

BRITISH *PHILATELIC*

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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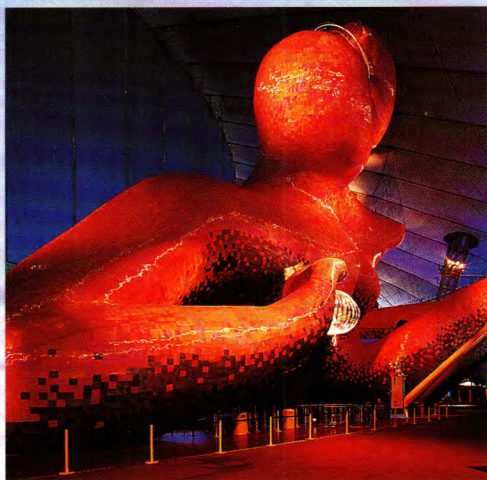
SEPTEMBER 2000 • 85P

Bulletin

Northern Ireland's country stamps • The post on Islay

This month: previewing the next in Royal Mail's series of issues for the Millennium

The Body and Bone issue will go on sale on 3 October



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The Millennium Dome's Body Zone and the Bath Spa Project are featured on two of the Body and Bone stamps, previewed on page 16.

The Body Zone, Niall Clutton/Arcaid; swimmer, Getty One Stone

Correction A technical error caused the omission of two lines of text from pages 368-69 of the August *Bulletin*. The caption to the Wildscreen at Bristol stamp is missing 'visitors to study insects in detail and', and the Millennium Point caption is missing 'science and technology. Visitors will'. Our apologies for the resulting confusion.

Issues Note some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Lombard Street and Trafalgar Square) Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

4 September

Issue 1st and 2nd class NVI self-adhesive stamps in sheets of 100, printed by Questa and Walsall respectively.

5 September

Issue Millennium Mind and Matter stamps and presentation pack; retail stamp book containing Millennium definitive and 1st class Stone & Soil and Tree & Leaf stamps.

18 September

Issue Treasury of Trees prestige stamp book.

20 September

Withdrawal World Changers prestige stamp book and special retail book containing definitives and Millennium Farmers' Tale stamps.

26 September

Issue Millennium Body and Bone stamp cards.

29 September

Withdrawal 38p & 64p N Ireland stamps, 64p Scotland and Wales stamps; Country pack containing 20p, 26p, 37p & 63p stamps.

30 September

Withdrawal Millennium Stadium Cardiff aerogramme

1 October

Withdrawal Rugby World Cup label book (and unfolded pane) and 1999 Christmas stamp books.

3 October

Issue Millennium Body and Bone stamps and presentation pack.

3 October

Issue 2000 Christmas airletter (aerogramme).

13 October

Withdrawal 1999 Christmas aerogramme.

31 October

Issue Millennium Spirit and Faith stamp cards.

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address as above) UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright is attributed to a specific author, any articles or features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be addressed to the Editor, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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Stamp scene Collect 2000 • Glasgow 2000 • Stampex • Societies • Cavendish auction

Collect 2000 hours

9 Sept preview	10.00-11.00
9 Sept	11.00-18.00
10 Sept	10.00-16.00

Admission Saturday preview £10. Adults £4, senior citizens and children over 14 £3, accompanied children under 14 free.

Collect 2000 Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles will be attending Collect 2000 at Wembley Exhibition Centre on 9 and 10 September. Following the success at Stamp Show 2000 we are taking the RM Collectibles Stand as first seen there. Products on sale will comprise Collectors Club merchandise including pencil cases, notebook, Sammy T-shirts, bookmarks, A5 album box; Postman Pat products including back pack, van, sticker book, Tell the Time book, Colour Me and Postman Pat T-shirts and jigsaws. Ceramic products bear images of the 1989 RSPCA, 1951 George & Dragon, 1929 Postal Union Congress £1, 1924 British Empire Exhibition 1924, and 1913 Seahorse high value stamps. Other collectibles include Penny Black cufflinks, ear-rings, necklace, ties, model vans, posters, and books.

The show, organised by Stanley Gibbons, attracted over 9000 visitors in 1999. There will be free car-parking, and over 300 stands including stamp and postal history dealers. Corgi will be launching a new limited edition •

Glasgow 2000 hours

17 Nov	11.00-18.00
18 Nov	10.00-17.00
19 Nov	11.00-16.00

Enquiries: 0141 849 7375, or visit <http://home.freeuk.net/johnmorgan/glas2000.htm>.

Glasgow 2000 The third national exhibition promoted by the Association of British Philatelic Societies will be held at the Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre, Glasgow, 17-19 November. Some of the attractions will be: postal history exhibition (invited and competitive displays), exhibit from the Royal Philatelic Collection, inter-federation competition, general and local interest exhibits, youth activities, seminars and workshops, dealers, and entertainment •

Autumn Stampex hours

20 Sept	12.00-19.00
21-23 Sept	10.30-18.00
24 Sept	10.30-16.00

The Business Design Centre is a short walk from Angel underground station (Northern line).

Admission £3 on the first day, £1 other days. A free ticket was enclosed in last month's *Bulletin*, and further tickets are available through philatelic societies. Contact Stampex, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT or phone 020 7490 1005 for details.

PTS website www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk.

Autumn Stampex organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre Islington, London N1 from 20-24 September.

Numerous dealers, about one-fifth from overseas, will satisfy collectors' needs for stamps, covers, accessories or literature. Full details of the dealers attending will be found on the PTS website, address opposite.

Royal Mail will be present selling its full range of stamps and philatelic products. Covers posted at the stand will receive the exhibition handstamp; this is also available by sending covers, with 1st class postage, to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, requesting Stampex handstamp and stating date(s) required. Covers should be posted not later than the date of the handstamp required.

There will be a stand for the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum and David Harrop will be showing part of his collection of artefacts from the Manchester Postal Museum.

The British Philatelic Trust will be organising and sponsoring the National Competitions where you can see some of the best British collections on display, covering traditional philately, postal history, thematic, aerophilately, and literature. The younger collectors will have the British Youth Championships, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, and the Stamp Active competitions, sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions.

The National Youth Stamp Group will be at the exhibition with many activities for young collectors including the now very popular stamp auction on the Saturday. A programme of activities can be organised for any school wishing to bring a group of children along during the week – contact Anne Dummer on 01536 519959.

Following in the Stampex tradition of showing something 'different', Robert Danzig will display part of his collection of novelty money boxes, built up over 15 years with much searching of brick-a-brack and antique fairs. The first money boxes in the shape of a pillar box arrived in 1897, and were manufactured for biscuit companies such as Dunmores and the A1 Biscuit Company. Since then many toy manufacturers have seen the pillar box as an ideal shape for a money box and have produced many different styles and designs. The collection shows a representation of many of these types together with some novelty pillar boxes for vestas (matches), buttons, chocolates, fumigating ribbon, etc.

Every day 50 lucky visitors will find one of the £5 vouchers which will be given away in the customised wallet along with the show catalogue. Five lucky winners drawn daily from the entry tickets will receive £50 in vouchers to spend at the next Stampex •



Astro Space Stamp Society The Society, in association with the Crown Agents, offers winners the complete GB official souvenir obsolete covers set which commemorated the bicentenary of the mutiny on the *Bounty*. The covers bear the four Greenwich Meridian stamps of 1984 cancelled by a special Mutiny on the Bounty Greenwich postmark of 28 April 1989.

To win one of these sets answer this question: How many of the astronauts who landed on the Moon are still alive? Include your name, address and date and send to: Astro Space Stamp Society (Dept BPB/Astronauts), 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE. Every entrant receives a Crown Agents mint stamp set – please include an A4-size SAE (UK) or four international reply coupons (outside UK). Entries should arrive by 31 October •



Welsh Philatelic Society Members of the Society came from all over the UK to the annual weekend at Plas Tan Y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd in June. The Egg Cup Competition (restricted to three sheets in five minutes) included a variety of displays with the emphasis on fun. The winner Ted Bennett invited his audience to join in serenading 'Oh Oh Antonio' as well as showing postcards to illustrate the song. There was a successful auction on Saturday followed by a short AGM and guest speaker John Holman who showed some of his extensive collection of British Private Posts. Members were amazed at the variety of material including island and railway letter stamps, bus parcel labels and private Christmas stamps. In the evening the

Membership is £6 (£4 senior citizens, £2 juniors). Details available from: Paul Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX. Report from Marion Turner

ladies joined together to give a display which provided a cross section of postal history, stamps, covers and postcards. One Sunday member Neil Prior gave a display entitled 'Wales and the Welsh' – a mixture of old and modern stamps and ephemera covering every aspect of Welsh life, language, culture and social activity. Several dealers were in attendance and members spent time looking through their stocks and acquiring new items. All had plenty of time to chat and enjoy the good food and drink which accompanied these weekends. *Report from Marion Turner.*

The next meeting will be in Bangor on 7 October when two members will display Postal History and Postage Dues. The Society promotes the collecting and study of Welsh postal history but members have a wide range of interests including stamps, covers, postcards and ephemera. Meetings are held all over Wales, a journal is published and auctions held •

Steven Scott FDC Catalogue

Price £6.95 plus £1 postage from Steven Scott, 79 Strand, London WC2R 0DE. Contains a number of colour illustrations of some of the most attractive covers.

New publications Steven Scott, stamp and cover dealer of London, has recently published *The Steven Scott 'Official' First Day Cover Catalogue*. This defines official covers as 'where as individual/club/business has paid for the sponsorship of a special handstamp via Royal Mail for use on a specific date(s) and also prepared an illustrated commemorative envelope or other item to specifically accompany the postmark they have paid for.' The listings cover the years 1971 to 1999, giving the date, producer, postmark used, cover reference (if any shown on cover), the current value, number issued (estimates in some cases), issue price and notes – details of cover design, size, etc. The growth of 'official' covers over the years is clear – the list for 1971 occupies just half-a-page; that for 1999 amounts to 11½ pages! Some of the early covers are now costly •

Enquiries Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Telephone 01425 472363.

