

Philatelic Bulletin

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Now that the dust is settling after a spate of activity which has occasioned too many 'Stop Press' notices for our peace of mind we can perhaps look forward to less hectic times.

Sometimes by means of a 'Stop Press' we can offer news which could wait but which we feel would be welcomed if announced earlier. It was this thought which prompted us last month to publish the actual subjects of the 1980 stamps. We have had a glimpse of one or two of the design approaches for the British Birds and if they typify the whole of the year's issues we are in for a treat.

The 1980 programme sounds exciting. The subjects depicted can surely be said to include something to meet all tastes from Kingfishers, Railways, the superb London buildings, author-esses, sports and music. It was a brave choice to select conductors rather than composers and we realise that some may have preferred the alternative. We cannot, of course, please all of the people . . . !

Christmas Stamp Book

The Christmas 1979 stamp book will be issued on 14 November and contains: 10-8p stamps and 10-10p stamps re-tenant. The back and front covers depict a Christmas cracker.

Christmas Pictorial Airletter

Peter Gauld FSIAD has designed this year's Christmas Airletter, which is shown on our front cover. It will be issued on 21 November 1979, price 14p, of which 12p is postage. Printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd, it carries two phosphor bars.

1979 Collectors' Pack

This pack contains all the commemorative stamps issued throughout the year and is available from 21 November 1979, price £4.09.

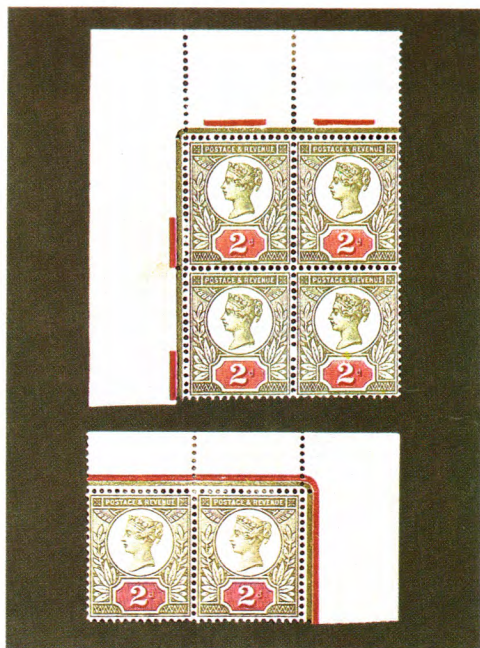
Gems from the R M Phillips Collection LXXI
An abnormal 'Jubilee' Line



The bi-colour Twopenny value of the 1887 definitive issue is a stamp which has many interesting features; not the least of these concerns the so-called 'Jubilee' lines which surrounded the panes in each sheet. The Twopenny value, in common with most other stamps in the set was first issued on 1 January 1887. The first Registration sheets, dated 22 July 1886, shows no marginal lines round the panes.

However on 19 January 1887 Messrs De La Rue, writing to Purcell of the Inland Revenue, suggested that "..... if lines were placed round the panes of stamps as indicated on the enclosed dummy sheet [now in the Post Office Collection at the NPM] it would assist and improve the work very much. If your Board acquiesce in this, we should like to try it experimentally on one forme of the 1d [lilac] Unified Stamps. Should the experiment answer our anticipation, we should desire to introduce the lines in all new stamp-forms of every description". The purpose of the lines was of course to prevent undue wear to the (printing) margin of the plate.

On 2 February the Board agreed 'to you inserting a line round each pane in all new stamp printing plates'. The next 2d registration sheet, dated 2 July 1889, shows a continuous green line with rounded corners, round the panes. This



was printed from the 'key' or 'head' plate. The same sheet also shows outside this broken carmine lines (printed from the 'duty' plate) opposite, and co-extensive with, the tablets containing the numeral of value.

This arrangement of lines continued to be used for the rest of the life of the Victorian Twopennies except (according to Wright and Creeke) for a very short period in December 1889-January 1890, when both 'Jubilee' lines were continuous. Marginal copies showing this 'variety' are of considerable rarity.

It is not possible to identify which duty plate of the 2d had continuous lines, or to explain why it was used apparently for such a short period. On the Fivepenny value of the same issue (also bi-coloured) duty plates with both continuous and broken 'Jubilee' lines each had prolonged use. In fact Duty Plate 5 (with continuous lines) used to print Edward VII Fivepenny stamps was still in use in 1912 (when it was sent to the Royal Mint for repair). It may well have been a Queen Victoria duty plate, as such plates are known to have been used after 1902 with Edward VII head plates.

