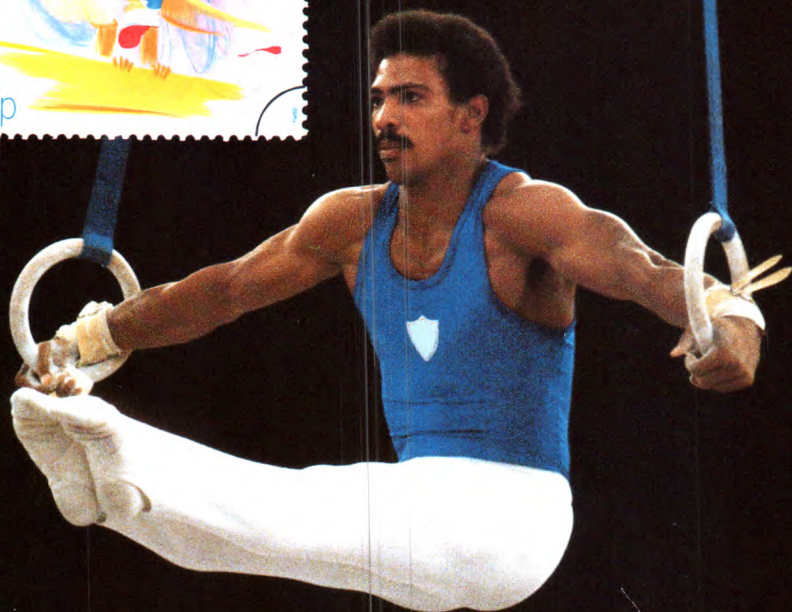


British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 25

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Stop Press: New Scottish 18p

On 29 March the 18p Scottish definitives will be issued printed by Questa on paper supplied by Henry and Leigh Slater on PVAD gum. Available from philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau, this is not regarded as a new issue and no first day facilities will be made.

Croydon PS Anniversary

To celebrate its 80th birthday the Croydon Philatelic Society is holding a stamp fair and exhibition in the Stanley Halls, South Norwood Hill, South Norwood, London SE25 on Saturday, 26 March from 10 am till 4 pm. There will be some 18 dealers present and at least 700 sheets of stamps and postal history on display, the show being run in conjunction with the Surrey Federation of Philatelic Societies. Admission and parking facilities are free.

Editorial

DOUGLAS N MUIR

As is reported elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, I have now taken up the new post of Curator, Philately at the National Postal Museum and this is the last issue of the *Bulletin* that I shall edit. From the April issue there will be a new Editor, John Holman, formerly Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.

John will be well known to readers of the *Bulletin* by reason of his articles on British Private Posts and the Railway Letter Service. He has been a philatelic journalist for about 10 years and in 1980 joined Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd as assistant to James Negus working on non-stamp catalogue titles. A year later he joined the staff of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and was appointed Editor in January 1985.

I shall not, however, disappear and contact will be maintained with all those interested in philately in my new position. Perhaps if the new Editor permits, I may be able to write a few articles about items of interest in the National Postal Museum and from the files in Post Office Archives!

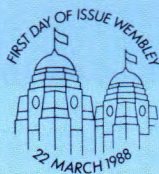
Many thanks to all readers who have written for the *Bulletin* over the past two years.

John Holman



Sport

22 March 1988



On 22 March (brought forward from 12 April) four stamps will be issued celebrating Sport. They mark the centenaries of the British Amateur Gymnastics Association, the Lawn Tennis Association and the Football League and celebrate British contributions to organised skiing. The stamps were designed by Jake Sutton and feature stylistic representations of the four sports. This year, 1988, also sees the Olympic Games taking place in Seoul.



The **18p** stamp features gymnastics. More than 4,000,000 enthusiasts are catered for by some 10,000 clubs under the aegis of the British Gymnastics Association. There are four distinct sections of the sport, the longest established being men's and women's artistic gymnastics, which include floor exercises as well as the use of apparatus such as the parallel bars, rings, pommel and vaulting horses, balance beams and horizontal bar.

On the **26p** is a representation of skiing. In 1898, Sir Henry Lunn, an Englishman, initiated the first winter package tour to the Alps and five years later the Ski Club of Great Britain was formed, the first national ski organisation in the world. Sir Henry also founded the world's oldest downhill race in 1911 and his son, Sir



Arnold, invented slalom racing in 1922 and organised the first world championships in downhill and slalom racing in 1931.

