

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 17 Number 12 August 1980



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The Philatelic Bulletin takes this opportunity of welcoming Mr W Raife Wellsted as the new Curator of the National Postal Museum: he took up his appointment as from 14 July. A Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, Mr Wellsted was President of the Postal History Society during 1966-67, and is the current President of the Hong Kong Study Circle, of which he is a founder member. In 1970 he helped to form the International Federation of Postal History Societies which has contributed to the introduction of the new rules for judging Postal History at International level.

We have persuaded Mr Don Staddon, an enthusiastic collector with an enquiring mind and a nose for the unusual, to provide a series of articles on modern GB definitives. The first instalment will appear in the September edition of the Bulletin. Don professes not to be a technical expert but never-the-less finds as much interest in the production of a stamp, as in the stamp itself. His articles are not intended to be fully comprehensive, but will seek to establish the main areas of interest for modern GB collectors.

Book Review

Stray thoughts on Philately

Harrogate Philatelic Society.

£2.50 post paid.

By post from:

D. F. Arthur Esq.,

7 Wensley Road,

HARROGATE

N. Yorks. HG2 8AQ.

This 95 page soft covered book is published to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of Harrogate Philatelic Society. It consists of a series of 25 essays by members, mostly about their own

specialities, and the articles succeed in being studious and lighthearted at one and the same time.

All are extremely readable, combining instruction with entertainment. Each illustrates in its own fashion what a very pleasant and happy Society the philatelists of Harrogate have got together for themselves since 1940.

Subjects range from post World War I inflationary issues in Germany to sub-office cancels in the Seychelles and from Sudanese camel posts to Bermudan offshore rarities. Philately is evidently 'alive and well and living in Harrogate'.

Well worth the price to any Hon. Sec. with an anniversary coming up. This little book will certainly show him how to mark the occasion with style.

Many Happy Returns

On 26 April 1923, a young bride of twenty-two stepped out of her father's house in Bruton Street, Mayfair, into a grey and damp London morning carrying a symbolic bouquet of white roses of York and Scottish heather. During the marriage ceremony in Westminster Abbey the skies cleared and as she emerged, wearing her ring of Welsh gold, to the rapturous cheers of the crowds, she stepped into brilliant sunshine and into a special and unique relationship with her people which has lasted in an unbroken tradition of mutual love and respect to the present day.

For that morning, Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon, the youngest daughter of the Scottish peer, Lord Strathmore, left her private and carefree aristocratic existence to join the public life of the Royal Family as the wife of Albert, Duke of York, the second son of King George V. Theirs had been a short engagement after a long courtship lasting over two years during which the shy young 'Bertie' had persevered to win the consent of this petite, pretty and vivacious friend of his sister who had captured his heart from the moment they met at a ball in London in the summer of 1920.

It was the first time that a king's son had been married at the Abbey since the thirteenth century and for the British public the romance and splendour of the occasion provided a much needed tonic in the dull days of post-war gloom and hardship. It was also a foretaste of a new pattern of Royal behaviour in which the private lives of the Royal Family would become more accessible and to some extent the shared property of their subjects — a role which this new member of the family would later do so much to shape and foster.

Totally unknown to the general public at the time of her marriage, her extraordinary qualities of tireless devotion to duty and sparkling charm have since made her one of the best loved figures in the entire history of the British monarchy. Yet as the public took the young Duchess of York to their hearts during those first few months of her royal duties, few could have foreseen the momentous events which were to take place within the next thirteen years following the death of King George V on 20 January 1936. The long crisis surrounding



the new King Edward VIII smouldered throughout his one year of reign to the distress of the Royal Family and the government. On 1 December 1936, the story was finally aired in the British newspapers and just nine days later the Instrument of Abdication was signed, plunging the quiet and family-loving Duchess of York into the role of Queen Consort and Empress — a change as abrupt as that which was to make her own daughter Queen just twenty-one years later.

Despite the inevitable round of public duties the intervening years had been happy and peaceful ones for the York household. The birth of their daughters in 1926 and 1930 had been a signal for national rejoicing and with the Duchess's love, encouragement and support, which were to be so important in the years to come, had combined to give the shy and diffident Duke of York, in the poignant words of his brother's Abdication speech, "one matchless blessing, enjoyed by many of you and not bestowed on me, a happy home with his wife and children".

