

Bulletin

400th issue • Your favourite stamps of 1996



IT ALL BEGAN at a holiday villa overlooking Lake Geneva, during the 'wet, ungenial summer' of 1816. As part of a family bet Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (as she then was) first told the creation scene of FRANKENSTEIN...

From the presentation pack,
written by Christopher Frayling,
for Royal Mail's Tales of Terror
stamps. Page 228



Forthcoming issues & withdrawals

Clarification The book of 10 × 2nd NVI stamps to be issued on 29 April is printed by Harrisons, not Walsall as shown in the tinted box on page 199 of March *Bulletin*. The information lower down the page, and on page 194 is correct. We regret any confusion.

Late news

The Philatelic Counter within the Post Office at High Cross, Truro TR1 2AP will close for business at 17.30 on 2 April 1997. A Postshop Plus offering a range of philatelic services, in addition to stationery and cards, will open on the same site on 11 April 1997.

The new 1p, 6p and 50p definitive printings by Harrisons, using EME cylinders are all from cylinder 1 phosphor 45. The £1.00 is from cylinders 1 (Iridon ink) 1 (mauve) 45 (phosphor). Collectors will notice a marked shade different on the 1p compared to the obsolescent Enschedé printing.

Cover photographs Mary Shelley by Richard Rothwell, by courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London. Frankenstein's monster, Pictorial Press Limited.

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

1 April

Issues Revised standard aerogramme (single and pack of six) • National definitives 1p, 6p, 43p, 50p and £1.00 printed by Harrison using EME cylinders

1 April

Withdrawal Scottish aerogramme: Scottish football

15 April

Withdrawals Cinema stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards • Queen's 70th birthday – book and unfolded label pane • National Postal Museum Post Haste! postcards *Note: Withdrawal at Bureau, will remain on sale at Museum*

21 April

Issues 26p definitive and 1st NVI printed in gold (in sheets), also pack • 10 × 1st books of gold stamps – printed by Harrison and Walsall • NPM postcards (two sets): Prototype Letterboxes and Queen's Silver Wedding 1972

29 April

Issues 20p definitive printed by Harrison, 2nd Class NVI in sheets by Walsall. Both produced using EME cylinders • 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps in coils printed by Harrison using EME cylinders • 10 × 2nd stamp book printed by Harrison, EME cylinders • 1st class NVI stamp pane ('Boots label') printed in lithography by Enschedé (previous printing in litho by Questa)

5 May

Withdrawal NPM Robert Burns postcards. *Note: Withdrawal from Bureau, will remain on sale at Museum.*

6 May

Issue Tales of Terror stamp cards

12 May

Withdrawal 10 × 1st Olympic Scratchcard book (three versions)

13 May

Issue Tales of Terror stamps and presentation pack

13 May

Withdrawal Football Legends stamps, pack and stamp cards, and European Football Championship prestige book

27 May

Issue 2p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 30p and 39p definitives printed by Harrison, EME cylinders

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. ● **Editor** JR Holman ● **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum ● **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. 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) ● 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. ● **Design** by Robert Maude ● **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press ● **ISSN** 0953 8119

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Royal Mail news Tales of Terror stamps • Rowland Hill awards • Definitives update • Design Director's anniversary • NPM news



Collectors will be interested to know that fluor has been added to the printing of parts of the designs of each stamp; this will give a somewhat 'spooky' effect when viewed under ultra-violet light.

Tales of Terror stamps Four stamps featuring four well-known characters from horror stories go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 13 May 1997. The stamps are Royal Mail's contribution to the Europa series which this year has 'Tales & Legends' as its theme. Stamps on this theme will be issued by most European postal administrations. The 'Europa' symbol is shown on the 26p and 31p values.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Presentation pack and stamp cards A presentation pack (price £1.70) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices.

The pack has been written by Christopher Frayling, Professor of Cultural History and Rector of the Royal College of Art (London), an expert on horror stories who presented BBC television programmes

on the subject in December 1996 and January 1997. A book to accompany the series, entitled *Nightmare*, has been published by the BBC.

Tales of TERROR

Royal Mail Mint Stamps

"'Till he lay the Count... the white hair and eyebrows were changed to dark... the cheeks were fuller, and the white skin seemed ruby-red underneath; the mouth was wider than ever, for on the lips were gouts of fresh blood..."
Dracula
by Bram Stoker, 1897

"His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing... had three luxuriant curls only formed a more horrid contrast with his ghastly eyes..."
Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley, 1818

"Mr Hyde was pale and dwarfish; he gave an impression of deformity without any mark of deformity... he had a displeasing smile... not all of these together could excite the hitherto unimpaired disgust..."
The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
by Robert Louis Stevenson, 1886

"A hound it was, and enormous black-black black... Fire burst from its jaws mouthfuls of fire gleamed with a scorching glare, its muzzle and nostrils and fangs were red-hot in flaming flame..."
The Hound of the Baskervilles
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1901

Baskervilles - which resurrected the detective Sherlock Holmes after his apparent death nearly eight years before - was based on legends of phantom dogs which haunted Norfolk ('Black Shuck') and Dartmoor (the 'Whisht Hounds'). It did not originate in a nightmare, but in a golfing holiday on the moor - where the folklore appealed to Doyle's interest in the supernatural.

The Hound is the most successful detective story ever published and Holmes's most-filmed adventure. Indeed, the detective stars in more than 200 movies, the most-often portrayed film character of all time. Dracula and Frankenstein's 'Monster' are

By the end of the nineteenth century, the stage was set for Stoker's *Dracula*, published in the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and Freud's first psychoanalytical

The 26p stamp (inland 1st class and EU countries basic rate) features Dracula, the creation of Bram Stoker and the subject for numerous films. The 31p stamp (European countries, non-EU) depicts Frankenstein, the fiendish invention of Mary Shelley. A dual-image of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, from the book by Robert Louis Stevenson, appears on the 37p denomination (airmail postcard rate), and The Hound of the Baskervilles, one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's best-known works, stares out menacingly from the 43p stamp (airmail letters basic rate).

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 13 May, 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 Whitby, price £2.03 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.73 to overseas addresses (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must be received at the Bureau by 13 May 1997.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA (for Whitby postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed 'FD9707' (Bureau), or 'FD9708' (Whitby).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly 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* – available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 rest of world (airmail).



THE TALES The roots of Dracula and Frankenstein, writes Professor Frayling, lie in the high culture of two centuries ago. The tradition of terror began with the writings of the romantic poets, entered the popular bloodstream through Victorian plays and penny-dreadfuls, and by the beginning of the 20th century provided a rich vein of exciting material for early film-makers.

Dracula was written by Bram (Abraham) Stoker (1847-1912), who was born in Clontarf, Dublin and studied law and science at Trinity College. He became a civil servant and later partnered Sir Henry Irving in running the Lyceum Theatre in London, 1878-1905. Stoker is traditionally said to have been inspired to write the Dracula tale while on holiday in Whitby, Yorkshire. Others believe young Stoker was just as inspired by the coffins in the vaults below St Michan's Church, in his native Dublin and that his descriptions of the Transylvanian mountains are based on the mountains of west Ireland.

The stamps are the work of Ian Pollock, his first successful commission for Royal Mail. He was born in Cheshire in 1950 and educated at Manchester Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art. He has illustrated some 10 books including a Cartoon *King Lear* (1984) and *Paradise Lost* (1991). His work has been shown in one-man exhibitions in London, Brussels and elsewhere and he has done work for *The Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *The Independent*, *Daily Express*, *The Guardian* and so many magazines 'it would be easier to name those I haven't worked for'. He has been described as a natural successor to artists such as Gerald Scarfe and Ralph Steadman.



The book was published in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee and of Sigmund Freud's first psychoanalytical research. The novel, says Frayling, synthesised the three main types of literary vampire – the folkloric, the Byronic, and the femme fatale – and laid down the ground-rules for all future variations.

Mary Shelley, nee Godwin (1797-1851), first told the creation scene of Frankenstein to Percy Shelley and Lord Byron at a holiday villa overlooking Lake Geneva in 1816. Byron added an unfinished tale about an aristocratic vampire which Byron's physician, John Polidori, expanded into *The Vampyre*, published in 1819. Shelley's *Frankenstein* was published in 1818 and soon turned into a popular drama on the London and Paris stage. The stage version, perhaps not surprisingly, was rather more melodramatic than the original book. By the late 1840s, Frankenstein was the subject of many parodies and, says Frayling, 'the creature had become confused with his creator in the expression "Frankenstein's monster"'.

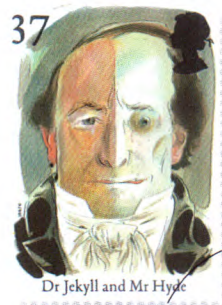
Stamps featuring Dracula and Frankenstein, also the Phantom of the Opera, the Mummy, and Wolf Man are to be issued by the US Post Office later in the year. An Post, the Irish PO, will issue stamps commemorating the centenary of the publication of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde was published in 1886, one of the best-known stories of Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94). After a somewhat troubled childhood, often wandering the back streets and dark alleys of Edinburgh, Stevenson trained as an engineer but later switched to law. After travelling in Europe, he returned to Scotland and wrote his best-known book *Treasure Island*. From 1885 to 1887 he and his family lived in Bournemouth where he wrote *More Arabian Nights*, *Kidnapped* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. Stevenson's poor health led to his emigration to Samoa where he died suddenly in December 1894.

A feature on Stevenson was published in the March 1994 *Bulletin*, coinciding with the issue of a Scottish aerogramme produced in his honour. He also featured on an aerogramme in 1989, and he has been commemorated by stamps from British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Marshall Islands, and Samoa. One of his best-known characters, Long John Silver, was depicted on a 1993 Greetings stamp.

The Hound of the Baskervilles, one of the famous Sherlock Holmes stories was published in book form in 1902 the same year as its author, Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was knighted. The Holmes tales, which have a massive international following, gained instant popularity when originally published in *The Strand Magazine* in the early 1890s.