The 2001 edition of Part 1 of the 22-part Stanley Gibbons Catalogue is scheduled for publication on 6 October. This lists stamps of GB and the British Commonwealth. Volume 1 covers GB and countries A-I, Volume 2 countries J-Z. The 2001 edition of *Stamps of the World* will be published 22 September (Vol 1 Countries A-F), 27 October (G-X) and 1 December (O-Z) •

Dr Wm E Souder Requests for copies of his report should be addressed to: 315 Blooming Acres Lane, Gurley, AL 35748, USA, enclosing US \$3 for postage.

Professor Wm E Souder of the University of Alabama in Huntsville has recently produced a detailed report *One More Time: Are Stamps Safe in Plastic?* He writes: An undisciplined debate is raging over the safety of plastic products for storing and displaying collectible postage stamps. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics in particular have been subject to much unscientific criticism. The comprehensive results reported here indicate that modern PVC plastics are safer than previously suggested. The plastics industry owes collectors a professional resolution of the confusion generated by this safety debate. His report is a detailed scientific study, listing some 48 references in scientific and philatelic publications, which will be of interest to all collectors concerned about this matter •

Maurice Tanner 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA.

Postcards for charity Maurice Tanner would like to dispose of various small quantities of postcards to any charity organisation willing to collect. Readers or organisations should write to him on official letterhead notepaper together with contact name and phone number •

George Crabb Collection for auction Cavendish Philatelic Auctions will auction the Military Postal History, Russia, and British Postal History & Ephemera collections of the late George Crabb of Surrey in October. Mr Crabb had collected for some 60 years and was well-known as the co-author (with Alastair Kennedy) of the definitive work *The Postal History of the British Army in the First World War, Before and After, 1903-27* (1977). The British Postal and Social History collection ranges from Royal and Parliamentary mail through the history of banking, the GWR, machine cancels and the PO Savings Bank, to revenues, prisons, and the parcel post plus Crabb's principal studies of London (6 albums), Surrey (5) and the Isle of Wight (20). Handbook catalogues for this exceptional auction will be available from late September •

Enquiries Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, 153 London Rd., Derby DE1 2FJ. Telephone 01332 250970.

Royal Mail news New stamp books • Books going off sale • Christmas airletter

Forthcoming stamp books A £2.70 stamp book containing a pane of eight Millennium definitives and a pane of one 1st class Stone & Soil stamp and one 1st class Tree & Leaf stamp will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, philatelic outlets and selected post offices from 5 September. The book has been printed by Walsall; previous printings of the Stone & Soil and Tree & Leaf stamps were by Enschedé and De La Rue respectively.

A new prestige book, entitled *Treasury of Trees*, containing Millennium definitives, Welsh country stamps and stamps from the Stone & Soil (4 July) and Tree & Leaf (1 August) sets will be issued on 18 September, price £7. Details of the five stamp panes were given in last month's *Bulletin*. The book, printed by the Walsall Security Printers, yields new printings of the Millennium stamps. The 65p Stone & Soil stamp in sheets was printed by Joh Enschedé, and the 2nd, 45p and 65p Tree & Leaf stamps in sheets were by De La Rue •

The cylinder number for 1st class Millennium definitives is W1.

Going off sale The World Changers prestige book issued last September will be withdrawn from philatelic sale on 20 September. The book, price £6.99, contains perforation varieties on the following stamps: Inventors' Tale 63p P 13¹/₂ × 14 (SG 2072a), and Scientists' Tale 26p and 44p P 14¹/₂ × 14 (SG 2103a, 2104a). For specialist collectors, the phosphor bands on the 1p, 19p and 26p definitives are somewhat wider than the bands on the same stamps printed by Questa in the now obsolete £1 book.

Also to be withdrawn on 20 September is the special retail book containing 1st xvi definitives and a pane of two 26p Farmers' Tale stamps (listed as SG no 2108a in the *GB Concise* catalogue). The book costs £2.68.

Going off sale on 1 October will be the book containing four 1st class definitives and the Rugby World Cup label, also the unfolded pane, price £1.08 each. The Rugby aerogramme, issued with the book on 1 October 1999, will be withdrawn on 30 September •

35th Anniversary This month Paul Burnett, Print Co-ordinator for Stamps & Collectibles, celebrates 35 years with the Post Office, having joined the then GPO Press Office at the time of issue of the Battle of Britain stamps. He moved on to the Print Section in the early 1970s and has been involved with the *Bulletin* since 1975 working with successive editors from Archie Page to John Holman. Based in the Stamp Design & Security Print section, Paul has come across most of the stamp designers of the past 25 years and has dealt with all the printers of Royal Mail stamps, presentation packs, stamp cards, yearbooks and other philatelic products. The high quality of the finished product, including this *Bulletin*, is due in no small part to his expertise in printing techniques and capabilities. He still jokes that he is just here temporarily while he decides what career to follow! ●

Christmas airletter This year's Christmas airletter will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 3 October, price 49p. Designed by Glazer Limited of London using illustrations by Lieve Cornil, it features illuminated manuscript imagery inspired by the Lindisfarne Gospels, with text from the Roman Catholic Mass for Christmas Day. The 1999 Christmas aerogramme will be withdrawn from philatelic sale on 13 October ●

Bulletin back issues At Stamp Show 2000 an anonymous reader handed in a near complete run of the *Bulletin* from September 1965 to November 1972 at the Royal Mail stand. This run will be sent to the sender of the first postcard drawn on 13 October. Send your name and address on the reverse of a postcard to: Back Issues Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ ●

Bureau move Readers are reminded that the British Philatelic Bureau has now moved from 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh to: British Philatelic Bureau, Freepost EH3647, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE. The UK customer telephone number remains 08457 641 641, the fax number has changed to 0131 316 7337, and the e-mail address is: british.philatelic.bureau@dial.pipex.com ●

Special draw Win a £10 Britannia definitive



The £10 Britannia definitive will be withdrawn from philatelic sale at the end of the year. This is Britain's highest denomination postage stamp.

We have blocks of four for the senders of the first two postcards drawn on 6 October. Ten runners-up will be sent first day covers bearing the stamp. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to: Britannia Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ ●

Postal services on Islay By Colin Peachey of the British Postmark Society



ISLAY OFFERS MUCH to the holidaymaker, with sandy bays and quiet villages, flat areas of peat, and hilly areas for the walker and bird spotter. Fishing is popular, both trout and salmon as well as sea fishing, there are golf courses and, probably most well-known of all, are the half-dozen or so distilleries which spread the names of Islay, Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Bruichladdich, worldwide more than any other feature of the island.

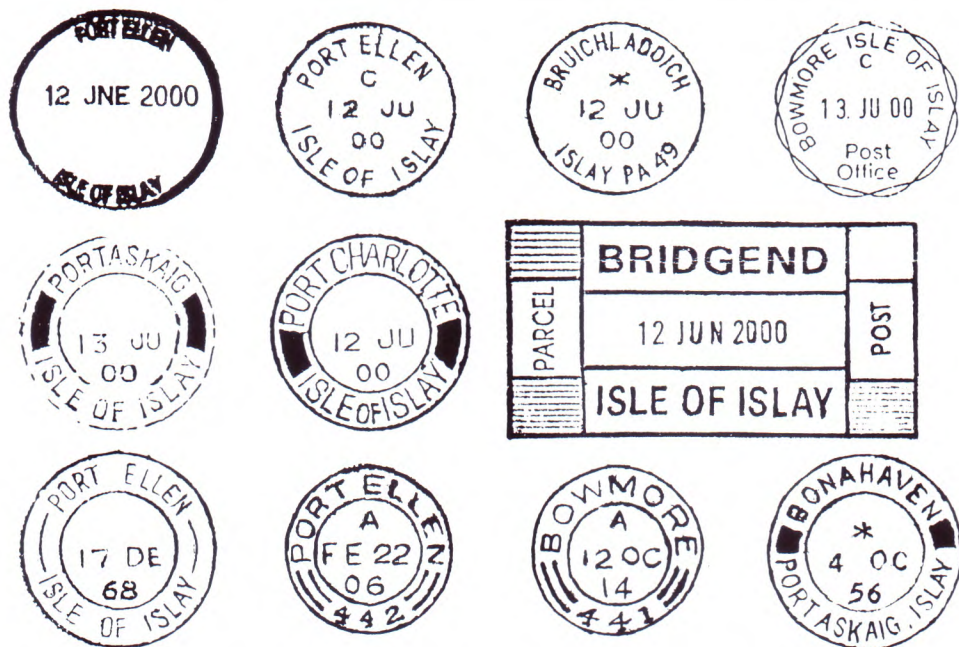
The postal history of the island goes back over 200 years but I will here concentrate on modern times, having recently visited the island and all its 8 current post offices. Port Ellen is the hub of the island's mail operation, and until recently a Krag machine there was used to stamp the island's outward mail. As so often recently, concentration has changed this and mail is now despatched for postmarking and sorting at Glasgow. The mail is despatched by air (except parcels which go by ferry), and I saw the mail being unloaded at the airport, which is on the site of a wartime seaplane base. This is at about 4.30pm each day prior to the arrival of the evening flight to Glasgow. I saw mail being unloaded from the morning plane (there are normally two Loganair flights per day – Loganair runs under a British Airways franchise and planes carry BA livery, as shown above) which arrives around 9.50am. This, however, is only a small part of the incoming mail, the majority being transported by ferry having come by road from Glasgow in time to link with the first Caledonian MacBrayne morning ferry, arriving at Port Ellen around 9.30am.

The Isle of Islay, some 25 miles by 20 in size, is the most southerly of the Hebridean islands, and lies west of the Mull of Kintyre, normally reached by a ferry service from the mainland or by air. The island is steeped in history as settlers and conquerors over time have left their mark, from the Iron Age to the Vikings, the clans, the clearances and the world wars. In Kildalton and Oa, to the south of the island, standing stones, forts, deserted villages and chapels all aid in tracing the story of the island. Above, Machir Bay, on the west coast.



REMEMBER to use the POST CODE!

Port Ellen's newly-acquired cancelling machine, introduced earlier this year, is used for local mail only. This illustration is taken from the British Postmark Society's April 2000 Quarterly Bulletin, where I first reported use of this new machine.



