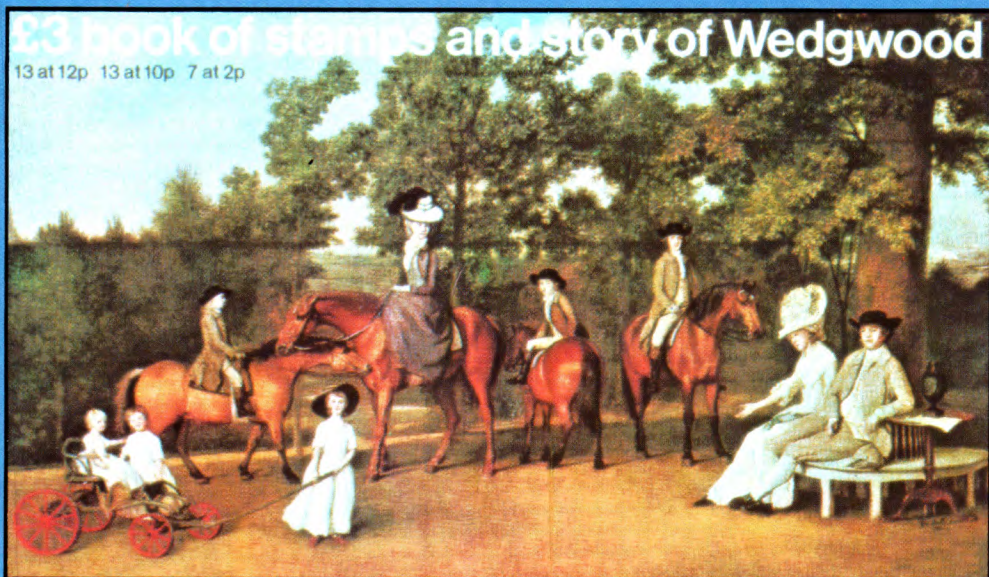


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 17 Number 7 March 1980



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Book Review

An Introduction to British Postal Mechanisation

by Douglas N Muir & Martin Robertson.

Available from H J Lush, 9 Leighton Avenue, PINNER, Middx. HA5 3BW. Price £1.50 post free.

Anyone wishing to familiarise himself with the history of postal mechanisation in Great Britain could do no better than to read this book. Its 16 pages summarise the development of mechanical sortation from the 1935 Transorma machines at Brighton to Optical Character Recognition trials at Ipswich 43 years later.

Despite its small size the book covers the subject in a fashion which readily permits both the tyro and the specialist to see the whole picture.

The book ends with the most comprehensive list and dating of mechanised letter offices I have seen published outside specialist works. If anything can popularise the subject this will.

It is not often that a new magazine about stamps comes along to help us with our hobby. We are pleased to welcome to the ranks of the philatelic press "Stamps" a monthly, whose first issue has just appeared. We wish them well in their new venture.

London 1980 is almost upon us and by the time you read this, this year's Stampex will have come and gone. We were disappointed to learn from the judges that the Post Office Stampex Trophy — among others — was not awarded as no entry was considered sufficiently good. No doubt many competitors are saving their entries for the International later this year and we shall be anxious to see the quality of the National class.

Stampex commemorates Liverpool & Manchester Railway

The traditional STAMPEX 1980 Souvenir Sheet commemorated the 150th Anniversary of the Liverpool-Manchester Railway. The Souvenir Sheet was designed by the studios of Stamp Magazine and it shows the engine and a mail coach of the period. In addition, there are two original designs for British unadopted stamps of 1975 designed by Brian Craker. The printing of the Souvenir Sheet was limited to 25,000 copies. The Souvenir Sheet makes an interesting complementary item for philatelists interested in the Railway theme and an addition to the set of Railway Stamps issued on 12 March 1980. Your local dealer may have supplies.

New Philatelic Sales Counters

Two new philatelic sales counters will be opened on 31 March 1980 at the following addresses: HPO Colchester, 29-39 Head St, COLCHESTER CO1 1AA; HPO Stoke-on-Trent, 25-31 Tontine St, Hanley, STOKE-ON-TRENT ST1 1AA.

British Special Stamps

62. British Architecture: Cathedrals, 1969



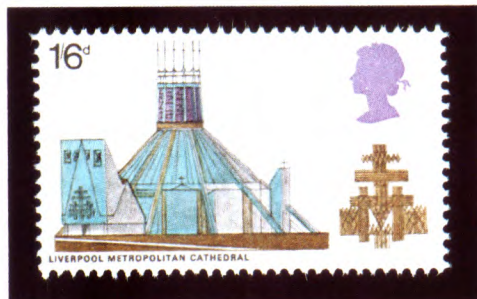
Anticipating the European Architectural Heritage Year (1975) by six years, the Post Office embarked upon a series of stamps devoted to the many aspects of British architecture on 28 May 1969 with its colourful issue of cathedrals, dating from medieval times to the present day.

