

October 1994

British Philatelic Bulletin



Royal Mail

Volume 32. No: 2 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 75p



Christmas 1994 – The Nativity

The Royal Mail Collection

Bringing back the beauty of steam in glorious colour.

*The "Golden Arrow",
one of Britain's most
famous trains, hauled by
Battle of Britain class
locomotive "219
Squadron"*



- Each plate individually numbered, and signed by the artist.
- Each plate supplied with its own numbered Certificate of Authenticity.
- Full satisfaction 365-day money-back guarantee.
- Second collector's plate set from Royal Mail.
- Actual size is 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- Excellent value for a plate of this size and beauty.
- Manufactured by Wedgwood in the finest bone china.
- From original designs by artist Terence Cuneo.
- A very attractive item for collectors or a perfect gift.



Royal Mail

Available from: Royal Mail Collection, FREEPOST, 20 Brandon Street,
EDINBURGH EH3 0HN. Credit card orders phone 031 550 8989. Price £19.95 each
UK and European Union countries, £29.95 each elsewhere. Postpaid.

British Philatelic Bulletin

The British Philatelic Bulletin

is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL. Editor: J.R Holman

Price: 75p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum.

Annual Subscriptions:

UK and Europe £8.50
Rest of World: £12.50.

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Binders to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) and to callers only at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin** giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, Rest of World £21.75.

Copyright

Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to British Philatelic Bulletin. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL.

Artwork by Mathieson Design
United House, North Road
London N7 9DP.

Typeset by Pinnacle Images Ltd,
11/12 Great Sutton Street,
LONDON EC1V 0DD.

Printed in Great Britain by
Clement & Foster Ltd,
LONDON SE1 3AA.

Contents

Royal Mail News – Christmas stamps; NPM Postcards, Revised £5, etc	32
Stamp Scene – Autumn Stampex, Postal Memorabilia Displays	41
Air Mail Celebrations in Inverness and Orkney – Richard Beith reports	42
Varieties of Yesteryear – Fred Gee examines the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue	44
The Development of Victorian Postal Stationery – 2. Mulready Replacement	46
Decimal Stamp Books 17 – Douglas Myall's specialist report on recent issues	50
Competition – Win a Cape of Good Hope 6d Triangular	56
Out of the Arc – Henry Mellersh's Crimea Medals	57
Posting Boxes – Boxes with attachments	58
Events – Stamp exhibitions, fairs & displays in October and November	58
Six Month Digest – New Issues, April 1994 to March 1995	59
October/November Digest – New Issues and withdrawals	60

Main Feature

British Discoveries in Medicine on Stamps 52

To coincide with Royal Mail's new issue, Tom Wilson reviews stamps featuring some great names and achievements in British medical science



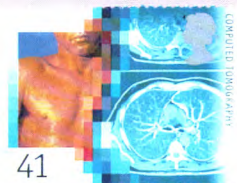
25



30



35



41

Medical Discoveries stamps – issued 27 September 1994

Royal Mail News

Christmas 1994

This year's Christmas issue comprises five stamps showing children acting out the story of the Nativity. The stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 1 November.

The **19p** stamp (inland 2nd class rate) shows a nativity play scene of the Holy Family in the stable at Bethlehem. The **25p** value (inland 1st class and EC basic rate) depicts children in the role of the Three Wise Men, or Magi, who brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the new-born child. The **30p** value (non-EC European countries) shows a young girl as Mary, with a doll in her arms symbolising the infant Jesus. The **35p** value (overseas postcard rate) portrays children as the shepherds to whom an angel announced the birth of Jesus. The **41p** denomination (airmail letters, basic rate) shows two of the little "angels", who were part of the heavenly host which offered praise to God for the Nativity.

The stamps are the work of Yvonne Gilbert who designed the popular 1984 Christmas issue



(and Christmas stamp book cover) and the 1985 Arthurian Legends set.

This is Britain's 29th issue of Christmas stamps. The first set, comprising 3d and 1s6d stamps, were issued on 1 December 1966 – the designs by children resulted from a competition announced by the Postmaster General, Mr Anthony Wedgwood-Benn. Over the years some 129 Christmas stamps have been issued depicting both religious and secular subjects. The 20/p 1983 Christmas stamp won a prestigious Italian design award.

An article on Christmas stamps in general will be published in next month's *Bulletin*, with a feature on the British issues in December.

Technical Details

Printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Size: 41 x 30mm

Sheets: 100

Perforation: 15 x 14

Phosphor: 19p – one phosphor band
25p-41p phosphor coated paper

Paper: OBA free (OBA=Optical Brightening Agent)

Gum: PVA Dextrin

Presentation Pack: No. 252, price £1.85

Stamp Cards: Nos. 166a-e, price 25p each



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office philatelic outlets around a week before 1 November, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps cancelled with a pictorial “First Day of Issue” postmark of the Bureau or Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed, price £2.18 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.86 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 1 November.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Bethlehem cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA (for Bethlehem postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed “Pictorial First Day of Issue postmark”.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial “First Day of Issue” handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail’s magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe, £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Christmas stamp to covers to receive all special cancels (“First Day of Issue”, sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 1 November. The minimum 1st class

rule is suspended on this day as the Christmas set includes a 2nd class rate stamp. It should be noted that this concession applies only to the 19p Christmas stamp; covers bearing other than Christmas stamps must bear at least 1st class postage.

Christmas Stamp Books

Books containing twenty 19p and ten 25p Christmas stamps will be available from post offices, the Bureau, Post Office philatelic outlets and many retailers from 1 November, price £3.80 and £2.50 respectively.

A book of four 60p definitives (covering the worldwide airmail rate), together with festive labels will be issued on 4 October and will be available from the above outlets.

Christmas Stamp Pyramids

The beautiful 1994 Christmas stamps are captured forever in colourful optical glass paperweights – a perfect Christmas gift. These pyramids are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, price £24.95 each. Please order, quoting code for the stamp(s) you want incorporated in the pyramid(s): 19p – PY119, 25p – PY120, 30p – PY121, 35p – PY122, 41p – PY123. Telephone orders/enquiries: 031-550 8989. This set of five Christmas pyramids is available only until 24 December 1994; early ordering advisable.

Christmas Aerogramme

This year’s Christmas aerogramme will be available at post offices, the Bureau and Post Office philatelic outlets from 4 October, price 45p (includes 36p aerogramme postage). The aerogramme was illustrated in last month’s *Bulletin*.

Christmas Cards

This year’s beautiful Christmas stamp designs have been reproduced as Christmas cards. Available in packs of 10, these top quality Christmas cards, together with the charming Christmas stamps, will make Christmas greetings you send extra special. They will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and selected retailers throughout the country, recommended price £3.99 for a pack of 10 cards with envelopes. Philatelic Bureau customers will be able to order their Christmas cards at a discounted price of £3.75 per pack.

Christmas Gift Pack

An attractively produced Gift Pack, containing a



presentation pack, first day cover (pre-addressed to the British Philatelic Bureau), and set of stamp cards of the 1994 Christmas issue goes on sale on 1 November. The pack, price £6.50, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Post Office philatelic outlets and from self-service display units in selected W H Smith, Martins, and Tesco shops. It will remain on sale at the shops during the Christmas period and from the Bureau and philatelic outlets for one year, unless, of course, sold out earlier.

This is the second gift pack in this format – the first, containing Channel Tunnel products, proved extremely popular with Royal Mail's philatelic customers and was "sold out" at the Bureau within a few weeks. By extending the distribution of the Christmas pack, it is hoped to bring stamps to the attention of a wider audience and so demonstrate the appeal of

stamp presentation packs, first day covers and stamp cards as a reasonably priced, attractive and unusual Christmas gift.

Withdrawal of Christmas Stamps

Any remaining stocks of the 1994 Christmas stamps, stamp books and aerogramme will be withdrawn from sale at post offices on Christmas Eve. All will remain on sale at the Bureau and Post Office philatelic outlets for one year from date of issue, unless sold out earlier.

The 1993 Christmas stamps (£1.50 set), stamp books (£2.50 and £3.80), presentation pack (£1.85), and stamp cards (£1.25 set) will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and Post Office philatelic outlets on 8 November 1994, also the 1993 Collectors' Pack (£12.95) and 1993 Yearbook (£21). The 1993 Christmas aerogramme (45p) will be withdrawn from sale on 4 October.

Royal Mail Yearbook

Volume 11 of the Royal Mail *Special Stamps Yearbook* will go on sale on 14 November, the handsomely produced book contains background information about the development and production of all the special issues of 1994.

The book is hardbound with a matching slipcase and includes sets of the following stamps: Age of Steam; 25th Anniversary of Investiture of the Prince of Wales; Pictorial Postcards; Channel Tunnel; D-Day; Golf; Summertime; Medical Discoveries (Europa); and Christmas. The book will be available from the Bureau, Post Office philatelic outlets, and main post offices, price £22.50.