Top two rows, from top left: a Port Ellen packet handstamp used only on local mail; a Port Ellen counter handstamp with four from other offices on the island; and a modern parcel postmark.

Bottom row: four 20th century postmarks from the 'good old days' when mail was stamped at the individual office. Among these is Bonahaven (shown as Bunnahabhainn on the OS map), a village where the post office closed in 1987, while a couple of other village post offices closed in the 1970s.

As with so many towns throughout the country, the post office counter has been separated from the sorting office, and in the case of Port Ellen this is now in separate premises about 100 yards away, having moved earlier this year. One of the counter handstamp postmark is shown above, with four from other offices on the island. These of course are normally only to be found on certificates of posting or on Special Delivery letters.

Three postbus services run on the island and provide about half of the island's bus services. One of these was Scotland's 25th service and gave rise to a special postmark when it was introduced in 1973. The three services are known as 'Bowmore', 'Portnahaven' and 'Port Askaig' but the timetable for each is quite complex (Royal Mail publishes timetables free of charge) and entails, for example, the Bowmore service arriving at Port Askaig and all three visiting Port Ellen. At about 10 each morning all three also meet at Bowmore (see opposite). For the purist let me add that 4 vehicles are used to service the three routes. All are currently LDV minibuses: three are 10-seater LDV Pilots and one is a larger 15-seater LDV Convoy. One of the island's postbus tickets is shown opposite. Each route has a 'Setright' machine which prints the tickets in violet ink, but the results are not brilliant and this specimen (from the Bowmore route) I have had to 'improve' to show it here. A number of these machines are used on Scottish postbus routes, though 'anonymous' printed coloured tickets, from which the route is not identifiable, are more common overall.

At Port Charlotte is a fascinating museum, housed in the old church, and naturally this covers all aspects of the island's history, including a reconstruction of an island school, stories of island residents involved in

-0.040 S 720 62

09 JAN 00

6575

Royal Mail Letters
Postbus Service

Above left, a Bowmore route postbus ticket: 6575 is the Setright machine number, and 720 is the ticket number. The value, 0.40, is at top left with the date below.

Above, the three postbuses meeting at Bowmore. Left, a postbus just leaving the post office at Portnahaven, one of the prettiest villages on the island.

the world wars as well as postcards of villages on the island just to mention three topics. I noted a St Kilda 'mailboat' on display, and while this was not one of the originals made from a sheep's stomach and thrown into the sea off St Kilda but a 1970s wooden replica, it was genuinely 'posted' at St Kilda and was later found at Laggan Bay (near the airport) on Islay.

The neighbouring island of Jura deserves a mention. This island is quite different, is of similar size but with a population of a few hundred, and only one distillery! The famous 'Paps of Jura' mountains are visible from Islay and the mainland. The island is reached by a short 'ferry hop' from Port Askaig, which is where I saw that the mail from Castlebay (Jura's only post office in modern times) had arrived by midday, presumably by ferry and in time for the despatch from Port Askaig at 2pm daily, which in turn of course is carried by postbus to Port Ellen thence by air as I have already described. Jura once had three post offices, but this is now reduced to one¹.

As for Islay's mail deliveries, in broad terms the incoming mail is delivered daily to villages by the postbuses from about 10am to midday then individual delivery to houses takes place chiefly during the afternoon. All in all a pretty good service for an island out in the Atlantic!

For further reading collectors are referred to the two excellent James Mackay books detailed opposite, the second containing details and dates of all Scottish post offices.² Post offices of Islay and the other Scottish islands are also listed (with dates of operation) in chapter 17 of 'the postmark collector's bible', *Collect British Postmarks* (7th edition), by Dr J T Whitney and edited by Brian Crookes and myself, and which I am pleased to add was awarded a Large Silver medal at Stamp Show 2000 •



For the postal history of Islay, see reference 1 below. In this book is shown the postmark of Port Ellen RAFPO, a short-lived office (1943-45), presumably the seaplane base on the site of the current airport.

References

¹ *Islay, Jura and the other Argyll Islands* (Islands Postal History Series No 10) by James A Mackay, 1979

² *Scottish Post Offices* by James A Mackay, 1989



Hampden Park and SCRAN James Mackay



Two of the stamps in the Millennium series with Scottish subjects are the Edinburgh-based SCRAN Internet project (65p in the Mind and Matter set of 5 September) and Hampden Park, Glasgow (1st class in the Body and Bone set of 3 October).

Hampden Park In a city like Glasgow which has produced an astonishing array of architects and engineers of world rank, from Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Alexander 'Greek' Thomson to Sir William Arrol (who built the Forth Bridge,

Tower Bridge, London and the Chain Bridge in Budapest, among other achievements), the name of Archibald Leitch (1866-1939) may not be so well known; but he was both architect and engineer, and combined extraordinary talents in both fields to become the doyen of football construction. He was responsible for the stands of the Old Firm – Rangers and Celtic – but without doubt his greatest masterpiece was the mighty Hampden Park Stadium on the slopes of Mount Florida on the south side of Glasgow, laid out in 1903. This was by far the largest and most technically advanced stadium in the world and was immediately adopted as Scotland's National Stadium.

The choice of the ground belonging to Queen's Park FC was singularly appropriate for this club had, from its inception, played a leading role in establishing the national game. On 9 July 1867 'a group of gentlemen met for the purpose of starting a football team' and because they played on ground at Queen's Park that became the name of the club. Queen's Park was, in fact, the very first football club in Scotland.

This was less than four years after the Football Association was founded in London and in the early formative period of the FA Queen's Park had a high profile. When the first FA Challenge Cup competition took place in 1871, it involved 13 clubs from the London area, one in Lincolnshire – and Queen's Park, Glasgow. Scotland's premier club had already built up a formidable reputation, having never conceded a goal, far less lost a match. In

tells the story behind two Millennium stamps

the inaugural contest they reached the semi-final and drew 0-0 with Wanderers but had to withdraw as they could not afford the costs of returning to London for the replay. However, Queen's Park took the lead in forming the Scottish Football Association, which had its inaugural meeting at Glasgow in March 1873. Queen's Park won the Scottish FA Cup in the first three years, and conceded their first goal in the semi-final when they lost to Vale of Leven in the contest of 1877.

Meanwhile, it was Queen's Park which threw down the gauntlet on Scotland's behalf and challenged England to come to Glasgow for a full-blown international, which took place at the West of Scotland Cricket Ground on St Andrew's Day 1872, when Queen's Park drew 0-0 with the English national team.

Over the next three decades Queen's Park provided many of Scotland's top international players. In the early years it played at several grounds on the south side of Glasgow before leasing Hampden Park, but the club's confidence in its future was reflected in the purchase of 33 acres of land in 1903 to establish the present-day stadium. Its extensive terraces accommodated attendances of almost 150,000 in the immediate pre-war years and this, coupled with the natural bowl shape enhancing the acoustics, created the world-famous Hampden Roar. As a boy, living in Hillhead on the north side of Glasgow, I could always tell when somebody scored a goal at Hampden, several miles away!

There have been many memorable matches at Hampden Park. Arguably the greatest match of all time occurred in 1957 when Rangers and Celtic clashed in the Scottish League Cup final and Celtic thrashed 'gers 7-1. Three years later Real Madrid met Eintracht Frankfurt in the European Cup final, Madrid winning 7-3. Over 130,000 Scottish fans were spellbound at this superlative exhibition of Continental football.

While fulfilling its role as the National Stadium, Hampden has remained the home of Queen's Park who, despite their amateur status, play in the senior national league. After a life of almost 90 years, however, the great Hampden stadium was beginning to show its age. Since the 1970s, to be sure, there had been considerable refurbishment and upgrading of facilities, but by 1989 it was obvious that major rebuilding was required. The disasters at Heysel, Sheffield and Bradford had focused attention on the need to raise safety standards.

Prominently featured on the Scottish Football aerogramme of April 1996 was Robert S McColl, Queen's Park's star player who scored a hat-trick against England in the 1900 international. He is to this day affectionately remembered as 'Toffee Bob' from the chain of confectionary stores all over Glasgow (a high proportion of them doubling as sub post offices). Queen's Park insignia is also featured, but pride of place on the back panel was reserved for an aerial view of Hampden Park itself.

A CELEBRATION of SCOTTISH FOOTBALL



R.S. 'TOFFEE BOB' MCCOLL
(Queen's Park, Glasgow Rangers,
Newcastle United)
Scorer of a hat-trick against
England in the 1900
International. In later life he
was a successful confectioner.



TOMMY YOUNGER
(Hibernian, Liverpool)



It's more than 100 years since the Scottish League was formed and from the beginning the Scots showed a natural aptitude for the game. In fact, the sport in Scotland has always suffered from the luring of many of its best practitioners over the border to England. Yet for a century Scotland has held its own in full internationals against its neighbour, and in recent years Scottish Clubs have won European tournaments in the face of the fiercest competition. At international level, too, Scots have done well, qualifying for five consecutive World Cup Finals between 1974 and 1990 as well as the 1996 European Championship. The game still has no serious rival in the affections of sporting Scots.



TOMMY WALKER
O.B.F. (Heart of
Midlothian, Chelsea)
Possibly the greatest
Scottish inside-forward
between the wars, he was
equally successful as
manager of Hearts.



HAMPDEN PARK
The centre of Scottish football -
the highest gate was 149,000
against England in 1937.

The task of rebuilding Hampden began in 1990 with the formation of the National Stadium Committee, involving Queen's Park FC and Scottish football authorities. Over £12m was raised in order to upgrade the North and East Stands, carry out external landscaping and improve parking and other facilities. This phase was completed in February 1994 when Hampden hosted the Scotland-Netherlands international.

As the Millennium approached, work on the final phase gathered momentum. Some £23m from the Millennium Commission was added to the £5m provided by the Football Trust and the £8m raised by a debenture scheme. As a result, the South Stand, Hampden's crowning glory, was completed, with many new features including the All Sports Medical Research and Rehabilitation Centre linked to the teaching hospitals and universities, a lecture theatre and the Scottish National Museum of Football. The new-look Hampden opened on 21 May 1999 with a Festival of Football, followed by the Scottish Cup Final on 29 May. The final stage will be completed by the end of 2000 as the Millennium Commission's Landmark Project in Scotland.