The stamps were designed by Peter Gauld, FSIA, who had enjoyed previous successes with the P.O. Savings Bank 2½d (1961), the Commonwealth Cable 1s 6d (1963) and the Joseph Lister 4d (1965), and who, incidentally, designed the 'Heritage' stamps mentioned above. They showed: 5d Durham Cathedral; 5d York Minster; 5d St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh; 5d Canterbury Cathedral; 9d St. Paul's Cathedral; and 1s 6d Liverpool's new Metropolitan Cathedral. The 5d values were issued together *se-tenant* in blocks of four within the sheet, and the buildings occupied three-quarters of the horizontal design area, the fourth quarter providing space for the Queen's profile silhouette and, below, an enlarged detail of the cathedral's architecture.

Durham Cathedral stands majestically on a rocky hill above the River Wear – it is one of the

finest existing examples of Norman architecture, and its construction, 1096-1133, is said to have been influenced by the style of the Abbey at Jumièges in France. Its pointed arches are a development of the Norman rounded arch and the central tower is late Gothic. Features are the nave, the choir, the Chapel of the Nine Altars and the tomb of St. Cuthbert, c.635-687, the monk who at one time acted as the Bishop of Lindisfarne, but later became a recluse. The stamp includes a typical capital as an inset. York Minster is Britain's largest medieval cathedral, displaying various phases of Gothic, notably the 14th-century West Front which belongs to the Decorated period. It is built on the site of a church erected as early as the 7th century, and was finished as it now exists in 1470 – it is 524 feet in length and the height of the central tower is 216 feet, the western one, 201 feet. Its extensive series of stained glass windows include some of the earliest in England. Also inset on the stamp is a typical capital.

St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, is famous for its Crown Tower, and the stamp's inset angel is a roof boss from the Thistle Chapel. Originally St.



Giles' Church, the structure dates from between the 12th and 14th centuries. Canterbury Cathedral was founded by St. Augustine, A.D. 597, and the present building, completed in 1184 after two previous churches on the site had been destroyed by fire, represents many epochs. The Gothic nave and transepts were rebuilt between 1379 and 1400, and are regarded as masterpieces. It contains many interesting monuments, statues and tombs, Among the latter that of Thomas à Becket, murdered in the north transept in 1170. Inset on the stamp is part of the ceiling decoration from the Chapel of Edward the Confessor, built by Henry IV.

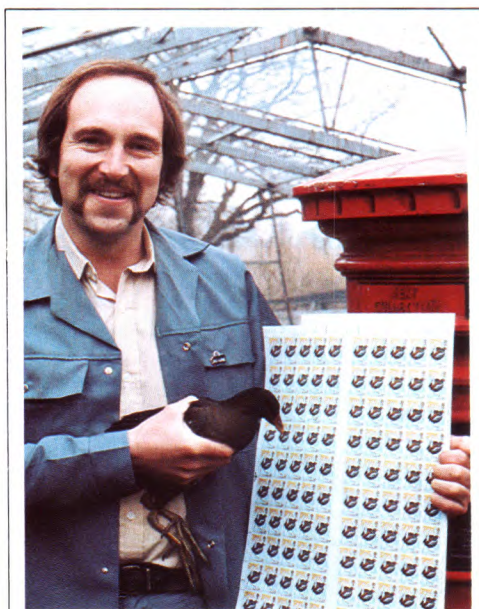
The demise of old St. Paul's (at least the third church on the Ludgate Hill site) was hastened by the Great Fire of London, and Sir Christopher Wren was commissioned to restore the building. He modelled the new St. Paul's Cathedral on the lines of St. Peter's, Rome, a work which occupied him from 1675 to 1710. The massive dome, 102 feet in diameter, is surmounted by a cross 365 feet above ground level. Wren's greatest achievement contains many memorials and, in the crypt, the tombs of many famous people including Nelson, Wellington, Jellicoe, Reynolds and Turner. The inset cherub is part of the decor of the Dean of St. Pauls' door. Frederick Gibberd's Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool, built 'in the round' of concrete and steel, was a radical departure from traditional cathedral design – it was completed in 1967. The inset carved symbolic

crosses and crowns were the work of William Mitchell.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 72 (5d 6 × 12) or 120 (9d, 1s 6d 6 × 20) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. Seven colours were used in the block of four 5d stamps, though no individual stamp has seven; five colours for the 9d and 1s 6d. recorded varieties include the omission of the pale bluish violet colour on two 5d stamps (Durham and York), green omitted on the 5d St. Giles' Cathedral roof, and the black values omitted on the 9d and 1s 6d stamps, which are also known with phosphor bands omitted.