Like Stevenson, Doyle was born in Edinburgh, trained as a doctor, and later practised in Portsmouth and Southsea. He is buried at Minstead in the New Forest. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* revived the Holmes stories after entreaties from the public, and served to whip up Holmes-fever to even greater intensity. Conan Doyle and his characters feature on stamps from the Comoro Islands, Dominica, Nicaragua, San Marino, and the Turks & Caicos Islands as well as on five British stamps issued in October 1993 and on the cover of £1 stamp books issued in 1987-8 •



Technical details

Printers Walsall Security Printers Ltd

Process Photogravure

Size 30 x 41mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 x 15

Phosphor Two bands, with blue fluor

Paper OBA (Optical Brightening Agent) free

Gum PVA

Rowland Hill Awards Last October we announced the new Rowland Hill awards for achievements in promoting stamp collecting, sponsored by Royal Mail, the British Philatelic Trust and the Philatelic Traders' Society. Winners and awarding bodies gathered for the inaugural award ceremony at London's Victoria & Albert Museum on 25 January. The awards, presented by Mr Adam Novak, Director and General Manager of Royal Mail National, were in three categories: Royal Mail Innovation Awards for contributions that have added a new dimension to stamps and stamp collecting; BPT Initiative Awards, made in conjunction with the Association of British Philatelic Societies, to celebrate personal commitment to developing and encouraging stamp collecting; and PTS Enterprise Awards celebrating commercial resourcefulness in the philatelic trade.

Each winner received a certificate printed in lithography, letterpress and intaglio (recess) on a special paper showing the Slania engraving of Sir Rowland Hill as on the 1995 25p Communications stamp, and an award featuring a facsimile of the engraving die on a natural grey slate-effect plinth. Both were designed by Delaney Design Consultants ●



Christine Earle receives her Rowland Hill Award from Royal Mail's Adam Novak

The winners

ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS

Journalistic Excellence Christine Earle for article 'The Grey Goose Wing', *Stamp Magazine*, March & April 1996. Runners up: James Mackay and John Ryle.

Stamp Innovation Nick Knight for photography for the Olympics stamps. Runners up: Tutssels and Silk Pearce.

Product Innovation Philatelic Software Ltd for StampMaster CD-ROM which challenges traditional display, storage and handling of philatelic items. Runners up: Safe Albums and Complete Collections.

Post Office Excellence Leeds Chief Post Office which provides a wide range of philatelic products. Runners up: Wash Common PO, Newbury and Lewsey Sub PO, Luton.

PTS ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Personal Contribution Charles Goodwyn for his personal contribution to the hobby of philately, his appointment and work as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection and in bringing it to a much wider audience. Runners up: Dr Alan Huggins and Stan Goron.)

Business Enterprise Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd for the professional way they conduct their business, their presentation to the public and innovative ideas in promoting the hobby via business. Runners up: Amateur Collector Ltd and Antonio Torres.

Retail Development Murray Payne Ltd for promotional work in philately via new informative publications *Sixth Sense* and the Commonwealth KGV1 catalogue. Runners up: Steven Scott and Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd.

BPT INITIATIVE AWARDS

Youth Carol Aland for work linking stamp collecting to the National Curriculum and an article published in the philatelic press explaining why she started her school stamp club. Runners up: Pamela Hiscock and Harry Wright.

Young Collector Hannah Johnson by helping and encouraging others and developing her own collection. Runners up: Scott Ferguson and Andrea Keith.

Authorship John Duggan for several books and articles on Zeppelins in particular and German Philately in general.

Runners up: Nigel Alston and Colm Thomas Murphy.

Research Midland GB Postal History Society which has been at the forefront of researching and publishing literature on the postmarks of the Midlands area and of the Penny Post. Runners up: Gerald Bater and Dr James Mackay.

Community Work Paul Gaywood who has been described as the backbone of the Preston Philatelic Society and the driving force behind the Welsh Philatelic Society. Runners up: John Hobbs and Bob Lee.

Teamwork Newcastle '96 Organising Committee which organised a new exhibition which gained the support of collectors throughout the UK. Runners up: Exeter Stamp Club, and Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society.

New Horizons Bookham Stamp Club which sought to redress the falling membership of local societies by providing a club that fulfils the needs of its members. Runners up: Dennis Murphy and Frank Murphy.

Design Director's 20th anniversary Barry Robinson, Royal Mail's Design Director, has recently completed 20 years service in The Post Office. Barry, born in Southend-on-Sea in 1946, joined the PO's Design Department, under Peter Shrives, in March 1977 after a career as a freelance designer and with British Oxygen, ICL (computers), Bovis and P&O. Amongst his first PO projects was design of new letterboxes introduced in 1980. Gradually he became more involved with stamp design and has now dealt with nearly 150 sets of special and greetings issues. He took over as PO Design Adviser, following Mr Shrives's retirement, in 1981. When Royal Mail Stamps was set up as a separate business within Royal Mail in 1986, Barry was appointed its Head of Design, and since the formation of Royal Mail National in 1992 has been its Design Director.



Barry Robinson (right) with the Duke and Duchess of York at the UKLA exhibition, Los Angeles, 1988

Over the years Barry has guided dozens of artists and graphic designers working on stamps, first day covers and postmarks, presentation packs, and the Yearbook to ensure a consistent standard. He has been keen to encourage the work of young designers and takes seriously his duties as a Royal Mail judge for the annual Royal Society of Arts Stamp Design Competition. His expertise is valued by fellow members of the Stamp Advisory Committee. Royal Mail stamps continue to receive top design awards, most recently the Italian Asiago (for 1995 19p Christmas stamp), and the Society of Typographic Designers (1996 Burns set).

Mindful of philatelic interest in stamp design, Barry has written several articles in this magazine – 'The Barry Robinson Column' (August 1983–May 1984) and 'Design Matters' (October 1988–May 1989) – setting out the various processes in producing stamps: from the initial research of the subject, through artwork and essays stages, discussion by the Stamp Advisory Committee, to the finished product. He has given talks on stamp design to the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum and other philatelic societies. In 1991 he was awarded the Reginald M Phillips medal for his contribution to British stamp design.

Since 1995 the two *Bulletins* (Philatelic and Postmark) have come under his department and he was the prime mover behind the redesign of both titles last summer, bringing them more into line with departmental design policy and other Royal Mail publications.

On the whole Barry has found his 20 years interesting and enjoyable. The job has brought him into contact with many of the country's top designers and members of the Royal Family. Barry travelled with Prince Andrew to photograph the castles for the high values in 1988, and liaised with the Prince of Wales and his staff over the Prince's paintings stamps of 1994. He is one of a select number of Post Office people with an entry in Debrett's *People of Today* ●

NPM news On 21 April the National Postal Museum will issue two sets of postcards: 'Prototype Letterboxes' (originally scheduled for 25 March), and unadopted stamp designs from the 1972 Silver Wedding issue. The latter set is in conjunction with the major exhibition at the Museum this year, namely 'Golden and Glorious'. Both issues are in sets of four priced at £1 a set. They can, as usual, be obtained on mail order (postage free) from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, quoting references: NPM 97/1-4 (Letterboxes) and NPM 97/5-8 (Silver Wedding). A special handstamp will be available on 21 April; cards should be sent to London Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB.

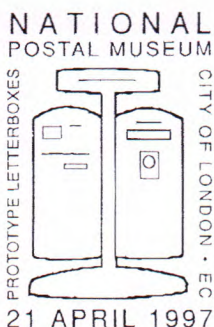
As readers are probably aware the Museum is in the midst of a temporary closure and is not expected to reopen to visitors before May. However customers who usually purchase their NPM cards at the Museum can make an appointment (Monday-Friday) with the Shop Manager, Barry Tennant, on 0171 600 8938, who will be happy to provide these two issues for sale.

The Museum's *Review* of 1996 and a detailed, illustrated account of the 1953 Coronation issue will be published shortly. Details will be given here when they are available •

Definitive update Cylinder numbers seen on the new gold stamps to be issued on 21 April are: 26p sheets 13 (phosphor 45); 1st class NVI sheets W1W1 (phosphor W1); 1st class NVI in books of 10 stamps printed by Harrisons, B13 B12 (phosphor).

The 2nd class stamps printed in sheets of 200 by Walsall in photogravure, scheduled for release on 29 April, are from cylinder W1 (phosphor W1). The Walsall sheets include 'traffic light(s)' in the left margin, warrant number, Walsall imprint, and automatic machine register marks in the right margin. Perforation register marks are printed for each row in the left margin.

A new lithographic printing, by Enschedé rather than Questa has been made of the 1st class NVI stamp pane (often referred to by collectors as 'Boots label'). This will go into use in packs of greetings cards at Boots as required, and will be available from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets from 29 April. There will be no first day facilities •



Letterboxes handstamp
available on 21 April

For general information
and an update on the Museum
reopening date, telephone
0171 600 8914

'Traffic lights', automatic machine register marks and printer's imprint from sheets of Walsall 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps



1996 *Bulletin* prize draws

The Editor reviews your favourite 1996 stamps



IN DECEMBER we invited you to vote for your favourite set of special/greetings stamps of 1996, also your favourite individual stamp, *Bulletin* author and to nominate up to five people you would like to see portrayed on British stamps. As always we received a good response, although the total number was slightly less than last year which was a bit disappointing.

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	2585	Favourite set As always points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for the first choice, two points second, and one point third. This enabled us to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. The voting was as shown opposite.
Robert Burns	1248	I must admit to be rather surprised at the large gulf between the first and second choices, although not really surprised that the WWT stamps won as all nature stamps seem popular with <i>Bulletin</i> readers, the 1995 winning set featuring robins. For interest past winners were: 1986 Nature Conservation; 1987 Flowers; 1988 Linnean Society; 1989 Birds; 1990 Queen Mother's 90th Birthday; 1991 Maps; 1992 Wintertime; 1993 Autumn; 1994 Age of Steam; and 1995 Christmas.
Olympic Games	1203	
Christmas	1129	
Classic Sports Cars	982	
Football Legends	896	
Childrens' TV Characters	774	
Greetings (Cartoons)	662	
Women of Achievement	569	
100 Years of Going to Cinema	536	

Favourite individual stamp Voting as follows (stamp number as per December *Bulletin* in light type).