Shown above from the R M Phillips Collection are a strip, a block and a pair showing respectively the three variations in the margins of the Twopenny plates.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

The Development and Use of Post Office Phosphors

Mr Walker's series of articles has been warmly welcomed by all those who have been waiting for the definitive statement on this fascinating, technical, subject. A number of readers have been stimulated to ask questions which Mr Walker has done his best to answer. The questions are far too numerous to list but we hope that the replies are sufficiently explicit under the various headings to be self explanatory.

Optical Brightening Agents (OBA's)

Paper may appear white for a number of reasons.

1. It may be made from selected bleached materials and very pure water used in the pulp.

2. The paper, at the pulp stage, may have included in its composition a white filler such as selected china clay (which nevertheless has a creamy colour) or titanium dioxide or similar. This paper looks black under UV.

3. It may be *coated* with a white composition ("coated paper") which improves print quality as well as colour.

4. The paper itself may contain an OBA which *always* fluoresces blue-white under long wave ultraviolet. This may not be visible through a coating which would act as a barrier.

5. The paper coating may contain an OBA which imparts a "whiter-than-white" appearance and causes the *coating* to fluoresce under ultra violet irradiation.

If paper is coated, then the paper itself may be assessed only on the uncoated side. In the case of stamps this means the gummed side. OBA is not added to the gum, but the gum may absorb a little of the UV.

All cellulosic paper, that is, paper made from natural fibres, will yellow with age unless it is coated. Brightening agents, or OBA's, are notoriously unstable to prolonged exposure to light, and so do not prevent yellowing under such a condition.

Historically, OBA's were first detected in British stamps as accidental highly fluorescent flecks or fibres randomly distributed in the paper used during the "Wilding" series. This effect built up slowly until the paper manufacturers deliberately added OBA. The difference is only one of degree, there is no sudden transition point. At that time the

paper was not coated, so both sides show similar properties.

The introduction of coated paper gave rise to a similar sequence of events, except that there were no accidental additions.

The first *coated* paper contained OBA in the paper but not in the coating; stamps printed on this paper are fluorescent on the gummed side but not on the printed side. The coating was soon laced with the ubiquitous OBA, but there was, and is, no specified standard for fluorescent brightness, and marked variations can be found between different printings. Early coated paper with no OBA (known philatelically as "OCP") looks almost black under UV on the coated side; the ones containing the brightening agent in the coating vary from a slight but noticeable fluorescence under UV, to "hand me my sun glasses".

There was one issue of stamps on "OCP" which contained titanium dioxide, this coating looks extremely black under UV and was discontinued after only one printing because the coating absorbed so much ultraviolet that it reduced phosphor response to an unacceptable level. It is greatly regretted that no records remain of the issue involved, but the stamps would be recognised easily under UV.

Facts to remember about optical brightening agents (OBA's) are:

1. There are possibly hundreds of different types available although so far use in stamp paper has been restricted to only one family.

2. All OBA's absorb ultra violet mainly in the region of 365nm ("long wave UV") and re-emit the energy mainly in the visible blue, imparting a brilliant blue fluorescence.

3. OBA's have no perceptible afterglow, that is, they are not phosphorescent.

4. If present together with a phosphor, an OBA will compete for any available UV and so reduce phosphorescent response.

5. Stamp gum contains no OBA, but may absorb a little UV and so reduce the *paper* fluorescence.

6. The presence of a coating on the paper obscures the presence or otherwise of OBA in the paper itself.

7. Recently introduced PCP (phosphor coated paper) contains in the coating both phosphorescent material, to operate automatic facing equipment, and also fluorescent OBA. The OBA has a slight optical quenching effect on the phosphor. The phosphor reacts mainly to 254nm ("short wave" UV), the OBA to 365nm (long wave UV).

8. A "short wave" ultra violet lamp fitted with a filter is not ideal for examining fluorescence or "long-wave" phosphors such as address-code marks. Any serious collector who can afford it should purchase or build a long-wave 365nm ultra violet light source.

High value stamps printed on PCP

As previously stated, the urea-formaldehyde-TPA(s) phosphor coating used experimentally on the 1/6d definitive issue in 1969 was eventually discontinued in favour of melamine-PABA(s).

Before the final decision was taken, one property required investigation; the behaviour of the coating during and after factory storage.

It so happened that at this time paper for "High Value" stamps was supplied to the printers (Bradbury Wilkinson & Co) via the Post Office. When coated paper was introduced it was sensible for Harrisons to undertake the coating process as they had in-house facilities, although later it was agreed that the printers of "High Value" stamps could purchase coated paper from a supplier of their own choice.