1994 Yearpack

The 1994 edition of the *Yearpack* (previously called Collectors' Pack) will be available from 14 November, price £15.95. The pack contains all 1994 special and greetings stamps mounted on a quality display board with a colourful and informative brochure giving details of the stamp subjects. Available from the Bureau, Post Office philatelic outlets, and main post offices.

NPM Postcards

The National Postal Museum will issue four new postcards having a Christmas theme on 1 November. These will be available to callers at the Museum's shop (25p each), or by post from: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (£1 per set). The cards will bear reference numbers 94/14-17.

A special Museum cancel will be available on 1 November. Cards/covers to receive this should be sent to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, KEB, LONDON EC1A 1AA, requesting "Museum Special/1 November". The Museum's regular Maltese Cross handstamp will also be available – request handstamp 1985.

Still available by mail order from the Bureau are sets of NPM cards issued earlier in 1994: Valentines (14 January, reference 94/1-4); Postal Addressing posters (6 May, 94/5-9); and Uniforms (2 August, 94/10-13). Price £1 per set Valentines and Uniforms, £1.25 Postal Addressing.

Some earlier cards are still available to callers at the Museum shop which is open Monday-Friday 09.30-16.30. The shop also sells Royal Mail stamp cards ("PHQ cards") and cards of other publishers having a philatelic/postal history theme. A number of books, models and other souvenirs are stocked.

The Museum houses the Post Office's

reference collections of British and overseas stamps, the R M Phillips Collection of British stamps of Queen Victoria, and postal artefacts. The current special exhibition, on show until April 1995, deals with postal addressing from the 17th century to the present. An article on postal addressing, by Tony Gammons, the Museum's Exhibitions Officer, was published here in June (page 289), with a description of the exhibition in July (p.326).

The NPM is located in King Edward Street, London EC1, a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station. Telephone enquiries to: 071-239 5420.

Last Call – Definitive Stamps

Remaining stocks of the 18p, 24p, 28p, 33p, 34p and 39p definitives will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and Post Office philatelic outlets on 25 October. Also to be withdrawn that day will be Collectors' Packs 24-25. Pack 24, issued May 1991, contains 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 17p, 20p, 22p, 26p, 27p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p, 37p, 50p, and 75p stamps, some of which have already been withdrawn from sale as sheet stamps. Pack 25, issued September 1991, contains 18p, 24p, 28p, 34p, 35p, and 39p values.

Several stamp books will be withdrawn on 30 October including the 50p, £1 and £2 machine-vended books issued on 1 November 1993. The £1 book contains 25p stamps printed by Walsall. This stamp exists only in this book and the £1 book issued in January 1994 (still on sale). Subsequent issues contain 25p stamps printed by Harrisons, as in the 50p and £2 books. Also going off sale will be the books of 4 x 33p and 4 x 39p stamps – the only remaining sources for these two values printed by Walsall.

A number of coil stamps also go off sale on 30 October: 18p, 24p and 39p stamps. Coils of the 33p stamp are already sold out. Also to go will be the mixed value strip of 2 x 5p and 2 x 4p stamps, from the popularly known "Readers' Digest" coils. Collectors wanting any of these sheet or coil stamps, books, or packs are advised to order from the Bureau or visit their nearest Post Office philatelic outlet without delay.

The range of definitive sheet stamps currently available from post offices is as follows: 1p, 2p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 10p, 19p, 20p, 25p, 29p, 30p, 35p, 36p, 38p, 41p, 50p, 60p (on sale, in books only, at selected offices), £1, £1.50, £2, £5, and £10 (or Country 19p, 25p, 30p and 41p in N Ireland, Scotland, and Wales).

New Printing of £5 Stamp

A new printing of the £5 Castle stamp featuring



Windsor Castle was made in July and is being issued to post offices as stocks of the previous printing is used up. There was no first day of issue or first day of availability. Modifications have been made to improve the overall appearance of the stamp.

Our illustrations show the new printing (below) and the March 1992 version (top). The new stamp is in a noticeably darker, more chocolate, shade of brown and has more clearly defined lines of etching. This gives a more sharper outline to the castle, particularly on the right of the Round Tower. Some of the smaller windows are more prominent but the trunks and branches of the trees at left are less obvious on the new printing.

There is a minor difference in The Queen's silhouette on the new printing; the printing has changed to a cellular format from a cross-hatched format.

We hope that the enlarged illustrations and descriptions will aid specialist collectors in distinguishing the new printing.

New, improved printings of the £1, £1.50 and £2 stamps are in preparation and will be going into distribution as required. No first day of issue or first day of availability will be provided. We will inform *Bulletin* readers when distribution of these new printings begins. The dates they go into use will, of course, vary from post office to post office, depending on the stocks and demand for the stamps at each office.

1995 Special Stamp Programme

The proposed dates of issue of next year's special issues are as follows:

Cats	17 January
Spring (Seasons)	14 March
National Trust	11 April
Peace & Freedom	9 May
Science Fiction	6 June
Shakespeare	8 August
Communications	5 September
Rugby League	3 October
Christmas	7 November

Confirmation of dates will be published as soon as possible.

The Peace & Freedom set will be the Europa issue for 1995; the Communications set marks the centenary of Marconi's radio experiments and the bicentenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill. The Shakespeare/Globe Theatre issue, listed in the 1995 programme here in March 1994, has been postponed and will not now be issued in 1995.

Work on the selection of subjects for the 1996 special stamp programme is now at an advanced stage and a list of anniversaries that occur in 1997 has been produced. However readers wishing to submit ideas for 1997 and subsequent years still have time to write to: The Secretary, Stamp Advisory Committee, Royal Mail, Room GO3, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL. Readers are reminded of the criteria for special stamps:

1. to commemorate important anniversaries
2. to celebrate events of national and international importance
3. to reflect the British contribution to world affairs, in particular to the Commonwealth and Europe, in a variety of fields of activity including the arts and sciences
4. to reflect the many and varied aspects of Britain and the British way of life
5. to extend public patronage to the arts by encouraging the development of minuscule art
6. to fit in with the Post Office's commercial targets for philately.

In addition, a number of conventions have developed and these should be considered when submitting suggestions:

1. Any topic which may conceivably be controversial or cause offence nationally or internationally is avoided, e.g. political implications or propaganda, particular religious factions.
2. No living person, other than Royalty, is depicted.

3. Anniversaries are restricted generally to 50 years or multiples thereof.

4. Past and future years are considered to ensure a balance and variety of subjects taking one year with another.

5. Within a year's programme the aim is to provide a variety of categories of subjects.

Readers interested in further guidance are referred to the feature "Special Stamps Criteria" in the April 1992 issue of this magazine (page 175).

The subjects chosen for special stamp issues are discussed by various committees and senior officials within Royal Mail before going to The Post Office Board for final approval. Selection of the stamp designs is entrusted to the Stamp Advisory Committee which comprises representatives from the worlds of the arts, design, media, philately, public service and Royal Mail. The current members of the SAC are: Mr Paul Hopper, Marketing & Sales Director, Royal Mail (Chairman); Kevin Doherty, Consumer Services Director, Royal Mail National (Secretary); Barry Robinson, Design Director, Royal Mail; Dr Jean Alexander, food scientist and philatelist; Floella Benjamin, television presenter; Baroness Dean, former trade union leader; Gwyneth Dunwoody, Member of Parliament; Mary Lewis, director of design consultancy; Prof Alan Livingston, Principal of Falmouth School of Art & Design; John McConnell, design consultant; Richard Negus, design consultant; Elisabeth Santry, representing the Dept of Trade & Industry; and Jean Varga, stamp dealer and catalogue publisher. All selected designs go before HM The Queen for Royal approval before issue.

The work of the SAC on the special issues of 1992 and 1993 has been published: *The Royal Mail Stamp Advisory Committee* (1992 issues) costs £9.87; *British Stamp Design 1993* (1993 issues) price £4.99. Both are still available from: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Literature Awards for Royal Mail

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* and its companion publication, *British Postmark Bulletin*, recently received Bronze and Silver-Bronze awards at the 18th Annual Philatelic Literature Fair organised by the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum of Weston, Massachusetts, USA.

Francis Kennedy's book *British Special Stamps 1985/86*, the first in a new series of British Philatelic Bulletin Publications, received a



Bronze award. A Silver-Bronze went to *The Royal Mail Stamp Advisory Committee*, which recorded the Committee's work on the 1992 issues.

New Publications from Royal Mail

Two new books will shortly be published: *The Story of Definitive Stamps* by Richard West and Douglas N Muir and *The Story of Greetings Stamps* by Tim Shackleton. They will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT and from Post Office philatelic outlets. Price £9.95 each or the two books together for £15.

Quantities Issued

The following quantities issued have recently been supplied by the Post Office Supplies Division:

Penny Black Anniversary stamps

15p	357,131,600
20p	521,688,400
29p	14,683,800
34p	15,557,600
37p	22,338,200

Note: these quantities refer to total numbers of stamps issued in sheets of 200, the 15p, 20p and 29p were also issued in stamp books and the 20p also in the "Stamp World 90" miniature sheet.