Quantities sold were: 5d 65,344,176; 9d 11,065,920; 1s 6d 11,414,280; English presentation packs, 119,828; German packs, 7,200.

JAMES WATSON



Mabel the Moorhen seen with her keeper David Stamps (sic!) of Chessington Zoo, Surrey and a sheet of the recent 'Moorhen' stamps.

A very fine Cover of May 1840



W. A. Peacock Esq

Salisbury Square

It is well known amongst collectors of line-engraved Great Britain that one penny blacks, on or off cover, though expensive, are by no means rare. This is confirmed by the number of used penny blacks which come up for sale at auctions.

But covers such as this month's 'Gem', shown above, are something very different. Multiples of the One Penny used on cover meant normally that the weight was in excess of the basic $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. The 6d rate on this cover is for a letter weighing between 2oz and 3oz in itself an unusual occurrence. Then there was the natural tendency to use Twopenny stamps (rather than the One Penny) for high postage rates such as on this cover. Finally people were not very careful when separating the stamps from the sheet – there were no philatelists in 1840!

So, the odds are stacked fairly heavily against the existence – let alone the survival in good condition – of a cover such as this.

It can only be described as very rare and very fine, with clear to excellent margins all round the strip of stamps. Had the letter not been folded (for filing, as was so often the practice in offices at that time) and therefore the 'HG' stamp creased, this

gem would rightly merit the description 'superb'. For the record the letter was sent locally within London on 21 May 1840; the stamps are from Plate 1A.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

Two New Postcards

The South Western and Eastern Postal Regions are to issue new cards. The first is a new, Continental size picture postcard in colour, featuring the Eastern Postal Region Diss-Gislingham Postbus.

The card, will have as the centre piece a view of the bus, a Dodge 11-Seater, DWC 836T, bordered by picturesque views of 4 villages along the bus route. Top left, Wickham Skeith, top right, Eye, bottom left Thornham Magna and bottom right, Gislingham.

The postcard is to be put on sale Tuesday 25 March 1980, which is the sixth anniversary of this Postbus service. There will be a first day of sale handstamp for the card and orders can be sent to the Head Postmaster, Sorting Office, 13/17 Thorpe Road, NORWICH NR1 1AA.

Mint postcards cost 8p each and for orders sent

The London 1980 Stamp 9 April 1980

by post there is a charge for postage and packing of 25p for up to 20 cards, 50p for 21 to 100 cards, £1 for 101 to 250 cards and £1.50 for over 250 cards.

Serviced cards, with first day of sale handstamp will cost 30p each, which includes the cost of the postcard, first class postage, handstamp and service charge.

Money for postcards should be sent in postal orders, or by direct Giro transfer to Norwich Head Post Office, Giro Account Number 250 8014. For postcards travelling overseas the appropriate amount should be added for the difference between the British first class rate and the relevant overseas postage rate. For orders from overseas, payment must be made by means of International money or postal orders or by a cheque drawn on an English Bank. Only payment in sterling will be accepted. The handstamp to be used on 25 March 1980 is rectangular enclosing an outline of a Postbus. The wording reads "DISS-GISLINGHAM POSTBUS PICTURE POSTCARD FIRST DAY OF SALE 25 MARCH 1980 NORWICH, NORFOLK".

The second features picturesque Cotswold Post Offices which are the highly attractive subjects of the new South West Postal Region postcard to be issued by Gloucester Head Post Office on Monday 31 March 1980.

The 4 Post Offices shown on the card, which is SWPR9 in the series, are at Lower Slaughter, Sherborne, Bibury and Filkins and must be some of the most attractive old Cotswold stone buildings in the area.

A special handstamp is to be used at Gloucester on the first day of sale of the postcard.

Mini postcards will cost 7p each and advance orders for the cards and the first day of sale handstamp can be sent to the Philatelic Branch, Gloucester Head Post Office, GLOUCESTER GL1 1AA. Serviced, stamped and handstamped cards will cost 30p each and money should preferably be sent by postal order, or Giro transfer to Gloucester Head Post Office account number 216 7018, to arrive by 31 March.

The postage and packing charge for mint cards is 15p for up to 20 cards, 25p for up to 100, 50p for up to 250 and £1 for more than 250 postcards.

The Post Office is issuing a 50p pictorial stamp in connection with the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition. The stamp, which incorporates a montage of famous London buildings and monuments, will also be released as part of a miniature sheet on 7 May 1980.

An international stamp exhibition is only staged in the United Kingdom once every ten years: London 1980 takes place 6-14 May at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre.