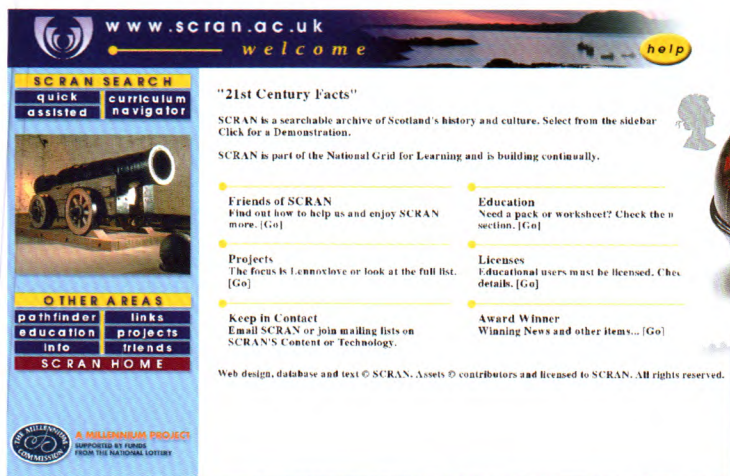


This datestamp was brought into use when Hampden Park was granted telegraphic facilities in 1892.

As far back as the late 1880s the Queen's Park ground was the finest in the West of Scotland, used for Cup finals and internationals as well as for club fixtures. In October 1892 it was granted telegraphic facilities, mainly for the despatch of press telegrams, and a single-circle datestamp (see left) was then brought into use. A souvenir handstamp associated with Hampden Park in 1978 marked the departure of Ally MacLeod's Tartan Army to the World Cup championships in Argentina.

SCRAN This is an acronym for Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network, a public organisation funded by some £15m, partly from partnership with various bodies and partly cash from the Millennium Commission to digitise Scotland's rich human history and establish a very substantial web as well as produce a wide range of material on CD-ROM. It was founded as a partnership of the National Museums of Scotland, the Scottish Museums Council and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Its board includes representatives of the British Computer Society, the Conference of Scottish Higher Education Principals and the Scottish Consultative Council for the Curriculum, under the chairmanship of Lady Balfour of Burleigh. Chief Executive Bruce Royan and his team, based at Abden House, 1 Marchhall Crescent, Edinburgh EH16 5HP, are responsible for managing the project and maintaining the network.

Fundamentally, the work involves the recording of text and images covering every conceivable aspect of Scottish history and culture from the earliest times to the present day. By the end of the year SCRAN will be providing access to 1.5 million documents and artefacts held in museums, plus over 100,000 related multimedia resources. The SCRAN photo-library already has over 140,000 striking cultural images, including landscapes, buildings, objects, people and places. Screen-quality images can be downloaded immediately and 18Mb files are ready for despatch as and when required.



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65
Millennium 2000-06
SCRAN/Internet



Local institutions all over Scotland, from Shetland to Galloway, have indicated their desire to co-operate with SCRAN, upgrading parts of their collections, records and resources for addition to the SCRAN database. To this end, SCRAN will provide up to half the cost of these projects.

It is estimated that it will take five years to complete the contract with the Millennium Commission, after which SCRAN will continue as a self-financing organisation, commissioning and giving access to multimedia resources. On-going revenue will come from the modest licence fees, payable annually by users. It is expected that SCRAN will be invaluable to schools, libraries, museums, community centres and tourist information outlets, but it will also be an extremely useful tool for the student, the researcher or the interested layman accessing the website at home. Basic text and thumbnail images are freely available to all, but licensed users are provided with enhanced text, tools and additional facilities. The Friends of SCRAN scheme is an electronic subscription allowing you to appreciate and explore this innovative resource in greater depth. All licence fees go straight back into expanding the website. Membership secures a range of other benefits, such as free access to museum sites and discounted travel. CD-ROMs currently available include the life and legacy of John Logie Baird, James Hutton, the father of modern geology, the life and works of the architect Alexander 'Greek' Thomson and a history of the Scottish people, 1840-1940 •

SCRAN is already proving of immense value to publishers, agencies and designers seeking good-quality, high-resolution images for their work.

Top left © SCRAN; lower right © SCRAN/Paola Arosio & Digo Meozzi



Gideon Mendal



Getty One Stone



Body The Millennium Dome tour of the human body covers a range of issues – from dealing with a hang-over, to body sounds such as the heartbeat and stomach gurgles.

Bath Spa The Bath Spa Project is a new complex, being created on the site of the city's disused municipal swimming baths. The hot springs in its bathing waters will also provide for a sustainable heating system.

The Body and Bone issue will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 3 October.



Alasport



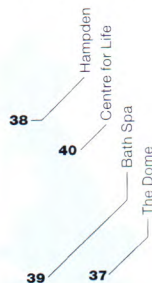
Sarah McGibbon

Hampden Park New and refurbished stands, a Museum of Football and an International Media Centre are all part of the Millennium Project bringing this stadium up to international standard.

Centre for Life A centre for genetic research, facilities for biotechnology businesses, educational resources for children, and a forum for ethical debate are all accommodated in this centre (opposite page, top left).

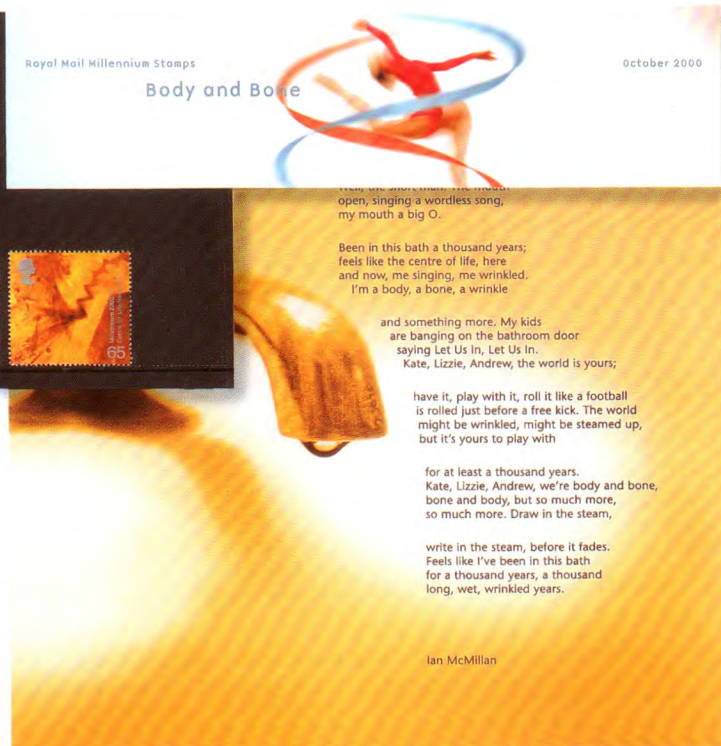
Body and Bone is the tenth of 12 sets of Millennium stamps this year, inspired by Millennium projects across the UK. The Millennium Dome Body Zone is the subject of the 2nd class value. The centrepiece of the Body Zone is a pair of monumental figures, which visitors enter for a tour through the workings of the human body • Featured on the 1st class value is a match at Glasgow's Hampden Park, the home of Scottish football. The stadium redevelopment, funded by a Millennium Commission grant, creates new facilities for players, officials and supporters alike • A new

spa complex in Bath is the subject of the 45p stamp. This project will re-unite Bath with the waters of Britain's only naturally-occurring hot springs, used for over 7000 years for healing, relaxation and pleasure • The 65p value features the Centre for Life in Newcastle, where research and education, science and biotechnology, entertainment and ethics are brought together in examining all human life •





A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £1.95) and stamp cards (price 25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.



Royal Mail Millennium Stamps

Body and Bone

October 2000

open, singing a wordless song;
my mouth a big O.

Been in this bath a thousand years;
feels like the centre of life, here
and now, me singing, me wrinkled.
I'm a body, a bone, a wrinkle

and something more. My kids
are banging on the bathroom door
saying Let Us In, Let Us In.
Kate, Lizzie, Andrew, the world is yours;

have it, play with it, roll it like a football
is rolled just before a free kick. The world
might be wrinkled, might be steamed up,
but it's yours to play with

for at least a thousand years.
Kate, Lizzie, Andrew, we're body and bone,
bone and body, but so much more,
so much more. Draw in the steam,

write in the steam, before it fades.
Feels like I've been in this bath
for a thousand years, a thousand
long, wet, wrinkled years.

Ian McMillan

Technical details

Printer House of Questa

Process Lithography 2nd
class, gravure others

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5 2nd,
13.5 × 14 others

Phosphor One band 2nd
class; two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical 2nd,
horizontal others

Cylinders and colours

2nd Q1 black ● Q1 slate-blue
● Q1 silver

1st Q1 magenta ● Q1 new
blue ● Q1 greenish yellow ●
Q1 black ● Q1 silver

45p Q1 mauve ● Q1 olive-grey
● Q1 greenish yellow ● Q1 grey-
black ● Q1 silver

65p Q1 magenta ● Q1 pale
new blue ● Q1 greenish yellow
● Q1 grey-black ● Q1 silver

Visitors to the Millennium Dome in London will be welcomed by two monumental figures – 27m (90ft) high and 60m (200ft) long. Visitors enter these figures at the base of the torso and climb an escalator for a tour through the workings of the human body. The exit route leaves through an interactive 'exploration area' that deals with health and medical issues.

Football is undoubtedly a passion in Scotland, and so it was fitting that Hampden Park was redeveloped for the Millennium. The new South Stand and refurbished West Stand opened in May 1999. A new All Sports Injury Clinic will become the focus of sports-related injury assessment, treatment and research in Scotland. The old Hampden Park Stadium featured on the 'Celebration of Scottish Football' aerogramme, issued 2 April 1996.

The Bath Spa Project unites past and present, with a new spa complex on the site of the disused municipal swimming baths, and the restoration of important heritage buildings including the Cross Bath, where Charles II bathed in 1663.