Lawn tennis features on the **31p** value. Now played by an estimated 50 million people worldwide lawn tennis has its invention normally credited to a Welshman, Major Walter Clopton Wingfield who published his first book of rules in 1873. Wingfield's rules were modified for the first championship staged by the All-England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club at





Wimbledon in 1877 and in 1888 the Lawn Tennis Association, now the national governing body for tennis in the UK, was formed.

The **34p** stamp depicts football which was first played at English public schools. Rules were agreed at Cambridge University in 1843 and the Football Association was formed in 1863 to administer the sport. In 1888, the Football League was formed by 12 professional clubs after a meeting held in London on 23 March. The teams concerned were: Accrington, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, Notts County, Preston North End, Stoke, West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers. This eventually grew in membership to 92 clubs.



Technical Details

Designed by Jake Sutton the stamps have been printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited. In format they are square, 34.7mm x 34.7mm, perf. 14½, printed on unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper. Printing is in sheets of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum.

PHQ Cards

PHQ cards (Nos 109 A–D) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 7 March, price 15p each.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack will cost £1.31 and was designed by Collis Clements and Tom Sawyer with illustrations by Jake Sutton and text by Mike Barden. It was printed by Clement & Foster Limited.

First Day Cover

The first day cover design is similar to the presentation pack. It costs 16p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one from the British Philatelic Bureau featuring sporting trophies and the other from Wembley showing the entrance towers of the Wembley Stadium.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the re-posting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed 'Special First Day of Issue Handstamp' to:

'British Philatelic Bureau' 20 Brandon Street,
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

'Wembley' Special Postmark Duty
51 College Road
HARROW
HA1 1AA

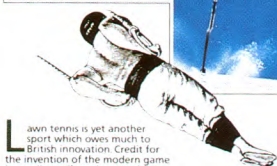


SPORT

Royal Mail Mint Stamps



18p 22 18p



Lawn tennis is yet another sport which owes much to British innovation. Credit for the invention of the modern game is usually attributed to a Welshman, Major Walter Clopton Wingfield, who published his first book of rules in 1873 and patented the game as Sphairistiké a year later. The name, not surprisingly, did not survive long, but the game certainly has, since it is now played by an estimated fifty million people worldwide.

Wingfield's rules were modified for the first ever tennis championship, staged by the All-England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon in 1877 to raise funds for a new lawn roller. These rules, allowing the server one fault and incorporating a rectangular court

instead of an hourglass-shaped one as Wingfield had stipulated, are fundamentally those still in use to this day. What is more, the championship became – and remains – the most prized in the sport.

Within a few years, tennis was being played throughout the country and in 1888 the Lawn Tennis Association, now the national governing body for tennis in the UK, was formed. The sport also spread quickly abroad, especially to the United States of America where it was taken up with enthusiasm.

In terms of worldwide popularity, the sport against which all others have to be measured is soccer. Since its participants are numbered in hundreds of millions, the game as we know it today was first played at English public schools, most of whom eventually came to adopt rules agreed at Cambridge University in 1843. Over the next two decades, so many new clubs were formed that the need for a central body to administer the sport became evident. The result was the formation of the Football Association in 1863.

The Scots, Welsh and Irish soon followed the example of their English counterparts by establishing their own associations. Abroad, the game was spreading

too: the famous AC Milan club in Italy was formed by expatriate Englishmen, while a Liverpool club in Uruguay, an Everton in Chile and a Corinthians in Brazil are evidence of British influence there.

In 1888 the Football League was formed by twelve professional clubs to ensure regular fixtures between evenly matched teams. This eventually grew in membership to ninety-two clubs and is regarded as the most competitive league in the world today.

Despite the growing diversity and attractions of other sports, football remains the most popular spectator sport in Britain with attendances at League games of over seventeen million people during a season.