WWT 19p 5	167	Burns 41p 3	29	Greetings: Lottery 50	13
WWT 41p 9	106	Cinema 19p 10	29	Olympics: Diving 23	11
Christmas 2nd 40	85	Cars 20p 35	27	Greetings: Writing to you 51	11
Burns 25p 2	78	Women of Achievement 20p 25	25	Cars 37p 37	10
WWT 25p 6	74	Cars 26p 36	24	Football 19p 15	8
Burns 19p 1	71	Greetings: Don't ring 49	23	Football 41p 18	8
Christmas 1st 41	66	WWT 30p 7	22	Greetings: More! 45	8
Olympics: Javelin 21	54	Cinema 30p 12	20	Cinema 41p 14	5
Childrens' TV 20p 30	54	Childrens' TV 43p 34	20	Olympics: Sprinting 20	5
Football 25p 16	53	Christmas 31p 42	19	Olympics: Winning 24	5
Childrens' TV 26p 31	44	Football 60p 19	17	Christmas 63p 44	5
Childrens' TV 31p 32	42	Greetings: Mental floss 48	17	Greetings: Sincerely 46	5
Women of Achievement 26p 26	41	Cars 63p 39	16	Women of Achievement 31p 27	4
Burns 60p 4	40	Greetings: Alarm clock 53	16	Cars 43p 38	4
WWT 35p 8	40	Cinema 25p 11	15	Women of Achievement 37p 28	3
Greetings: Dog 52	38	Christmas 43p 43	15	Olympics: Basketball 22	2
Childrens' TV 37p 33	31	Cinema 35p 13	14	Women of Achievement 43p 29	2
Greetings: Planets 54	31	Football 35p 17	14	Greetings: Human condition 47	2

Not surprisingly, perhaps, three stamps from the favourite set, WWI, feature in the top ten favourite individual stamps. Likewise the second and third most popular sets, Burns and Christmas, also had two stamps each in the top ten. The Bobby Moore stamp just made it in at number 10, the most popular greetings stamp was the Dog design in 16th position. All 54 stamps received at least some votes.

Favourite Bulletin author This was a new poll and we were pleased with the response, some readers putting gratifying comments alongside the name of their favourite author. The clear winner, with 457 votes was Douglas Myall for his 'Decimal Stamp Books' series, with James Mackay, Martin Balls, and Ron Negus in 2nd, 3rd and 4th position (240, 162, and 156 votes respectively). Again all authors received some votes.

Famous people on stamps We invited you to nominate up to five people readers would like to see on British stamps. Heading the list of over 1700 names suggested was Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, followed by Lord Montgomery of Alamein, Edward Elgar, Charles Dickens, Sir Alexander Fleming, The Duke of Wellington, Sir Winston Churchill, Eric Morecambe, Sir Frank Whittle, Jane Austen, Sir Isaac Newton, Lord Nuffield, Captain Cook, George Stephenson, Sir Douglas Bader, Tommy Cooper, Rudyard Kipling, Lord Nelson, Oliver Cromwell and Sir John Betjeman. Although stipulated that no living people (other than members of the Royal family) can feature on stamps, some nominations were received for Henry Cooper, Damon Hill, Spike Milligan, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Cliff Richard, Lady Thatcher and others. Stamps were suggested for a number of people who had died recently, such as Michael Bentine, Marti Caine, Peter Cook, Leslie Crowther, (a *Bulletin* subscriber), Paul Eddington, Geoff Hamilton, Jon Pertwee, Beryl Reid, Willie Rushton, Ronnie Scott, Sir Laurens van der Post and former Prime Ministers Lord Home of the Hirsell and Lord Wilson of Rievaulx. Readers also nominated groups of people rather than individuals,



Douglas Myall was voted favourite *Bulletin* author



the most popular being: Prime Ministers, vc holders, explorers, Nobel Prize winners and inventors. Others included tennis players, Royal grandchildren, war heroes, comedians, eccentrics, Olympic gold medallists, film directors and Royal mistresses(!)

Draw winners All the voting forms went into the proverbial hat for the three draws.

The first draw in the FAVOURITE STAMPS draw was Paul Heath of Essex who wins £250. Runner-up prizes go to R London, S Fowles, P Beale, M E Jones, and D Hall

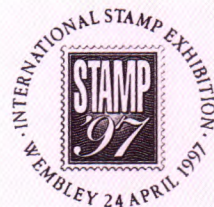
Winner in the FAVOURITE BULLETIN AUTHOR draw was L T Fitzgerald who receives £100. Runner-up prizes to A de Groot, D Turner, M de Lorenzo, W Clarke and P Williams. Douglas Myall receives £100 as favourite author.

Finally in the FAMOUS PEOPLE ON STAMPS draw, £150 goes to John Paul of East Yorkshire, with runner-up prizes to D Crosse, R Green, P Groot, E McInnes, and C Kennedy.

Our thanks to all of you who cast your votes. My thanks also to Barbara Best of Royal Mail's Design department for so patiently counting up all the votes (no mean task), and for making the prize draw at the end of her labours ●

Stamp '97 Opens at Wembley Exhibition Centre on 24 April

Stamp '97, sponsored by Royal Mail and Stanley Gibbons, opens at Wembley Exhibition Centre on 24 April. It will include a magnificent selection from the Royal Collection of Elizabeth II proofs reflecting the golden wedding, GB cancellation trials for the Penny Black, classic India, proofs and essays for the 1935 George V Silver Jubilee Empire omnibus issue, and Cayman Islands proof material not previously exhibited. Other attractions will include:



Stamp '97 opening times

24 April	11.00-19.00
25/26 April	10.00-18.00
27 April	10.00-17.00

Enquiries 01425 461353

HOUSE OF HORRORS A spectacular Royal Mail spooky 'House of Horrors' with creaking doors, coffins and its own cinema screen, will preview the Tales of Terror stamps to be issued in May to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, and the centenary of the publication of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. A 9ft *Frankenstein* and *Hanging Dracula* will open the exhibition at noon on 24 April and make unexpected appearances throughout the four days. The House of Questa is organising a childrens' Design-a-Spooky-Stamp competition with leading stamp designers, including Clive Abbott, to assist. Horror face painting will take place in a supervised creche.

STAMP PRINTERS All four British stamp printers – Joh Enschedé en Zonen, Harrison & Sons, The House of Questa, and Walsall Security Printers – will have stands at Stamp '97.

LADIES DAY & ADVICE CENTRE On 25 April, leading lady philatelists will exhibit and give talks about material in their collections. All lady visitors on Ladies Day will receive an additional free gift on entry to the exhibition. Following the successful launch of the Collectors Centre last year, the Association of British Philatelic Societies, British Philatelic Trust, and National Philatelic Society will again provide a central focus for collecting activities and advice. Experienced collectors will be on hand to help collectors of all ages.

STANDS AND AUCTION There will be over 120 stands of international stamp and postal history

dealers, album & accessory suppliers, auction houses, philatelic publishers and postal administrations. Several overseas dealers will take part for the first time. A charity auction for the benefit of the NSPCC will be held at 19.00 on 25 April. The 1996 auction raised over £10,000. Anyone who would like to donate material should contact David Crocker at Stanley Gibbons, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX. Telephone 0171 836 8444.

VIDEO WALL AND VALUATION SERVICE Latest stamp collecting videos from the UK and USA will be shown on the giant video wall, together with popular Royal Mail films and some classic horror footage. The popular Free Valuation Service for collections will again be provided by a team from Stanley Gibbons.

FREE GIFTS AND PRIZE DRAW All visitors will receive a free stamp collecting gift bag together with a free copy of the official show newspaper *International Stamp & Exhibition News*. Young visitors will receive a 'goody bag' full of stamps, postcards and accessories. All completed registration cards (on entry to the exhibition) will be entered in a free prize draw for a trip to the Pacific '97 exhibition in San Francisco.

EXHIBITION COVER AND POSTMARK Walsall Security Printers will provide a Stamp '97 commemorative cover; a special cancel will be used on mail posted at the Royal Mail stand.

LAUNCH OF STAMP SHOW 2000 The next international exhibition in London will be launched during a special presentation on the opening day.

Access The Wembley Exhibition Centre is close to the North Circular Road (A406). A free shuttle coach will ferry visitors to and from Wembley Park underground station. The nearest rail station is Wembley Stadium. Bus routes 18, 83, 92, 182, 204, 226 and 304 run close to the exhibition centre •

Norwex '97 Celebrating 350 years of the post in Norway

To celebrate the 350th anniversary of the post in Norway, an international exhibition of postal history and aerophilately will be held at the Sjolyst Exhibition Centre, Oslo, 16-21 April. The exhibition, of some 1500 frames featuring both classical and modern material, is being organised by the Federation of Norwegian Philatelists and Norway Post under the patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) and Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). The Patron of the exhibition is HM King Harald V of Norway.

British involvement includes the British Ambassador to Norway, Mr Mark Elliott, as a member of the Committee of Honour, top UK philatelists Brian Asquith and Trevor Davis on the jury, and Patrick Pearson as FIP Coordinator for the exhibition. The UK Commissioner for Norwex is Brian Sole.

Amongst the treasures to be displayed from the Royal Collection are Cape Triangulars, Treasury Competition essays and Penny Blacks, issued and unissued stamps of Edward VIII, Malta essays and proofs, Hong Kong 1941 and 1946 drawings, essays and proofs, and the famous Post Office Mauritius 1d on cover and 2d unused. Also on show in 'the Treasury' (rather than the traditional court of honour) will be stamps and covers from the Norwegian Postal Museum and from several notable collections.

The Sjolyst ranks as Norway's major exhibition centre with a display area of some 24,000 square metres. Over half a million people from

NORWEX 97



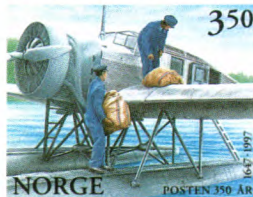
OSLO 16.-21.4.1997

all over the world attend some 30 events held there each year. Its central location between downtown Oslo and the airport ensures good access by air, sea, rail, bus, tram, or car.

The Norwex '97 exhibition medal shows Norway's first stamp on the obverse (front), with a postman from days gone by and a modern aeroplane on the reverse.