At the International Centre for Life, exhibits explore life and how it works include the Institute of Human Genetics, a major centre for fundamental genetic research into inherited conditions. A Bioscience Centre provides facilities for biotechnology businesses, and Superlab houses an education resource centre for children. The ethical implications of rapid advances in genetics are researched and debated at the Bioethics Forum.

Future Millennium issues

Spirit and Faith 07.11.00

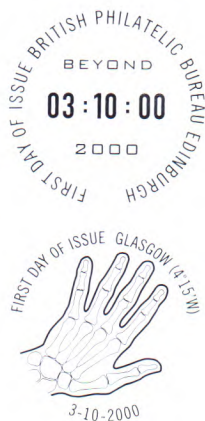
Sound and Vision 05.12.00



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 3 October, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Glasgow must reach the Bureau by 3 October. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, Freepost EH3647, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (Glasgow postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0027' (Bureau), or 'FD0028' (Glasgow). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Glasgow postmark. A non-pictorial Glasgow postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FD0028 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 3 October will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.



MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS Each of the Millennium packs this year includes a specially commissioned poem. That in the Body and Bone pack, entitled *Fat Man in the Bath*, is by Ian McMillan, born in South Yorkshire in 1957. He has been a writer and performer, in hundreds of venues from theatres to prisons and front rooms, since 1981. He does a lot of work for radio and has been writer in residence for Barnsley Football Club and the Northern Spirit rail company. *Fat Man in the Bath* is Ian's personal reflection of the Body and Bone theme and the four subjects of the stamps ●

Next Millennium issues The eleventh set in the Millennium 2000 series will be issued on 7 November. Entitled Spirit and Faith, it features St Edmundsbury Cathedral; Church floodlighting; St Patrick Centre, Downpatrick; and Mystery Plays, York Minster. The 2000 series concludes with Sound and Vision (5 December). The final Millennium issue – The Future – will be issued on 16 January. The Royal Mail Millennium collection was granted Millennium Product status by the Design Council in December 1999 ●



Varieties of yesteryear Fred Gee looks at coloured papers

WHEN THE FIRST OF MY ARTICLES in this series appeared in the October 1994 *Bulletin*, I had stated categorically to the Editor that it was not my intention to deal with varieties resulting from differences in the papers on which a particular stamp was printed. But I have now found myself tempted to depart from this principle, in order to draw attention to the colourful varieties which have occurred as a result of the deliberate use of coloured paper to provide an integral element of a stamp's design.

Some of the papers used for the early line-engraved issues (and 'postal fiscals') had a bluish tint, but this was not really an intentional use of coloured paper: it was, rather, a result of the interaction between those papers and the inks, or the production processes then in use. The first intentional use of coloured papers as part of the stamp's design was for three of the values in the QV 'Jubilee' series of 1887: the 2½d was on blue paper, the 6d on rose-red, and the 3d on yellow paper. The use of yellow paper was continued for the 3d stamp of KEVII, and was adopted again for the 8d of KGV. But amongst all GB stamps, there are only these five examples of coloured paper being used to provide the background shade of the design. No doubt the specialist collector will find subtle variations in the shades of blue and rose-red of the 2½d and 6d Jubilee stamps, but it was the yellow papers used for the others which provide us with the more readily visible colour varieties.

The Jubilee 3d, printed in purple on paper which can only be described as yellow, was issued on 1 January 1887. But this value later appeared on a more orange paper, the earliest reported used example of this variety being in October 1889. The use of this orange paper was presumably not officially approved and must have been relatively short-lived, as examples of it are quite scarce, but it can occasionally be found and makes a spectacular variety.



For the KEVII 3d value of 1902-11, the design of the Jubilee 3d was substantially retained – the only modification apart from the portrait of the new monarch being the insertion in the border of a small crown – and also retained was the colour combination of purple printing on yellow paper. But during the life of the KEVII version there was a very obvious variation in the shades of yellow: for the early printings (by De La Rue), while the paper was by no means as orange as that of the QV variety, it was an orangey shade of yellow. But for the later De La Rue printings, from about 1906, and for all the 1911 printings by Harrisons, the paper can best be described as lemon yellow. Both the orange-yellow and lemon shades are common, but when you check your KEVII collection for examples of these, look at the backs of your stamps

as well as the fronts, as the variations are not always as apparent on the printed surface.

Since the 1911 printings of the KEVII 3d, the only GB stamp to have been printed on coloured paper is the 8d value in the 'Mackennal Heads' series of KGV. When first issued in August 1913 this was printed on a good quality yellow paper, but by May 1917 this had been replaced by a less costly 'granite' paper which remained in use until the 8d value was withdrawn the following year. This was of a more buff tone and contained traces of fibre which were not present to the same degree in the original yellow paper. Again, it is on the reverse of the stamps that this difference in texture can more easily be seen.

So, if your collection includes the QV Jubilee series, or the stamps of KEVII or KGV, look out for these varieties amongst the three stamps printed on yellow (or yellowish!) paper. The orangey yellow and the lemon yellow shades of the KEVII 3d are equally common, and the 'granite' paper KGV 8d is not particularly scarce. But if you come across a QV Jubilee 3d on orange paper, you really have found something of a rarity ●

Cover corner An unusual mis-sent item, by James Mackay

TODAY Pollokshaws is one of the town sub offices of Glasgow, its two single datestamps confined to counter work; but 150 years ago it ranked as an independent sub office beyond the city boundaries and had various datestamps which were used to cancel outgoing mail. It began life as a Glasgow penny post receiving house in 1818 but was elevated to the status of an independent sub office in 1840, acquiring money order and savings bank facilities in 1854 and 1862 respectively. In 1885, however, it was demoted to the status of a receiving office and in 1909 became a town sub office of Glasgow. In the 19th century the name of the office was Pollockshaws, but the intrusive 'c' was dropped on 1 January 1895, to conform to the spelling of the place itself.

It was given a double stamp in 1871 with the numerals 401, and at the beginning of 1895 even had a new duplex with the reformed spelling and clock time slugs, one of very few double stamps of this type to be used in Scotland. It ceased cancelling outgoing mail when it became a town sub office in 1909. Even in the period from 1871 onwards when cancellation was permitted, the postmarks of Pollockshaws or Pollokshaws are by no means plentiful, as even at that date much of the mail collected in that locality went to the Glasgow head office for sorting and cancelling.

Shown here, however, is the wrapper from a circular intimating a meeting of the Inspectors of Poor at Edinburgh on 22 July 1878. It was sent from Pollockshaws to James Morton, the Inspector of Poor in the parish of Loudoun, Ayrshire. The halfpenny stamp (plate 14) bears the Pollockshaws duplex cancellation of 18 July. Unfortunately, the parish name was misread 'London' and consequently the circular went all the way south to the metropolis. For some inexplicable reason it landed up at the South Western District Office where a thimble datestamp of 19 July was applied in black ink. It then went to the London Chief Office for examination, and there collected two more thimbles, struck in red ink, on the same day but having the duty codes AF and 7D. Presumably at this juncture the word 'Loudoun'



This 1878 cover, posted in Pollockshaws and addressed to Loudoun in Ayrshire, was mis-sent to London. It was returned to Scotland and correctly delivered within 48 hours, having accumulated a variety of datestamps on the journey.

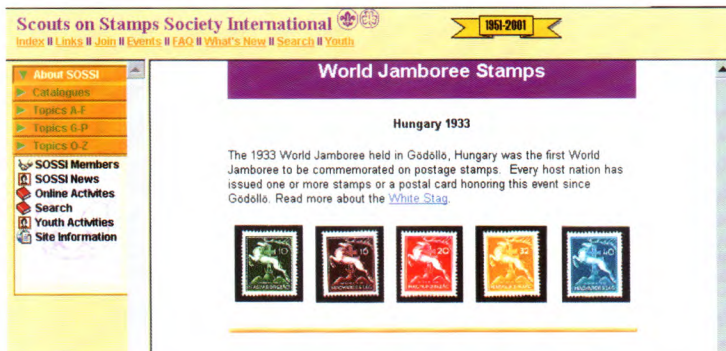
was bracketed with crosses in pencil and the initials NB (North Britain) applied twice in blue crayon.

The circular was then sent back north overnight, passed through the sorting office at Kilmarnock on the morning of 20 July and was correctly sent out for delivery from the sub office at Newmilns (the post office for Loudoun parish) later that morning, to judge from the two further thimble datestamps applied to the front. It reached Mr Morton before mid-day on 20 July, to judge by the Newmilns duty code A – certainly in good time for him to attend his meeting in Edinburgh on 22 July as planned.

Nowadays, of course, we have the sophistication of postcodes and full addressing; but would second-class items mis-sent to London get back to Scotland within 48 hours, as this circular did more than 130 years ago? ●

This item will be shown in an exhibition relating to Glasgow Post Offices at the City's Mitchell Library in November ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at the theme of Scouting



This body was formed in 1952 from a smaller group set up the year before in Kansas City to bring together collectors of youth organisations on stamps. It limited coverage to Scouts and Guides and became the Scouts on Stamps Society, adding 'International' in 1956 to recognise the growing number of countries issuing stamps and other philatelic material on Scouting.

Above, Ron Negus.

ONE ATTRACTIVE FEATURE of the internet is the ability to display full colour illustrations on the computer screen. This makes it simple to show stamp images and enhances the many websites that are devoted to thematic subjects. One particularly well organised site in this category is that hosted by the Scouts on Stamps International group at www.sossi.org.

Subject matter covered includes any stamps, labels, postal history, postcards and cancellations that have been issued for scouting occasions from the beginning of the 20th century, including the famous Mafeking locals of 1900 which show Baden-Powell and a bicycle messenger. On a question and answer page, it is revealed that the first 'scout' stamps issued after the movement began in 1907 were a pair from Czechoslovakia in 1918. These stamps were produced for the Revolutionary Committee of Prague, whose postal distribution was undertaken by scouts. The first stamp to actually picture a scout was issued by Hungary in 1925 as part of a sports set.