Stamp Books

50p Sheriff Millenium (Sep 92)	2,237,050
50p Postal History 1 (Feb 93)	467,800
£1 Sheriff Millenium (Sep 92)	5,942,100
£1 Educational Institutions 1 (Feb 93)	2,322,975
£6 Tolkien prestige book (Oct 92)	167,875
£5.64 Beatrix Potter book (Aug 93)	297,575
£3.60 Christmas book (Nov 92)	3,388,725

Questa Stamp Books Reprint

Books of 10 x 1st and 10 x 2nd class NVI stamps, produced by the House of Questa, have

recently been reprinted with revised postcode wording on the inside covers. This now reads "Need a Postcode? Call 0345 111222 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Calls are charged at local rates."

These reprints will be available from the Bureau and PO philatelic outlets from 4 October. They will go on sale at post offices and retail outlets as required. The stamps contained in these books have not been changed.

New Book Cover Designs

The 50p and £1 machine books, scheduled for issue early in 1995, will start a new series of cover designs: 50p Sea Charts, £1 End of the War. The £2 book will continue the current Postal Vehicles series. More information will be published here nearer the time.

The Postman Knocks at the National Postal Museum

On behalf of the government, the Museums and Galleries Commission has considered the National Postal Museum to be the most appropriate home for a 19th century painting offered to H M Government in lieu of inheritance tax.

The painting, some 24 by 18", is an oil on canvas by the well-known Victorian artist, John Frederick Herring. Entitled *The Postman*, the painting depicts a postman knocking at a front door with his riding crop while holding a sealed letter in his other hand. His grey horse stands patiently behind him.

The National Postal Museum is delighted to accept this beautifully-executed and evocative painting that illustrates the work of a mounted postman in about 1830. After some restoration work to the frame, *The Postman* will be displayed in the Museum's main gallery at King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Philatelic Outlets

The Post Office Counters philatelic outlet in Liverpool has moved back to the Whitechapel Post Office, LIVERPOOL, L1 1AA. This amends the information given in the August *Bulletin*, page 348. A philatelic outlet now operates at the post office at 5 St Andrews Cross, PLYMOUTH PL1 1AB.

£10 Stamp Winners

In the March *Bulletin* we enclosed a questionnaire about readers' collecting interests. Over 6000 of you returned the questionnaire

form, all of which went into a prize draw. The following 10 readers have been sent blocks of four of the £10 Britannia definitive stamp: A Ottwell (Cheshire); W E Carrington (Middlesex); P Gillard (London); Miss Joyce Croad (Surrey); E J Dineen (Hertfordshire); A H Scott (Bedfordshire); P M Nielson (Canary Islands); S Buckthorp (Leicestershire); B Draye (Merseyside); and C Cornelis (Belgium).

Postbus cachet

Royal Mail's South East Division introduced a new postbus service, between Ashford, Pluckley, Smarden and Biddenden, Kent on 13 June 1994. A souvenir cover was available bearing D-Day stamps cancelled at Ashford, and bearing postbus cachets. A limited number is available: with single stamp £2.50, set of five stamps £3.50. Covers signed by Madge Bates, widow of H E Bates of "Darling Buds of May" fame cost £5 (single stamp), £6 (full set). The Darling Buds was filmed in the area served by the postbus. Just 50 signed covers are available.

A "Posted on the Post Bus" cachet is available for use on Mail handed in on the 21 postbuses in the South East: Dorking-Coldharbour-Ockley; Oxted-Lingfield; Reigate-Leigh; Redhill-Outwood; Tunbridge Wells-Mayfield; Sittingbourne-Wormshill; Canterbury-Crundale; Canterbury-Grove; Canterbury-Marshside; Canterbury-Westmarsh; Canterbury-Wooton; Sittingbourne-Hartlip; Rochester-Cooling; Gravesend-Fairseat; Gravesend-Betsham; Maidstone-Stockbury Village; Maidstone-Lenham Heath; Maidstone-Stocket Lane; Maidstone-Sutton Valence; Ashford-Biddenden, and Horsham-Maplehurst. A fee of 25p is payable for application of the cachet; the name of the route is added in manuscript to identify the service on which the mail is carried.

Collectors unable to visit the buses may send cards/covers bearing 50p in stamps (25p 1st class postage plus 25p cachet fee) to: J Wahlberg, Postbus Manager, Royal Mail SE Division, Redstone Hill, REDHILL, Surrey, RH1 1AA who will arrange for covers to be cacheted, carried on the Redhill-Outwood bus and posted locally.

Summertime 25p stamp

Contrary to the announcement here in July (page 331), the 25p Summertime stamp was produced only on paper with the new

experimental gum. At the time the *Bulletin* went to press it seemed that only part of the printing would have the new gum. In the event all the stamps were so gummed. Any confusion or inconvenience caused is regretted.

Questa NVI stamps in sheets

The opportunity has been taken, with a new printing of the 2nd class stamp, to bring the perforation arrangement into line with other Questa stamps (Country issues). The right-hand sheet margin of the right-hand pane will no longer be perforated through. Previously perforations extended through all vertical sheet margins on both left and right-hand panes. Stamps are printed in sheets of 400 and split into left and right hand panes ("counter sheets"), each of 200, prior to issue to post offices. The left-hand counter sheets have plates numbers Q1Q1, Q3Q3, etc, right-hand counter sheets are numbered Q2Q2, Q4Q4, etc.

Sheets with the new perforation layout are now available from the British Philatelic Bureau; there was no first day of availability.

For further information on recent sheet perforation changes, see page 343 of the August *Bulletin*.

New PO Archives Card

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the picture postcard the Post Office Archives and Records Centre are pleased to announce the launch of its latest postcard.



This, the seventh in the series, is a humorous novelty card in the style of those produced in the early part of this century. With recent issues being characteristically stylish and colourful, once again the Archives lead the way with an innovative and exciting celebration of the anniversary.

The full colour card features a uniformed postman whose bag opens out to reveal a strip of ten black and white photographs, the originals all coming from the Archives' various collections. This entertaining card is being produced as a numbered limited edition of 5000 and, bearing in mind the anniversary, looks set to be very popular with both collectors and public alike. It will be launched to coincide with Autumn Stampex.

The card costs only 85p, subject to a handling charge of 60p per order for postal applications. Orders should be addressed to: Post Office Archives and Records Centre, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant Complex, Phoenix Place Entrance, LONDON EC1A 1BB.

Stamp Scene

Astro Space Stamp Society

The Society's publication *Space Craft & Astronomy* Index recently won a silver award certificate in the Philatelic Literature Fair organised by the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, Weston, Massachusetts, USA. Members of the Society receive a quarterly journal, *Orbit*. For full details write to: The Secretary, Astro Space Stamp Society, 17 Wellington Road, CROWTHORNE, Berkshire, RG11 7LJ.

Autumn Stampex

Autumn Stampex/BPE 1994 will be held 11-16 October in Halls 1 and 2 of the Royal Horticultural Society near Victoria Station, London SW1. Judging for the competition will have been done before the exhibition opens and the results will be available at Stampex.

Dealers in stamps, postal history, accessories, albums, postcards, etc will be present in both halls. A vast range of material is always available; many dealers select interesting material from their stocks specially for sale at Stampex. Postal administrations, including Royal Mail, will be present.

A special handstamp will be used on mail posted at the Royal Mail stand. Collectors unable to visit the exhibition can send covers (bearing 1st class postage) to receive this

handstamp to: London South Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB. Ask for Stampex handstamp and state date(s) required.

Trafford Philatelic Golden Jubilee

To mark its golden jubilee the Trafford Philatelic Society will hold an exhibition and stamp fair at Sale Civic Theatre, Sale, Cheshire on 22 October. Open 10am to 4pm, admission free. Nine dealers will be present and the Post Office will be represented. The anniversary is also being celebrated with a dinner at the Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham on 31 October. The Mayor and Mayoress of Trafford will attend and guest speaker will be David Boyd of Phillips Auctioneers Stamp Department. The Society's President for this anniversary year is Athol H Murray, MBE who is the sole surviving founding member. All enquiries about the Society and its anniversary events should be sent to: Chris Hawley, 20 Bold Street, ALTRINCHAM, Cheshire, WA14 2ER, Tel. 061-926 8633 (evenings).



Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here is a new 25p stamp to be issued by the North Yorkshire Moors Railway on 9 October; it features a drawing of Standard Class 4 loco No. 75014. The stamp is available mint at face value, first day cover at £2.75, postage extra. For further details see page 27 of September *Bulletin*. Orders/enquiries: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

Postal Memorabilia Displays

David Harrop will be providing displays of postal memorabilia from his extensive collection at: Fair Organ Preservation Society Gathering, Abbotsfield Park, Chasson Road, Flixton, Manchester (2 October); Buxton Toy Fair, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton (9 October); and Antique & Collectors Fair, Winter Gardens, Blackpool (26-27 December). Enquiries: David Harrop, 15 Hawthorne Road, Heaton Mersey, STOCKPORT, SK4 3DQ.