SPORT

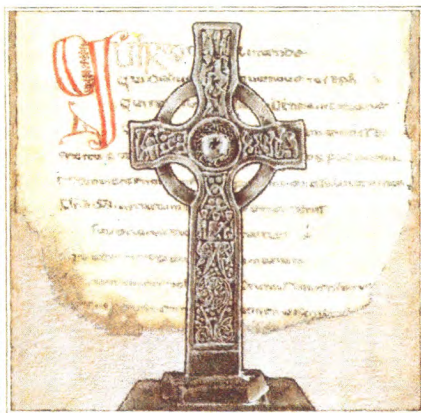
Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Anns an toiseach bha am Facal,
agus bha am Facal maille ri Dia,
agus b'e am Facal Dia

The gospel of John, ch 1, v1, in the 1988 revision of the Scottish Gaelic Bible

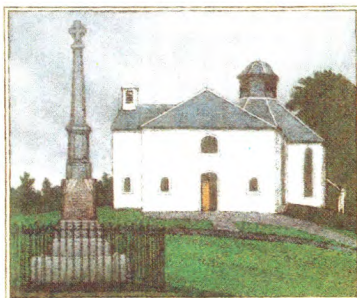
TO OPEN SLIT HERE/GU FOSGLADH, GEARRR AN SEO



A page from the Cathach of Columba The Kildalton Cross, Islay

St Columba (AD 563)

Each church that he founded was provided with a copy of the Bible



Monument to the Rev James Stuart and the church at Killin

The Rev James Stuart, established church Minister of Killin, translated the first Scottish Gaelic New Testament in 1767

Anns an toiseach bha am Facal,
agus bha am Facal maille ri Dia,
agus b'e am Facal Dia

The gospel of John, ch 1, v1, in the 1988 revision of the Scottish Gaelic Bible

By air mail
Par avion

Aerogramme

Troimh'n phost-adhair/Litr-adhair



26°

Aerogramme for "Year of the Bible"

This year has been declared the "Year of the Bible" by the National Bible Society of Scotland, the Scottish Churches' Council and other religious organisations in Scotland. It will see the publication of a revision of the Scottish Gaelic Bible and a Scottish aerogramme will be issued on 29 March to mark this celebration.

It has been designed by Keith Bowen who also designed the Welsh Bible stamps issued on 1 March and shows various panels of related illustrations. The main illustration is that of the Kildalton Cross, Islay superimposed on a page from the Cathach (similar to a psalter) of St Columba, now in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin. Columba landed in Iona in AD 563 and converted much of what is now highland Scotland to Christianity.

Printing of the aerogramme is by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited with the imprinted stamp in black rather than the normal blue. Cost is 30p, including 26p for postage. The aerogrammes will be available at post offices in Scotland and from all philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau.

FIRST FOLD HERE/AN CEUD FHILLEADH AN SEO



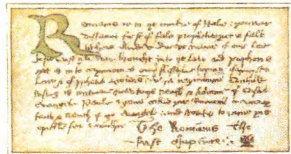
Mary Slessor (1848-1945)

The Efic Bible. Mary Slessor worked as a missionary with the Efic tribe in Nigeria, teaching from the Bible translated into the Efic language



John Knox House, Edinburgh

The Bassandine-Arbutnot Bible (1579) was the first widely available in Scotland after John Knox's Protestant Reformation



An extract from the manuscript of the first New Testament in Scots by Murdoch Nisbet (c. 1520)



W.L. Lorimer (1885-1967)

Translation of the New Testament into Scots, published 1983



"To increase popular awareness of the Bible as a relevant book for today"

National Bible Society of Scotland
Scottish Churches' Council
Scripture Union Trusts

New Stamp Book Covers

Five new stamp book covers are to be issued on 12 April. These will include two counter books and three stamp vending machine books.

The counter books priced £1.30 (containing 10 x 13p stamps with one central phosphor bar) and £1.80 (containing 10 x 18p stamps on ACP) will carry a special promotion offering customers the opportunity to send off for a set of five recipe cards and envelopes. The recipes are written by Henrietta Green and the cards are illustrated by Flo Bayley. Cylinder numbers will appear on every sixth book and both books will appear in both left and right hand formats.

The three machine-vended books include two 50p and one £1 books. The design theme for all three books is Zoos. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Children's Zoo in the Zoological Society of London Gardens. The three books will carry a special offer sponsored by the London Zoo for reduced price entry into London or Whipsnade Park Zoo. This will allow one child under 16 to be admitted for £1 off the standard admission on production of a "Zoo" cover and when accom-

panied by a full paying adult. The offer is valid until June 1988.

The cover designs which feature drawings of animals were done by children from Byron Infants School, Croydon as part of a competition. The winning designs are featured on the book covers.