Postal Anniversary In October 1642 King Christian IV of Denmark instructed his vice-regent in Norway to improve communications between Oslo (then Christiania) and Copenhagen. This Royal request led to the establishment of the postal service on 17 January 1647. To commemorate the 350th anniversary Norway Post has produced three books, each containing eight stamps, depicting the story of the post. The first, in September 1995, featured early letters and wax seals, newspaper and registered mail, parcel post, postmarks, the first stamp (1855), the transfer of money by postal orders and giro, and the po Savings Bank. The second book, September 1996, has as its theme the postal services, and the third book – to go on sale on 16 April – features important events in Norway's post-war history. Although the Norwex exhibition is being supported by Norway Post, none of the stamps bear a premium towards the cost of the exhibition •

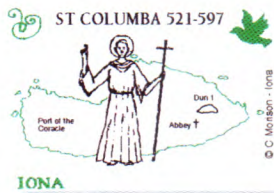
King Harald V of Norway (right) and stamps from one of the books commemorating the anniversary



Stamp scene Philatelic literature exhibit • Iona labels • Railway stamps • ABPS awards

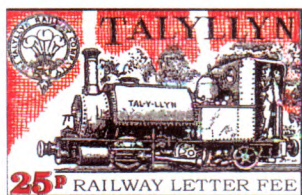
Submit entries to Central Districts Philatelic Trust, PO Box 206, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

NZ Philatelic Literature Exhibition The fifth exhibition, under NZ Philatelic Federation patronage, takes place on 28 June 1997. All types of philatelic literature will be accepted for display and should be submitted not later than 30 April to the address opposite. There are no fees or entry forms. Entries, wholly or predominantly in English, may be submitted by authors or publishers in two categories: books and handbooks; and periodicals (at least one year's, preferably two years' issues should be submitted). Entries will be judged by at least three philatelic experts. In 1995 the Bulletin Publication No 2 *British Stamp Design 1993*, by James Negus, received a bronze award •



Order from C S Morison, Iona Post Office, Isle of Iona, Scotland, PA76 6SJ.

Iona commemorative labels As part of the commemoration of the 1400th anniversary of St Columba, Mr C S Morison, Sub Postmaster on the Isle of Iona has produced five 'commemorative stickers' printed as a se-tenant strip showing: Columba landing on Iona; the 6th century monastery; map of the island; St Columba's shrine; and Iona Abbey. The stickers bear no denomination and have no postal validity. They will be available to the many thousands who visit the island each summer and are, says Mr Morison, 'suitable for adorning envelopes to your friends'. The five stickers can be ordered by post – £1 plus 25p postage; three sets £3.25 (postpaid UK) or £3.75 (overseas) from the address opposite. Remittances should be payable to 'C S Morison'. A photographic feature on the Iona PO was published here in May 1991 (page 215) •



Order from Postmaster, Talylyn Railway, Wharf Station, Tywyn, LL36 9EY.

New railway stamps The Talylyn Railway in mid-Wales will shortly issue four new 25p railway letter stamps to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the first modern railway letter service which it started in May 1957. The stamps, designed by Neill Oakley, were printed by Walsall Security Printers in miniature sheet format. They feature locomotives and trains, with one design based on one of the original 1957 stamps. Price £1 plus 50p postage & packing from the address opposite. Details of first day covers and other issues available from same address (enclose stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon with enquiries) •

Nomination forms from N M Russell, 59 Granby Avenue, Harpenden AL5 5QP.

ABPS awards Nominations are invited from philatelic societies, associations and federations affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies for the annual awards of the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit. The Medal is awarded for outstanding service to British philately at national level; the Awards for service at regional, specialist and local society level. Candidates must be members of organisations affiliated to the ABPS. Nomination forms are to be returned by 1 May •

Out of the Arc Curiosities from the Post Office Archives:

Colin Bendall investigates skiing postmen

IN 1908, the Post Office used skis for deliveries in Braemar, and snowshoes at Crathie. However, the trial was unsuccessful, because snow lying on the roads was too shallow for skis or snowshoe, and some roadside houses were difficult to approach, meaning that skis had to be taken off before delivery could be made. Within one or two days, snowploughs and road traffic had broken up the snow lying on the roads.

On 29 December 1908, the PO wrote to the postal administrations of Switzerland, Norway, Canada and Sweden, asking for advice on the subject. The Swiss administration was 'favourably disposed to the use of skis' in its own postal service, and also made use of snow-shoes. In Norway, postmen chose for themselves whether or not to use skis, while in Canada skis and snowshoes were not used. In Canadian cities, delivery by foot would have been made difficult by using skis, and in the countryside, railways, horses, or dog sledges were used to carry mail. The Swedish postal service replied that skis were used infrequently in the country as a whole, but included information from 'The Swedish Society for promoting the ski-running'.

In winter 1912, the PO supplied skis to postmen at Newton Stewart, as an experiment. However, little snow fell, so the skis were not tried out, and were withdrawn shortly afterwards. It was felt that skis would be of little use on rural deliveries when snow had fallen, because postmen on skis would have to negotiate rocky or uneven ground, and gates and ditches. In all, skis for postmen were regarded as 'more of a hindrance than a help' •



Post Office Archives is located at Mount Pleasant (Phoenix Place entrance), London EC1A 1BB. Telephone 0171 239 2570. The Searchroom is open Monday to Friday 09.00-16.15

North Atlantic air mails The Foynes connection, 1937-45

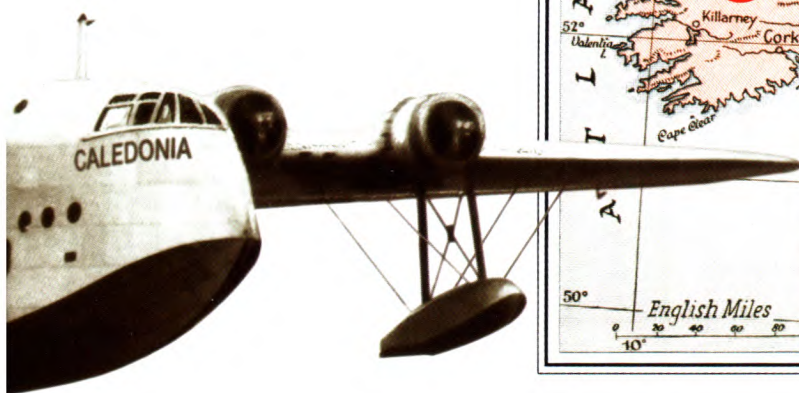


by Richard Beith

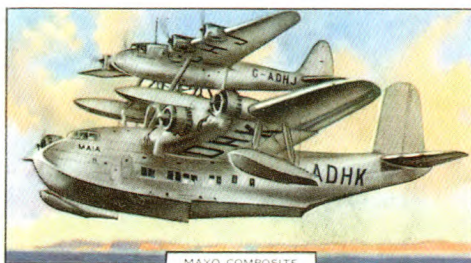
BACK IN NOVEMBER 1993, I discussed the first regular air mail services across the North Atlantic, mentioning the importance of the intermediate stop at Foynes in the Irish Free State as a refuelling station for the big mail and passenger carrying flying boats between 1937 and 1945.

Foynes was a flying boat base located on the south bank of the Shannon Estuary, in County Limerick, the port of arrival or departure on the long hop to and from Europe and Newfoundland, Canada and the USA.

Flying boats first came to Foynes in 1937, when the initial transatlantic proving flights of Imperial Airways and Pan American Airways took place. Both Imperial's *Caledonia* and *Cambria* and Pan Am's Sikorsky 42B *Clipper III* made several visits to this peaceful and sheltered landing place between



A typical first flight cover (left) from the first regular mail-carrying westbound service on Pan American's Northern route: Southampton-Foynes-Botwood (Newfoundland)-Shediac (New Brunswick)-New York. Postmarked in Dublin on 30 June 1939, this cover was carried from Foynes to New York in the famous Boeing 314 *Yankee Clipper*, NC 18603. (opposite, below)



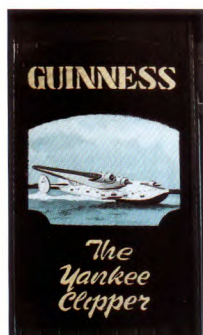
The Short-Mayo composite aircraft comprised the flying boat *Maia* (G-ADHK) and the sea-plane *Mercury* (G-ADHJ). The idea was that the smaller *Mercury* could carry a much greater weight of mail if its take off was assisted by the lifting power of the bigger *Maia*. The two planes took off from the water as a single unit, the upper plane being released after a short flight and the mother plane returning to base.

July and August of that year. However, these flying boats had to be stripped down to the bare bones in order to carry sufficient fuel for the trip and could never have carried a commercial load. One suggested solution to the problem of giving sufficient range capability to the planes flying the North Atlantic was the famous Short-Mayo composite aircraft (see above).

In summer 1938, the two planes were positioned at Foynes for an important trial flight. On 20 July the composite took off from the Shannon and, after separation, *Mercury* piloted by Captain DCT Bennett (later 'Pathfinder Bennett' of Second World War fame) flew non-stop to Montreal, Canada, 2,930 miles away, in 20 hours, 20 minutes, and then on to



The 50th anniversary of Capt Bennett's 1938 flight was commemorated by the Irish Post Office, when they issued a fine pictorial stamp showing *Mercury* and *Maia* (SG 697)



New York, reached on 21 July. Only official greeting and special transatlantic editions of various London newspapers were carried, but Stroud calls this the first heavier-than-air *commercial* crossing of the North Atlantic.

When the regular services started in summer 1939, Foynes became a scheduled stop both for Pan American's 'Northern' route and for Imperial Airways (see cover, p240).

Wartime importance Foynes importance grew with the outbreak of war in Europe and if the then Irish Free State remained neutral in that conflict, that neutrality was angled in favour of the British and American governments, certainly as far as air traffic through Foynes was concerned. Pan American's Boeing 314 Clippers became regular visitors to Ireland as the war progressed, to be joined by the Vought-Sikorsky vs44-As of American Export Airlines and BOAC's connecting flying boat services to England, Lisbon and beyond. However, by the end of the war, landplanes were in the ascendant, and the last scheduled flying boat service left Foynes in October 1945. From then on, the DC4s and Constellations stopped on the north side of the estuary to refuel at what eventually became Shannon International Airport, and Foynes reverted to its traditional role of a modest port.



Foynes Flying Boat Museum

Foynes, Co Limerick, Ireland.
Telephone 069 65416

The Foynes Flying Boat Museum However, there were those living in the Foynes area who sought to commemorate the days of the flying boats and hence, on 8 July 1989, the 50th anniversary to the day of the first scheduled passenger and airmail flight between Ireland and North America, the Foynes Flying Boat Museum was opened by film actress Maureen O'Hara-Blair, widow of former AEA chief pilot Captain Charles F Blair. The Museum, located in an adaptation of the original terminal building, contains a small 1940's style cinema where an excellent film is shown on Foynes and the flying boats with much fascinating archive footage. A very detailed display tells the story of aviation at Foynes and its importance in the Second World War. The original radio and weather room, tea room and gift shop are worth a visit.