Technical Details

Designer: Jeffery Matthews

Printer: Harrison & Sons Limited

Printing Process: Line engraved

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked, PVA dextrin

Phosphor: None

Format: Vertical

Size: 43mm x 59mm

Perforation: 14 x 14½

Number to a Sheet: 50

Value: 50p

Colour: Dark Brown





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 Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing the stamp.

The cover will be cancelled, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, or, London SW, as requested, and despatched for a charge of 78p. For deposit account customers the charge will be 73½p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamp, cancelled as requested, and despatched for a charge of 67½p per cover.

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 31 March 1980.

Postcards

A postcard reproduction of the stamp will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date of the postage stamp, price 8½p.

Presentation Pack

Presentation packs, price 64p each, containing the stamp, will be available from 9 April 1980.

New Wedgwood Stamp Book

In 1972 the Post Office issued a book of stamps, sponsored by Josiah Wedgwood and Co, showing some aspects of the craft of pottery and some of the famous products that have been created by one of Britain's leading pottery manufacturers. The success of this book has occasioned considerable requests for the Post Office to issue another.

1980 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Josiah Wedgwood, and the Post Office feels that this is an appropriate year to issue another stamp book sponsored by this company.

On 16 April a stamp book, value £3, will be issued containing four panes of stamps as follows: pane A: 9 x 12p; pane B: 9 x 10p; pane C: 6 x 2p; pane D: 4 x 12p, 4 x 10p, 1 x 2p. The book will also contain a short biography of Josiah, and full colour

illustrations of some of his company's famous creations.

The books will be available from all post offices and, by post, from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

The accompanying line drawings illustrate the make-up of the four panes and the positions of the perforation bars.

Stamp Printing Details

Designer: Arnold Machin

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd

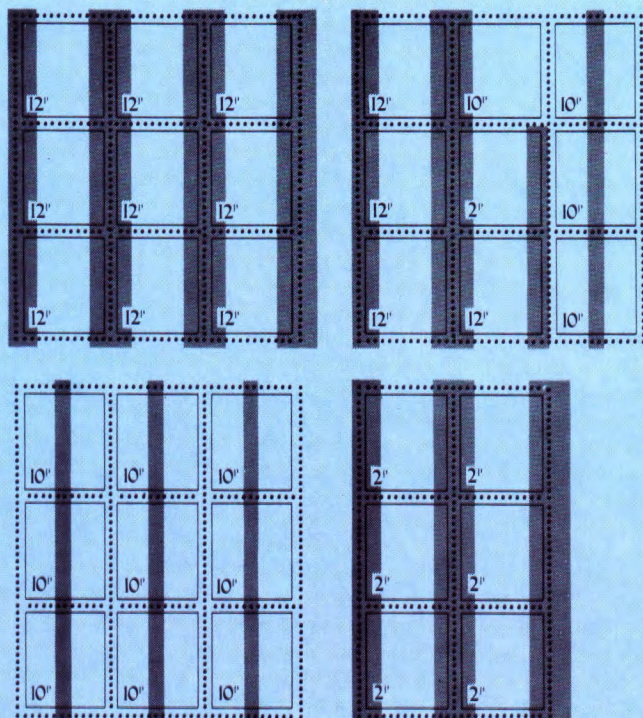
Process: Photogravure

Paper: Fluorescent coated paper

Adhesive: PVA dextrin

Perforation: 14 x 15

Colours: 2p green; 10p beige; 12p yellowish-green



Stop Press Notice

London 1980 Miniature Sheet 7 May 1980

This is the third miniature sheet to be issued by the Post Office and contains the 50p London 1980 stamp in a decorative surrounding. The price is 75p and from the proceeds of the sales of the sheet, the Post Office is helping to finance the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition. It will be available from 7 May 1980.

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 Post Office cover addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing the miniature sheet.

The cover will be cancelled, 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or, 'London SW', as requested, and despatched for a charge of £1.03. For deposit account customers the charge will be 98½p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the miniature sheet, cancelled as requested, and despatched for a charge of 92½p per cover.

First Day Covers

Following the recent changes in VAT which were announced on p99 of the February Bulletin, different charges will be raised for future orders from UK and overseas. The prices quoted on p109 and p111 of this Bulletin should be read in conjunction with the following:

Wedgwood Stamp Book (pane D 90p)

	Inland	Overseas
Service A	£1.24	£1.08
D/A Customers	£1.19½	£1.04
Service B	£1.13½	98½p

London 1980 (50p Stamp)

	Inland	Overseas
Service A	78p	68p
D/A Customers	73½p	64p
Service B	67½p	58½p

Miniature Sheet (75p)