Precipitated into a rôle which she could never have anticipated at the time of her marriage, it must have seemed to the new Queen Elizabeth during those first few months that this peaceful family life had gone forever with the twin ordeals of the Coronation and moving the family from their cheerful, comfortable home at 145 Piccadilly into the formality of Buckingham Palace. Yet here, too, her very special gift, which her grandson, Prince Charles, was later to call her golden touch, transformed the Palace and the other Royal homes just as in the coming years it would continue to soften and brighten the image of the monarchy as a whole.

Believing sincerely that her rôle was to enthuse and inspire and to be seen by as many of her people as is humanly possible, while giving total support to her husband in this daunting task for which he

was so ill-prepared, Queen Elizabeth swiftly set the pattern for her own very special approach to the overwhelming array of public duties and responsibilities which has continued unabated to the present day. Her small, always exquisitely dressed figure and radiant smile have been the focus of every major national event and on even the smallest public occasion few have failed to come under the influence of her complete charm based as it is on genuine and enthusiastic interest in the life and rôle of anyone with whom she comes into contact.

This inspiration was not restricted to her people at home, for the years before the outbreak of war saw state visits by their Majesties to Scotland, Northern Ireland, France, the United States and Canada while the Canary Islands, Jamaica, Panama, the Marquesas Islands, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia had benefitted in 1927 from the Duke and Duchess of York's first royal tour abroad. It was, however, during the war years that Queen Elizabeth revealed her true strengths and few will forget her constant comfort and inspiration in wartime England, perhaps best summed-up in her famous words after the bombing of Buckingham Palace, "I'm glad we've been bombed. It makes me feel I can look at the East End in the face." Moreover her broadcast speeches to the women of England revealed as never before that behind the image of the Queen was a woman, wife and mother — a realisation that has transformed the subsequent image of the Royal Family.

The post-war years brought much happiness for the King and Queen as the country edged back to prosperity and their family life was gladdened by the marriage of their daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to her cousin, Prince Philip of Greece, in 1947. 1948 was a particularly happy year with the birth of their first grandchild and future king, Prince Charles, and the celebrations of the King and Queen's silver wedding anniversary. The horizon was clouded, however, by the growing knowledge of the King's illness and as the Queen bravely continued with an ever increasing range of public appearances she could not help but know that this period of her royal life was drawing to a close. After the tragic death of her husband in 1952 she bore her grief with an astonishing degree of dignity and fortitude, providing invaluable support for her daughter, the new Queen and the country as a whole throughout the period of transition to the new reign.

Thereafter many assumed that Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, would retire at least partially from the incessant round of public

duties, especially when she made the impulsive purchase of the old castle of Barrogill on the coast of her beloved Scotland. But the now renamed and restored Castle of Mey can only be an occasional retreat for it swiftly became obvious that neither the Royal Family nor the country could possibly do without her constant presence at the heart of the Royal circle. If anything, her tremendous zest for work has increased during this 'third life' as the Queen Mother, which has lasted now nearly thirty years, a period twice as long as that spent as Queen Consort. The Queen Mother continues to steal the show as the most glamorous figure on every major Royal occasion. Amidst a full diary of public appearances and state visits abroad as England's ambassador extraordinary all over Europe, Canada, Rhodesia, the Pacific and the Caribbean and North, Central and East Africa she somehow still manages to find time to fit in her own favourite hobbies of horse racing and gardening and keeping in touch with her wide circle of family and friends. Indeed at one time or another almost all the gardens of the country's royal residences have been transformed by the special touch and exquisite taste of Queen Elizabeth and they are one of her most abiding contributions to the national heritage.

Rumours of retirement were in the air again as she prepared to celebrate her seventy-fifth birthday but a mere glance at her engagement calendar during the intervening five years shows her to have been as committed as ever to what she has never ceased to regard as her life's work.