The idea of using TPA(s) coated paper for the 10p Recess-printed stamps was not to use up residual stocks – there weren't any! But to enable investigations to continue.

Advantages were:

1 To check any change in phosphor brightness or printing quality during factory storage.

2 To provide a continuing supply of newly printed stamps for laboratory tests.

3 To examine the effect of a coloured ink known to have an adverse reaction on phosphor brightness.

We were not particularly interested at the time in the theoretical advantages of using PCP for recess printing except for a proposal for recess printed special issues at some unspecified future

date. After all, gravure is a variety of recess printing.

4. The important advantage was that as suggested by one correspondent, it was unlikely that the 10p cerise stamps would ever go near an Automatic Facing Machine, and would therefore present no operational problems should the phosphor prove disastrous.

The 50p printing was different. When the 10p became a "low value" gravure printed stamp, Bradbury Wilkinson requested permission to use residual TPA(s) paper for a run of 20p required urgently. Permission was granted but the proofs were unacceptable because the phosphor coating had a lower porosity than the normal coating, resulting in a colour change. (The ink for the 20p contained a number of pigments of different colours and a range of particle sizes. The smaller particles such as black tend to penetrate porous coatings more easily and change the colour).

Thus the 20p run was abandoned and the paper used up for a printing of the 50p blue, a much easier colour to maintain.

There have been rumours that specimens of the 20p on PCP exist but the author has not seen one.

Phosphor Durability

Correspondents have asked what guarantee exists that phosphor coded stamps, sometimes purchased at great cost, will not eventually lose their luminescent properties.

Clearly no meaningful forecast can be made of their probable condition after hundreds of years, but it is a fact that the resin system used for the purpose is chemically stable and does not degrade under normal storage conditions.

No measurable deterioration has occurred in PHD "green" phosphor-treated stamps in the author's possession. These were produced in 1959, ie 20 years ago, and stored in an album with no protective interleaves, under normal domestic conditions in a fairly dry house.

There is no known reason why phosphor treated stamps and envelopes should deteriorate as long as they are kept reasonably dry and examined under UV only infrequently.

Dampness (say greater than 70% relative

humidity) or prolonged irradiation by ultra violet or by direct sunlight will cause degradation of luminescence. It may also fade the colours.

Exceptions are the 1/6d and "High Value" recess stamps printed on TPA(s) PCP. This coating was abandoned because it proved to be unacceptably sensitive to moisture, and the phosphor reaction of such stamps will have a strictly limited life unless they are kept as dry as possible. Polyester protective interleaves are recommended.

In 1979, experimental work commenced to produce phosphor coated paper on a commercial scale. The manufacturing procedure had to be modified to suit the larger-scale equipment, and early efforts demonstrated the need for further modifications.

It had been intended to scrap the paper coated during this transitional period, but an emergency situation arose because of tariff changes and other reasons, and permission was given to use some of it on issues unlikely to embarrass "ALF". It was also used for the 10p issued on August 20 1979, but this issue was overprinted with two phosphor bars. These stamps were printed on Chambon gravure presses.

The printed bars are TPA and are stable and durable, the phosphor coating is a temporary experimental form of PABA(S) and *may* lose its phosphor reaction on storage.

The 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 13p and 15p values issued on August 15 are printed on this paper.

It is stressed that it is only this "transitional" paper which *may* have an unstable phosphor coating which could lose its luminescent reaction on storing over a long period; a way has now been found of restoring the keeping qualities of the product and the improved form will be used for future issues.

Migration

This term is used to describe the behaviour of a substance which moves from its original position either along a surface or by diffusing through a substrate such as paper.

Misgivings have been expressed that PO phosphors used on stamps or envelopes could damage other surfaces in contact with them by migration. These fears arise from a misunder-

standing. Some years ago there was an issue of Canadian stamps coded with a bright yellow-green fluorescent substance dispersed in an oily medium. This came off readily and migrated into or diffused through album pages, stamp book covers, paper interleaves, and even paper currency in wallets. Suggestions were made in the South African Philatelic Press that the only effective safeguard would be album interleaves made of metal foil.

These criticisms do not apply to Post Office phosphors used in this country, which consist of an inert solid material which neither migrates nor damages in any way other surfaces or materials in contact with them.

Stamp Protection

The characteristics of various types of protective films are listed:

1 Glassine A translucent form of paper which is relatively cheap, gives rise to no problems of static electrical charge, and does not readily degrade. It tears fairly easily and is not optically clear.