My wife and I visited the Museum in October 1996 and received a very warm welcome from the energetic curator Margaret O'Shaughnessy. She wants to develop the museum as funds permit and is very keen to include an air mail gallery in the future. The Museum is open from end March to end October each year, seven days a week. Although this is not a large museum, I'm sure most aviation-minded readers would enjoy a visit. It is located on route N69 between Limerick and Tralee and could easily be the subject of a visit during a stopover at Shannon International. If you are taking a leisurely driving holiday in Ireland, Foynes is about 4½ hours by road from the Dublin area.

The flying boat era is also commemorated in other ways in Foynes. Our bed & breakfast establishment (and bar) was named after the *Yankee Clipper* and had a fine reproduction of that Boeing on the bar sign (above).

ps: Irish Coffee was invented here in 1942 by Chef Joe Sheridan to cheer up a group of damp flying boat passengers facing a long delay! ●

References

Beith, R 'The first regular North Atlantic air mails from the UK', *British Philatelic Bulletin* November 1993, pp 60-62

Stroud, J *Annals of British and Commonwealth Air Transport 1919-1960*, London, Putnam 1962



1



2



3

National Postal Museum, London

4

Golden stamps As Royal Mail issues its gold definitives, James Mackay looks back at some gold issues of the past



THE TECHNOLOGY for printing with metallic inks was developed early in the 19th century, primarily in the ceramic industry. The so-called lustre wares used oxides of platinum and copper to create silver and gold respectively, platinum being then a much cheaper metal than gold. Subsequently metallic oxides were used in chromolithography to re-create the sumptuous effects of medieval illuminated manuscripts (which had applied gold ground to a fine powder and mixed with gum). These metallic oxides were relatively expensive to produce and difficult to apply satisfactorily, so they were sparingly used. Following the advent of Christmas cards in the mid-1840s, however, gold was increasingly used for embossed borders and new techniques of applying metallic ink by letterpress were developed by the greetings card manufacturers of Bavaria. Early in 1863 the Hammonia courier service operated by W Krantz in Hamburg introduced 1 and 2 schilling stamps using bronze, silver or gold metallic inks on white or coloured papers.

To Switzerland, however, goes the credit of issuing the first government adhesive postage stamps printed in metallic inks. On 18 May 1863 two high values were added to the series introduced the previous October, and consisted of the 60c in copper-bronze and the 1 franc (1 above) in bronze-gold. Improvement in the copper oxide

led to the adoption of a more distinctively gold ink in 1864 and this continued till 1882.

The Netherlands 50c stamp was printed in gold ink from October 1867. The best known examples of metallic inks at the turn of the century were provided by Greece whose drachmae high values of 1901 used bronze for the 2dr, silver for the 3dr and gold for the 5dr (3).

Gold ink was extensively used in local stamps of the German Empire between 1886 and 1900, notably Braunschweig (1889-94), Erfurt (1888-93), Frankfurt (1887-1900), Freiberg (1890-1), Giessen (1888), Heidelberg (1890), Leipzig (1893), Luebeck (1897), Mainz (1888-90), Mannheim (1897), Stettin (1897) and Wiesbaden (1889-90).

British-might-have-been Britain might well have been in the forefront of this fashion, as long ago as 1877, for in that year the £5 Telegraph stamp was introduced. The hand-painted essay in the De La Rue archives, dated 15 June 1876, indicates that a bi-coloured stamp, in pale purple and deep claret, was originally envisaged. When colour trials were prepared, however, samples in single colours were produced, and these included sheets typographed by De La Rue in gold ink (4). This was rejected on grounds of cost, and vermilion, a colour not previously considered for this stamp, was adopted instead. Later, it was used for the £5 postage stamps from 1882 onwards. Examples of the gold colour trials, with or without a specimen overprint, are known.



Opposite: 9, 10, 11

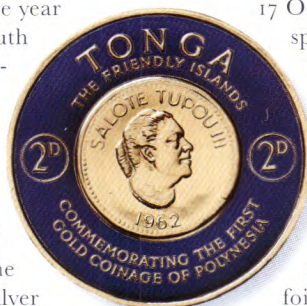
Before the advent of multicolour photogravure in the 1960s, gold ink was used sparingly, in conjunction with one or two other colours. Gold was combined with three other colours in the printing of El Salvador's stamps of March 1897 commemorating the Federation of the Greater Republic of Central America, and in the very same month gold combined with two colours was used by the Hansa local post in Germany for the stamps celebrating the centenary of the birth of Kaiser Wilhelm I. Later the same year gold ink was used by New South Wales for the 2½d (2s6d) Consumptives Home charity stamp. Gold and silver inks were used for the borders of the Persian coronation series of 1915 (2), while South Africa's 2d of 1938 showing the Rand goldfield used gold ink in the background of the vignette (5). South Africa used silver ink in the production of the stamps celebrating the Royal Silver Wedding in 1948.

Queen's silhouette In British Stamps, however, gold ink first came to prominence in the paintings series and many subsequent issues. In some cases gold ink was also used to print the denomination and the inscriptions. It was used for the major part of the design in several issues, notably the 9d Prince of Wales Investiture stamp of 1969 (6), Coronation anniversary of 1978 (7) and the Tutankhamun 3p of 1972. In the top stamp marking the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (1973) gold ink was used for the intaglio printing, and in many subsequent issues, partic-

ularly Christmas stamps, it was combined with other colours to provide a decorative effect.

Metal foil The use of metal foil as a printing material for stamps dates from 5 October 1955 when Hungary issued a 5 forint airmail stamp to celebrate the Light Metal Industries International Congress in Budapest. On this occasion, appropriately, aluminium foil was used. The USSR produced a 1 rouble stamp on silver foil on 17 October 1961 to commemorate the space flights for that year. It was re-issued six days later with an overprint to mark the 22nd Communist Party Congress.

These early foil stamps had orthodox printing on them, but in June 1963 Tonga startled the philatelic world by issuing its first circular stamps embossed on gold foil to celebrate the introduction of the Koula gold coinage (left). This gimmick was subsequently applied to other Tongan issues, die-cut and embossed by Walsall Security Printers, and later adopted by Sierra Leone, Burundi, Jordan, Sharjah, Umm al Qiwain and Bhutan using the same printer. Several countries of the French Community, notably Guinea, Benin, Cameroun, the Central African Empire, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo and Upper Volta, issued gold-foil stamps produced by Bocard and Pierre Marrotte of Paris. Most of these experiments were short-lived, reaching their zenith in 1969-70. In some cases tiny gemstones were inserted to create a sumptuously jewelled effect. In the





case of many of these French productions much was made of the fact that the foil was of 23 or even 24 carat gold, although the actual amount of gold in the foil was quite microscopic.

Die-stamped heads The first application of this to British stamps came in October 1966 when the 6d and 13d Battle of Hastings stamps (8) were printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons, with The Queen's profile die-stamped in gold foil. As this was applied at a second operation it is hardly surprising that examples of both values without the gold embossed head are not uncommon. The same technique was applied to the Christmas stamps of December 1966 (9), and in this instance examples of the 3d with The Queen's head double have been recorded, as well as stamps with the head omitted on the front and partially embossed on the reverse, as a result of a paper fold during printing. Other gold foil errors of this period include the 1967 Christmas 4d with head omitted or misplaced, and the 156d of the Literary Anniversaries set of 1970 with the head omitted. In other issues of this period the gold silhouette was applied in metallic ink and usually left flat, although the 1970 Christmas stamps had the head additionally embossed after printing. Even so, the 4d and 156d are known with the embossing omitted, and the 5d with both gold ink and embossing omitted.

Gold profiles made a comeback in the Castles high value series of March 1992. In this case The Queen's portrait is printed in optically variable ink which changes from gold to green when viewed from different angles. So far, examples of the £5 with The Queen's head omitted have

been recorded.

Gold ink has so far been confined to a single special postmark in Britain, a handstamp being applied at Glasgow to mark 100 Gold Awards. Although widely regarded as an innovation at the time, it was actually anticipated 60 years earlier in Czechoslovakia which, as well as pioneering handstamps in two or three colours, produced gold postmarks in 1934 and 1935 respectively celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Czech legions and the 85th birthday of President Masaryk. This technique has been used very sparingly since then, most recently by Namibia for the Stars in the Night Sky series of 12 September 1996 where a conventional black postmark would not have shown up against the very dark colours of the stamps.

Gold embossing has been fleetingly used elsewhere as part of the design of stamps since the 1960s. Ascension marked the opening of the BBC relay station in December 1966 with a set of four in which The Queen's head and the BBC emblem were diestamped in gold. More recently (1994), New Zealand has used gold diestamping for the border of the \$10 definitive showing Mount Cook (10).

The ultimate gold stamps, however, were those issued by Paraguay in 1964 to mark the 38th Eucharistic Congress (held in Bombay). A set of four stamps featured papal gold coins of the early 16th century and were lithographed by De La Rue of Colombia using gold metallic ink for the coins. A small number of miniature sheets (11, detail) was produced in which the coins were represented by electrotypes which, to all intents and purposes, resembled the real coins •



In my view... Charles Goodwyn holds the most prestigious post in British philately – Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.



The Post Office 2d stamp, favourite in Charles Goodwyn's care as Keeper of the Royal Collection. © HM The Queen

SHORTLY BEFORE he flew out to the international stamp exhibition in Hong Kong in February he talked to the Editor about his own collection and his views on the hobby.

Charles Goodwyn is a very busy man – three days a week he is at Buckingham Palace working on the most famous stamp collection in the world, between times he continues with his work, as a chartered surveyor, attends numerous stamp exhibitions and functions and still finds some spare moments for his own collection. A week or so before I interviewed him he had collected the new Rowland Hill Award for Personal Contribution to the hobby, and was about to set off to Hong Kong to display The Queen's stamps as well as some of his own.

He began stamp collecting as a schoolboy, sitting round the table with his father, a general collector, 'soaking off' and swapping stamps'. At school he joined the stamp club, run by a Mr Leakey who further encouraged his interest. It was this Mr Leakey who invited a Colonel Latham to give a talk on Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports and the young Goodwyn's lifetime interest in the stamps of the Far East was born. Hong Kong quickly became his main interest and he was able to build up a collection quite quickly with examples of the various Treaty Ports postmarks. The main collector of this material at the time was Major Adrian Hopkins, probably also F W Webb.