Today it seems almost incredible that this perennially vital Royal lady will celebrate her eightieth birthday this year on 4 August. While good wishes and congratulations will pour in from all corners of the world and while the nation prepares to celebrate this very special birthday with a wide range of festivities, the Queen Mother will celebrate this, her own special day, enjoying two of the abiding loves which have remained a constant source of private pleasure and joy throughout her long and varied public career — her family and the arts. The day will be spent quietly with her family at her London home, Clarence House. In the evening she will attend a special gala ballet evening at her beloved Royal Opera House of which she is such a gracious and devoted patron. It will be a very special birthday indeed and its programme reflects the dual nature of the unique career of this gracious and beloved lady; a rich and loving family life shared with a limitless and inspiring sense of duty and pleasure in the cultural and social life of the nation.

SUZANNE WOLSTENHOLME

The Proud Collection

War and the Post



An interesting collection can be formed by showing how war interrupts postal communications. This was especially true in the last war and to illustrate this we are showing two covers to neutral countries, Switzerland and Sweden, in which the services were interrupted by the German

occupation of France and Scandinavia in 1940, and two covers to Malaya and China where the postal services were stopped by the entry of Japan into the war in December 1941. In each case the letters were struck "No service — return to sender".

Reproduced by kind permission of Mr E Proud

Bulletin Back Numbers

In the December 1979 issue of the Bulletin, we printed details of a scheme operated by Mr P Fogel of Bury, Lancashire, whereby readers could dispose of or obtain back numbers of the Bulletin.

Regrettably due to illness Mr Fogel is no longer able to continue with his plans and regrets that he is unable to reply to any more letters.

Opening of New Special Exhibition

Last month, at the National Postal Museum, the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Gadsden, opened a new special exhibition entitled '300 Years of London's Posts'.

This exhibition was mounted to mark the tercentenary of the setting up in 1680 of London's first organised service for local letters: the London Penny Post operated by William Dockwra and other London merchants to meet a need as yet unfilled by the then official postal services.

Highlighted in the exhibition is the story of

Dockwra's shortlived Penny Post and the subsequent development of the London Post from its takeover by the Post Office in 1682 until the postal reforms of 1840; London as the hub of the Mail Coach Service that spread to all corners of the Kingdom from 1784; the Thames River Post, that met the special needs of ships lying in the Pool of London; the effects of Rowland Hill's postal reforms of 1840 in London; and methods of carrying mails in London over the last century.

JEAN FARRUGIA



The new General Post Office, St Martins-le-Grand circa 1840. In the foreground, in his uniform of blue, is one of London's Twopenny Post Letter Carriers. On the right is one of London's Mail Carts and the

entrance to one of London's principal coaching inns: the BULL AND MOUTH on the site of which stands today the present Postal Headquarters building.

Eastern Postal Region Postcard

A new picture postcard illustrating views of Cambridge will be on sale from 13 August 1980.

The card will be available to personal callers at the Cambridge Philatelic Counter, 9-11 St. Andrews Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 1AA, and Philatelic Counters, price 8½p.

Mint cards may be ordered from: The Manager (Postcards), Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BB, price 8½p each plus the normal handling charge.

A first day of sale handstamp will be provided at Cambridge on 13 August.

Serviced cards with first day of sale handstamp will be available at a charge of 30½p which includes the cost of the postcard, first class postage, handstamping and service charge. Orders for serviced cards should be sent to the Cambridge Philatelic Counter as above — not to the Philatelic Bureau.

North East Postal Board Postcards

A new series of five picture postcards (series NEPR 6-10) featuring scenes in the Yorkshire Dales reproduced from paintings by E Charlton-Taylor will be on sale from 20 August 1980.

The views on the cards will feature: Muker in Swaledale; Gouthwaite, Upper Nidderdale; Castle Bolton, Wensleydale; Hubberholme, Upper Wharfedale; Appletreewick, Wharfedale.

The cards will be available to personal callers at the Main Post Office counter in Harrogate, and Philatelic Counters, price 8½p each, or, 42½p for the full set.

Full sets only of mint cards may be ordered from: The Manager (Postcards), Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB, at 42½p per set plus the normal handling charge.

A First Day of Sale Handstamp will be provided at Harrogate on 20 August.

Serviced cards with First Day of Sale Handstamp will be available in full sets only at a charge of £1.60 which includes the cost of

postcards, first class postage, handstamping and service charge. Orders for sets of serviced postcards should be sent to Marketing and Public Relations Division, North Eastern Postal Board, Royal Mail House, Wellington St., LEEDS LS1 1DA — not the Philatelic Bureau.