2 Polyethylene ("Polythene") Cheap, chemically safe, but very flexible and not optically clear. Does not degrade if protected from prolonged exposure to light or UV.

3 Polypropylene ("Propathane") Similar to polyethylene but tougher. Optically clear film is available. Not easy to find an adhesive suitable for fixing it to paper. More expensive than polyethylene. Safe.

4 Polystyrene Used in "Hawid" type strips and pockets. Chemically safe, stable under normal storage conditions. Optically clear, cheap, but crazes or creases easily.

5 Vinyl (PVC, PVAc, etc) Contains a plasticiser which could migrate over a period and damage stamps in contact. PVC can also degrade over a long period releasing hydrochloric acid, particularly in sunlight or ultra violet. NOT recommended.

6 Polyester film (Melinex, Mylar, etc) Optically clear grades readily available. Chemically safe, stable, does not degrade under normal storage conditions, but prone to acquire static electrical charge in dry conditions; hence may collect dust.

The most promising protective film available.

Postmark Slogans

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

Until 17 November 1979

Stamp Exhibition BPE Wembley 14-17 November. To be used at Harrow and Wembley. First class.

Until 17 November 1979

BPE Wembley BPE Stamp Exhibition 14-17 November. To be used at Harrow and Wembley. Second class.

Until 17 November 1979 (P)

Mind Your Teeth Week 12 to 17 November 1979. To be used at Edinburgh 1st class and Bathgate 1st and 2nd class.

Repeat Campaign

Help The Elderly 'Keep Warm This Winter' 21 Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EH. Tel: 031-337 3251/2. To be reused at the following offices during the periods shown in 1979.

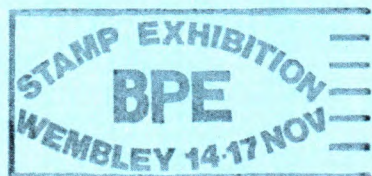
Office	Machine	From	To
Aberdeen	'A' 1st "	12 Nov	17 Nov
Edinburgh	'C' 1st "	19 Nov	24 Nov
Falkirk	1st "	26 Nov	1 Dec
Galashiels	1st "	3 Dec	8 Dec
Hawick	1/2nd "	10 Dec	15 Dec

Post Early In The Day Before 4pm. To be reused at Norwich 2nd class. (Formerly in 1st class machine).

24 September 1979 – until further notice

P denotes Pictorial

R denotes Rectangular



Forthcoming Events

Postal Mechanisation Study Circle

The Annual General Meeting of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle will be held at the Wembley Conference Centre, Wembley, Middlesex on the morning of Saturday 17 November 1979 (during the British Philatelic Exhibition). Further details are available from the Study Circle Secretary, John Lush, 9, Leighton Avenue, Pinner, MIDDX. HA5 3BW.

Year of the Child Stamp Exhibition in Piccadilly

An exhibition of the stamps issued throughout the world for the International Year of the Child will be mounted at the offices of Lufthansa, the German airline in Piccadilly, LONDON W1V 0EJ from 4 to 21 November 1979.

Over 90 countries will be represented and major displays will be provided.

Lufthansa who have generously loaned the space for the exhibition have themselves an important place in postal history. Their record for pioneering new routes for mail to other continents is well known and appreciated by postal historians and airmail enthusiasts. Admission will be free to the public, though donations to War on Want would be appreciated.

Coventry Philatelic Society

The Coventry Philatelic Society will hold its annual Stamp Fair and Exhibition at the Sibree Hall, Warwick Row, COVENTRY, CV1 1EX on Saturday 17 November 1979 from 10.00 am till 5.30 pm.

The principal features of the exhibition will be 'Christmas Round The World', and, in conjunction with the Andorra Philatelic Study Circle a display will be mounted illustrating various aspects of philately of the Principality. It is believed that this will be the first such exhibition of Andorran stamps.

A Post Office philatelic sales counter will also be installed.

Christmas Stamp Issue 21 November 1979

The designs are by Fritz Wegner, who was also responsible for the Christmas 1969 stamps. The depicted scenes are: The Kings Following the Star: The Angel Appearing to the Shepherds: The Manger Scene: Joseph and Mary Travelling to Bethlehem, and the Annunciation.

The Christmas first day cover and presentation pack are the work of John Gibbs. The cost of presentation pack is 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, and a blank first day cover, 9p. The presentation pack is also available from 21 November 1979.

Subjects and Colours:

- 8p: The Kings Following the Star mauve, yellow, blue, black, gold.
10p: The Angel Appearing to the Shepherds red, brown, mauve, yellow, black, gold.
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ p: The Manger Scene blue, yellow, green, red, black, gold.

