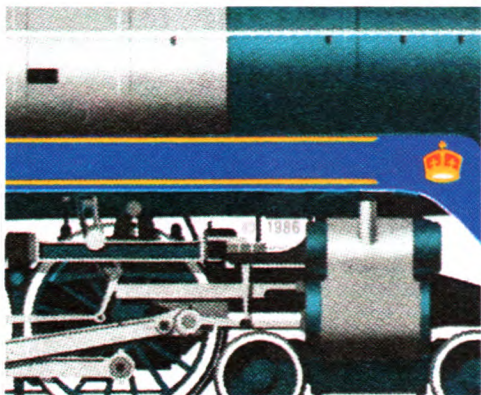
the May issue (Year Dates), I for one (and a great many others in Canada) get a kick out of trying to find the hidden dates on our Canadian stamps. Examples are illustrated.

West Hill, Ontario

GR MACKIE



CP Class H1c 4-6-4 type / CP class H1c type 4-6-4



Sherlock Holmes

Sir,

Unfortunately, I only find time usually to glance through the *Bulletin* when received. However, I must congratulate Guy Averill on his splendid article "Did You Remark the Postmarks?" (June issue). His research and knowledge of Sherlock Holmes was most illuminating.

I hope one day to hear "...a policeman's whistle, the hiss of steam from a train, the clatter of a hansom cab and a ghostly voice echoing: 'Come Watson, the game's afoot'".

Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria

MR W BERRY

Commemorative Covers

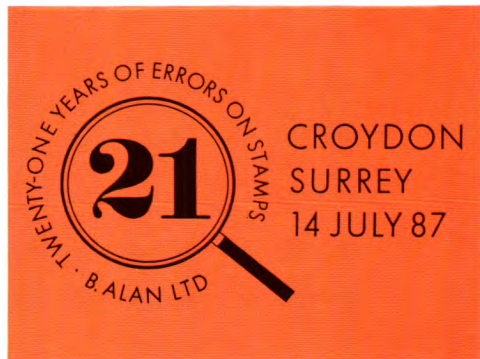
Euston Station. To mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of Euston Station on 20 July 1837 a cover bearing the 31p Famous Trains stamp will be used on 20 July. Costing £2.50 the covers will be carried on the InterCity Royal Scot express from Glasgow to London (Euston) on that day. Orders to CoverCraft (Euston 150), PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.



Wales Pre-school Playgroups Association.

Celebrating the launch of the association a cover will be posted on 4 July at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. With a special postmark, the covers will also be available from Wales P P A Cymru, 2A Chester Street, Wrexham Clwyd LL13 8BD (no price stated).

B Alan Ltd. To mark their 21st anniversary, B Alan Ltd, the stamp dealers specialising in errors, are having a special cover on 14 July. The cancellation was designed by David Gentleman and will be used on a 17p Royal Wedding stamp. Covers are available at £1.50 (plus 35p postage and packing) from B Alan Limited, 184 Portland Road, LONDON SE25 4QB.



July Digest

Issued in July

- 7 July **Scottish Heraldry PHQ cards**
(Nos 103 A-D) 15p each
- 14 July **Stamp books: Brighter Writer**
£1.80 (10 x 18p ACP) left and right
£1.30 (10 x 13p 1PB) left and right
Cricket: 50p machine-vended (2 x 18p 2PB, 1 x 13p 1PB, 1 x 1p 1PB)
Botanical Gardens: 50p machine-vended (3 x 13p 1PB, 2 x 5p 1PB, 1 x 1p 1PB)
Sherlock Holmes: £1 machine-vended (5 x 18p 2PB, 1 x 13p 1PB)
- 21 July **Scottish Heraldry stamps** 18p, 22p, 31p, 34p
designer: Jeffery Matthews
printing: Harrisons, photogravure, 34.7mm x 34.7mm, perf. 14½, printed on unwatermarked phosphor-coated paper in sheets of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum.
Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp – Rothessay
presentation pack: £1.27

Withdrawn in July

- 14 July **Sports issue** – all items
21 July **Royal Wedding** – all items
28 July **July 1986 stamp books**

Irish Postal History Unit Opens

A special Irish postal history unit is being set up at Belfast's Ulster Museum and phase 1 is being opened officially on 6 July. The collection will include items relating to telegraphs and Post Office savings as well as philatelic material and articles from counters and sorting offices. It will be housed in some 400 sq. ft. of the Museum and has been created with assistance from Post Office Archives and the National Postal Museum.

Robert Heslip, Assistant Curator of Local History, is shown here cataloguing items including maps, handstamps, seals and caps. He has been doing research into the postal history of Ireland to provide a resource for study, concentrating where possible on information and items specifically from Northern Ireland. It is

intended to extend the exhibition to include a mock-up of a Victorian post office counter in phase two, planned to open in 1988.

The Ulster Museum is situated in the Stranmillis Road in the Botanic Gardens in Belfast.

The Northern Ireland Post Office Board has endowed a three-year research studentship for the study of Post Office history in Ireland. This will be a full-time post for a student to work in conjunction with the Ulster Museum, the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University, Belfast and the Public Records Office, Northern Ireland, to gather together records for a report which would be an archive of Post Office history in Ireland.



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