Mr Goodwyn still has his old general collection, although no longer adds to it, as well as six specialised collections, each of several volumes, of China Treaty Ports; Early China; Hong Kong;

China Inflation Mail; Local Posts of China; and his favourite China Second World War. The collections intermingle postal history covers with stamps, proofs and allied material such as photographs and maps. 'Collecting China', he says, 'is a big field, and any serious collector must be prepared to spend time studying covers to work out the postmarks and routes – you can easily spend two hours on one cover.' The time he feels is well spent, and he gets much satisfaction from the collections. His original China collection was sold some years ago. He made a study of the postal history of the Crown colony of Wei Hai Wei which led to a published work in 1985. The award-winning Chinese Local Posts collection, covering the period 1866-97, was about to be displayed in the Court of Honour in Hong Kong. The Second World War and Inflation Period collections are still in formation.

Advice to new collectors I asked Mr Goodwyn what advice he would give adults wanting to start a collection themselves or encourage youngsters to do so. He is encouraging his own grandchildren to collect: 'Heap rubbish on them' he suggests – this will get them interested in sorting stamps and learn about different countries. Later encourage them to concentrate on one country – 'obviously GB if they live here'. He is quite happy to send his grandchildren first day covers – 'nothing wrong in it if it keeps their interest'. However he feels that, like virtually every country, we issue too many special stamps with variable standard of design. He praised the recent Henry VIII stamps but thought some issues in

past years are best forgotten. He considers the GB and Commonwealth definitives of George V, George VI and early Elizabeth II of 'infinitely better design' to most current stamps.

He advises potential adult collectors to consider collecting postal history – selecting a town or county or even a certain period of a chosen country. The key he feels is to find a subject which yields some 'good stories' – a study of censorship mail for example. Collecting postal history need not be expensive and he cited an interesting cover he purchased for his China Second World War collection at the Newcastle '96 exhibition for just £4 – less than the price of some modern first day covers!

In addition to his well-known China/Hong Kong collections, he has a Plymouth Postal History collection, ranging from pre-stamp material (the earliest, c1680) to modern material 'if it has a story to tell'. This collection includes airmail covers, and items such as letters from tradesmen to a homeowner restoring a garden after years of neglect, and from people in Plymouth to servicemen just returned from Dunkirk – 'each item tells a story and is part of social as well as postal history.' This collection, started four or five years ago, is still to be written up – 'one of the tasks I intended to do in the retirement that didn't take place'. Instead of retiring, Charles started a new career as The Queen's philatelist.

When asked if he recommended thematic collecting, he paused. 'I do not really understand it', he replied, 'I'm not sure that I could be bothered with the intricacies involved in preparing a collection for exhibiting or in judging such collections.' Nonetheless he appreciates that many collectors get great enjoyment from thematic collecting, and admitted that he was forming a Lifeboats collection for his wife. This includes some postal covers which make it rather 'more interesting.'

Specialised collecting The satisfaction of specialised collecting lies in the great variety of material that it can encompass. Mr Goodwyn cited his Wei Hai Wei collection which covers British and Chinese post offices, the CEF advance

base, Chinese labour corps, Second World War, and early days of the Trans-Siberia Railway. He includes in the specialised collections fiscals, courier posts, different printings, and in the Local Posts collection proof material, varieties on the stamps and postal usage to show the different rates of carriage. 'There wasn't a great deal in print on Wei Hai Wei apart from a brief pamphlet by H B L Clarke, known as "China Clarke".' Reading this, he realised the enormous amount still to be recorded, such as postmarks and registered mail. The result was collaboration with Michael Goldsmith to write *The Crown Colony of Wei Hai Wei, 1898-1930* published by the Royal Philatelic Society 12 years ago. Modestly he says 'the book wrote itself' from a study of the two collections.

Collecting anything other than at very basic level requires time. The amount Charles can devote to his collections varies but he tries always to mount important new acquisitions without delay – otherwise they tend to 'lurk in a drawer and I never get round to dealing with it'. The retirement he intended to devote to his stamps 'didn't happen' so extensive work on his own collection must wait. His Local Posts and Wei Hai Wei collections are extensive and there are probably few items still to find. 'If I see an item that adds to the study and at the right price I will buy it', but he does not keep lists of items he requires. The Local Posts collection comprises over 400 pages – too many for a conventional exhibit or display. For such purposes he carefully selects pages on the basis that 'if it takes my fancy it will probably interest other people as well.' Most items were obtained from auctions and dealers rather than by exchange with other collectors. Occasionally fellow collectors bring items to his attention, and vice versa.

The collections are mostly housed in Godden albums, stamps mounted with hinges on white on grey mounts so they can be easily moved, without damage, should the need arise. Covers are mounted using large size photocorners. As an interim measure some new acquisitions are mounted on 'cheap paper' and placed at the relevant place in the appropriate album, or stored

in album page protectors. Asked if he was a well-organised collector, he responded that 'I have got to be at the Palace but at home, like most collectors I sometimes lose things, and cannot remember which heap it is in.' He tries to mount as much material as possible as it is less easy to mislay album pages than unmounted stamps or covers. 'I try to keep on top', he says, 'even if I have to return to the pages to write them up, or re-write at a later date'. Good advice to all collectors.

Philatelic literature As with the other collectors interviewed here last year, Charles Goodwyn regards philatelic literature very highly and has an extensive library of several hundred books plus specialist journals. He reads the main general magazines – *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, *Stamp Magazine*, and this *Bulletin* and thinks the articles and features compare well with those published in the past. He believes they do a good job and publish serious articles. He doesn't have a favourite philatelic writer but enjoys the writings of L N Williams, James Mackay, and others. Not surprisingly for a Past President of the Royal Philatelic Society he thinks its journal *The London Philatelist* is 'outstanding'.

He is saddened that few collectors buy philatelic books, other than catalogues. Most books have a short print run, often he believes less than the number of collectors and dealers interested in the subject matter. Philatelic publishing is a risky business and he applauds those who undertake it. Collectors, he says, are 'inherently mean' when it comes to philatelic literature and are the poorer for it – 'there is no point in floundering in the dark if there is a good book on the subject.' He believes most philatelic books are good value for money.

Societies Mr Goodwyn is a member of several specialist societies and his local philatelic society in Amersham. He believes there is still a need for local societies – 'most have funds so can offer membership at very low subscriptions. For this collectors get good displays and speakers and enjoyable social occasions. Even displays not on your particular interest can be worth seeing to

learn about stamps in general and pick up tips on arranging a collection.' In general though he accepts that local societies do not have too much to offer the specialist collector. I suggested that local societies might attract a larger membership if they met in better surroundings. 'Fair comment' was the reply, 'but with very low annual subscriptions, some only £2, you can't expect too much'. He does not believe local societies will gradually fade away. 'We are coming', he says, 'to the end of a social revolution and there are now many more people in their 50s and 60s with time on their hands' – ideal candidates for taking up stamp collecting and helping to run local clubs. 'If they don't succumb to alcohol', he says, 'lets hope they take up stamps.'

Specialised societies are equally important, and 'if they work towards publishing so much the better'. Of course there is often overlap between such societies in terms of membership and publications. He cited specialist groups he is a member of in the UK, USA, Netherlands and Far East. 'Dissemination of knowledge matters' he says, and believes the modest subscriptions to most specialist societies is money well spent.

We turned our discussion to the Royal Philatelic Society which he sees as relevant to all collectors who take the hobby seriously. He urges more to join straight away and not wait because they believe they are not knowledgeable or experienced enough to be a member. 'The main advantage of membership is of course access to the biggest philatelic library in the world', followed by the excellent talks and displays and the magazine. 'The programme of displays is very good and the Society now has a "user friendly" attitude towards all its members. They are given a warm welcome.' He is particularly pleased that more members visit the Society's premises (41 Devonshire Place, London W1) outside meeting days, to use the library, meet other collectors over a cup of tea or coffee and talk over their philatelic problems. 'It is', he says, 'a great place for solving problems, a great place to meet people.'

Exhibitions & museums Mr Goodwyn does not feel there are now too many exhibitions. 'They

offer a good opportunity for dealers who do not have a shop to meet their customers.' If collectors know there is likely to be a good contingent of dealers they will attend exhibitions. He praised the Newcastle '96 exhibition as 'quite splendid' and looks forward to the next ABPS exhibition at Hove in 1998. He also welcomes the 'Stamp' exhibitions held at Wembley and Birmingham and is pleased more exhibitions are being held outside London. I asked where else exhibitions might go. 'It depends', he says, 'on the strength of philately is each area, and how far the dealers are prepared to travel.' He considers the Rare Stamps of the World exhibition at Claridges (in 1995 and again this year) as 'outside the normal run of exhibitions, but certainly worth visiting if you want to view famous and beautiful stamps rather than to buy material for your collection.'

He was involved in the running of the Stamp World London 90 international exhibition at Alexandra Palace and praised the spacious layouts, the very good programme of events and the catering facilities. He hopes these good aspects will be repeated at Earl's Court in three years time, believing this to be a better venue. He also hoped that the professional management of this exhibition, by Royal Mail and P&O 'rather than a load of amateurs' will result in good promotion and an even larger number of visitors. Last year he visited the Capex exhibition in Toronto and liked Canada Post's display of vehicles which 'appealed to a wider audience.' The layout of these vast international exhibitions is, he feels, very important – 'if you get it wrong it can be a disaster as at Grenada and Rome where the displays were on different levels and different sites.' Of all the internationals he has visited he liked Stamp World London 90 the best with the 'small but friendly' exhibition in Cyprus in 1995 as runner-up.

He quite regularly visits both the National Postal Museum and the British Library and is currently co-operating with the NPM over the remounting of GB George VI collections there and at Buckingham Palace. He wonders if the Museum is really in the right location and would

like to see it move to 'Museum Land or the West End'. He was pleased to arrange the display of Mauritius stamps from the Royal Collection at the Museum last September; sadly the display ended when the Museum had to close abruptly for urgent repairs in November. He is hoping that The Queen will agree to future displays at the Museum in due course. He considers the NPM compares well with the overseas postal museums he had visited. Speaking of the importance and value of the British Library Philatelic Collections, he looked forward to seeing major displays in their new St Pancras premises and would judge them then. He would like to see more philatelists on the staff at both the NPM and BL.