An extensive content list on the site shows the breadth of this popular thematic subject. The Society claims that on average 1,000 visitors access the site each week, and it has received numbers of awards for its style and content. Its own publication, the *SOSSI Journal*, is archived on the site to allow new members access to

authoritative articles from past issues. To provide a flavour for the type of information available in the Journal, selected pages have been extracted and grouped together by subjects. These form a section of the site entitled 'Gallery of Information'. A page dealing with the stamps issued for World Scouting Jamborees is illustrated above. Examples of other sub-headings within this section include Errors, Freaks and Other Oddities, Lone Scouts, Meter Stamps, Perforations and Stories behind Scout Stamps.

For collectors who wish to exhibit, the 'Gallery' contains a section devoted to this subject. Two example exhibits are also included to demonstrate ways in which the theme can be developed for display at national or international level.

The content list provides a very clear summary of the various sections, which enables the user to pinpoint items of interest very quickly. The major headings within this index, in addition to the Gallery of Information, are Society Information, *SOSSI* Youth Stamp Collecting, Online Activities and Scouts on Stamps Catalogues. In this last category, catalogues covering scouting topics are either included on the site itself or cross-referred in links to other parts of the web. Amongst the latter is an interesting link to a site which provides a listing of the Scout and Guide Charity Christmas Posts in the UK. ●

Football encourages innovation

Stamp Magazine Editor-at-Large Richard West looks at some award-winning covers

STUART NORTHCOTE IS NOT, and never has been, a stamp collector. He does admit an interest in the hobby, however. Hardly surprising, bearing in mind he has been involved for over 30 years.

Stuart's career started as a wood machinist, but an accident meant he could not continue. Stanley Gibbons Publications were looking for some temporary help during the busy catalogue distribution period just before Christmas. Stuart stepped in – and stayed for 24 years.

His years with SG Publications saw him work from Drury House in London (once also the home of Stanley Gibbons Auctions) and in Birmingham, until the move down to Ringwood. The premises at Ringwood had been used by Stanley Gibbons Promotions, mainly in connection with the many stamps to celebrate the Royal Wedding of 1981. As that promotion drew to a close, it was decided to move Publications to Ringwood. Stuart was responsible for establishing the new operation.

Come 1992 he decided it was time to move on, and set up his own company called Complete Collections. The main core of the business of this company is the production of albums for both stamps and other collectibles. Among the albums produced are those sold by Royal Mail. The company markets the Italian range of albums by Marini in the United Kingdom, and undertakes philatelic promotions for a number of postal administrations.

In April Stuart Northcote received the Rowland Hill Award in the category sponsored by Royal Mail for Product Innovation. The award was made for a series of covers under the branding of Football Editions. These celebrate the achievement last year of Manchester United in securing an amazing treble: winners of the European Champions Cup, Carling Premiership and FA Cup. Stuart's role with Football Editions is to package and market the covers.



There are 18 covers in all, each cover featuring the manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, or a member of the victorious team. Each includes the Manchester United badge and an auto pen signature of the player concerned. In October 1999 Benin issued a sheetlet to honour Manchester United: each cover bears one of the Benin stamps, cancelled on the day of issue and celebrating the treble. The covers

are sold individually, in groups of six, or as a complete collection of 18. Stuart has been responsible for all the publicity, packaging, and the album sheets that accompany the covers. The whole package is sold as Manchester United Official Merchandise.

With the enormous popularity of Manchester United worldwide (particularly in the Far East), this has proved a marvellous and successful way of promoting stamp collecting, through first day covers, by capitalising on the success of this great team. For his part in this initiative, Stuart was a worthy recipient of a Rowland Hill Award •



Northern Ireland country stamps by Brian Warren: Questa and the lithographic issues

The author's previous article (April 1999) concerned the decimal photogravure issues printed by Harrison & Sons. The last set (10p, 12½p, 13p and 15p) printed by Harrison was issued 20 August 1979.

Questa began the practice of including plate numbers twice on each pane (at top right and bottom right, below), which incorporate the company's Q symbol.

FOLLOWING the rate change in 1981, the contract for printing the Northern Ireland regionals moved to the House of Questa who utilised the offset-litho process. Questa adopted a two plate printing process for most values to improve the solid printing element of the Machin design. All stamps were initially perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ and were printed in double pane sheets of 400 consisting of two Post Office panes of 200 (in similar manner as gravure printings). The left-hand panes have plate numbers 1, 3, 5 etc and the right-hand panes have even numbers. Questa did not include any phosphor number on issued sheets. The paper for the majority of issues continued to be supplied by Harrisons. Paper for printings on fluorescent coated paper (FCP) or Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) with PVA gum was supplied by Coated Papers Limited. Two other suppliers, Inveresk Paper Co and Henry Leigh & Slater, also supplied paper for certain printings.

Initial sheet issues The first four stamps (11½p, 14p, 18p and 22p) using the lithographic process were issued on 8 April 1981. The 2nd class rate 11½p stamp was printed on original coated paper with PVA gum with a single phosphor band at left (SBL). The remaining values were printed on phosphor coated paper (PCP), also with PVA gum. PVAD gum was introduced for the next issue (12½p SBL, 15½, 19½p and 26p) released on 24 February 1982. The 2nd class 12½p stamp was now printed on FCP paper.

The next set of values issued on 27 April 1993 (16p, 20½p and 28p) saw a change in the sheet markings with the plate number(s) now printed once on each sheet in the conventional lower left position. All values were single ink plate printings (Q1/Q2) on PCP/PVAD paper. Although the 2nd class rate remained unaltered (12½p), a new printing utilising two ink plates (as before) and on FCP/PVAD paper with the revised plate number position was distributed in the same year. In 1984, the perforation gauge was altered to 15×14 as per the previous Harrison printings. The 12½p and 16p were reprinted with the new perforation and in the case of the 12½p both on OCP/PVA and FCP/PVAD paper. In 1987, the 28p value was also reprinted with the new gauge on ACP/PVAD paper.

Inflation continued unabated and a further four values (13p SBL, 17p, 22p and 31p) were issued on 23 October 1984. Part of the 17p printing was on paper supplied by Inveresk Paper Co with fluorescent brightener omitted which results in a duller ultra-violet reaction. A new Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) which is somewhat brighter than PCP began to be generally introduced at this time commencing with the 22p regionals. In addition, the colour of the 22p was now yellow-green as compared to deep blue for the earlier 1981 issue. This pattern was to continue for all future stamps – any re-issue of a previously withdrawn value was accompanied by a change of colour as detailed in the table on the following pages. The new ACP paper was used for later reprints of both the 17p and 31p values.



A 12p (SBL) value was issued in 1986 following a 1p reduction in the second class rate on 4 November 1985. In July 1986, this value was re-issued with a single phosphor bar at left, ie interrupted bands which do not run through the perforations at the top and bottom of each stamp. They were introduced on 2nd class values to avoid unnecessary wear on the perforator. This reduction was short-lived as the basic inland rates were revised to 13p and 18p on 20 October 1986. A new printing of the 13p with phosphor bar (FCP/PVAD) followed and a new 18p value (ACP/PVAD) was issued on 6 January 1987. Later printings of the 13p value also exist on FCP/PVA paper.

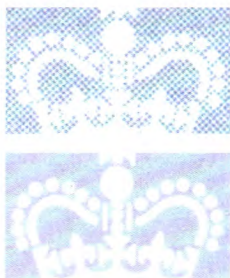
There was a reprieve of some two years before the next issue of four values (14p, 19p, 23p and 32p) in 1988. The phosphor bar on 2nd class values was now placed to right of centre (CBR). The paper reverted to FCP/PVA for the 14p whereas the other three values were on ACP/PVAD paper supplied by Henry & Leigh Slater with the gum appearing clear rather than tinted as is usual when Dextrin is included.

Further rate increases saw further issues in 1989 (15p CBR, 20p, 24p and 34p), in 1990 (17p CBR, 22p, 26p and 37p) and in 1991 (18p CBR, 24p, 28p and 39p). The perforator $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ (instead of 15×14) was used for part of the 18p printing. The 39p value which was printed on ACP/PVA paper was also discovered printed on non-phosphor paper (ie FCP/PVA).

Paper, phosphor and perforation changes 1993 saw a further general change in paper with a switch to a new OBA free Non-Phosphorised Paper (OFNP). It is similar to FCP but has no Optical Brighteners Added (OBA). The paper is considered to be more environmentally friendly, appears less white, and under ultra-violet light exhibits virtually no fluorescence. A new security feature was also added (see right). The first values to incorporate these features were issued on 7 December 1993 (19p CBR, 25p, 30p and 41p). As the paper was non-phosphor, two phosphor bands (rather than bars) were now printed onto the non-2nd class stamps thus reverting to the format of earlier years. A new C-Phosphor ink was also introduced in 1993. The C-phosphor is so called from the brand name of the fluor additive, 'Cartax' which glows a striking bright-yellow colour under uv light. The 'yellow fluor' proved to be too sensitive for the automatic sorting machinery and, as a result, there was a switch to a new neutral blue fluor. The 19p CB and 25p 2B values were reprinted with the new fluor in the same year.

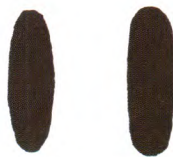
After nearly a three year gap, the next set was issued in July 1996 (20p CB, 26p, 37p and 63p). This was the last set to be printed by the House of Questa, as in the following year the contract was transferred to Walsall Security Printers and the printing method reverted to the gravure process.

Booklet panes Seven of the ten prestige booklets issued since 1993 have contained panes incorporating various regional stamps. Four of the booklets contained panes of regionals printed by Questa. The first to contain regionals was pane 2 from the Beatrix Potter issue which incorporated a se-tenant pair of 18p and 24p stamps of each region. Both of the Northern Ireland stamps were distinguishable from the equivalent sheet issues –



In September 1986, just prior to rate increases, a new printing of the 17p value appeared, now printed with two colour plates (Q1Q1/Q2Q2). Single stamps can be identified due to a change in the Emblem: the original type I has a crown with pearls individually drawn whereas in the new type II the three pearls at furthest left are joined (above, at 790%).

This is the rarest of the Northern Ireland stamps. Other values also exist with the two types but paper, phosphor or perforation size also differ in such cases.



A new security feature was introduced in 1993, an elliptical hole on each vertical edge the size of three perforations. The overall perforation size remained 15×14 . Two versions of this elliptical hole are known on certain printings: rounded (left) and straight edges.

the 18p had a single phosphor band at left instead of a bar at right of centre and was now printed on OFNP paper. The 24p had 2 phosphor bands instead of being printed on phosphorised advanced coated paper.