Air Mail Celebrations in Inverness and Orkney

RICHARD BEITH

As noted in the *Bulletin* for May 1994 (pp. 248-250), 29 May was the 60th anniversary of the first regular internal air mail in the UK. From that date, Highland Airways Limited carried all first class mail, without surcharge, to and from Inverness and Kirkwall, the capital of the Orkney Isles. This contract later passed to Scottish Airways Limited, then to BEA and finally to British Airways Regional who continue this 60 year tradition to the present day. A number of celebratory events were organised over the weekend of 27-30 May, jointly sponsored by British Airways Regional, Royal Mail Scotland, Highlands & Islands Airports, The Fresson Trust and many others.

Events started with a celebration dinner at Nairn on Friday 27 May at which NASA astronaut John Young and Lord Mackay, the then Minister for Aviation, were among the speakers. The top table also featured Captain Eric Starling, pilot of the first regular Shetland

Roy McLellan of Royal Mail (left) and Sir Frank Kennedy, Chairman British Airways Regional, holding a replica of the first Inland Airmail Pennant (Photo: Donald Holmes)



Vintage transport at Inverness Airport including the DH 89A G-AIYR. (Photo: Richard Beith)

airmail in 1937 and the regular pilot of Allied Airways' Newcastle-Stavanger service, also of 1937. On Saturday 28 May, guests gathered at Inverness Airport to witness a re-enactment of the 1934 presentation of an air mail pennant to Highland Airways. The Classic Wings DH 89A Dragon Rapide G-AIYR provided a suitable backdrop for photographs, standing in for the DH84 Dragons of Highland Airways.

In the afternoon British Airways operated a commemorative flight to Kirkwall and back in the British Aerospace ATP G-BTPK. In Kirkwall a visit was made to St Magnus



60TH anniversary HISTORIC FIRST AIRMAIL *inverness-kirkwall*



Highland Airways Ltd
1934
SERVICE TO THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS
1994
British Airways Plc.

Cathedral and the party were given a most hospitable welcome by the Orkney Islands Council at the Council Offices. On both legs of the flight, the ATP flew at low levels giving excellent views of Scapa Flow, The Old Man of Hoy and Wick Airport, the original mid journey point of call for Highland Airways. On Sunday 29 May, G-AIYR provided pleasure flights over Inverness for a modest charge. The final event on the afternoon of Monday 30 May took the form of two public commemorative lectures

Presentation of the replica air mail pennant to British Airways Regional at Inverness Airport on 28 May 1994. (Photo: Richard Beith)



BRITISH AIRWAYS

Station Manager
KIRK WALL
Orkney

PAR AVION

AIR MAIL

CORREO AEREO



One of the souvenir covers

given in the Highland Regional Council Chamber in Inverness. R E G (Ron) Davies, Curator of Air Transport at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC, spoke on "The Development of International Air Mail Services" and this writer spoke on "The History of Scottish Air Mail Services."

Aerophilatelic Souvenirs

The Fresson Trust arranged for the preparation of three different designs of souvenir cover and these were flown Inverness-Kirkwall-Inverness in G-BTPK on 28 May. A special handstamp was used to cancel the covers, the design featuring the original air mail pennant. (The original pennant can still be seen, in Inverness Museum.) Note that the handstamp was dated for Sunday 29 May, the actual anniversary of the first flight, but the commemorative flight took place on the Saturday. Some souvenir covers and cards were re-flown in the Rapide G-AIYR on Sunday 29 May.

Details of available covers are obtainable from: Hugh Lawson, Secretary, The Fresson Trust, c/o Highlands and Islands Airports Limited Inverness Airport, INVERNESS IV1 2JB.

© Richard Beith 1994

Varieties of Yesteryear

1. The 1935 Silver Jubilee Issue: The Different Multipositive Plates.

FRED GEE

In this first article of this series, let us look at the Silver Jubilee commemoratives of 1935. No – not the 2½d Prussian Blue: that is the rarity which was never intended to appear. Here I will deal with the other three stamps in that set – ½d, 1d, and 1½d – and the three versions of each of these three values. Unlike the Prussian Blue, none of these are rarities, but they seem to be overlooked by a lot of collectors.

These were the first GB commemoratives to be printed by photogravure (GB's first photogravure definitives having appeared in the previous year), and in the production of the ½d, 1d, and 1½d values the printers, Harrison &

Sons used three multipositive plates for each. The multi-positives are plates of photographic images of the stamp design, from which the actual printing plates are produced. Slight differences in the images, from one multipositive to the next, resulted in minor, but constant, variations in the issued stamps.

The first type of the ½d is easy to distinguish from the other two. Look at the letters FPE in the word HALFPENNY and, if the colour of those three letters is solid dark green, then the stamp you are looking at is type I. But if these three letters are dark green at the top, but shading to a paler green towards the bottom, then what you



have is either type II or type III. Distinguishing types II and III from each other is not quite as simple, but a magnifying glass should help: in type III there is a thinning, below the letters NNY, of the upper frame line, whereas in type II the thickness of this line is more or less constant. (If in doubt, examine the watermark, if you can detect it: in type II the watermark is always inverted, but in types I and III it is normal. The same is true, incidentally, of the 1d and 1½d values.)

The area to examine on the 1d stamp is that between the letters NN of PENNY. In type III the scarlet shading takes up some two-thirds of the space between the two N's, extending almost as far as the serif of the left-hand N, whereas in type II it covers only a narrow strip against the right-hand N - that is to say, almost two thirds of the space between the two N's is white. In type I the width of the scarlet shading is somewhere between these two extremes - just over half the space is shaded - but to distinguish

this type with confidence one really needs to be able to compare it with stamps which have definitely been identified as types II and III (or to check for a normal watermark).

In the case of the 1½d, the three types are quite readily distinguished apart. The differences are in the brown frame lines across the top of the stamp: in type I the upper frame line is of the same thickness the whole way across the stamp; in type II it gets noticeably thinner towards the right-hand end; and to identify type III the thing to look for is a distinctive 'blip' in the upper frame line above the letters JU.

So, out with your George V album and the magnifying glass. Keep your eyes open for any of these varieties which are missing from your collection - it shouldn't cost you too much to fill those gaps.

© Fred Gee 1994

The Author

Fred Gee, a retired Company Secretary, has been collecting GB stamps since his childhood. The first used stamps he can recall having rescued from discarded envelopes were those of the 1940 Postage Stamp Centenary issue: he still has those very stamps, and they are still his favourite set. Fred has made a particular study of the stamps of the earlier reigns - i.e. prior to QEII - and this is the first in a series of articles in which he will introduce readers to some of the less well-known varieties occurring amongst those stamps.

His articles will not deal with any of the line-engraved issues, which are a specialist subject in their own right; nor will they be concerned with the rare and well-publicised varieties resulting from error or accident; nor with those resulting from differences of paper or perforation, or from inclusion of plate numbers in a stamp's design. They will, instead, examine the subtle differences between stamps of similar appearance which have resulted from the use of different plates, dies, and screens, etc.

Most of the varieties to be featured in this series are still relatively easy to find: if you have a collection of older GB stamps there is a fair chance of finding that you already have one or two of these varieties.

½d Types I and II; 1d Types III and II; 1½d Types I and III. On the Type II stamps, the perforations on the top edge are trimmed because these were issued in stamp booklets.



The Development of Victorian Postal Stationery

COLIN BAKER

2. The Mulready Replacement

The public outcry against the unpopular Mulready design, almost immediately following its release on 1 May 1840, was so great that Rowland Hill wrote in his diary on 12 May "I fear we shall be obliged to substitute some other stamp for that designed by Mulready, which is abused and ridiculed on all sides".

The New Stamps

Prior to May 1840 Charles Whiting, an eminent and well respected engraver, had been commissioned to prepare essays for a stamp design which it was intended could be used for stamping privately produced envelopes. The new stamp incorporated the head of Queen Victoria which had been prepared by William Wyon and was based on his engraving of the bust of the young Queen which he had produced for an 1837 medal commemorating her first visit to the City of London. It was surrounded by an engine turned border created by Arthur Deacon, another talented engraver who worked for Wyon. Engine turning was a relatively new art then and produced intricate but regular patterns which were extremely difficult to reproduce without employing the original equipment. Set into this border was the stamp value reading POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

Although the start of the stamping to order facility was delayed until 1855, it was quickly seen that the new stamps which were in the course of production would be needed to replace the much maligned Mulready envelopes and lettersheets, and the new dies were hurried to completion.

Envelopes impressed with the new 1d stamp, printed in pink, were released on 26 January 1841, followed by 2d envelopes in April of the same year, using basically the same design as the 1d, but struck in blue. Apart from the colour, the only difference between the two stamps was the value, which for the 1d stamps was printed in the upper half of the border and for the 2d stamps in the lower half.

The 2d envelope was not a frequently used item and few printings were made in this value.

However, the 1d pink envelopes proved to be very popular with the public and were sold in tremendous numbers and in various sizes throughout the remaining 60 year period of Victoria's reign. One can only speculate how postal stationery might have developed had these been the original envelopes rather than the Mulready replacements.