Royal Mail and British Philatelic Trust Mr Goodwyn feels Royal Mail's most important contribution to the hobby is its continued support of the Trust – 'very much the Post Office's baby and an ideal vehicle for developing the hobby.' He spoke of the worthwhile publications produced by the BPT and of the 'invidious task of apportioning income to competing ends.' Work in promoting the hobby, through the Trust's Philatelic Development Manager, 'will take time but is well worth while.' The evangelising role of the Trust is, he feels, one of its most important functions. Of Royal Mail's philatelic activities he would like to see fewer stamp issues and more philatelists working in the philatelic departments. Overall he is supportive of Royal Mail as the major force in the hobby in the UK.

Great philatelists and promoting the hobby Of all the philatelists he has met he considers Robson Lowe has made the greatest contribution with his many high-quality publications. The greatest of all time he thinks was Sir Edward Bacon, one of his predecessors as Keeper of the Royal Collection.

He would like to see more on stamp collecting on television and hopes this might be taken up by the new Channel 5. He feels that the poor reputation of the hobby – seen as the prerogative of schoolboys and eccentric old men – is largely undeserved. Most philatelists are middle-aged

and respectable and the hobby attracts no more eccentrics than any other. He would like to see more public recognition of the work of serious philatelists and urges societies to continue to nominate suitable candidates for honours. They are awarded in other areas, why not philately?

Royal Keeper Mr Goodwyn took up his post at Buckingham Palace in January 1996, having worked for a year under his predecessor Sir John Marriott. He enjoys his work there – ‘it gives me a feeling of doing something useful’. There is much to be done. The stamps to the end of George v’s reign are all mounted and work is in progress on George vi. However only a tiny number of albums have been prepared with Elizabeth ii stamps and he estimates this section of the collection will eventually fill some 2000 albums! He is ‘finding treasures all the time’ and cites the fabulous Post Office Mauritius 2d stamp (shown on page 246) as his favourite stamp in his care. One day he plans to write ‘an exhibition catalogue style book’ on the collection.

I ended the interview with the traditional questions on which stamp and book he would like to have with him if cast away on a desert island. Without hesitation he asked for a proof of the first issue of Shanghai, the first stamp issued in China, dating from 1865/6 – a favourite item in his personal collection, but would really like to take the whole of his China Local Posts collection. His choice of book was Charles Dugan’s work on the Local Posts of China. He didn’t ask for a caddy of China tea but I think we should allow him this extra luxury.

Charles Goodwyn has reached the pinnacle of British philately. He is modest about his achievements and his deep knowledge of the somewhat arcane area of Chinese philately. He clearly relishes his position as Keeper of The Queen’s collection and is delighted to have gained Her Majesty’s approval to display it more widely. Already it has been shown at the NPM, Stampex, and Newcastle ’96 and hopefully soon at Stamp ’97 at Wembley and at the Rare Stamps exhibition in July. For this he deserves the thanks of all serious collectors ●

Decimal stamp books 32:



Say it with flowers – for real A special promotional version of the flowers greetings book became available from the Bureau on 3 February. This offers a chance to win a bouquet of 12 carnations. You rub a small scratch panel on the inside cover and if it reveals a flower symbol you send the cover to an address in Jersey together with the address to which you want the flowers sent, and an appropriate message. The promotion is run jointly by Royal Mail and Flower Express.

The stamps and labels are unchanged but there are several differences in the printing on the cover from that on the original version. Like all promotional books, there is a message on the yellow tab strip. This one reads: Open now – See if you’ve won. More notably, the front cover carries a slogan panel across the gentian reading: Win a beautiful/bouquet instantly? Even if your scratching reveals the words: Sorry, try again, you can still get your bunch of carnations only it will cost you £6.95 which is £3 less than the usual price. There are two other flower offers for purchase at a discount and details are given on the outside back cover.

The flower books are proving to be very popular with the public. Because of the increased sales and the fact that any one of the six colour plates may have to be taken off the press and replaced with another, or even put back later,

Specialist report by D G A Myall



Flower books plate combinations seen at the time of writing

Seen in both books and packs* Reported in packs only**

Original version

W1W1W1W1W1W1*	W1W1W2W1W1W1*	W1W1W2W1W1W2*
W1W1W2W1W1W3*	W1W1W2W1W2W3**	W1W1W3W1W2W3*
W1W2W3W1W2W3*	W1W3W3W1W2W3*	W1W3W4W1W2W3**
W2W3W4W1W2W3	W2W3W4W2W2W3*	W2W3W4W2W3W4
W2W3W5W2W3W4	W3W4W6W2W3W5	W3W4W6W3W3W5*
W3W4W6W3W3W6	W3W4W7W3W3W5	W3W4W7W3W3W6
W3W4W7W3W4W7	W4W4W7W3W4W7	W4W4W8W3W3W6
W4W4W8W3W3W7	W4W4W8W3W4W7	W5W5W9W4W3W6
W5W5W9W4W3W7	W5W5W9W4W4W7	

Promotional version

W6W6W10W5W5W8	W6W6W11W5W5W9	W6W6W11W5W5W10
W6W7W11W5W5W10	W7W8W13W6W5W11	W7W8W13W6W6W11

there have been unusually large number of plate combinations for this issue and some are proving to be in short supply. Several of them have been seen only in the presentation packs. As far as I know, none of the combinations used for the promotional version has appeared in the original book and, of course, the promotional version does not appear in the presentation packs. The combinations seen at the time of writing are given above.

It seems that the magenta and gold colours gave the most trouble. There may have been several phosphor plates as well but, as WSP do not number these, we shall never know.

The post-Olympic books All eight of the retail books to succeed the year-long Olympics series have now been issued. Compared with the pre-Olympics covers, the ones which first introduced the block design on the front covers in 1994, there are some significant changes. The block illustration was part of a re-design of the entire range in order 'to give a more consistent look' to retail books and this has been retained, together with the use of Stempel Garamond typeface in place of the inline face previously used. There have, however, been some further design changes and some modification of the text. These were mentioned here in February before the books had

been seen and there are only some minor differences between what was said there and on the books as issued. On the books of 10 x 2nd class (Harrison and Questa), 4 x 2nd class (Walsall) and 4 x 1st class (Walsall) the word 'now' has been omitted from the second sentence which reads: They are on sale at post offices etc, while on the two overseas books, 4 x 37p and 4 x 63p (Walsall) the word 'world' is not capitalised. All have the contents text ranged left, the printer's initial near the barcode and no defacing bars on the block illustration. These are intended to be the permanent layouts for non-promotional books.

Marks & Spencer bubble packs Some of the 'hook and hang' bubble packs of retail books of 10 which were trialled at selected branches of Marks & Spencer contained the two Harrison books with post-Olympics covers. This was unexpected because these books were not due for issue until 4 February, the day after the trial was to end. In fact, packs with the non-Olympic covers were first seen in stores in early January. These are likely to be difficult to come by. Indeed, packs with books of 10 x 2nd class are so popular that many of the stores stocking them had run out before the end of January and managers were quoted as saying that they would not be having any more. Although one cannot see whether the

Revised machine-vend books Full list of plate combination changes to date, with the phosphor number to the right of the solidus

Incorrect rates

£1	Q1Q1Q1Q1Q1Q1/Q1	£2	Q1Q1Q1Q1/Q1
	Q2Q2Q2Q2Q2Q2/Q1		Q2Q2Q2Q2/Q1
	Q3Q3Q3Q3Q3Q3/Q1		

Correct rates

£1	Q4Q4Q4Q4Q4/Q1	£2	Q2Q2Q2Q2/Q1
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Printed at The House of Questa, UK

Inland Letters
United Kingdom, Channel Islands
and Isle of Man

	60g	100g	150g	200g
First Class	26p	39p	49p	62p
Second Class	22p	31p	38p	45p

Need a Postcode?

Tel: 0345 111 222 Monday to Friday.
Calls are charged at local rates.
For customer service enquiries or any
information about our products and
services tel: 0345 742 740

Europe - Airmail
EU Countries

	20g	40g	60g
	76p	44p	56p

Inland Letters

United Kingdom, Channel Islands
and Isle of Man

	60g	100g	150g	200g
First Class	26p	39p	49p	62p
Second Class	22p	31p	38p	47p

Need a Postcode?

Tel: 0345 111 222 Monday to Friday.
Calls are charged at local rates.
For customer service enquiries or any
information about our products and
services tel: 0345 742 740

Printed at The House of Questa, UK

books have Olympics covers or not one can, of course, tell the difference without opening the pack because of the absence of the defacing bars on the cover illustration of the non-Olympics books. (*Note: The trial of the M&S pack was extended to 31 March 1997. ED*)

Revised machine-vend books The £1 and £2 machine-vend books from Questa were issued on 4 February with revised text correcting the error in the rates setting mentioned here in October last year. The original rates table gave 47p as the cost of a 200g inland letter sent by the second-class service instead of the correct figure of 45p. The correction took longer to be made than I expected so books with incorrect rates are not scarce at all. The text on the inside covers of both the £1 and £2 books is identical. The stamp content is unchanged. Plate combination changes are not as frequent as in the retail books with lithographed stamps (see above).

Hong Kong label book The fourth in Royal Mail's series of books containing panes of four 1st class NVIS attached to a large illustrated label was issued on 12 February. It marks the 11th Asian International Stamp Exhibition held in the colony that month. The label features scenes of Hong Kong and was illustrated on page 132 of the January *Bulletin*. The only plate combination seen to date is: w49w52w61. This also appears on the unfolded pane which is available separately from the Bureau.

The Machin portrait has appeared on Hong Kong definitives in the past but has now given way to new designs in preparation for the hand-

over to a Chinese administration on 1 July. It seems that the new label pane will be the last direct link between Machins and the former colony.

The pane was printed by wsp in litho. wsp's new gravure press will be used for books of the gold definitives to commemorate The Queen's golden wedding anniversary, to be issued on 21 April.

Void A reader writes to say that he has a Triathlon (Hurdles) book with the word VOID printed in black four times along the spine and asks what it means. He can find nothing wrong with the book or its contents which appear to be identical with other Hurdles books.

The overprint is added by an ink jet printer fixed to the Libra book-making machine at Harrison's. The column of panes streaming to join the booklet covers is scanned to detect off-centre perforations or panes which may occasionally be badly affixed to the covers. If any is detected, the 'void' overprint is added to enable the checker to see them easily and remove them from the chute before they are made up into bundles of 50 for packing. To ensure that the defective book is removed, two or three good books either side of it are also marked void and removed. Occasionally, some odd books are required to make up a bundle of 50 and these good books, although marked void may be used and thus get into philatelic hands. It can even happen that a cover will have both a void mark and a black marker bar denoting the 50th book in the bundle. Defective books marked void should not be used in this way •

Competition Win Queen Victoria £1 – catalogued at £3000!