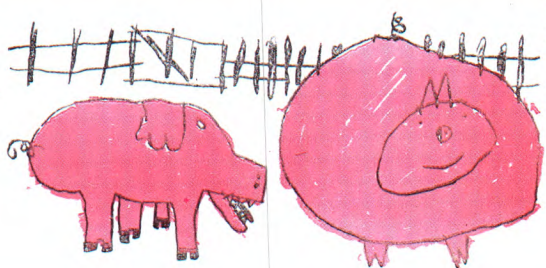
The contents will be: 50p (London Zoo No 1) 2 x 18p, 1 x 13p and 1 x 1p with phosphor bands as before; 50p (London Zoo No 2) 2 x 13p, 2 x 5p and 1 x 1p with phosphor bands as before; and £1 (London Zoo No 3) 5 x 18p and 1 x 13p, again with phosphor bands as before.

The 50p (No 2) and £1 books will again be produced without perforations on the outer long edges of the panes. These books will be available from the new electronic stamp vending machines. All machine-vended books will have cylinder numbers on every eighth book.

All five stamp books will be available initially from philatelic sales counters or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The books will become generally available from post offices or vending machines as appropriate once existing stocks are used up.

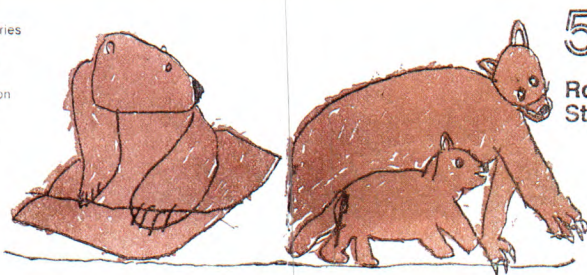
Proofs of two of the 50p books.

London Zoo
First in a series
of drawings by
children from
Byron Infants
School, Croydon
Printed by
Harrison &
Sons Limited



50p
Royal Mail
Stamps

London Zoo
Second in a series
of drawings by
children from
Byron Infants
School, Croydon
Printed by
Harrison &
Sons Limited



50p
Royal Mail
Stamps

Designing the Welsh Bible Stamps

KEITH BOWEN

The brief: a set of four stamps to commemorate the translation of the Bible into Welsh 400 years ago. What! How do I get something out of this one?

Two weeks later, and it is two days before Christmas. A Welsh seaside town. I sit in a large book-lined office with a view over the grey, cold sea. I hear the names Morgan, Salesbury, Davies and Parry for the first time. Morgan: a big, strong man and formidable scholar; Salesbury: the only layman of the four, who spoke eleven languages; and the plight of a language and culture that was under threat.

Everywhere is about to close. The Archive Department is still open, just. I go through the index files. I look at the references, the pictures, and the first spark is struck. Into the library, check, cross-check. Canteen about to close so I grab a tea. Now a bout of photocopying, and I rush for the door, the last one out, and into the night. Exchange words with the doorman: "*Nos da. Nadolig Llawen*". It is dark as I look out over

the sea: "the sloe black, slow, black, crow black, fishingboat-bobbing sea". My head full of Morgan, Salesbury, Davies and Parry as I drive back over the mountains. Flurries of dry snow across the headlights, I peer into the night "starless and bible-black". Morgan, Salesbury, Davies and Parry for quite some time to come.

New Year, and the hunt is on again. I draw a blank at the first archive department. Drive on. The next archive department was an old gaol. Spend hours in a cell looking through photographs, books and newspapers. Use the pencils provided: no biros, no pens permitted. Strict regime in here.

Next stop, and now I'm holding an original 1588 Bible: a very real and rare, black lettered tome.

On again through showers of sleet. St Asaph Cathedral, and the monument: Morgan, Salesbury, Davies and Parry here again, carved in life-sized, sandstoned Victorian splendour. I peer up at them, a few scribbles, a few photo-



graphs, and then I hurry away leaving them to face the Welsh weather.

High banks of snow on either side. The car moves slowly over snow-packed roads. Sheep are being fed by a farmer. The Berwyns glint ice across the valley. And so, into Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. Morgan was the vicar here. I crunch tracks in the snow as I walk around the church. Now along the river bank to the old vicarage, and the name Llys Morgan at the gate. A woman opens the front door, and the once ubiquitous engraving of Morgan peers down at me from the opposite wall. The woman kindly shows me around, Mrs Morgan by name, but alas no, no relation. These are the rooms that he lived and worked in, but now only a much later decorated fireplace of open Bible and book-end motifs to remind us.