This was followed by a special booklet relating to Northern Ireland issued in 1994 which included a complete pane of Northern Ireland regionals (2 × 19p, 4 × 25p, 1 × 30p and 1 × 41p). The 19p was the only 'new stamp' as there was a single phosphor band positioned at left instead of a bar right of centre. In similar manner as the 1993 issue, the National Trust booklet of 1995 also contained a se-tenant pair of stamps from each region (19p and 25p). The 19p had changed again with the single phosphor band now positioned at right. The 25p had 2 bands (yellow fluor) with a total width of 9.5 mm instead of 8mm for the sheet issue.

Questa issues, all offset litho	Value and colour	Phosphor band/bars	Perforation	Paper/gum	Issue date
Differences in band widths, fluor, emblem types or type of elliptical holes are only included where necessary to identify separate printings.	11½p mushroom	side band left	13½ × 14	OCP/PVA	08.04.81
All phosphor centre bars or bands are offset to right of centre.	12p bright emerald	side band left	15 × 14	FCP/PVAD	07.01.86
(B): Only issued as booklet stamps.	12p bright emerald	side bar left	15 × 14	FCP/PVAD	07.86
E: One elliptical perf hole on each vertical edge. Printings that exist with both rounded and straight edged holes are denoted E*.	12½p light emerald	side band left	13½ × 14	FCP/PVAD	24.02.82
1 Paper supplied by Inveresk Paper Co with fluorescent brightener omitted.	12½p light emerald	side band left	15 × 14	OCP/PVA	28.02.84
2 Paper supplied by Henry & Leigh Slater. The PVAD gum has a clear colour as no bluish-green additive was included.	12½p light emerald	side band left	15 × 14	FCP/PVAD	06.84
	13p pale chestnut	side band left	15 × 14	FCP/PVAD	23.10.84
	13p pale chestnut	side bar left	15 × 14	FCP/PVAD	28.11.86
	13p pale chestnut	side bar left	15 × 14	FCP/PVA	14.04.87
	14p grey-blue	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVA	08.04.81
	14p deep blue	centre bar	15 × 14	FCP/PVA	08.11.88
	15p bright blue	centre bar	15 × 14	FCP/PVA	28.11.89
	15½p pale violet	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVAD	24.02.82
	16p mushroom	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVAD	27.04.83
	16p mushroom	-	15 × 14	PCP/PVAD	28.02.84
	17p grey-blue	-	15 × 14	PCP/PVAD	23.10.84
	17p grey-blue	-	15 × 14	PCP(FBO)/PVAD ¹	late 84
	17p grey-blue type 1	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	25.02.86
	17p grey-blue type 2	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	09.09.86
	17p deep blue	centre bar	15 × 14	FCP/PVA	04.12.90
	18p deep violet	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVA	08.04.81
	18p olive-grey	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	06.01.87
	18p bright green	centre bar	15 × 14	FCP/PVA	03.12.91
	18p bright green	centre bar	13½ × 14	FCP/PVA	31.12.92
	18p bright green (B)	side band left	15 × 14	OFNP/PVA	10.08.93
	19p flame	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	08.11.88
	19p olive-green	centre bar (yellow fluor)	15 × 14 E*	OFNP/PVA	07.12.93
	19p olive-green (B)	side band left	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	26.07.94
	19p olive-green (B)	side band right	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	25.04.95
	19p olive-green	centre bar (blue fluor)	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	01.02.96
	19½p olive-grey	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVAD	24.02.82
	20p brownish-black	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVA	28.11.89

The last Questa pane was in the European Championship booklet of 1996. Pane 4 contained 6 × 25p regionals (2 from each region) plus 2 × 25p national definitives. The two 25p regionals had 2 bands with a total width of 9.5mm as per the 1995 booklet pane but now with blue fluor. The four subsequent panes containing regionals were photogravure printed by either De La Rue Security Print (1997 BBC pane 1) or Walsall Security Printers (1998 Breaking Barriers panes 2 & 3, plus 2000 Special by Design pane 2).

The future The recent introduction of non-value indicators (NVIs) for regional stamps including the 1st Class Northern Ireland value has added a new interest. Hopefully, new designs in similar vein as the splendid new stamps issued for Scotland and Wales will follow in due course •

Value and colour	Phosphor band/bars	Perforation	Paper/gum	Issue date
20p bright green	centre band	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	23.07.96
20½p ultramarine	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVAD	27.04.83
22p deep blue	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVA	08.04.81
22p yellow-green	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	23.10.84
22p flame	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	04.12.90
23p bright green	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD ²	08.11.88
24p indian-red	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVA	28.11.89
24p chestnut	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVA	03.12.91
24p chestnut (B)	2 bands	15 × 14	OFNP/PVA	10.08.93
25p salmon-pink	2 bands 8mm (yellow fluor)	15 × 14 E*	OFNP/PVA	07.12.93
25p salmon-pink (B)	2 bands 9.5mm (yellow fluor)	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	25.04.95
25p salmon-pink	2 bands 8mm (blue fluor)	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	05.03.96
25p salmon-pink (B)	2 bands 9.5mm (blue fluor)	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	14.05.96
26p rosine	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVAD	24.02.82
26p rosine	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	27.01.87
26p mushroom	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	04.12.90
26p chestnut	2 bands	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	23.07.96
28p deep violet-blue	-	13½ × 14	PCP/PVAD	27.04.83
28p deep violet-blue	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	27.01.87
28p deep bluish-grey	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVA	03.12.91
30p deep olive-grey	2 bands	15 × 14 E*	OFNP/PVA	07.12.93
31p bright purple	-	15 × 14	PCP/PVAD	23.10.84
31p bright purple	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	14.04.87
32p greenish-blue	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD ²	08.11.88
34p slate-grey	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVA	28.11.89
37p rosine	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVAD	04.12.90
37p bright mauve	-	15 × 14 E	OFNP/PVA	23.07.96
39p bright mauve	-	15 × 14	ACP/PVA	03.12.91
39p bright mauve	-	15 × 14	FCP/PVA	12.91
41p pale olive-brown	2 bands	15 × 14 E*	OFNP/PVA	07.12.93
63p light emerald	2 bands	15 × 14E	OFNP/PVA	23.07.96



Postbag Letters to the Editor

First day covers 'To the majority of FDC collectors, a first day cover is much more collectable if there is no address on it'. The opening sentence of Derek Williams' article 'Properly Addressed' (June) sets the tone for what is, in my opinion, a most unfortunate article, to say the least, and indicative of the malaise affecting philately in all its aspects today.

Everyone is, of course, entirely free to collect whatever they like; accordingly I shall not comment on those who choose to adopt Mr Williams' criteria in their collecting activities. The substance of the rest of the article, highlighting as it does the 'limited issue' and 'catalogue value' gives the game away. There is no interest here in the postal aspects of the covers, in the reasons for the existence of the mail, in the many advances made in the transmission of the mail, etc. The sole purpose would appear to be the formation of a lucrative market, in which the scarcity of a cover is achieved by manipulating the production of a limited number of covers. By pricing these covers at, to my mind, exorbitantly high figures, an artificially high base figure is set, from which the 'catalogue value' can increase. Who exactly establishes these unrealistic catalogue values? The dealer producing both catalogue (the dealer's list) and the covers?

What a situation exists, when one of the covers illustrated – the British Library souvenir cover for the centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill – nicely addressed in manuscript to an address at the Library, is deemed less valuable than if it had been 'decently' addressed! Quite clearly, the 1953 Coronation cover illustrated in 'Cover Corner' (June, p317) with its hand-written address, smudges and 'standard' postmarks, would be consigned to the waste paper basket, if judged by Mr Williams' standards.

I am surprised at Mr Williams' reference to the German British Culture Week cover illustrated on page 309 in that the address is stated to have been removed. The rectangular stain where the address should be gives every indication of the failure of the address label used originally to stay

fixed to the cover and not because it has been removed. Over a period of time, depending on the conditions of storage, these self-adhesive labels, used frequently in the 1960s and 70s, tended to dry out and become separated from the cover. Even when remaining on the cover, the labels tended to discolour. I have seen panes of such labels used for RAF Museum covers in the early 1970s, which have turned a muddy grey colour on the original backing paper. Early Museum covers, which have lost their label present the same appearance as the cover illustrated. D STRATTON, PAIGTON •

First day covers I am prompted to develop on themes addressed in Derek Williams' article on FDCs (June).

I found much to agree with, but feel that some facets of contemporary collecting are disfiguring the respect that the hobby enjoys. Firstly, as has been rightly implied in the article, to be considered genuine, an item has to pass through the postal system. A cover without an address is thus a gimmick, and as undesirable as a 'synthesiser performance' of a Beethoven symphony. Secondly, responding to the fact that a hand-written address often detracts from the appeal and value of a FDC, I am induced to mention that for me such is a worthy feature. I comprehend my large library of FDCs as a gallery of varied styles of handwriting which, with the atlas of addresses, is vastly more interesting than an academic regiment of regular typings.

I would like to comment, also, on one of Royal Mail's fairly recent innovations in its FDC services. A handstamp from St Andrews (for the Christians' Tale issue) applied to covers posted anywhere in the UK does, in my view, undermine authenticity. Ultimate items (covers) are surely as counterfeit as a 'Mosel Wine' made from Kentish grapes or 'Highland Shortbread' made in England. As a firm believer in authenticity, I am prompted to ask how much further into pretence can cover and FDC collecting proceed? ROBERT DUNCAN MARTIN, CANTERBURY •

Stamp Show 2000 The Post Office deserves congratulations for organising this international. It was an excellent event, packed with interesting activities.