13p: Joseph and Mary Travelling to Bethlehem yellow, blue, red, black, gold.

15p: The Annunciation green, yellow, black, blue, gold.

Printing Details

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Format: Horizontal

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked. Pre-treated with phosphor

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Size: 41 mm x 30 mm

Perforation: 15 x 14

Sheet Size: 100

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the five stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date, price 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ p each.





Christmas 1979
Post Office First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Book Review

Modern Stamp Collectors

by Fred Melville

Published by Hodder & Stoughton £1.25

Many moons ago, when I first started to collect stamps, I was lent a much-used, dog-eared copy of Fred Melville's "Modern Stamp Collecting". The book was easy to read and full of useful information, and the newly up-dated version in the "Teach Yourself" series which has been edited by Arthur Blair, follows the original very closely. On re-reading the new book, I am amazed at how much of the information which it contains I have unconsciously assimilated over the years, and also how much I have forgotten! For anyone seriously interested in stamp collecting as a hobby, this book should be kept on the shelf, not just to read once, but to be browsed through in moments of leisure. It covers in depth all aspects of philately from conception to production, including printing methods and paper types, and a useful vocabulary of philatelic terms. Although, perhaps more space is devoted to Great Britain and the Commonwealth, all the philatelic areas of the world are covered, and whichever country or theme you collect, there will be something in the pages of

interest, as many of the stamp production problems of one country, apply equally to others. I would be most surprised if even a collector of many years standing, would not find something in the book which he did not know, or had forgotten; and I believe that £1.25 is a small price to pay to have your own copy of "Stamp Collecting" on the bookshelf.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am beginning research for a book on the subject of 'The British Post Office's Changing Attitude to Philatelists'.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who has any information, correspondence or literature particularly regarding the Post Office's policy in pre-Bureau and early Bureau days.

All letters will be answered and material used will be acknowledged in the book.

Yours faithfully

T S OSEAGHDHA

68 College Road
BROMLEY BR1 3PE

British Special Stamps

58 Christmas, 1968

With two consecutive Christmas issues behind them, the Post Office evidently decided to pursue a secular, rather than a spiritual approach, for their third annual series. Children and toys were the theme and Rosalind Dease, well-known illustrator and typographer (who had partnered her former husband, David Gentleman, in several successful GB stamp designs), was commissioned to produce the new Christmas 4d, 9d and 1s 6d stamps which were issued on 25 November 1968.

The stamps were attractively bright and colourful, the toys depicted are still the traditional children's toys, although perhaps the 'rideable' rocking-horse has fallen by the wayside in modern times. It was, in fact, the one toy which could be enjoyed equally by boys and girls, and it was thus an appropriate choice in the horizontal format for the 4d Christmas card mail. Girls' toys – dolls and a doll's house – featured on the 9d stamp, a train set and a construction kit for the boy on the 1s 6d. Rosalind's own daughter, Fenella Jane, was the model for the girl with the dolls, and was also the inspiration for the young lady on the rocking-horse. The boy was 'Master Average' – an imaginative creation.

Rosalind Dease backed her designs with thorough and methodical research into the background history of dolls and toys. The stamp 'horse', for example, is a type of the 1880s with curved cradle bars serving as a 'rockers', and her design was a composite picture from illustrations in Leslie Daiken's *Children's Toys Through the Ages*. Later rocking-horses were the safer horizontal-bar types with 'swing irons'. The dolls (9d) were an English wax doll of about 1820 (left) and a modern fabric doll based on 19th-century rag dolls, while the sumptuous doll's-house was an early Georgian beauty, 'The Elegant Cousin', taken from Vivien Greene's *English Dolls' Houses of the 18th and 19th Centuries*.

The 'train set' (1s 6d) came from a remarkable old catalogue, *American Toys, 1850-1900*, reprinted as a pamphlet by an American publisher and listing many of the factory-made toys, including working models, which appeared during that time. The first clockwork train sets were mostly of German origin – the stamp shows a train



of the 'Wild West' variety with a typical 'whistle-stop' station. The building kit was based on the slotted picture cards first made by Charles Eames in America, and the plastic game of 'Playpax', made recently in the UK. Rosalind developed the theme of dolls and toys in text and drawings for the presentation pack.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (4d 6 x 20, one centre phosphor band, others 20 x 6, two phosphor bands) on unwatermarked paper. Varieties include the omission of certain colours, embossing (of the Queen's head) and phosphor bands, while the 4d may be found with extensive retouches of the grey dapples on the front of the horse. Quantities sold were: 4d 326,078,360; 9d 17,102,520; and 1s 6d 21,344,760; English presentation packs, 72,474; German packs, 7,298.