Later, I hear from other sources that Morgan was not well-liked by his parishioners, was something of an accumulator of land for the Church, and always went about carrying a loaded pistol. It is getting better.

The search goes on for a while longer, but gradually the picture begins to form, the figures move into the frame, the focus is tightened. Scribbling, and writing turn to drawing, and the

nice bit is about to start. I shuffle over to the drawing board ...

TPO Anniversary Card

To mark the 150th anniversary of the first running of a travelling post office a publicity card has been published by The Post Office PR Unit London & South East. As illustrated, this shows a replica of one of the original TPO vehicles on the London and Birmingham railway in 1838 and one of the present generation of TPOs, coach No. 80375, in the new Royal Mail Letters livery. The photograph was taken at the Crewe Heritage Centre in July 1987. Inset is a detail showing the 1838 coat of arms.

These cards are available from the National Postal Museum serviced on 20 January 1988 with a North West Night Down TPO date-stamp at a cost of £1 each, plus 18p handling charge for mail orders. Half of the printing of the cards will be serviced on 10 May with the stamp from the Transport set showing the *Mallard* locomotive.

Serviced cards are available from the National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.



"Railways and the Post"

When the world's first public railway opened in 1825 between Stockton and Darlington the mailcoach era was at its height. Five years later the greater frequency and speed of services being offered to travellers by the new rail-road between Liverpool and Manchester was beginning to have a damaging effect on the contractors operating mailcoaches in the area. And so the Post Office, "feeling bound to keep pace with the wonderful improvements with which the present age abounds" looked to speeding the Royal Mail by rail.

The first carriage of mail by railway took place on Thursday, 11 November, 1830. The first bag of mail left Manchester Post Office at

The main exhibition at the National Postal Museum for the whole of this year is entitled "Railways and the Post" and marks the 150th anniversary of the first running of the Travelling Post Office.

6.50 am in a "new light mail cart" to be placed on the 7 am train for Liverpool. The mail guard travelled with the bag in a first class carriage, his fare being included in the charge of 2s 6d per mail bag. There was, however, fear for the safety of the mail while it was being carried over

Demonstration model of a Travelling Post Office used by the Post Office Public Relations Department in the 1960s and 1970s. Here it is being used as a posting box at the National Postal Museum.



the 30 miles of track, for the new railway was fraught with danger. It had to be lit the whole way by night and the embankments were steeper than any the Superintendent of Mail Coaches had ever seen.

In April 1831 two first class carriages, the *Wellington* and the *Lord Derby*, were converted



An unadopted design by Rosalind Dease for the Post Office Technology issue of 1 October, 1969 showing the Travelling Post Office of 1838 with John Ramsay's bag changing apparatus.

to carry mail. The last compartment was cut away to accommodate a seat for the mail guard and a long box, called an "Imperial", was fitted across the roof to hold the mail bags. The lower panels of the coach were painted red with the upper in black. The "postal carriage" was placed at the rear of the train as the Post Office considered this to be the safest place. That this was so was tragically illustrated when Thomas Dougall, a guard with 30 years service, was killed on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. On 6 March 1840, a long train of coal wagons was attached behind the mail carriage when the train pulled up sharply at a station. The weight of the wagons pushed the carriage off the line and down an embankment killing Dougall instantly.

The Travelling Post Office

Under the mailcoach system, regular stops were made to change horses and, at certain stages, these stops were long enough to allow the sorting and exchanging of mail, the despatch arrangements along the way being regulated to coincide with the London coach's timetable. The train's stops were not long enough sort and exchange the mail and this threw into chaos all the existing intricate arrangements made for the mails.

The idea of using special mailcoaches in which the guard could sort letters while on the road to London had been proposed by Rowland

Hill as early as 1826. In January 1838, the first Travelling Post Office, a converted horse-box, was put into service on the Grand Junction Railway on the section between Birmingham and Warrington. It was declared an immediate success enabling the Post Office to "duplicate time by travelling and working at the same instant".

Arrangements were soon made for the provision of four specially-designed T.P.O.s. The first was employed from Euston to a point just north of Bletchley, where the mail was transferred to a mailcoach which took the bags to Birmingham for onward transmission by rail. In September 1838, the London and Birmingham Railway was opened throughout, joining the Grand Junction and North Union lines to give a direct service to the north.