IN THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION, sponsored by GB Select-Direct, you can win a good used example of the 1884 £1 brown-lilac, SG 185 at £1000.

Introducing GB Select-Direct Take a look at this month's prizes – in just the same way as a £1000 QV £1 brown-lilac can be yours for just £335 – a poorer example would cost you less – and a better example more. Contrary to popular belief, high values don't have to cost the earth. It is purely a matter of quality. GB Select-Direct can supply you with mint or used high value stamps of GB for a fraction of catalogue value according to condition.

GB Select-Direct is a unique new specialist service from New World for GB collectors only – introduced to help collectors solve the problem of adding high values to their collections at affordable prices. If you have gaps of more expensive GB stamps in your collection then this service is for you. It costs nothing to register and is totally without obligation.

How GB Select-Direct works send them five different SG numbers of stamps missing from your GB collection, write beside each whether you require mint or used. It helps if you give an idea of the kind of quality that you require or give an indication of budget. Please note that the service is for GB stamps only, catalogued at £50 and upwards.

GB Select-Direct springs into action from the moment they receive your list, searching their stocks in order to offer you the right stamp at the right price without obligation. Once located a photo and details are submitted for your consideration. Choose to order and you can pay by cheque, credit card or interest-free extended payment.

Try GB Select-Direct today, write to: **GB Select-Direct, New World PJ Ltd, PO Box 99, Market Harborough LE16 8ZR.**

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: April Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 23 May. Entries must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

- 1 Which country issued the first government adhesive postage stamps printed in metallic inks?
- 2 Who designed the Tales of Terror stamps?
- 3 Who is Curator of the Foynes Flying Boat Museum?
- 4 Who is Patron of the Norwex '97 exhibition?
- 5 What is the name of the book-making machine at Harrison's?

The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, their families and agents, of Royal Mail or New World PJ Ltd •



1st prize Great Britain Queen Victoria 1884 £1 brown-lilac, lettered CP, a sound good used example, good colour. SG 185, catalogued £1000. Classics Without Tears selling price £335. Missing from most collections.



2nd prize GB QV 1840 1d black letters OI, an unused example with four margins, faults but good appearance and suggestion of gum sheen. Min SG cat value £3000. CWT selling price £275.

3rd prize GB QV 1883-4 10s pale ultramarine letters DK, centred slightly W – a good used appearance example, cancelled by part of two light oval Threadneedle Street registered postmarks, trace of horizontal crease hardly affects appearance. SG 183, cat £250, CWT selling price £50.

The winners of January's competition were Mrs P Hagan of Essex, M Pullen of Staffs, and D Burton of Anglesey

The answers 1. David Loftus; 2. 3d; 3. 1971; 4. Madrid; 5. Kenneth Graham. Our thanks to all who entered.

Books Brighton Transorma • Picture Postcard Annual

Brighton Transorma 1935-1968 Patrick Awcock's book gives all the information available at present to the author about the marks printed on mail by the Transorma machines which sorted suitably-sized letters at Brighton from 1935 to 1968. As such it is essential to all those interested in British postal mechanisation and extremely valuable for any collector of modern postal history. The marks, which the author refers to as 'cyphers' rather than the more normal 'idents', appear as letters or numbers, normally in red and are now widely collected and studied.

The information published here has been accumulated by the author over many years in collaboration with other collectors and is listed in considerable, even exhaustive, detail. Earliest and latest dates known of markings – some with several types (all illustrated) – are given, together with variations in black or red/black, and whether the mark appeared on outward mail at any particular time. Listings cover a quarter of this book and most of the remaining text is an extended discussion of them. As such it can be regarded as an excellent if unpriced catalogue, but unfortunately not a book.

What is a 'Transorma'? Why was it introduced to Brighton? Who invented and manufactured it? You will not find the answers to these basic questions here. Indeed, one can only *infer* that it is Dutch and that its purpose was to sort letters mechanically. It was in fact the world's first successful letter-sorting machine. Furthermore, the description of the construction and operation of this highly complex piece of machinery is here confined to one paragraph. Illustrations of items of mail bearing markings are given, as are cigarette cards and a cartoon, but none one of the machines themselves, nor of the operators, nor of the keys which produced the marks. Nor is there any diagram of how the machine operated.

Equally, no context is given in terms of postal history and *Brighton Transorma* (a slightly strange title) gives the impression of having been compiled rather than written, and produced in haste. Throughout the text prior knowledge is assumed.

When it comes to the listings, which are extremely useful even though they can still be extended, it is strange that the author (an acknowledged expert) has chosen to ignore research published in this magazine (January and February 1985, pp83-5, 110-1) by myself which discusses the colours of the idents (or cyphers). From 1935 until 1949 there were two distinct colours – magenta and scarlet – which alternated at nine or ten-monthly intervals indicating that they were being deliberately changed. Later matters became less clear. The useful, if limited, bibliography given omits this, as it does any reference to official Post Office or Union files, which are voluminous and fascinating.

In short, this is an essential booklet for the committed collector but not for the student of postal history. The story of the Transorma machines, though already deeply researched, remains to be written in digestible form.

37pp, A4 format, spiral bound. Price £6 postpaid UK, £7 overseas. Available from the author: Smallacre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath RH17 7LY. *Reviewed by Douglas N Muir* •

1997 Picture Postcard Annual The publisher's claim that it is 'packed with information for postcard collectors' is no idle boast. This 17th edition contains important reference articles on cat postcard artists to c1939 and the classic sets of early British cards, reviews of worldwide postcard collecting in 1996, modern cards, and the best cards of 1996 nominated by modern postcard dealer Pete Davies. He includes the 26p Sooty and Harry Corbett stamp card in his selection. The reference section lists postcard clubs, international fairs, accessory suppliers, 1997 events, directory of postcard dealers, a geographical guide to postcard shopping, fair organisers, auction houses and much else. Printed on good art paper and profusely illustrated, it is excellent value for money. Price £2.95 from: Picture Postcard Annual, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Postage £1 UK, £1.60 Europe, £3.40 USA, £3.80 elsewhere •

Bulletin reader free draw Win Walsall trial stamps

This month's *Bulletin* is the 400th issue. First published in September 1963, as the newsletter of the newly-established Philatelic Bureau, the *Bulletin* is regarded as an important philatelic magazine. The journal of the Association of International Philatelic Journalists recently described it as containing 'liberally illustrated, full fledged articles, representing significant research and/or reporting, and constitute a valid contribution to philatelic literature...the BPB is a serious magazine and a valid source of material for philatelic students.'

To mark our 400th issue we are pleased to offer this free draw. The senders of the first 25 entries drawn on 23 May will receive a presentation folder containing sheets of 'stamps' designed by students at the Royal College of Art and printed by Walsall Security Printers to test their new photogravure printing machine. These sheets will be of particular interest to all students of stamp printing, and are likely to be collectors' items of the future. They were recorded in Douglas Myall's article on Walsall in last month's *Bulletin*.

To enter Send your name and address on the back of a postcard or sealed envelope to: Bulletin 400 Draw, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL by 23 May. Entries must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded. Only one prize per person. The draw is not open to employees, their families or agents, of Royal Mail or Walsall Security Printers •



Events

Until 4 May 'Keeping You Posted' exhibition, marking 60th anniv of Preston & District PS, at Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Open 10.00-17.00 (not Thurs & Sun). Admission charge. **Enquiries** P Gaywood 01772 684302/J Rayment 01722 264061

1-14 April Bristol Philatelic Society Centenary Exhibition at Central Library, College Green, Bristol. **Enquiries** J Tovey, 0117 969 3665

5 April Exeter & District PS Stamp Exhibition & Fair at the Priory High School, Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. **Enquiries** A Pavey, 01392 366044

5 April Fleetex 1997 at Harlington Centre, High Road, Fleet, 10.30-16.30, admission 50p

5-6 April Big Stamp Bournemouth at Littledown Centre, Bournemouth Spur Road. 10.30-17.00 Admission charge. Dealers, society meetings, prize draw, stamp lucky dip. Free parking. **Enquiries** J Auld 01279 758854 or J Aitchison 01279 871110

6 April Talk 'The Postal History of Bridlington 1785-1926' by J Eaton to Bridlington & District Phil Soc at Swinton Room, Sewerby Hall, Bridlington, 14.30. **Enquiries** M Stockhill 01262 677394 or K Walker 01262 672488

12 April Philatelic Writers Society Seminar 'Philatelic Research – Get it Published' at Ifor Evans Hall, 109 Camden Road, London NW1 9HA. **Enquiries** D S Glower, 62A Station Road, Amersham, HP7 0BD

12 April 48th Annual Convention of North-East of England Phil Assn at Grangefield School, Oxbridge Avenue, Stockton on Tees. **Enquiries** G Davies, 01642 652460

12 April Railway Philatelic Group Annual Convention at United Reformed Church Hall, Portsmouth Road, Guildford. **Enquiries** C Whitehead, 01483 417563 (evenings)

12 April Norfolk & Norwich Phil Soc Annual Fair & Exhibition at Univ of East Anglia, Earlham Road, Norwich, 10.00-17.00. **Enquiries** P Burnett, 01603 615460

12 April Camberley and District Stamp Club auction at Morgan Centre, Wellington Road, Crowthorne, 14.00 (viewing from 11.30). **Catalogues/enquiries** Dr J Pugh, 14 Hillsborough Park, Camberley GU15 1HG. The Club will run a coach to Stamp '97 on 26 April for members and friends **Enquiries** H Capsey 01344 424984

19 April London Cinderpex (cinderella, revenue and poster stamps) at International Students House, Great Portland Street, London W1, opens 10.00. **Enquiries** T Williams, 01709 548187

19 April Federation of Surrey Phil Socs Spring Convention at Weybridge Catholic Parish Hall, Portmore Way, Weybridge, 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** J M McGrath, 01372 843122.

26 April Maidstone and Mid Kent Phil Soc Stamp Fayre at Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone, close to Junction 7, M20. 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** B Stonestreet, 01622 675784

3 May Federation of South Wales Phil Socs Convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, PO sales counter, displays, souvenir postcard. **Enquiries** G N Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY ●



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