JAMES WATSON

The Postcard Story

8. Modern Postcards

In my previous articles I have described the origins and development of the picture postcard, the Edwardian craze and some of the principal categories – greetings, views etc. – which hold a special attraction for collectors today. The ‘golden age’ of picture postcards is generally conceded to have declined (if not altogether ceased) at the conclusion of World War I, nevertheless cards have continued to be produced and published for the past sixty years, and there are signs of an increasing interest in those which appeared between the wars, that is, from about 1920 to 1939, as well as those of World War 2 – Hitler, aviation and military, naval campaigns, humorous wartime scenes on the home front, even ‘Careless Talk’ posters in miniature.

So, what is ‘modern’? Many collectors, unwilling or unable to afford the prices asked for ‘gems’ of Edwardian art, social behaviour and scenery, are turning to the really modern postcards, those that are readily available everywhere – holiday resorts, bookshops, kiosks, public libraries and museums, art galleries and national institutions like the Post Office and London Transport. And they are finding that many of the old-time categories such as comics, topographical (views and buildings), transport, art reproductions of famous pictures, royalty and numerous other subjects can provide the basis of attractive modern collections. Only perhaps birthday and Christmas greetings’ cards are still confined to the folded kind used discreetly with envelopes.

In 1973, the Post Office introduced a regular series of picture postcards – the PHQ series (printed by the House of Questa) – which showed the designs of Great Britain special stamp issues in the form of enlarged colour reproductions in the contemporary large size. Just a few years ago, collectors became suddenly interested in these cards with the consequence that the earlier PHQ cards are unobtainable except at enhanced prices. Nevertheless, the Post Office is still issuing these attractive cards which are placed on sale at the same time as the issued stamps. The cost, a nominal 82p each.

London Transport originally produced about 300 different picture cards, including a wide range of poster cards, reproducing many of the LT

posters featuring bus, tram and Underground travel. At the time of writing there are limited supplies of some of these cards at LT Headquarters, Broadway, Westminster (St. James’s Park Station), and at the LT Poster Shop, 280 Old Marylebone Road, LONDON NW1. These cards are fast becoming collectors’ items.

Some collectors like to match modern cards with the older ones and in this respect transport again is one of the most popular themes. Pamlin Prints of Croydon produce a splendid range of photographic reproductions of old motor cars, trams, fire engines, traction engines, railway locomotives and trains etc. as picture postcards – you may see them displayed at your local newsagent’s shop.

MALCOLM JAMES

South West Postal Region

New Postcard

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Swindon Head Post Office, a new picture postcard in the South West postal region series goes on sale on 26 November 1979.

With Swindon’s unique association with the railways, it is appropriate that mail trains are featured on the new card, which is the eighth in the SWPR series. All four trains pictured: an early steam locomotive, the King George V, a diesel and the High Speed Train have worked through Swindon carrying mail, and the first three were also designed and built in Swindon.

The Postcards, price 7p, will go on sale on 26 November, when there will be a special handstamp and first day sale facility at Swindon Head Post Office. Orders for the card may be sent by post to the Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, SWINDON SN1 1AA. The postage and packing charge for mint cards is 15p for up to 20 postcards, 25p for up to 100, 50p for up to 250 cards and £1 for more than 250 cards.

Serviced postcards, with the First Day of Sale handstamp will cost 27½p each, which includes the cost of the postcard, first class postage, handstamp and service charge. Money for postcards should preferably be sent by postal order, or by direct Giro transfer to Swindon Head Post Office Giro account number 2069016.



Rowland Hill Wallchart

A philatelic wallchart illustrating the four stamps issued on 22 August and depicting the many sided genius of Rowland Hill is currently on sale.

Measuring 633 mm x 930 mm (25 in x 36 in), the wallchart also carries reproductions of some of the more famous Victorian postage stamps.

The wallchart is available from the Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9HB at £1.75 (postage and handling charge included) and at all philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum at £1.50. Bulk purchases of 50 or more can be made, from the Bureau only, £1.50 each (postage and handling charge included).

Stamps of Law and Order

The Metropolitan Police whose formation 150 years ago was celebrated with a special set of postage stamps was honoured in London by the Post Office.

Postman Robert Burridge (36) from Bermondsey, wearing the uniform used by his predecessor when Pealers first walked the streets of London, presents his police colleague with a giant first day cover to mark the occasion.