Payment may be made by Postal Order or Giro Transfer Giro Account Number 608 5008. For orders from overseas, payment must be made by means of International Money Order or Postal Orders or by a cheque drawn on an English bank and payable to the Post Office. Only payment in sterling will be accepted. Orders for serviced postcards will not be accepted unless received by Monday 18 August.

Posting Boxes



No 19. In 1956 a lot of the smaller wall boxes were fitted with a larger posting aperture due to the increase in size of many modern letters. It was the intention that at least one box in each village should have this larger aperture, many such boxes can be seen throughout the country with this modification.

Music — British Conductors Stamps Issue

10 September 1980

Four British conductors, whose contributions to the world of music are universally recognised, are the subjects of this set of special stamps. Sir Henry Wood, founder of London's Promenade Concerts; Sir Thomas Beecham, the founder of both the London Philharmonic and the Royal Philharmonic orchestras; Sir Malcolm Sargent, who after the death of Sir Henry Wood became the favourite of the Promenaders; and Sir John Barbirolli who succeeded the legendary Toscanini as conductor of the New York Philharmonic.

The values and subjects of the stamps are: 12p (Sir Henry Wood); 13½p (Sir Thomas Beecham); 15p (Sir Malcolm Sargent); 17½p (Sir John Barbirolli).

Printing details

Designer: Peter Gauld

Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked, PVA dextrin

Phosphor: Pre-treated

Format: Vertical

Size: 30mm × 41mm

Perforation: 14 × 15

Sheet size: 100

Date of issue: 10 September 1980

Colours

12p Greenish yellow, rosine, grey-black, olive, sepia, gold.

13½p Lemon, rosine, grey-black, rose, gold.

15p Greenish-yellow, rosine, grey-black, blue, green, gold.

17½p Greenish-yellow, rosine, grey-black, slate-violet, gold.

First Day Cover services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two special pictorial handstamps will be available: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and 'London SW'.

Service 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or 'London, SW', as requested, and despatched.

Service 'B'

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested, and despatched.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 1 September 1980.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
'A' Service	87½p	76p
Deposit A/C		
Customers	83p	72p
'B' Service	77p	67p

Presentation Packs

Presentation packs, price 72p, containing all four stamps will be available from 10 September 1980.

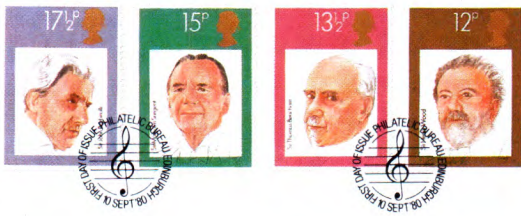
Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 8½p.



Post Office First Day Cover

Music British Conductors



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Music British Conductors



The four stamps were designed by Peter Gould FRAD and printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Limited and issued on

10 September 1980. Pack number 120 designed by Peter Gould FRAD. Pictures from BBC/Hulton Picture Library.

Mar
Brit
Man
For
post



The Royal Albert Hall, London

one approach definitive, or more effective than another?

In fact, although orchestral players are sometimes reluctant to admit it, conductors are indispensable to far the greater part of their work repertoire. The most valuable aspect of their work is revealed at rehearsal when the music is shaped so that each phrase is given its

The British are not accustomed to use hands to reinforce in conversation in the way that the Latins do; even facial emphasis was traditionally regarded as 'bad form' - hence the well-known 'stiff upper-lip'. Perhaps because of this, British conductors were a rare phenomenon in the 19th century; our orchestra's



The Free Trade Hall, Manchester

67. British Rural Architecture, 1970

Designs featuring typical cottage architecture in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland provided contrast and variety for the Post Office's first special stamps of the 1970s. Two of the selected designs — 5d Fife Harling and 9d Cotswold Limestone — were contributed by David Gentleman (the 14th issue in which he had been wholly or partly involved since his first 'N.P.Y.' designs in 1962); the other two — 1s Welsh Stucco and 1s 6d Ulster Thatch — by Sheila Robinson, who had previously designed the 3d Westminster Abbey stamp of 1966.

Harling is a kind of rough-cast cement wash, typical of the Fife region — the cottage depicted is at Culross, legendary birthplace of St Kentigern, between Dunfermline and Kincardine. The limestone cottage is located at Bibury, Gloucestershire, a picturesque Cotswold village, famous for its medieval stone bridge and old stone-built cottages.