The basic design and colour of the 1d pink stamp remained unchanged during the remaining 60 years of its use, although minor changes were made to it from time to time, including in 1866 when the lock of hair hanging from the back of the Queen's head became more bunched, giving up its earlier loose curls.

In 1841 the Post Office was still concerned about the possibility of the envelopes being forged with consequent loss of revenue, and the new penny pink and twopenny blue envelopes continued to be printed on John Dickinson's silk thread paper. After stocks of the paper which had originally been prepared for the Mulready issues had been used up, new paper was prepared incorporating different combinations of coloured thread, a practice which continued for a further 25 years.

In the beginning envelopes were sold without gum and were normally sealed by the writer using red wax, into which he often pressed his seal. By the 1850s gum had been added to envelope flaps and wax seals were no longer required for normal letters. However to maintain their appearance, from 1851 an embossed pink seal was added to the flap of 1d envelopes, this practice continuing until 1878 when the use of seals had gone out of fashion. No seals were printed on the 2d envelopes as no further printings of this value were made after the original stock of envelopes had been prepared in the early 1840s.

New Security Measures

From 1857, in addition to using silk thread paper, the Post Office incorporated dates within the border of embossed stamps printed on stationery envelopes with the intention that these should also act as a security measure. How they expected this to be effective is a mystery to

Top: The Mulready replacement, the Penny Pink envelope printed on Dickinson's silk thread paper



Bottom: The twopence envelope was not frequently used and printings from 1840 remained on sale until the 1880s

us today. The idea of including within the border the date on which stamps were printed came from the use of revenue stamps over which the Government had been equally suspicious of forgery and revenue loss for many years. These revenue stamps had to be applied to legal documents on the date on which the documents were signed and their reuse was very easy to detect if the date on the stamp was at variance with that of the document. However, all stationery postage stamps could be freely used at any time throughout Victoria's reign. Thus as a security measure the date in the postage stamp border was totally ineffective.

Eventually the PO's fears about forgery and fraud were allayed, especially from 1855 when it became possible to have private envelopes stamped at Somerset House, these using normal paper without watermark or other security devices. The PO gradually stopped using anti-forgery measures starting with silk thread paper which they abandoned in 1866, followed by the replacement of date plugs with florets in 1881.

Envelopes for New Postage Rates

In 1875 agreement had been reached between the member countries of the Universal Postal Union that the basic overseas letter rate should be standardised at 2½d or the equivalent in the

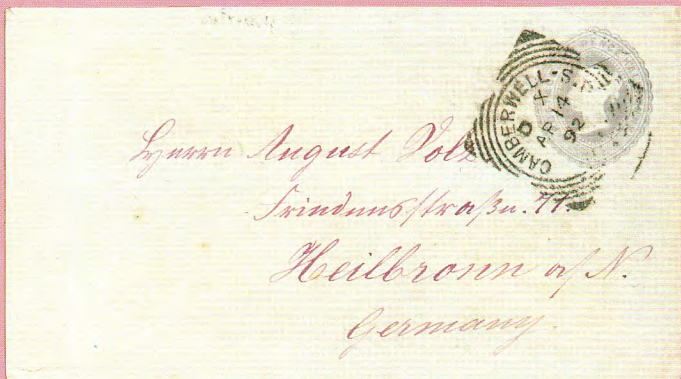
The two styles of hair lock used on Penny Pink stamps

member countries' currency. But 17 years elapsed before the PO recognised the need for a stationery envelope to satisfy this rate and two sizes of envelope were prepared, each impressed with the 2½d stamp already in use for stamping private envelopes. The envelopes were manufactured from De La Rue's "Extra Tough Paper" which was much stronger than the normal envelope paper, yet without a significant weight increase. They were released on 11 February 1892, but sales did not reach expectations and the issue by the PO of overseas rate envelopes was never repeated.

The printed paper rate, or book post as it was then known, was intended for sending printed matter through the post providing envelopes were left unsealed. This created the need for a ½d envelope for the basic printed paper rate and on 1 January 1893 the PO released entirely new envelopes in two sizes incorporating a special ungummed tuck-in flap. These enabled the envelope contents to be inspected in the post to confirm that only printed matter was enclosed and they could then be quickly re-sealed. The envelopes were impressed with the same ½d stamp as that which had been developed for the private postcard, but were printed in a bright orange colour. The public quickly took to using these printed paper rate envelopes and they remained in use for many years.



Top: The 2½d envelope valid for the basic overseas letter rate to nearly all countries in the world from 1892



Bottom: The 1/2d "Bag" envelope for printed papers with special tuck-in flap

New Stamp Colours

At the first full Congress of the UPU, held in Paris in 1878, it was agreed that to make it easier for member countries to distinguish between other members' postage stamps, all stamps would be printed in similar colours using green for the basic international printed paper rate, blue for the international letter rate and red for international postcards. Some of Britain's stamps did not meet this colour coding, including the stationery stamp for the overseas printed paper rate. Despite this, the PO did not make any effort to change the colours of any stamps to

bring them into line with the UPU agreement.

At the 1897 Congress in Washington these colour requirements were made mandatory for all members, and so finally at the very end of Victoria's reign in 1901 the colour of the stamp used on all stationery for printed matter was changed to green. Having finally conformed to the UPU colour scheme, Britain generally maintained this system until it became too complicated for most countries to adhere to and was abandoned by the UPU in 1952.

© Colin Baker 1994

Decimal Stamp Books -17

Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

One of the attractions of booklet collecting is the fact that the covers provide a source of variety apart from the stamp contents. This extends not only to the cover designs but also to the postal rates notices and other information printed on the inside. In this article I want to mention some of these differences and to give you news of some forthcoming changes.

"Stampers" promotion

Specially designed covers, based on the distinctive colouring of window books, are an excellent means of drawing the public's attention to a sales promotion. Now that Royal Mail has thousands of retail outlets they are keen to use them to promote the sale of stamps to the general public for social mail (as distinct from business users). Such campaigns also help to keep retailers interested in stocking books of stamps.



Front cover, of a "Stampers" book

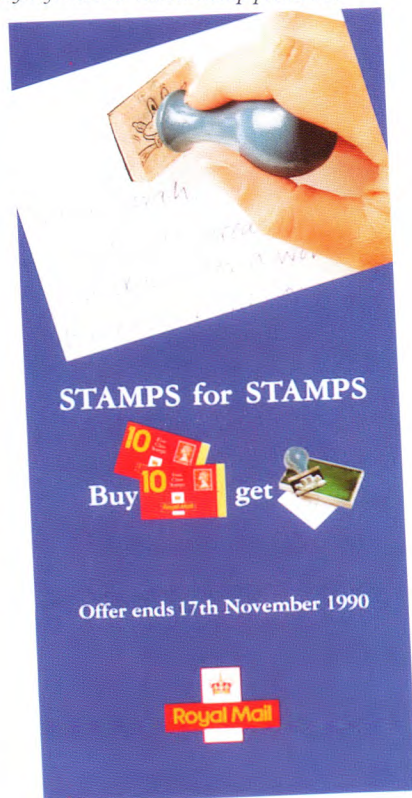
The latest in these promotions is called 'Stampers'. A set of four woodblock rubber stamps and an inkpad is offered in exchange for four unused 1st-class stamps, using the order form which appears on the inside back cover of new books of 10 1st-class NVIs printed by Walsall. The four woodblocks are clearly aimed at the fun market and were illustrated in September's *Bulletin*, page 26.

All four are shown on the back cover of the new books where they are key numbered: 1 (red), 2 (blue), 3 (pink) and 4 (green). In addition, each design is featured on the front cover of one of the set, although any book can

be used to order any stamper, using the key/colour code. The text on the yellow strip reads: ORDER YOURS INSIDE, and is printed in either red, blue, pink or green to match the code allocated to the design on the front cover. The full terms of the offer, which ends on 31 October 1994, are printed inside.

This is not the first time that Royal Mail has offered rubber stamps to purchasers of stamp books. Under the slogan "Stamps for Stamps" a set of six designs, each with a coloured ink pad, was available from 1 October to 17 November 1990. To obtain one, all you had to do was have your purchase of two books of 10 1st-class stamps validated by the dated handstamp of the Post Office where they were bought. You did not have to surrender any stamps or even the covers. The rubber stamps supplied also featured fun designs, two of them, "keep smiling" and a red rose, being connected with the stamps in earlier Greetings books. One of the principal differences between that offer and the present one is that the former did not apply to books bought from retailers.

Leaflet for earlier rubber stamp promotion





£2.40 Christmas book – pane of four 60p stamps over pane of four airmail labels and four Christmas stickers

Christmas edition of £2.40 airmail stamp book

A special edition of the new book of 4 x 60p stamps goes on sale on 4 October. Designed for use on Christmas overseas mail, which explains the date of issue, the cover has been adapted to show a contents banner with a trumpeting angel, while the wording on the yellow strip announces FREE STICKERS. These are labels reading “Seasons greetings” and are attached to the pane of four airmail labels which, in consequence, are moved to the left, under the pane of stamps. The stamps themselves are identical to those in the first issue and are from the same printing plates. (In answer to queries I have received, all 60p stamps have the normal perforation ellipses; the stamp illustrated on page 315 of the July *Bulletin* was an unissued “mock-up”.) The normal 4 x 60p book will not be distributed while the Christmas version is on sale.