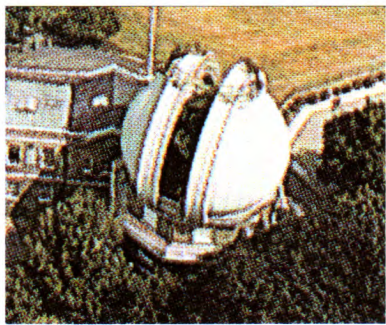
I particularly welcomed the opportunity to view the Royal Collection and the British Library. The printing of the replica Penny Black was most interesting and educating. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting stamp designer Jeffery Matthews on the De la Rue stand. It was a pity that not more visitors looked at the exhibits on display. There were many fine entries, particularly in Space and Aerophilately, seldom seen before. After all, this is what stamp exhibitions are all about. People compete, display and learn. The catering services were very poor and over priced – a far cry from France and Germany! There could have been more exhibits of postal related items, although I welcomed the Post Haste display. Let's back it up by opening a new National Postal Museum! JOHN P CAMP, BRAINTREE ●

Missing stone I have just noticed the alternative first day postmark for the Coronation miniature sheet (23 May) shows the Coronation chair minus the Stone of Scone. Now this has been returned to Scotland will it, I wonder, feature on a future Edinburgh first day postmark – perhaps for stamps marking the opening of the new Scottish Parliament building? P KEMPSTER, CHESTER ●

Artists' Tale 26p In my newspaper today (12 May) The Queen is pictured meeting Bridget Riley at the opening of the new Tate Gallery. Her Majesty looks somewhat apprehensive – perhaps she recalls Ms Riley's design for the 'World of Music' stamp issued last December. I hope she asked her what the design meant. D FARMER, LONDON ●

The Editor is always pleased to receive contributions for 'Postbag', especially letters adding information to that already published, so benefiting fellow philatelists. All letters are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in 'Postbag'. The Editor regrets he is unable to reply personally to letters.

Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



June identify The detail was from the 1953 4d Coronation stamp. The winner was P B S Johnson of Liverpool.

June knowledge Answers: 1) David Gentleman; 2) 100; 3) Richard West. The winner was Vernon Ellis of Derbyshire.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to September *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to September *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Who designed the 1972 Christmas stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features the Welsh Highland Railway?
- 3 Which British monarch was known as the 'Collector King'?

Send your answer (addressed to either the September *Identify* Competition or the September *Knowledge* Competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 October will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs and first day covers will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until further notice Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln and Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshaw Park, Manchester (open 10.00-16.00). **Enquiries** D Harrop, 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ.

30 August-2 September The Picture Postcard Show 2000 at New Royal Horticultural Hall, London SW1.

1-3 September 52nd International Stamp Fair & 39th Europa International Philatelic Exhibition at Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** Riccione 2000, Palazzo del Turismo, 1-47838 Riccione, Italy.

8-9 September Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd Worldwide Sale including Wembley Exhibition, GB Wildings, etc. **Enquiries** 01332 250970.

8-10 September 82nd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, London. Hosted by the Revenue Society of GB. **Enquiries** Tony Hall, 01438 871676.

9 September Preston & District PS Annual Stamp & Postcard Fair at Canterbury Hall, Preston. 20 dealers. **Enquiries** Paul Gaywood, 01772 713917.

9-10 September Collect 2000 at Wembley Exhibition Centre, London. See page 4.

9-10 September Nene Valley Railway 'Rail Mail 2000' – three TPO coaches, exchange of mail to and from moving train using newly installed lineside apparatus, demonstration of mail sorting, guided tours, railway letter service, etc. At Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough. **Enquiries** 01780 784444.

15-28 September Olympilex 2000 Olympic stamp, numismatic & memorabilia exhibition at Centrepont, Sydney. **Enquiries** Olympilex, PO Box Q2000, Queen Victoria Building, Sydney 1230, Australia.

23-24 September Exhibition Study Group Annual Convention at Salisbury Hotel, 57-59 Festing Road, Southsea, Hants. AGM, displays. Potential members welcome. **Enquiries** Bill Tonkin, 020 8777 8861.

22-24 September Euroscout 2000. Exhibition of scout stamps and social events at Palazzo Bellini, Comacchio, Ferrara, Italy. **Enquiries** Maurizio Cavalli, via P Bembo No 40, 30172 Mestre (VE), Italy.

20-24 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. See page 4.

22-24 September Third Annual International Fair for Stamps, Coins, Telephone Cards, Minerals, etc at Industrial Palace, the Fairgrounds, Prague, Czech Republic. Postal administrations, dealers, etc. **Enquiries** Progress Partners Advertising, CZ-111 21 Prague 1, Opletalova 55.

30 September Portadown & Dist Phil Soc Stampex and Collectors Fair at Portadown Town Hall, 10.00-16.30. Admission free. Dealers, displays etc. Commemorative booklet price £1.50. **Enquiries** J Proctor 028 38 334964.

30 September Philatelic Music Circle meeting, British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. **Enquiries** Ian Summers, 01706 826655.

6-14 October España 2000. **Enquiries** España 2000, Apartado 1010, E-28080 Madrid, Spain.

7 October Welsh Philatelic Society meeting at Oswalds, University of Wales, Bangor. Displays of Postal History and Postage Dues. **Enquiries** Peter Brindley 01248 352682.

7 October Scottish South West Congress at Queen Margaret School, Ayr. Hosted by Eastwood Phil Soc.

21 October HAMPEX 2000 Hampshire Federation Convention at Thorneden School, Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, Hants. **Enquiries** Colin Mount, 01425 474310.

26-28 October Philatex at Royal Horticultural Hall 2, Greycoat Street, London SW1. Open 26th 11.00-19.00; 27th 10.00-18.00; 28th 10.00-17.00. Admission free. **Enquiries** Chris Rainey 01268 726687 ●

Obituaries Alma Lee and Raymond McKinnon

ALMA LEE, who died in July, was one of those who put back into the hobby as much as, if not more than, she took out. Born in Switzerland in 1914, she lived her early years in Belgium, before adopting England as her home.

A keen collector, she formed notable collections of France, Israel, Russian Zemstvos, but most especially of Switzerland, for which she won several international gold medals. She was also a noted thematics collector.

However, it was her unstinting contribution to helping others enjoy the hobby more for which she should be best remembered. She was involved with her local, Greenford, Philatelic Society, and had been Secretary of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation. Nationally, she had provided great assistance over the years to the Royal Philatelic Society London, and in particular its Library and Expert Committee. She was in 1997 made an Honorary Fellow of the Society. One of her last acts of generosity was to donate to the Society her Swiss collection. She was also active within the National Philatelic Society, serving on its Council for several years, and always willing to give sound advice. Her endeavours to promote the hobby involved her being secretary of the Melville Youth Committee for many years; she also served as a national judge.

Her philatelic honours included being invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and being elected to join the Concilium Philatelicum Helveticae. She was particularly proud of this honour from the Swiss.

Alma shared her knowledge and love of the hobby through several articles written for, among others, *The London Philatelist*, and this *Bulletin*. She wrote the useful handbook *Introducing Thematic Collecting*.

She married Ron Lee fairly late in life, enjoying 11 years before Ron died in 1990. In more recent years, deafness made her embarrassed at being in the company of others. She attended philatelic events less frequently. Her final weeks were spent in hospital, until the end came peacefully.

Richard West ●

RAYMOND MCKINNON, one of Scotland's best-known and much-loved personalities in philatelic circles, died on 8 July. His illness and death came as a great shock to all who knew him.

Ray was born in 1931 and on left school at age 14 to enter the Post Office as a boy messenger in the telegraph service in Glasgow. When he retired almost 47 years later, he was Manager of the Special Handstamp Centre for Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, it was for his stint in charge of Glasgow's Philatelic Counter from 1976 till 1990 that he will be best remembered. His predecessor, Harry Leitch stamped his own personality on this service and it was felt that he would be a hard act to follow. The Philatelic Counter, in an annexe of Glasgow's Head Post Office, had become an unofficial club where collectors working in the city centre regularly congregated in their lunch-hour. Ray carried on this delightful tradition, but raised philatelic services to a new level, with his friendly enthusiasm and prodigious knowledge of the product he was selling and the effort he put into the monthly exhibitions in the club area. He tailored these exhibitions to the latest issue of stamps, interspersed with thematic or postal history displays to stimulate the interest of the passers-by as well as dedicated philatelists. He regularly broadcast on local radio on the latest stamp issues, bringing his own particular flair and pawky humour to bear. His services above and beyond the call of duty brought recognition with a well-earned award from the Chairman of the Post Office, and when he retired in 1992 philatelists and postal officials from far afield gathered to do him honour. Until shortly before his death he was shop manager at Buchanan Street Stamps which, like the old Philatelic Counter, became the mecca for stamp collectors in the west of Scotland.

Ray was a keen Burns enthusiast and angler, taking his grandson on his fishing trips. A measure of the esteem in which he was held was the huge turnout for his funeral. To his family we offer sincere condolences. Philately in Scotland is much the poorer for his passing. *James Mackay* ●

a square or a circle, and can be hairy, slim or fat.' The controlled freedom which this formula allows is illustrated above: the royal lion passant guardant remains recognizable in a montage of images, rendered in various styles and materials, dating from the 15th century to Matthews' own Heraldic Issue of 1998 (the tail etc.).

This issue celebrated the Order of the Garter's 650th anniversary and the 45th anniversary of the Coronation. It featured The Queen's Beasts, ten heraldic animals commissioned for the Coronation to represent Her Majesty's lineage, from the lion of Richard I and the peacock of Henry II.



Matthews is fascinated by the art of heraldry, which he has perfected on several issues of Special Stamps, the original Machin definitives for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and The Post Office coat of arms.



The 1984 issue celebrating the 500th anniversary of the College of Arms inspired him to create Royal Mail's first square stamps 'partly to allow for the captioning and titling, which might have become dense in a smaller area.' The issue embraces the range of styles available to a heraldic artist, from the

ornate arms of the Earl Marshall. "I began with stamp-size sketches, then painted them four times larger to hold detail", he recalls. "I mixed my media, using gouache, watercolour and even plain pencil for the silver colouring." The silver can be seen in the swirling mantling which surrounds the shield of Richard III.



of the pure design process. Heraldic iconography is explored by focusing on the 1984 College of Arms stamp issue, the 1998 Queen's Beasts issue and the Country definitive iconography. Issued on 15 February, this book is available at Post Office Counters philatelic outlets or from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £7.73.



Reference 00-EAA