	Inland	Overseas
Service A	£1.03	89½p
D/A Customers	98½p	85½p
Service B	92½p	80½p

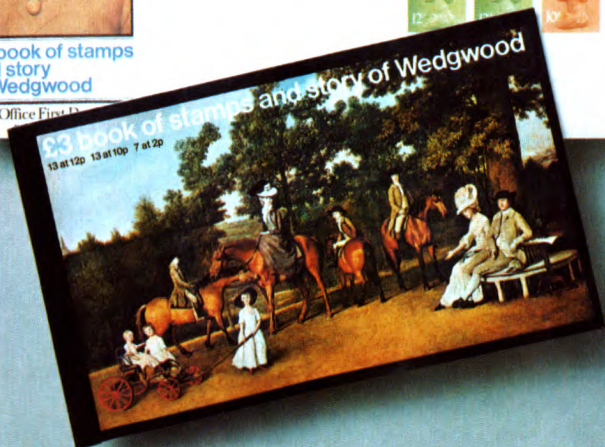
The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms for the Miniature Sheet, available from the Philatelic Bureau and all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 28 April 1980.

Jonah Wedgwood FRS 1730-1795
Painted in 1780 by George Stubbs



£3 book of stamps
and story
of Wedgwood

Post Office First Day



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 Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all the stamps from pane D (value 90p).

The cover will be cancelled, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, or, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, as requested, and despatched for a charge of £1.24. For deposit account customers the charge will be £1.19½.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps from pane D, cancelled as requested, and despatched for a charge of £1.13½ per cover.

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 7 April 1980.

Liverpool & Manchester Railway: 150th Anniversary

The Post Office will issue commemorative covers to celebrate the re-enactment of the Rainhill Trials on 24-26 May and the 150th anniversary of the first carriage of mail by train on 11 November 1980. Full details of these covers will be published later.

The North Western Postal Board has produced two Post Office picture postcards based on Ackermann "Long" prints showing trains of first and second class passengers with a mail coach and goods and cattle. The cards will be available from 12 March 1980 — price 8½p each. A special print of these cards will also be available from 12 March 1980, bearing the official British Rail Anniversary logo and a full set of stamps — price 70p, plus 15% VAT on all orders. Orders should be sent to Peter Buckley Esq, North Western Postal Board, 79 Oxford Street, MANCHESTER M60 1DA (adding 30p for orders up to 50 cards, 60p for orders 51-250 cards and £1.25 for orders over 250 cards).

In addition to the Post Office covers, there will be a number of privately sponsored ones. Details of

some of these are given below, with contact addresses.

To mark the Anniversary a First Day Cover will feature a special 55p Rail Letter stamp to be issued on 12 March by British Rail, as well as the Post Office's issue on the same day of five special Railway stamps. The illustration on the cover is made up of 4 colour photographs representing the development of passenger trains. All covers will be carried by a special train running from Liverpool to Manchester. A British Rail pictorial cancel will be used for their particular stamp and a Post Office cancel is to be used for their set of five, thus creating a Double Commemorative Railway Cover.

Covers will cost £1.60 each for a single PO stamp with a Liverpool or Manchester postmark.

Covers with a full set of stamps will cost £2.75 with a Liverpool or Manchester postmark.

Gutter pairs on one cover will cost £4.25 for either postmark.

The mint Rail stamp is available for 65p.

All covers listed above include the 55p Rail stamp.

Postage and packing will cost 20p.

Covers only available from the officially appointed Philatelic Agents for this event – Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd; 24/28 High Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 5AT.

Later in the year British Rail will also carry a number of Post Office Commemorative Covers

on each of the replicas of Rocket, Sans Pareil and Novelty, at the Rainhill Railway Spectacular on 24 May 1980 and on 11 November 1980 on the special train commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first carriage of mail by rail. Order forms can be obtained by writing to British Rail, Admail, 150 LIVERPOOL L69 0BR.

On 12 March 1980 Greater Manchester Council will post a number of Post Office First Day Covers in a special posting box on Liverpool Road Station. These will be given exclusive cachet-mark and postmarked with a GMC sponsored special-handstamp.

They will also sponsor a Commemorative Cover to celebrate the "Great Railway Exposition" at the Liverpool Road Railway Station (the world's first passenger station), to be held during August and September 1980; and a further cover to mark the 150th Anniversary of the first passenger train on 14 September 1980. Enquiries should be directed to David M Sumner, Festival Administrator, The Great Railway Exposition, Liverpool Road Station, Liverpool Road, MANCHESTER M3 4JP.

The Newton 150 Committee will produce a Commemorative Cover on 29 March 1980 to mark the opening of their exhibition at Earlestown Railway Station, Newton-le-Willows. Enquiries to Miss A Larkin, Public Library, Crow Lane East, NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS, Merseyside WA12 9TU.