Readers who are interested in barcodes will want to know that these differ on the two versions of the book, the original being 101897 and the later one being 101910. Also, the shrink-wrapped bundles of 25 books, original version,

Front cover £2.40 Christmas book



supplied via the British Philatelic Bureau etc., have their own barcode, 101903. Ignoring the last digit, which is used for error-checking, it can be seen that the three numbers are chronologically consecutive.

Revised postcode message

The inside covers of window stamp books have always been used to provide the public with useful information, such as postal rates and the validity of NVIs. The message telling the public how to obtain a postcode has been revised several times. The latest wording will be first seen from 4 October in Questa books of 10 x 1st-class and 10 x 2nd-class stamps. It will gradually be extended to other books.

Postcode messages in Walsall 4 x 1st, 4 x 60p and new 10 x 1st books

Need to know a postcode?
Tel: 0345 111 222

Need to know a postcode?
Tel: 0345 111 222 (9am–5pm)

Need a Postcode?
Call 0345 111 222 9am–5pm Monday to Friday.
Calls are charged at local rates.

Vended stamp books

All decimal stamp books produced for vending machines have had illustrated covers and this tradition is set to continue. At present, there are three values: 50p, £1 and £2, although the 50p books are being phased out as the mechanical machines are replaced by electronic ones. The normal programme envisages a change of design theme every four issues, but there have been some exceptions, such as when the millennium of the office of Sheriff was celebrated in 1992.

Next year will see the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and vending book designs will mark this in two ways. A new series of designs for the £1 books will be based on the theme “End of the War” beginning with the issues due some time in February. Later, probably in May, there will be a special issue of the £1 book featuring R J Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire airplane. Mitchell will also be featured on a special window book of four 1st-class stamps. Thus the public will be reminded of the tremendous contribution the Spitfire made to the eventual outcome of the conflict, whether they buy their pound’s worth of stamps from a machine or a shop.

Also in February, a new series of 50p books will begin, based on Sea Charts. The £2 book to be issued that month will feature the last of the Postal Vehicles series.

© D G A Myall 1994

British Discoveries in Medicine on Stamps

TOM WILSON, M R Pharm S

Latterday advances

It is easier today for the physician to discover precisely what is going on inside the body of his patient, because of advances in technology made during the past 60 years. A new set of four British stamps issued on 27 September 1994 illustrates how British scientists have played an important part in these new developments.

The 25p value shows *ultrasound screening*. This is a standard part of antenatal care, enabling the parents to see what is virtually a photograph of the unborn child, still nestling in its mother's womb. The technique was developed from underwater sonar, used during the Second World War to detect enemy submarines.

The *scanning electron microscope*, which was introduced at Cambridge University in 1965 by Charles Oatley, enables the doctor to detect objects less than a hundredth of a millimetre across. On the 30p value is shown an abnormally-shaped blood cell magnified 100,000 times.

The 41p stamp illustrates a *CAT scan* (Computerised Axial Tomography) which makes it possible for the physician to see the inside of a patient's chest. Geoffrey Hounsfield had worked on radar during the war. His work on these images produced by focusing X-rays on a specific plane within the body earned him the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1979. Yet doctors can now obtain more information than is revealed in a CAT scan, without the risks associated with X-rays. They can use *Magnetic Resonance Imaging* (MRI), shown as a picture of the inside of a living person's skull on the 35p value. MRI scans were pioneered during the 1960s by John Mallard at Aberdeen University, and by Peter Mansfield and Raymond Andrew at Nottingham University.

Heart as pump

For the greatest medical discovery of modern times it is necessary to go back as far as the reign of King Charles I. William Harvey (1578-1657), born at Folkestone in Kent the son of a carter, became personal physician to two Stuart kings. Since the age of Galen in the 2nd century AD,

the functions of the heart and bloodstream had remained a mystery to the medical profession. When they were boys, William and his brother used to watch Dutch engineers at work on the foundations of London Bridge; they used pumping equipment made with leather flaps for valves. In later years, listening to a patient's heartbeat, William Harvey could not fail to recognise the rhythmic "Slap-Dub!" sound made by the valves that told him the heart was simply a muscular pump.

In 1628 Harvey published his monumental work entitled *An Anatomical Treatise on the Movement of the Heart and the Blood*, which disclosed for the first time how the heart worked as a pump to drive the blood to the lungs for purification, and then around the body through the arteries and the veins. Portraits of Harvey have appeared on stamps from Argentina 1959 (SG943), Russia 1957 and 1978 (2074, 4790), Grenada 1973 (580), Transkei 1982 (110), and Hungary 1987 (3769).



Transkei's tribute to William Harvey, Edward Jenner and Claude Bernard

Portrait of a Blue Fly

The earliest microscopes were primitive contraptions produced by Dutch spectacle-makers some time between 1590 and 1608. The images that they generated were blurry and useless for making scientific observations. It was the English scientist Robert Hooke (1635-1703) who improved the quality of the lenses and the definition of their images. He began a trend in England towards the development of elegant optical devices. He is commemorated on one stamp in a set of four "Microscopes" issued by the Royal Mail on 5 September 1989, with his drawing of a five-times enlargement of a blue fly (SG1454).

A rash experiment

During the 18th century smallpox was a dangerous scourge that killed millions in Europe alone. Edward Jenner, (1749-1823), was a country doctor who practised in Gloucestershire. He was told by a milkmaid that she was not afraid of catching smallpox. She had already had cowpox and it was traditional knowledge amongst country folk that she must be immune from smallpox. In 1796 Jenner inoculated an 8-year-old boy, James Phipps, with cowpox obtained from a vesicle on the hand of a milkmaid. Phipps reacted with a mild fever from which he recovered in a day or so. Eight weeks later, Jenner inoculated the boy twice with matter from smallpox sufferers, and Phipps showed no reactions at all.

In 1799 Jenner communicated his observations to the Royal Society. Universal vaccination against the disease has brought about the result of its worldwide eradication by the World Health Organisation in 1980. Jenner is commemorated on the stamps of 10 countries (e.g. Lesotho 1978, 5c., SG355), but not so far by Great Britain.

The Queen in labour

A portrait of Sir James Young Simpson, (1811-70), appears on a 65c stamp issued by Transkei, on 1 April 1992 (SG 238). He graduated in medicine from Edinburgh University in 1832 and was appointed professor of obstetrics there in 1840. His popularity grew until women from all over the world used to flock to his clinic.

In October 1846 at Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr John C Warren removed a tumour from the neck of a 20-year old painter, using sulphuric ether as an anaesthetic. One year later, James Simpson performed the first delivery of a baby using ether anaesthesia. After some

experiments, Simpson recognised that chloroform was less distressing, and in the same year he successfully carried out the first delivery with this form of anaesthesia. In 1854, Queen Victoria gave birth to her eighth child, Prince Leopold, with the aid of chloroform administered by physician John Snow.

British stamps honouring the work of Robert Hooke and Charles Babbage, 1989 and 1991



Baron Lister and his carbolic spray that allowed antiseptic surgery

Carbolic spray in the theatre

Next to the discovery of the heart's motion, the introduction in 1865 of antiseptic surgery by Joseph (later Baron) Lister, (1837-1912) was one of the greatest leaps forward in medical science. His portrait, silhouetted against the molecular diagram of carbolic acid, appeared on a British 1s. stamp of 1965 to commemorate the centenary (SG668). Lister was concerned about the often fatal wound infections which threatened the chances of recovery after surgical operations.

He had studied the work of the French chemist, Louis Pasteur, and he believed that airborne germs were the cause of putrefaction in wounds. Lister was the first surgeon to insist on cleanliness and the use of soap and water. In 1865, he used dressings of carbolic acid in treating a compound fracture on an 11-year old boy, and successfully avoided the need for amputation. The 4d value of the British 1965 pair illustrates Lister's carbolic spray which he used in the operating theatre. His portrait also appears on stamps of Benin 1977 (SG667), Transkei 1982 (111), Hungary 1988 and Cuba 1993 (3813).

Who was first?

The German physicist Hermann von Helmholtz in 1851 devised a crude instrument that made it possible for doctors to examine the internal structure of the eye. Since then credit has always been given to him for the invention of the ophthalmoscope. Nevertheless, the first practical ophthalmoscope was perfected in 1847 by the English Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, Charles Babbage, (1791-1871). On the advice of Clark Maxwell, he failed to publicise his device. Babbage is honoured by a 22p British stamp of March 1991 in the set of Scientific Achievements as the father of the computer. His portrait is taken from a chalk and pencil drawing made in 1842 by Samuel Laurence. First day covers were posted at his place of birth, Totnes in Devon.