The first T.P.O.s had no apparatus for exchanging the bags while the train was moving. The train had to slow down while the bags were thrown out, the mail guard seizing the incoming bag from the end of a pole thrust towards him. In October 1838, the first "mail Trackside apparatus. In practice, as soon as pouches had been put in place the postman would have returned to the trackside hut.



bag exchanging apparatus" came into use, bags from the carriage being dropped down a chute on to the side of the track while incoming bags were snatched from a "standard" by a net fixed to the side of the carriage. Later, this system was improved by placing nets at the side of the track to catch the bags dropped by the T.P.O. The last trackside apparatus, virtually the same in method of working as that of the earliest T.P.O.s, came out of service in 1971. By that time, because of increased speeds being reached by trains, enabling more stops to be made without affecting the timetable, there was no longer need for the Royal Mail to be exchanged in this way.

The Nature of the Service

In the early days the men of the TPO service constantly faced the risk of serious injury or death and suffered dreadful working conditions with poor ventilation, no seating or sanitation. The mail guards were responsible for the despatch and receipt of mail and between 1860 and 1867 there were 28 accidents in which TPO men were seriously injured or killed. Fumes given out by the oil lamps and the wax used for sealing the bags caused nausea and "affected the brain". The following are some of the reasons given for the retirement of TPO staff:

J Thomas – loss of memory
W Baggally – congestion of the brain
H Emery – weakness of the legs
J Tomkins – concussion of the brain

Few could stand the wear and tear of the Travelling Post Office above 15 years.

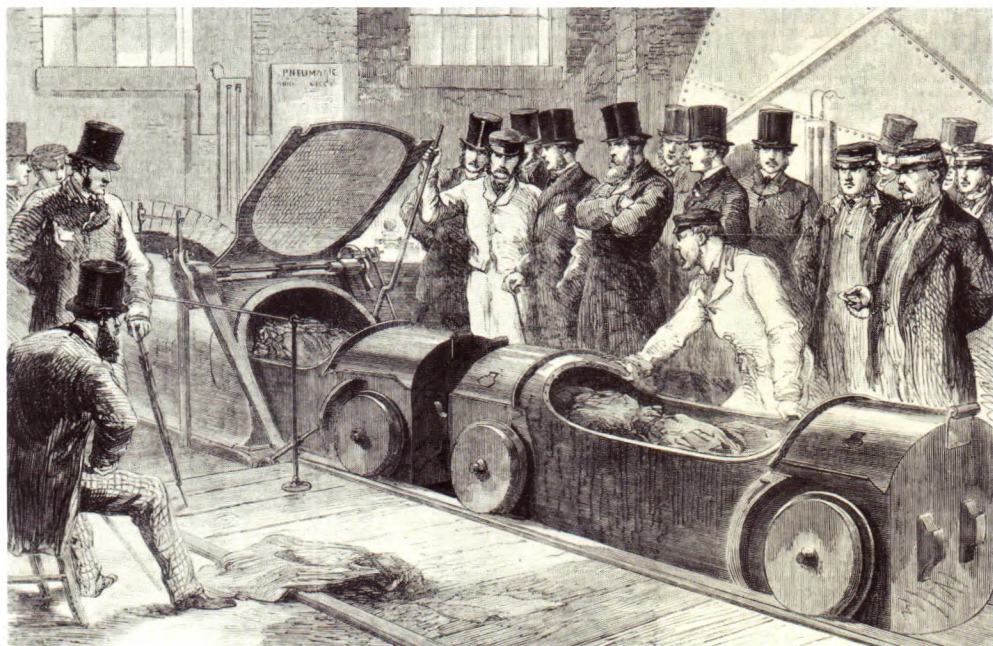
Despite the hazards, TPO services quickly spread to all corners of the kingdom.