A mounted WPC of the modern police force looks on.



Commemorative Covers

NSPCC Cover

To coincide with the Christmas stamps to be issued on 21 November 1979 a special series of covers will be available from the NSPCC.

The covers which will bear the 5 Christmas stamps will be carried by helicopter from Nasareth, Caernarfon Gwynedd to Bethlehem, Llandeilo Dyfed where they will be cancelled with the Bethlehem first day issue of handstamp. They will be sent to customers in a stiffened outer cover. In addition to the normal cover at £1.50 plus 20p postage others will be available signed by famous people at £2.50 plus 20p postage.

Orders with remittances should be sent to National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 1 Riding House Street, LONDON W1P 8AA.

Salvation Army

To commemorate the centenary of the first issue of The War Cry, (the official organ of The Salvation Army), a specially designed philatelic cover will be available. It will illustrate part of the first issue of December 1879. A pictorial handstamp with the words, 'Centenary of the War Cry' will be used for the occasion at The Salvation Army's International Headquarters, London on 21 November 1979.

The cover bears either (a) one 10p Christmas stamp priced 65p or (b) the five Christmas stamps priced £1.20.

Orders with remittance should be sent to Major Ken Daws, The Salvation Army, International Headquarters, 101 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON, EC4P 4EP.

Royal National Life-Boat Institution

Three new covers in the Royal National Life-Boat Institution Series commemorate the Naming Ceremonies of new Life-Boats and each cover will have a special pictorial headstamp.

On 20 October, the new Blyth 37ft Rother Class Life-Boat, RNLB 'Shoreline' was officially named by Sir Alec Rose, Kt. Standard Covers are 60p each. 200 covers carried on the delivery passage of the Life-Boat to Blyth, signed by Shoreline Secretary Peter Holness and by the Blyth Coxswain are £3.00 each and 200 signed by Sir Alec Rose are £3.00 each.

The newly installed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, agreed to perform the Naming Ceremony for the new 50ft Thames Class Cover Life-Boat, RNLB 'Rotary International', on 30 October. Standard covers are available at 60p each. 200 only, carried on the Life-Boat, £1 each, 200 only, carried on the Life-Boat and signed by the Coxswain, £1.50 each.

The new Margate Rother Class Life-Boat RNLB 'Silver Jubilee' is to be officially named on 21 November by H R H The Princess Alexandra. 21 November is the first day of issue of the Christmas stamps and covers will be available with one 10p Christmas stamp at 60p or with the full set of Christmas stamps at £1.25.

Life-Boat funds benefit from the sale of all covers which can be obtained from RNLB Philatelic Agents, 13 Best Lane, CANTERBURY, CT1 2XX. Overseas orders should include an extra 30p for postage and packing.

Suffolk Record Office

To mark the celebration in Suffolk of International Archives Week 4-10 November, a special cover and hand stamp have been designed. The hand stamp commemorates International Archives Week, and the cover design features the name and function of the Suffolk Record Office, with a decorative initial and border.

The cover will bear a 10p Rowland Hill stamp, and may be obtained from the County Archivist, Suffolk Record Office, County Hall, IPSWICH, IP4 2JS, at a cost of 50p.

The Development and Use of Post Office Phosphors

We would like to correct some typographical errors which occurred in part 3 of Aubrey Walker's article printed in the August Bulletin.

p3 PABS (S) should read PABA (S)

p5 illustration 6 caption should read TPA and not TAP

illustration 7 caption should read TPA and not TPS

p6 second paragraph TPS (S) should read TPA (S)

35th Anniversary of the attack on Walcheren Island 1 November 1944.

To commemorate the attack on Walcheren Island by units of the Royal Marines and Royal Navy during the last war a special cover is now available. It illustrates the badge of the Royal Marines, and has a 10p 'Police' stamp affixed cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPS 1670 at 55p each.

The cover is also available with an 11½p 'Police' stamp, cancelled, and bearing the signature of Maj. General J L Moulton CB DSO OBE RM – Commanding Officer of 48 Rm Cdo in the attack – price £1.

Alternatively the cover with a 13p 'Police' stamp affixed, cancelled with the special handstamp and signed also by Rear Adm. A F Pugsley CB DSO Commander Naval assault force in the attack is obtainable at £1.85.

Application together with remittances and a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope should be sent to the RN Philatelic Officer, RNAS Yeovilton, SOMERSET BA22 8HL. Cheques etc to be made payable to the RN Philatelic Officer.