Perils of goat's milk

Sir David Bruce (1855-1931), joined the Army Medical Corps as a surgeon, and was posted to Malta in 1883 where Malta Fever (also called 'Mediterranean Fever' or 'Relapsing Fever') was a serious problem for the inhabitants. It was Bruce and his colleague Themistocles Zammit who demonstrated that the bacterium *Micrococcus melitensis* was endemic amongst the island's goats; who then transmitted the disease to humans in their milk. The 2d stamp of a pair issued by Malta in 1964 (SG316) portrays the two scientists and a microscope.

A deadly mosquito

Sir Patrick Manson, head of the Institute of Tropical Diseases, talking to a young Indian Army doctor in 1894, confided to Ronald Ross (1857-1932), his suspicion that malaria was transmitted to humans by the bite of a mosquito. Back in India, on 20 August 1897, Ross demonstrated malarial parasites present in the stomach of a female *Anopheles* mosquito. This was the final clue to the aetiology of one of mankind's most devastating plagues. Ross was rewarded by the Nobel Prize in 1902 and a knighthood. His head is on a 25-ore Swedish stamp of 1962, (SG458).

The laboratory in Praed Street

The British medical discovery that would spring to most people's minds is that of the antibiotic substance discovered in his laboratory at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, by Sir Alexander Fleming, in 1928. Penicillin (but not its discoverer) is depicted on a 1s. British stamp of

1967 (SG753) that shows penicillium mould growing on a Petri dish. Fleming's portrait has appeared on the stamps of at least 21 other countries. Sir Howard Florey who, in collaboration with Ernst Chain, first devised a method for large scale production of penicillin at Oxford in 1941, is honoured on a 45c stamp from Transkei issued on 20 August 1993 (SG305). All three shared the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1945.



Sir Alexander Fleming and his famous discovery - penicillin

The double helix

On 24 November 1989, Sweden issued a stamp depicting the molecular structure of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), with the names of its three discoverers, Sir Francis Crick, British biophysicist, Maurice Wilkins of New Zealand, and U.S. biologist James Watson. Working at Cambridge between 1951 and 1953, using X-ray diffraction studies, they constructed a model which was consistent with the known physical and chemical properties of DNA. This was two intertwined helical strands of sugar phosphate bridged horizontally by flat bands of amino-acid bases. The structure can be seen on stamps of Bulgaria 1971, 13s. (SG2116) Israel 1964, 35a. (276); and Spain 1969, 1p50, (1978). The team shared the Nobel Prize for 1962. The disclosure of the structure of DNA was a dramatic advance in the campaign against disorders of genetic origin.

© Tom Wilson 1994



Tom Wilson, MRPharmS, is now retired after more than 50 years practice in English pharmacies, and in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He now has ample spare time for his hobbies which include writing articles and stories, many of which have been published in the UK, Australia and Sweden. He also leads rambles in the countryside around his home in Kent, and collects stamps relating to medicine and pharmacy. Tom is currently editor of two philatelic magazines including *Medi Theme*, journal of the Medical Philately Study Group.

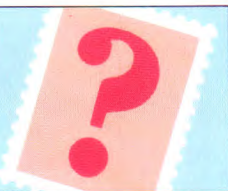
London statues of Lister (Upper Portland Place) and Jenner (Kensington Gardens) (Photos: John Holman)

One of his journals has won medals in London, Genoa, Philadelphia and Boston, Mass. His latest book, *Health and Medicine on Stamps* is still seeking a publisher.

Details of the Medical Philately Study Group can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope, or international reply coupon, to Mr Wilson at: 162 Canterbury Road, Kennington, ASHFORD, Kent, TN24 9QD.

Competition

SPONSORED BY:
AVON MIXTURES



Win a Cape of Good Hope 6d Triangular

This month's competition is sponsored by AVON MIXTURES, specialists in supplying WORLDWIDE OFF-PAPER MIXTURES for collectors to pick from. Previous clients from July's Bulletin who ask to see their mixtures will receive a DIFFERENT RUSSIAN FREE GIFT of 100 thematics if they wish to apply again. The prizes supplied by AVON MIXTURES comprise:



- ★ 1st prize: The scarce 1858 6d triangular of Cape of Good Hope in the difficult slate-purple on blued paper shade (SG 7d). A scarce stamp of good appearance – catalogued £1000!
- ★ 2nd prize: A fine used 1840 1d black with four margins, lettered TD, from plate No. 6, state 2, SG Specialised Catalogue value £250.
- ★ 3rd prize: Great Britain 1966 World Cup 6d, scarce MISSING BLACK ERROR, a stunning error, unmounted mint with normal for comparison. SG catalogue £85.
- ★ 4th prize: Great Britain 1972 scarce 1/2p side band ex "Wedgwood". SG X842 first day of issue postmark in pane of six, SG catalogue £25, excellent perfs.

Introducing AVON MIXTURES

The price is one of the most important considerations when a collector is thinking about a new area to collect, enabling a satisfying collection to be assembled without breaking the bank.

It is this simple value for money philosophy upon which Avon Mixtures has based its successful off-paper world mixtures business. Proof of this success is the over 30,000 orders supplied of their famous Buy-one – you take one free world off-paper mixture bags.



Over 100,000 different stamps are available in a simple unit priced system which allows collectors to pick the stamps they want regardless of catalogue value.

Searching through a big bag of over 2000 assorted worldwide stamps, including thematics, is one of the most exciting and rewarding forms of collecting. The most valuable stamp found in their 2p or Free system, so far, is a Canada 1857 10d Cartier catalogued £1100!

The minimum purchase of £5 + 75p P&P (U.K. clients) enables the collector to pick 250 stamps at 2p each plus up to a further 250 free. Until now every order has been against prepayment... but **now** *Bulletin* subscribers can view a bag on approval without prepayment or obligation, paying only if they select stamps, and return the bag to AVON MIXTURES. And the 1st 350 applicants will receive a free gift of 100 beautiful Russian thematics, to keep whatever they decide. Apply now to: **Avon Mixtures, Bulletin Free Offer, PO Box 23, RUGBY Warwickshire, CV22 6SQ.**

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send with your name and address on a postcard to October Bulletin Competition, Room G06, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL to arrive by 25 November.

1. Who designed the 1994 Christmas stamps?
2. Who was the pilot of the first regular Shetland mail in 1937?
3. How long did Henry Mellersh serve in the Post Office?
4. Where was William Harvey born?
5. Where was the first full UPU Congress held in 1878?

The answers will be found in this Bulletin.

The competition is not open to employees, their families and agents, of Royal Mail or Avon Mixtures.

The winners of the July competition were: J Corlett, Isle of Man (1st prize); A Prins, Wirral; R Wootton, Northumberland; J Domenech, Spain; T Foster, Kent; R Jacquet, France; D Bagley, Ireland and B Flanagan, Herts (2nd prizes); and R Perry, E Sussex; H-G Pahlen, Germany; R Lewis, Hereford; D Michail, Greece; M Riordan, Co Down; M Smith, Surrey; D Harding, Wilts; and K Woby, Kent (3rd prizes). All prizes were donated by Avon Mixtures of Rugby, Warwickshire.

The answers were: 1. Llanellwedd, Builth Wells, Powys; 2. Matthew Cook; 3. Mable Lucie Attwell; 4. Stamp Collecting Promotion Council; 5. Douglas Gumbley.

Out of the Arc...

Curiosities from the Post Office Archives

6. Henry Mellersh's Crimea Medals

On display in our Public Search Room are the Crimea campaign medals awarded to Henry Mellersh, who served as Assistant Army Postmaster to the forces in the Crimea. He arrived in Constantinople on 14 October 1854, after Edward Smith, in charge of distribution of mail in Turkey, made an impassioned plea to the Postmaster General for another assistant.

Henry Mellersh served in the Post Office for 51 years and 11 months. He ended his career in 1886 with the rank of Sub-Controller of the Inland Branch with charge of the Eastern Central District Office. He was 70 when he retired, and it was only severe illness which brought his working days to an end.

His Treasury pension application states that he "enjoys the distinction of having in 1838 established between Birmingham and Liverpool the first of the Travelling Post Offices". The application also mentions that "he has maintained discipline firmly and yet won the confidence and even affection of his Subordinates. By his Colleagues and Superiors



Henry Mellersh

he has been regarded with feelings of esteem and regard". The Treasury rewarded him with a pension of £566. 13s 4d, the highest rate which could be awarded under the 2nd section of the *Superannuation Act of 1859*.

Andrew Perry,

Assistant Information Manager

Post Office Archives Public Search Room is situated at: Mount Pleasant (Phoenix Place Entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB, Tel. 071-239 2570.

Open Monday-Friday 09.00-16.15.

Mellersh's Crimea Medals



Posting Boxes

No. 152 Boxes with Attachments

This month we feature two pillar boxes with attachments. The first, one of the "K" type boxes introduced in 1980, was photographed on Paddington Station, London by Cyril Macey, a member of the Friends of the National Postal Museum. The small box attached is used for letters to be posted onto the Travelling Post



office, and is opened late evening (Monday to Friday). The K boxes have featured here on three previous occasions – Posting Boxes Nos. 62 (August 1984), 99 (May 1989) and 118 (March 1991).