A Train of the First Class of Carriages, with the Mail



A Train of the Second Class, for ordinary Passengers

The Railway Philatelic Group

Steamtown Carnforth will also produce a Commemorative Cover associated with the replica of Novelty (one of the five engines designed for the original Rainhill Trials). Enquiries to I M Atkinson, Steamtown Railway Museum, Warton Road, CARNFORTH, Lancashire LA5 9HX.

The Great Central Railway Company have produced a cover for the 12 March 1980 issue of stamps. Two special handstamps will be available on this date. Enquiries to A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER LE2 6FJ.

The Railway Philatelic Group (20 Rockley Road, Leicester LE4 0GJ) has produced a souvenir cover featuring Stephenson's *Rocket*. It will be available serviced with the full set of railway stamps and carried on the North Western Travelling Post Office on 12 March. It will also be available serviced on the occasion of the Group's convention on 29 March when the full set of stamps will be cancelled by a special postmark commemorating the Convention and the 150th Anniversary of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway. The locomotive on the postmark is Braithwaite and Ericsson's *Novelty*, one of the contenders at the Rainhill Trials. The covers cost £1.20 each. Please state if the TPO or the Convention postmark is required. Remittances should be made payable to the Railway Philatelic Group.

British Rail Crewe are sponsoring a First Day Cover plus a Special Handstamp.

The First Day Cover will show an early Travelling Post Office vehicle of the 1830s and the current cancellation marks used aboard each of the TPO's serving Crewe.

The price is £1 for a fully service cover.

Application forms can be obtained from PRO Stoke Station, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2AA; BR Enquiry at Crewe CW2 6AA; Stafford ST16 2AA and Stoke Station ST4 2AA; Crown Post Offices at The Square, Crewe CW1 2HP; Nantwich CW5 5AA and Sandbach CW11 0BS.

A TPO carriage will be on exhibition at Crewe Railway Station from 9-12 March 1980 where the First Day of Issue cancellation will be made.

Over the years the *Bulletin* has contained many references to the Railway Philatelic Group, usually in connection with its publications. The forthcoming issue of railway stamps seems to be a good time to inform readers of the Group and its activities.

The Railway Philatelic Group was formed in 1966 to provide a forum for collectors who had an interest in both philately and railways. It was soon decided that there would be no limit to the interests of the membership – if a link between railways and the posts could be made then the Group was interested. As our prospectus says, we exist to *encourage research and to promote interest into Railway Letter Posts, Parcel Stamps, Travelling Post Offices and postage stamps of the world with a railway theme*. It should also mention other postmarks with a railway link or theme and any cinderella material which is encountered.

Communal research and promotion is made possible by means of a quarterly printed journal, *Railway Philately*, which contains articles and features contributed by members. The Group is well known as the publisher of the standard work on the history of Travelling Post Offices and has published several books on other aspects of railway philately.

To enable members to improve their collections the Group holds postal auctions, usually annually, and runs an exchange packet scheme. The AGM is followed by a convention at which members sell, buy or exchange material; it is usually attended by several dealers who cater for our interests. The opportunity is also taken to hold an exhibition at which members compete for several cups and trophies.

Membership of the Group is now over 400, with members all over the world, and is rising rapidly. The subscription is £3. An application form and a copy of the current book list will be sent to anyone sending a stamped addressed envelope to our Editor, Peter Johnson, 20 Rockley Road, LEICESTER LE4 0GJ.



Birds Exhibition

Robert Dougal, ex-BBC newscaster and well known ornithologist, recently opened a unique exhibition by wildlife artist Michael Warren, at Bedford Central Library.

It was Mr Warren who designed the stamps issued to commemorate the centenary of bird protection in the United Kingdom and the four original works chosen were on display, together with more than 40 other originals by the Nottingham artist, acclaimed as one of the country's best.

Welcoming the 200 guests who attended the private showing were Mr Joe Cantley, Director of Eastern Postal Region, and Mr Ian Prestt, Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Mr Dougal congratulated Mr Warren on his impressive work and welcomed the stamp issue which, he said, would help draw further attention to the importance of wildlife and the need for its preservation.

Praise for Mr Warren's paintings also came from Mr Cantley who spoke about stamp production and how the finished article had, over recent years with improved printing methods, become a miniature work of art in itself.

The exhibition was the largest in Mr Warren's career and included numerous studies of birds found in both Europe and North America.

The RSPB first became aware of Mr Warren's work after he submitted a front page study for the society's quarterly magazine 'Birds'.



Forthcoming Events

Goodmayes Philatelic Society

The Goodmayes Philatelic Society will hold a stamp fair on Saturday 5 April 1980 at the Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, ESSEX IG3 8UA from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Admission is free.

Basildon Philatelic Society

The Basildon Philatelic Society will hold its annual exhibition and stamp fair on Saturday 19 April 1980 in St Martin's Church Hall, Town Centre, BASILDON, Essex SS14 1DX from 10.00 am to 5 pm.