40th Anniversary of the First British Transatlantic Air Mail 5 August 1979

A special cover (FF6) is now available commemorating 5 August 1979 – The 40th Anniversary of The First British Transatlantic Air Mail. It was flown aboard the Concorde from London to New York. The design of the cover is based on the painting by Dudley Burnside, showing the 'Empire' class flying boat of Imperial Airways leaving the Solent on its flight to America on 5 August 1939. Bearing a 9p definitive stamp, the cover is cancelled with a pictorial handstamp – BFPS 1652 and is available from the Project Officer: Sgt A Newton, RAF Odiham, Basingstoke, HANTS RG25 1QT at 50p plus 8p postage.

Another famous anniversary occurred on 25 August when a cover (FF7) was flown on a special British Airways Flight from London Airport to Le Bourget, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the commencement of regular passenger and cargo flights between the two airports. The design of the cover, based on a specially commissioned painting

by Terence Cuneo, bears a 9p definitive stamp cancelled with a special commemorative handstamp (BFPS 1647). It is now available from the Project Officer: Flt Sgt O Constantine, Defence NBC Centre, Winterbourne Gunner, SALISBURY, SP4 0ES price 50p plus 8p postage.

One of the last covers in the HA Series (HA 39) remembering Major Lanoe Hawker VC DSO, was flown on 23 August 1979 by No 24 Squadron, his old unit. It shows Hawker in action flying the DH2, and has an 8½p Welsh definitive stamp affixed cancelled by the 24 Sqn Commemorative handstamp (BFPS 1656). The cover is currently available from the Project Officer: Flt Lt P F Hoare, 24 Sqn RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, WILTS, SN15 4PZ, price 50p plus 8p postage.

Berlin Tattoo Commemorative Cover

A special philatelic cover was issued to celebrate the British Berlin Tattoo 1979 which took place this year between 23 and 28 October. The Tattoo, a biennial event, is one of the largest British Military displays, attracting many people and giving much pleasure by its colourful and rousing performances. For this cover 10½p 'Palace of Holyroodhouse' stamps, was used. Each cover bearing a 10½p Holyrood Palace stamp in remembrance of the first Tattoo held there for Queen Victoria, will be cancelled with a pictorial hand stamp depicting a lion and the famous Berlin bear. The cover will also be illustrated with a colour picture of Drum Major Keane of the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The costs are either £1.50 (DM6 – in BAOR) for covers signed by Major General R F Richardson CVO, CBE, General Officer Commanding the British Sector Berlin, or 65p (DM2.50 in BAOR) for unsigned covers. Orders should be paid by postal order made out to the Berlin Garrison Central Bank and sent with a self addressed adhesive label to:

*Philatelic Officer, British Berlin Tattoo,
British Forces Post Office 45*

New Illustrated Stamp Books

Our reproduction shows the first of a new series of three stamp books – 50p, 80p and £1.00. – with illustrated covers, which were issued on 3 October 1979. The 10p book which became available from 17 October, is the last to be produced.

The 50p book is available with left or right hand panes.

The growing interest in stamp books, and the success of the first series with illustrated covers, has convinced the Post Office that a second series of 3 values, will prove popular. There will be six issues and the values and subjects are as follows:—

The 50p book (contents 3 x 10p, 2 x 8p and 2 x 2p stamps) will feature veteran cars. The first shows the famous 1907 Rolls Silver Ghost.

The 80p book (contents 10 x 8p stamps) will feature military aircraft. The first shows two craft, the BE2B of 1914 and a Vickers Gun Bus of 1915.

The £1 book (contents 10 x 10p stamps) will feature some of the most interesting instances of Britain's Industrial Archaeology. The first shows the magnificent Ironbridge, Telford, Salop.

The first issues of this new series are available from all Philatelic Sales Counters and, by post, from the Philatelic Bureau.

Additionally, the 50p book will be available from those offices with 50p stamp vending machines on that date.

There is a further booklet, value 10p (contents 1 x 8p and 2 x 1p stamps). The cover design carries the London 1980 logo and gives details of the International Stamp Exhibition to be held at Earls Court during 6 – 14 May 1980.

Technical details

The stamps in the 50p book are the same as those contained in the new 50p book issued on 29 August. In the 80p book the 8p stamps will be printed with a single phosphor bar. The 10p stamps in the £1 book will be printed with all-over phosphor. The stamps in the 10p book will be printed in the following format: The post-code message appears on the top left hand side immediately over the 8p stamp with the 2 1p stamps adjacent and to the right hand side. The 8p and the 1p stamps will bear a single phosphor bar situated in the centre of the stamps.



Philatelic Bulletin

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