The second photo shows an Elizabeth II box in Holm Lane, Oxtou, Merseyside, to which has been attached a "postman's pouch". These pouches were introduced in the late 1980s and comprise lockable boxes into which mail is deposited for postman to pick up on their delivery rounds. The photograph was submitted by John Davies of Merseyside.

Readers interested in letter boxes should consider joining the Letter Box Study Group which has some 700 members. For details send a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.

Events – October/November 1994

11-16 October: Autumn Stampex at Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1. Enquiries: Stampex office, Tel. 071-490 1005.

16 October: Colchester Phil Soc Stamp Fair at the Wilson Marriage Community Centre, Barrack Street, Colchester, 10.30-16.30. Dealers, displays, refreshments. Admission free. Enquiries: D F Sapsford 24 Thurlston Close Parsons Heath COLCHESTER CO4 3HF.

20-23 October: STAMPA - Irish national stamp exhibition, Riverside Conference Centre, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin. Enquiries: STAMPA, PO Box 2723, Phibsboro, DUBLIN 7, Ireland.

22 October: Salvation Army Philatelic Circle second annual convention and exhibition at Citadel, Gillygate, York. Enquiries: Harry Hayes, Tel. 0904 764660.

22 October: Trafford Phil Soc exhibition and stamp fair at Sale Civic Theatre, Sale, Cheshire, 10.00-16.00. Admission free. Nine dealers, Post Office, refreshments. Enquiries: Chris Hawley, Tel. 061-926 8633 (evenings).

27 October: Association of Sussex Phil Socs Autumn Convention at Burgess Hill. Enquiries: John Hobbs, 12 Orhpur Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 2SR.

29 October: Telford Phil Soc stamp and

postcard fair at Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, Tel. 0952 223926.

29 October: Witham Phil Soc Autumn Rally & Stamp Fair (& Autumn Rally of Association of Essex Phil Socs) at Spring Lodge, Powers Hall End, Witham, 10.30-16.30. Displays, dealers, souvenirs, inter-society quiz, competitions. Admission free, car parking, refreshments. Enquiries: Mrs P Slugocki, 3 The Avenue, WITHAM, Essex, CM8 2DN.

12 November: Morecambe Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Memorial Hall, Poulton Square, Morecambe, 10.00-16.00. Admission free. Enquiries: Ted Culshaw, Tel. 0695 423623.

19 November: Birmingham Philatelic Annual Fair at Royal British Legion Hall, Masons Way, off Warwick Road, Olton, Birmingham, 10.00-17.00. Admission free. 12 dealers in stamps, covers, postal history and postcards. Enquiries: Mrs Elizabeth Lewis, Tel. 021-429 1222.

26 November: Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum annual general meeting at KEB Hall, London EC1. Enquiries: Ray Pottle, Tel. 0825 766546.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until March 1995. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

5 Apr Pictorial Postcards stamp cards (AQ298)
12 Apr Pictorial Postcards stamps (AS590)
12 Apr Pictorial Postcards pack (AP121)
26 Apr 50p book – Coaching Inns 2, H (TB032)
26 Apr £1 book – Prime Ministers 2, H (TB033)
26 Apr £2 book – Postal Vehicles 2, H (TB034)
26 Apr Channel Tunnel stamp cards (AQ304)
3 May Channel Tunnel stamps (AS596)
3 May Channel Tunnel pack (AP122)
3 May Channel Tunnel Souvenir book (AW055)
6 May NPM postcards-Postcodes (NQ922)
31 May D-Day stamp cards (AQ309)
6 Jun D-Day stamps (AS603)
6 Jun D-Day pack (AP123)
6 Jun 50p book – Coaching Inns 3, H (TB035)
6 Jun £1 book – Prime Ministers 3, H (TB036)
14 Jun Alcock & Brown aerogramme (QO031)
28 Jun Golf stamp cards (AQ315)

5 Jul Golf stamps (AS609)
5 Jul Golf pack (AP124)
19 Jul 19p definitive gum trial (DS916)
19 Jul Pictorial aerogrammes – Birds (QO033)
19 Jul Scot a/g – Gordon Highlanders (QS034)
26 Jul N Ireland prestige book (YB008)
26 Jul Summertime stamp cards (AQ321)
27 Jul Bank of England stamp book (UB089)
27 Jul Bank of England stamp pane (UC001)
2 Aug Summertime stamps (AS615)
2 Aug Summertime pack (AP125)
2 Aug Summertime souvenir book (PB053)
2 Aug NPM postcards – Uniforms (NQ923)
9 Aug 4 x 60p stamp book, W (UB088)
17 Aug 1st NVI (Boots sheet)
23 Aug Large aerogramme (Garden Birds)
6 Sep 50p book – Coaching Inns 4, H
6 Sep £1 book – Prime Ministers 4, H
6 Sep £2 book – Postal Vehicles 3, H
20 Sep 10 x 1st book – Promotional offer, W
(4 cover designs)
20 Sep Medical Discoveries stamp cards
27 Sep Medical Discoveries stamps
27 Sep Medical Discoveries pack

Forthcoming

4 Oct £2.40 book/W – Christmas cover/labels
4 Oct 10 x 1st book/Q New postcode wording
4 Oct 10 x 2nd book/Q New postcode wording
4 Oct Christmas aerogramme
4 Oct 10 x 1st book/W (“You’ve Won”) (UB090)
4 Oct 10 x 1st book/W (“Better Luck”) (UB091)
25 Oct Christmas stamp cards
1 Nov Christmas stamps
1 Nov Christmas pack
1 Nov Christmas stamp book (1st class)
1 Nov Christmas stamp book (2nd class)
1 Nov NPM Christmas Postcards
1 Nov Christmas Gift Pack
14 Nov Year Pack 1994
14 Nov Year Book 1994

1995

10 Jan Cats stamp cards
17 Jan Cats stamps & pack
24 Jan* Greetings stamp cards
31 Jan* Greetings stamp book & pack
Feb* Machine Books 50p, £1, £2
7 Mar Spring stamp cards
14 Mar Spring stamps & pack

Notes:

H = printed by Harrison & Sons
Q = printed by House of Questa
W = printed by Walsall Security Printers
* = Date to be confirmed

October/November Digest

Issued in October/November

4 October: Christmas aerogramme: Three Kings.

4 October: £2.40 stamp book containing 4 x 60p stamps. Christmas cover design, Christmas and airmail labels.

4 October: 10 x 1st class NVI stamp books – W H Smith “Win a Kite” promotional offer. Two books with different inscriptions on inside back cover: “You’ve Won!” (for winners of kite), and “Better luck next time” (non-winners). Available from selected branches of Smiths, July–September. Available from Bureau and PO philatelic outlets from 4 October.

4 October: 10 x 1st class and 10 x 2nd class NVI books with revised Postcode wording. Printed Questa. Available initially from Bureau and PO philatelic outlets.

25 October: Christmas stamp cards.

1 November: Christmas stamps – 19p, 25p, 30p, 35p, 41p; presentation pack.

1 November: Christmas stamp books – 20 x 19p (£3.80); 10 x 25p (£2.50).

1 November: National Postal Museum Christmas postcards (£1 set of 4).

1 November: Christmas Gift Pack (contains FDC, presentation pack, stamp cards)

14 November: 1994 Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook; 1994 Year Pack.

Note: Some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT and from 36 Post Office philatelic outlets (Collections, Post Shops Plus, Philatelic Counters) at main post offices in: Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Gloucester, Guildford, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (Lombard Street & Trafalgar Square), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Romford, Southampton, Southend on Sea, Stratford upon Avon, Truro, Windsor, and York.

Withdrawn in October/November

4 October: 1993 Christmas aerogramme.

11 October: Sherlock Holmes stamps presentation pack & stamp cards.

25 October: Definitives 18p, 24p, 28p, 33p, 34p, 39p.

25 October: Definitives Collectors’ Packs Nos 24 (May 1991) and 25 (September 1991). No 24 contains 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 17p, 20p, 22p, 26p, 27p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p, 37p, 50p, & 75p stamps; No 25 6p, 18p, 24p, 28p, 34p, 35p & 39p values.

30 October: Stamp Rolls – 18p, 24p and 39p stamps and mixed value roll (2 x 5p, 2 x 4p). Note: Stocks of 33p stamp roll sold out at Philatelic Bureau.

30 October: £1.56 stamp book (4 x 39p) and £1.32 book (4 x 33p), issued 16 September 1991 and 8 September 1992 respectively.

30 October: 50p book (Postal History 4), £1 (Educational Institutions 4), and £2 (Postal Vehicles 1).

8 November: 1993 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards & stamp books.

8 November: 1993 Collectors’ Pack and Yearbook.

Stop Press

Improved versions of the £1, £1.50 and £2 stamps have recently been produced and will be going into general distribution as required. Supplies of all three should be available from the Bureau by the end of October. There will be no first day of issue or availability.

New trial inland Special Delivery, Registered and Registered Plus envelopes (two for each service) and a new International Recorded envelope will be available from the Bureau from early November. There will be no first day of issue or availability. Further details next month.