The charming Welsh 'stucco' town house was 'discovered' by Sheila Robinson at Aberaeron (or Aberayron), a resort on Cardigan Bay at the mouth of the Aeron River. The design presented some initial difficulties — the large front window has a raisable centre section which was not apparent in the submitted drawings. The stamp was inscribed

in English and Welsh. Ulster thatch, originally designated 'Armagh', is found in south and east Ulster and is known as 'scollop thatching' — the example shown is in the grounds of the Ulster Folk Museum. Sheila Robinson was born in Nottingham in 1925 and attended the local art school. After the war she joined the Royal College of Art, and her freelance work has included illustrations and prints which have been exhibited at the Royal Academy and other galleries, murals and posters.

The stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons in the photogravure process — sheets of 120 (6 × 20) for the 5d and 9d, and of 60 (6 × 10) for the 1s and 1s 6d, on unwatermarked paper. The difference in sheet arrangement was due to the slightly larger format of the latter two stamps. Recorded varieties include, on the 5d, yellow omitted, or yellow missing on the left-hand chimney (later corrected), and a nick in the Queen's hair, below the ribbon; blue omitted on the 1s and 1s 6d; and broken panes in the middle window of the Ulster cottage (1s 6d). Missing phosphor bands occurred on all four values.

Quantities sold were: 5d, 81,581,880; 9d, 11,723,160; 1s, 10,258,320; 1s 6d, 8,969,280; presentation packs, 116,983.

JAMES WATSON



Gems from the RM Phillips Collection LXXVIX

1867 Two Pence Colour Trials

This month's gem at first glance would appear to conform to the current fashion for collecting 'errors' and 'misprints'. While all collectors are familiar with the famous 1d black and its companion, the 2d blue, they might not have encountered a '1d blue'.

These are in fact experiments made in April 1867 to secure more fugitive inks for the two pence value. For this purpose, a small plate was specially

made from the roller of the unissued one penny plate 75, from which a portion of the upper right corner of the impression was erased. These experiments are represented by proofs in bright blue (with a trial cancellation), and Prussian blue (two examples, one with a pen cancellation) and rose-red on wove paper, and in rose-red on diagonally laid blue paper.

CHARLES GOWAN



Book Review

The Machin Collection Album

Published by Urch, Harris & Co. Ltd.,

7 Richmond Hill Avenue,

BRISTOL

BS8 1BQ.

Prices: £9.50 (for Standard mounted stamps)

£17.50 (for Hingeless mounted stamps).

The publishers are widely known for the consistent quality of their products and purchasers of a new album from them will expect a top grade article. They will not be disappointed. This is one of the best turned-out albums to appear for a very long time. It is essentially commended for its clear layout and ease of updating.

It comes in a multi-ring, loose-leaf binder made of a material indistinguishable from real leather and is fully padded with gold blocking on the spine. A slip case is available as are blank spare sheets. There is also a matching supplementary album specially designed for booklets. In short, every-

thing Machin enthusiasts have been waiting for.

The pages detail and illustrate the full range of Machin stamps, coils and booklet panes with admirable clarity. The listings embrace issue dates of pre- and post-decimalisation items, Regional variants, gum types, phosphor bandings and also both varieties of Head style. Even the veriest tyro is going to find it difficult to make an inaccurate insertion. Only colour variations are not catered for. If your interest lies there you will require the blank pages as well.

Bearing in mind the effect of inflation upon publishing costs, anyone in need of a new album may be well advised to buy now. If he buys this one he may even get a bonus. Arnold Machin is personally autographing the first 1000 copies sold. Latecomers must make do with a facsimile signature. Either way this is a really first class product and if you are a Machin enthusiast this is perhaps an appropriate time to start reminding your family of an approaching birthday.

Commemorative Covers

St Mary's Church, Ware

A philatelic cover is now available, commemorating the 80th birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on 4 August, and the 600th anniversary of the rebuilding of Ware church. Printed in gold, the cover bears the logo which is being used by the church to celebrate 1980. The logo consists of a rose and dove motif which forms part of the font cover. The cost of the cover, cancelled with a special handstamp, is £1.00, and is obtainable from: Mr Denis Wager, Five Farthings, Belle Vue Road, WARE, Hertfordshire, SG12 7BD.