The exhibition will include displays by the winners of the annual trophy competitions, members displays (including special Junior Section) and a Post Office philatelic sales counter. There will be a number of dealers at the exhibition and refreshments available. Admission is free.

Railway Philatelic Group

The Annual Convention of the Railway Philatelic Group will take place on Saturday 29 March 1980. The exhibition of entries for the Group's competitions will be opened to the public from 1.30 pm, when there will also be several dealers' stands, a Group bookstall and refreshments. Admission will be free. The Convention will be held at the Buckminster Road Church Hall, Buckminster Road, LEICESTER LE3 9AT. A location plan will be available from the organiser, Peter Johnson, 20 Rockley Road, LEICESTER LE4 0GJ if a stamped addressed envelope is sent.

Yorkshire Philatelic Convention and Leeds Philatelic Society 90th Anniversary

The Leeds Philatelic Society will host the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association on Saturday 12 April 1980 at the Lawnswood High School, Ring Road, West Park, NORTH LEEDS LS16 5AG.

The programme will include an exhibition of Yorkshire Competition Winners and a display by members of the Leeds Philatelic Society. Twenty dealers will be in attendance and the Post Office will install a sales counter. Entrance fee is by programme price 30p plus postage, or at the door. Parking and refreshments will be available.

Bridport and Charmouth Stamp Club

The Bridport and Charmouth Stamp Club will hold a Stamp Fair and Exhibition on Saturday 29 March 1980 in the Arts Centre, South Street, BRIDPORT, Dorset DT6 3NR, from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm. There will be dealers' stands and the Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter.

Gibbons' Gallery Exhibitions

The Stanley Gibbons' Romano House Gallery exhibitions for the next few months will be:

March: a top class study showing 'The Development of British Postage Stamps from 1840 to 1971' by A J Lowe.

April: an outstanding display of 'Covers of the World' by Mr John Marriott MVO, RDP, FRPSL, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.

May: a unique display of 'Postal Material' from the archives of the National Postal Museum.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear 1½d in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover "Special Handstamp". The outer cover must bear normal postage and only those items bearing a postmark on or before the date of the Special Handstamp will be eligible for the cancellation.

1 April 1980 (C)

Ulster Defence Regiment 10th Anniversary 1 April 1980 British Forces 7080 Postal Service. Special posting box at The P and C, RE Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON NW7 1PX.

5 June 1980 (P/C)

St. Boniface of Crediton 680-1980 5 June 1980 Crediton. Special posting box at the Council Offices, Market Street, CREDITON, Devon EX17 2BN.

12 March 1980 (P/C)

Main Line Steam Trust Celebrates 150 Years of Mail by Rail. Special posting box at The Great Central Station, LOUGH-

BOROUGH, Leics. LE11 1SS.

15 March 1980 (P/R)

Scotland v England 15 March 1980

Edinburgh. Special posting box at The Scottish Rugby Union, Back of Centre Stand, Murrayfield, EDINBURGH EH12 5PJ.

5 May 1980 (P/R U/R)

800 Years 5 May 1980 Moulton Spalding Lincs. Special posting box at All Saints Church, High Street, Moulton, SPALDING, Lincs PE12 6QB.

NB Because of the Design of this Handstamp (P/R U/R) subscribers should address their covers accordingly.

31 March 1980 (P/R)

Philatelic Office Stoke on Trent opened 31 March 1980. Special posting box at Philatelic Counter Stoke on Trent.

Book Review

United Kingdom Savings Stamps, Labels and Coupons

by Lionel D Jones Price £4.95 plus 30p post.

Available from G M Dorman, Cinderella Stamp Club, 35 Smith Street, London SW3 4EP.

This well produced and clearly laid out book surveys the history of the UK savings movement from the 'box clubs' of the late 1600s to TV and other functional savings stamps of the 1970s.

As its name implies, the Cinderella Club caters for collectors of those stamps and labels usually regarded as being a little off-beat. To the discriminating enthusiast these are often the most fascinating of all collectables.

While primarily a book for the specialist it manages to cover the ground in a way which appeals to the lay reader, particularly if he has an eye for the ironies of history. How many of us realised that as late as 1940-41 savers were being encouraged to aid the war effort by means of club membership cards bearing - of all things - a Swastika motif?

Well illustrated, this book will find its way onto library shelves. Specialists will find it difficult to resist.

Commemorative Covers

Transglobe Expedition 1979-1982

The Expedition has now successfully completed its travels to Paris, Abidjan and Cape Town and is now in the Antarctic. To commemorate the event a series of eleven special covers are being issued and a limited number will be signed by members of the teams after their successful return to Greenwich in 1982.

The cost of the complete set is £19.60.