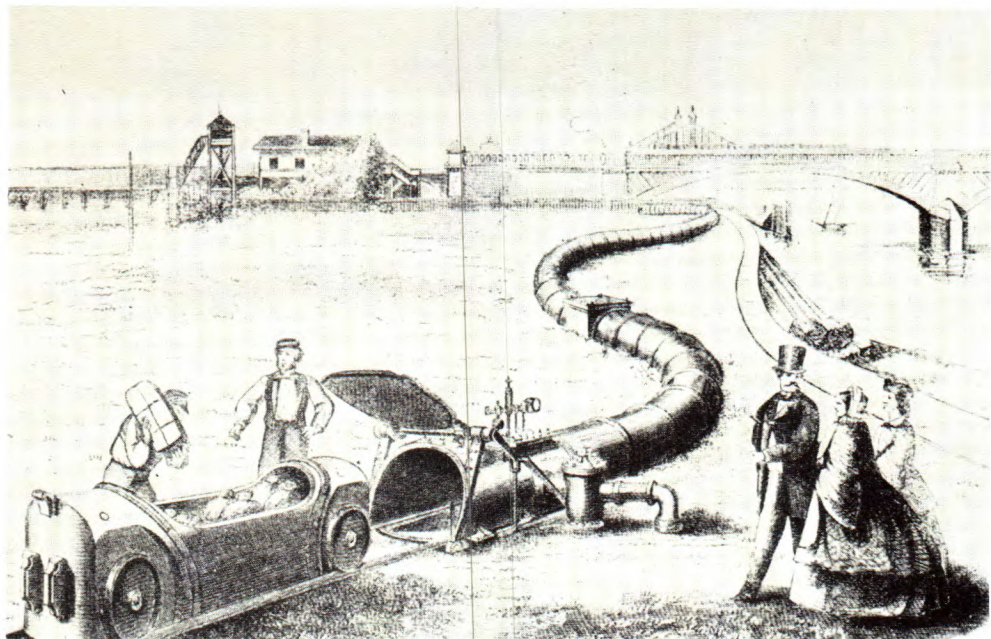
Among the most important, since they also carried foreign mails, were the "Irish Mail" (London–Holyhead) and the "Continental" TPO (London–Dover). The Irish Mail connected with the Holyhead–Kingstown Packet and the journey between London and Dublin was timed to be performed in 11½ hours. To achieve this, letters were also sorted on board the mail steamers across the Irish Sea. From 1895, the London–Holyhead TPO also handled US mails.

Important, too, was the South Western TPO linking London with the important port of Southampton. Its relief, the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage, carried letters for Queen Victoria when she was in retreat at Osborne.

The greatest of all changes in TPO working came in 1855 with the introduction of "Special mails", the sole use of the train being devoted to the Royal Mail. The service, first known as the

The first dispatch of mail through the pneumatic tube railway: Evesholt Street to Euston, February 1863





Trials of the pneumatic tube railway at Battersea in 1861

NW Down Postal (Night) was amalgamated in 1923 with the Caledonian TPO (Night) to form the Down Special TPO (Euston–Aberdeen).

By the outbreak of the Second World War there were more than 70 day and night TPOs running.

Today, the network of 42 TPOs involving some 650 staff is mainly used for sorting first class mail from main evening collections on the move as the trains speed overnight through the UK. TPOs deal with some five per cent of all first class mail – up to 1.25 million letters a night.

The Royal Mail goes Underground

Early in 1863, the Post Office inspected a new pneumatic railway in London that had been constructed by the Pneumatic Despatch Company, to see whether it might be suitable for speeding the Royal Mail underground between the company's termini at Euston Station and Eversholt Street, near the NW District Post Office.

The railway cars, which ran on rails, were made of wrought iron and weighed nearly 8 cwt; but during the trials the mails were sucked through the tube to Euston within one minute. Once, two men accompanied the mails – and returned, to everyone's relief. Soon, to travel

through the tube became the thing to do when in London and one lady, whose courage astonished everyone, “shot the whole length of the tube, crinoline and all, without injury to person or petticoat.”

The Post Office's trials continued for several years and were, later in 1873, extended to a new tube opened between Euston Station and the GPO in St Martin's-le-Grand. Although found satisfactory for the Royal Mail, it gave no real advantage over existing mail cart services. Eventually, in 1876, the company was wound up and this little-known London railway was almost forgotten.

The Post Office (London) Railway

Few people are aware of the existence of the Post Office's own private railway for the speeding of the Royal Mail beneath the busy streets of London.

Opened in 1927, this railway links six important sorting offices with the main railway termini at Paddington and Liverpool Street. It runs through 6½ miles of tunnels, eight stations and has some 20 trains rumbling along its tracks at a speed of 35 mph. The trains are 8.23m (27 feet) long, each one made up of four containers which can carry 15 bags of letters. During peak periods trains are sometimes connected together

to carry more mail, running at intervals of four minutes. Every day, they carry upwards of 50,000 bags of mail.

Powered by electricity and operated by remote control, these miniature trains do not carry drivers, guards or passengers – and they do much to help reduce traffic on the busy streets of London and to provide an even flow of mails through the sorting offices they serve.