The Boys Brigade — East Kent Battalion

The Boys Brigade Council 1980 will be held at the University of Kent, Canterbury, from 12-14 September 1980. To mark the event a commemorative cover will be available illustrating Canterbury Cathedral and the Boys Brigade logo and Canterbury Cross. The cover will have a 12p 'Music' stamp affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp; price 60p.

Orders should be sent to: The Registrar, 18 Honeywood Close, CANTERBURY, Kent CT1 1XF to arrive not later than 1 September 1980. Remittances must be made payable to: The Boys Brigade — East Kent Battalion — 1980 A/C.

Brixworth Church, Northampton

To mark the 1300th Anniversary of the founding of Brixworth Church, Northampton, an illustrated souvenir cover, designed by a 15-year-old child, is now available. The cover, with an 11½p 'Dipper' stamp affixed is cancelled with a special handstamp which incorporates the words, 'Brixworth Church The Finest 7th Century Building North of the Alps'. The cost of the cover is £1 which includes return postage and packing. Orders should be sent to: Miss S Jowers, 2 Lesson Road, Brixworth, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 9EE.

Alford Craft Festival

A set of souvenir covers will be available to commemorate the Alford Craft Festival — 22-26 August 1980. There will be seven covers, all bearing separate illustrations of the locality. Each

cover will have a 12p Queen Mother Birthday Stamp affixed, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp. The cost of each cover is 55p or £3.50 for the complete set.

Full details may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Mr A Billam, 12 Finsbury Street, ALFORD, Lincolnshire, LN13 9BH.

Leicester Symphony Orchestra

A commemorative cover will be issued on 10 September 1980 by the Leicester Symphony Orchestra to honour its former conductor, Sir Malcolm Sargent. It will bear the full set of 'Music' stamps, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp which includes the legend, 'Leicester Symphony Orchestra celebrate their 75th Year and honour their former conductor Sir Malcolm Sargent'. The front of the cover will depict a French horn. Remittances should be made payable to Mr A G Bradbury to whom orders must be sent at 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ. The charge is £2.50 which includes return postage and packing in an outer cover.

The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children

To mark the issue of the Famous British Conductors Stamps on 10 September 1980 The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, which helps children suffering from cancer, leukaemia or Hodgkin's disease, has produced a limited edition of a commemorative cover. Each cover will carry a full set of the stamps depicting Sir Henry Wood, Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Malcolm Sargent and Sir John Barbiroli, cancelled on the first day of issue with a special handstamp, and will be priced at £1.50. All profits will go to the Charity.

Orders should be sent to: The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, 6 Sydney Street, LONDON, SW3 6PP to which remittances should be made payable.

The Sir Thomas Beecham Trust Ltd

To celebrate the issue of the four Famous British Conductors Stamps on 10 September 1980 The Sir

Thomas Beecham Trust is producing its own commemorative cover. The cover, which incorporates a portrait of Sir Thomas Beecham, will bear the 13½p Sir Thomas Beecham stamp and will be cancelled with a special handstamp on the first day of issue.

This is a limited edition and orders for covers, which are priced at £1, should be sent, as soon as possible, to: The Sir Thomas Beecham Trust Ltd, 44 Forgnal, LONDON, NW3 6YA.

Bedford Music Club

To celebrate 10 years of the Bedford Music Club and the issue of the Famous British Conductors Stamps on 10 September 1980 a limited edition of a specially designed commemorative cover has been produced. Each cover will bear the full set of four stamps and be specially handstamped on the first day of issue. The proceeds will go towards funding the 1981/82 season of concerts.

The cost of the cover is £1.50. Orders and cheques, made payable to 'Bedford Music Club', should be forwarded to The Secretary, Bedford Music Club, Greenwood Cottage, 14 The Green, Bromham, BEDFORD, MK43 8JS.

Aboricultural Association

To mark the 'First International Aboricultural Conference', at Sussex University, dealing with tree replacement for the 21st century, the Aboricultural Association is issuing a commemorative cover to be cancelled with a special handstamp on 18 August 1980.