Profits from sales will be donated to the Expedition funds. Brochures, orders and further details from J & M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, Southgate, LONDON N14 4RL.

Colditz Reunion

To commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the liberation of the Prisoner of War Camp, Colditz (Oflag IVC), Germany, Lt.-Cdr. Mike Moran has organised a Reunion of the Colditz Schloss residents from 1940 to 1945.

A special philatelic cover has been produced featuring the Castle, the cachet never before having been used on a philatelic cover, the scene is at night, and shows the Castle with the guard towers etc.

A special postmark featuring the Castle also has been arranged to commemorate this Reunion on the 7th March 1980.

Strictly limited number only available, as each ex Colditz Prisoner of War, who are coming from all over the world, will receive one of these covers when they arrive for the Reunion at the Imperial War Museum, London.

The cost of the cover is £1, with part of the proceeds going to the Sittingbourne Sea Cadets.

All applications and remittances for these, and a limited number of personally autographed covers by ex Colditz residents, should be sent to the Philatelic Representative, Rembrandt Philatelics, 21 High Street, BOTLEY, Hants. SO3 2EA.

Amy Johnson Cover

Production of a commemorative cover is being arranged by Kingston upon Hull City Council as part of the Amy Johnson Festival.

The Festival marks the 50th Anniversary of Amy Johnson's famous solo flight from Croydon

to Darwin, Australia, in 1930. The flight began on May 5 and ended in Darwin on Empire Day, May 24.

The commemorative cover will be handstamped and despatched on May 5, exactly 50 years after commencement of the feat which brought Amy Johnson to world fame.

The cover design includes the 1930s style motif which will appear on all items connected with the celebrations. A card inside the envelope summarises Amy Johnson's achievements. On the reverse is general information about her native city.

The cover is on sale at 60p including VAT plus a further 6p for overseas despatch. The council hopes collectors will order well in advance to ease handling arrangements. Order forms can be obtained now from the City Public Relations Officer, Donald Chester, 77 Lowgate, HULL HU1 1HL.

Wildfowl Trust Covers

The Wildfowl Trust decided to celebrate the British Post Office's issue of the new British Bird stamps with its own Official First Day Cover.

The cover features a reproduction of a picture by Sir Peter Scott, painted especially for this event. In addition there were different pictorial postmarks available for each of the five major Wildfowl Trust centres: Arundel, Peakirk, Slimbridge, Martin Mere and Washington.

Covers cost £1.50 each for the full set of stamps with any of the above postmarks.

Gutter pairs on two covers cost £3.50 a set with any of the above postmarks.

Covers signed by Sir Peter Scott cost £5.

Please allow 20p for postage and packing.

All these covers are obtainable from the Wildfowl Trust Philatelic Agent, 24/28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent CT21 5AT.

Ulster Defence Regiment

The 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Ulster Defence Regiment will be the subject of a commemorative cover to be issued on 1 April 1980. The cover will illustrate the UDR crest, a 12 string harp, and a crown in green.

Signed by the Commander of the Ulster



Posting Boxes

No. 16: *The telephone kiosk with letter box and stamp machines set into the rear panel was introduced as an experiment in 1929 but because the siting of a telephone kiosk did not often suit that of a letter box, this type of combined facility ceased to be made in 1933. This example is at Whitley Bay Railway Station, Northumberland. Since receiving this illustration from the Letter Box Study Group, we have heard from Mr B J Williams of Bexleyheath that he discovered recently a similar telephone kiosk with letter box on the platform at Cranmore – midway between Shepton Mallet and Frome – the headquarters of the privately owned East Somerset Railway.*

Defence Regiment, Brigadier D E Miller OBE, MC, the cover will bear a 10p Ulster definitive stamp cancelled with a special Forces handstamp 7080, and will be available for £1 each. Unsigned covers are 75p each.

Orders with remittances, made payable to the Ulster Defence Regiment Central Fund, should be accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope, and sent to Regimental Secretary HQ UDR, Magheralave Road, LISBURN, County Antrim N.I BT28 3NP.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to The Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

Derby Bicentenary Crown Minted in Sutton.

To be used at the following offices:–
Sutton and Epsom until 31 December 1980.
Croydon until 31 May 1980, 21 July –
31 December 1980.
1st Class at Sutton and Croydon.
1st and 2nd Class at Epsom.
Pictorial.

Lake Placid USA Olympic Crown Minted in Sutton.

To be used at the following offices:–
Sutton and Epsom until 31 December 1980.
Croydon until 31 May 1980, 21 July –
31 December 1980.
1st Class at Epsom and Croydon.
2nd Class at Sutton.
Pictorial.
P denotes Pictorial, C denotes Circular,
R denotes Rectangular, U/R denotes Upright.

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