The covers, including a 12p stamp, cost 40p each and are available from Dr J H R Hall, South Lodge, South Parks Road, OXFORD OX1 3RF.

Halle Orchestra

The oldest professional symphony orchestra in Great Britain, the Halle, will produce a special cover to be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp featuring the Halle logo, on 10 September 1980. The cover, price £2.50, will bear the full set of 'Music' stamps, which depict four conductors all of whom have conducted the Halle.

The special posting box will be sited in the Halle Concert Society Booking Hall, 11 Cross Street, MANCHESTER M2 1WE. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Presentation Philatelic Services, Station Road, East Shilton, LEICESTER LE9 7GH.

Part of the profits from sales will be donated to the Halle Concert Society.

Newport County AFC Promotion to Division 3 and Welsh Cup Winners Season 1979/80

To celebrate the outstanding achievements of this Welsh football club during the 1979/80 season, a special handstamp and commemorative cover will be issued. In addition, a special Philatelic Posting Box will be sited at Somerton Park Football Ground for the first home game in Division Three on 19 August 1980. All orders for covers etc., should be forwarded to Mr Brian Farley, Commercial Manager at Newport County AFC, Somerton Park, NEWPORT, Gwent NPT 0HZ. The charge per cover which includes postage, is 50p. Cheques or postal orders payable to Newport County AFC Ltd.

Jeffery Matthews Signed Covers

When he opened the Middlesex Philatelic Federation's Annual Convention on 19 April, the designer Jeffery Matthews signed some official Post Office first day covers of the 50p stamp which he had designed and which was issued on 9 April. A number of these covers are still available, and may be obtained from Mr H J Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, PINNER, Middlesex HA5 3BW, at £1.60 including postage and packing. All the proceeds from the sale of these covers will be given to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, at the request of Jeffery Matthews.

1980 National Festival of Flower Arrangements — 21st Anniversary

A special cover marking the 21st Anniversary of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies is being produced in connection with the 1980 Festival 'Midland Montage' to be held at Nottingham University on 10-11 September.

The cover will bear the attractive Robin Hood emblem of Midland Montage, and the 10½p Daffodil stamp, appropriately cancelled with a special handstamp of floral design.

The filler card will give details of the Festival and a very limited number will be signed by the Festival chairman.

The cost of each fully serviced cover will be 75p with the signed issue being £1.25. They will be available only on the two days of the Festival — if stocks last — but may be ordered in advance if accompanied by the appropriate remittance and a large stamped addressed envelope. Cheques and POs should be crossed and made payable to the 1980 NAFAS Festival, and sent to Mrs P A Fasham, Beaconsfield, Fulleby, HORNCASTLE, Lincs. LN9 6JY.

Forthcoming Events

BPF Congress 1980

The Cambridge Philatelic Society in its Diamond Jubilee Year, will host the 62nd BPF Congress to be held in Trinity College, Cambridge, 20-23 August 1980.

Full details are obtainable from B F Sutcliffe, 4 Leyburn Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4XR.

Bournemouth and District Philatelic Society

A stamp fair will take place in the Bournemouth Town Hall, BN2 6DY, arranged by the Bournemouth and District Philatelic Society on Saturday 13 September 1980 from 10am till 5pm.

The theme of the exhibition will be the 'Famous People' stamp issue and the connections of famous literary peoples with Bournemouth. Among the attractions will be displays, a Post Office stand, dealers stands, competitions and prizes.

Admission will be 25p for adults, 10p for children. Refreshments will also be available.

Artist's Exhibition — Central Library, Bedford

Peter Gauld, the designer of the 'Music' stamps will hold an exhibition of his work at the Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford MK40 1PG which will be opened to the public from 1 to 12 September.

Courses in Philately

Following this year's successful course on Stamp Collecting, it is intended to repeat the course starting on 15th September 1980 and lasting over three terms until June 1981.

The course is suitable for beginners and those at an intermediate stage. It will cover basic principles, i.e., essential equipment and use of same, discussion on the various methods of mounting and displaying material whether for a private collection or for showing at competition level. The various types of philately will be discussed at length, such as stamps, covers, air mails, postal history, thermatics, etc. Quite a large amount of time will be devoted to British material, and as many countries as Course students themselves are

interested in. It is also anticipated that practical work will be undertaken by students on their collections and by exchanging their own materials.

It is also intended that when possible visiting speakers will be asked to show material of an unusual and interesting nature. Philatelic films will be shown, also visits will be made to places of philatelic interest.

Enrolment will be at Holloway Institute, Ashmount School, Hornsey Lane, N19, during the week commencing 8 September up to Thursday 11 September, during the evenings.

Book Review

The Story of the Penny Black and its contemporaries

by A G Rigo de Righi BA FRPS, L
Published by The National Poster Museum,
King Edward Building, King Edward Street,
LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Its price is £3.50 (£3.70 by Post, made payable to the Post Office). Orders by Post should be addressed direct to the National Postal Museum at King Edward Buildings, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

The National Postal Museum enjoys a well deserved reputation for producing philatelic literature of the very highest standards. Not at all surprising when one reflects that most of the great classical source material is in its safe keeping. This book is no exception to the rule. It spells out quality in every line.

Superbly illustrated and beautifully printed, it has been designed by a distinguished artist and written by an acknowledged expert. Its illustrations are so good that, if a collector saw them below transparent mounts, he would need to look twice to discern them to be copies.

The author writes succinctly and argues cogently. His comment that Chalmers had little or no idea of the problems involved in the mass production of postage stamps condenses the whole substance of that long and bitter controversy into a single sentence. Hill not only understood the problems but came up with practical solutions.

One of the great pleasures of this book is that the author has opinions of his own. Readers will sometimes experience the sensation of arguing with him. They will not simply skim through the pages but read them again and again. All very thought-provoking, extremely enjoyable and very, very instructive.

A book which is definitely too good to be missed.

Forces Covers

Royal Navy Cover

The 65th anniversary of the sinking of the U27 submarine by the Q-ship 'Baralong' on 19 August 1915 will be remembered with the issue of a special cover. The cover will illustrate the 'Baralong' in action against the U27 and a pictorial handstamp including BFPO 1716 will be used.

Covers bearing the signatures of Captain B F J Manning DSC, Merchant Navy, who was a Lieut RNR in a Q-ship, and Captain H Geen, Merchant Navy, who was rescued at sea by a Q-ship, having been torpedoed, are available price £1.85 each.

Covers signed by Captain Geen only are available price £1.05 each. Unsigned covers are 60p each. All covers will have the 12p Queen Mother's Birthday Stamp affixed.

Orders accompanied by remittances and a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope should be sent to: RN Philatelic Officer, FAA Museum, RN Air Station, YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HL. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'FAA Museum'.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother — 80th Birthday

The 4 August 1980 marks the 80th birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. To honour this occasion a special commemorative cover has been designed, consisting of Her Majesty's personal coat-of-arms in colour, on the left of the envelope. The pictorial BFPS handstamp number 8080 will be used to cancel the special stamp being issued to honour the occasion.

There will be a limited number of covers only, price £1.50 each. In addition, a limited number will also be cancelled at Glamis Castle and Edinburgh. These two covers also cost £1.50 each. A very limited number of numismatic covers will also be available at £3.00 per cover.

Orders should be sent to: Major A J Martin, GSO2 Trg (Cadets), HQ SE District, Steele's Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants GU11 2DP.

Cheques should be made payable to: Major A J Martin, QM Account. Refunds will be made if all covers are sold.

Flt Sub Lieut R A J Warneford VC RN

We gave details in the June Bulletin of a cover commemorating the 65th anniversary of the bombing of a zeppelin during the first world war by Flt Sub Lt R A J Warneford. Because of the lack of space at the time we were unable to supply full details of costs, we are happy to do so now.

Signed Covers

Doublesigned:

Mr Ben Travers, playwright and ex-Flt Sub Lieut RNAS, and Mrs J Dodington, who is Warneford's sister.

Single signature

Mrs J Dodington.

Prices

Double signature with 15p London Landmarks Stamp £1.85.

Single signature with 13p London Landmarks Stamp £1.05.

Unsigned with 11½p London Landmarks stamp — 60p.

Application should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope about 7" x 5".

Orders with remittances made payable to the 'Fleet Air Arm Museum', should be sent to Commander P Cole DCS RN (Retd), Philatelic Officer, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset BA22 8HL.

Philatelic Bulletin

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