Post Office Underground Railway train in its new Mail Rail livery

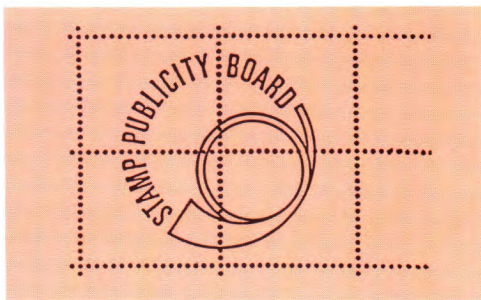
New P O Archives Index

An index to papers minuted in 1957 has now been produced by Post Office Archives. Entitled Post 122 No 3 it lists by subject those records open to the public since the beginning of this year. The contents span the years from 1913 to 1962. With 50 pages, spiral bound, the book costs £1.50 (including postage) from Post Office Archives, Freeling House, 23 Glasshill Street, LONDON SE1 0BQ.

Stamp Publicity Board Logo

The Stamp Publicity Board, formerly the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council, has a new logo. Specially designed by Jeffery Matthews, it features a posthorn "to blast the message of the hobby far and wide".

The Stamp Publicity Board comprises representatives from the British Philatelic Federation, the Philatelic Traders' Society, the British Post Office, the postal administrations of Guernsey,



Isle of Man and Jersey, Caphco Ltd (formerly the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau), the British Library and the National Philatelic Society.

Chairman of the Board is Maurice Gale with Richard West as Vice-Chairman and Brian Toal as Chief Executive.

A number of projects are envisaged including an exhibition at the Liverpool Museum in the autumn.



Rare Roses Error for Sale

A famous error on the 1976 Roses issue, where the 13p value is missing, is for sale. One of only three examples known, the other two are both in the Queen's collection.

The error was due to a mistake in the production of the cylinders but shortly before the set was issued the mistake was discovered and the cylinder corrected, but not before a few sheets had been printed. It would seem that only two stamps have survived mint, one of which is now for sale, and one was used.

The stamp will be on show at the Stampex exhibition from 1 to 6 March on the stand of the dealer concerned, B Alan Ltd.

British Butterflies, 1981

British Special Issues: No.145

FRANCIS KENNEDY

For this issue, only one artist was destined to be commissioned, Gordon Beningfield, Britain's outstanding painter of butterflies in their natural habitat. The issue provided a further stage in the development of a thematic collection of British fauna and flora, quite apart from its interest to collectors of wild life in general on stamps.

Issued on 31 May, 1981, the four stamps celebrated Butterfly Year, a fact which was emphasised by an *In the Country* programme on BBC 2, the subject being British butterflies, together with good coverage of Gordon Beningfield designing the stamps. They were: **14p**, the Small Tortoiseshell butterfly *Aglais urticae*; **18p**, the Large Blue butterfly *Maculinea arion*; **22p**, the Peacock butterfly *Nymphalis io*; **25p** the Chequered Skipper butterfly *Carterocephalus palaemon*. In each case, the butterfly is seen against a background of the flower each one favoured for its nectar.

The purpose of Butterfly Year was to call public attention to the way chemical pesticides were gradually decimating the butterfly population of Great Britain. By 1981 the Large Blue (18p) was so rarely seen that it was thought to be virtually extinct in the British Isles, although known to be breeding in several parts of continental Europe. Another endangered species was the Chequered Skipper (25p), nowadays only found in Scotland. In 1981, the Small Tortoiseshell (14p) and the Peacock (22p) were still reasonably common, frequenting the countryside and town gardens alike. This was one of the few issues for which a school wall chart was made available giving the full life stories of the butterflies involved.

The intricate printing of the stamps led to the creation of several minor constant flaws on all values (fully listed in *SG Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue*, Vol. 4). On two values, more major flaws are recorded as follow: **18p**, no dot cylinder, position 8/1, large spot to the left of the ear of corn nearest to the top right hand corner of the stamp; dot cylinder, position 6/6, a downward curved scratch near the top of the right hand wing; dot cylinder, position 10/3, indent in the lower printed area above the

inscription **LARGE BLUE** (also known retouched to remove the indentation); dot cylinder, position 10/8, an extra white spot among the five below the flower under "18p"; **25p**, dot cylinder, position 6/6, a strong background retouch, north-east of the highest wing tip.

Printing was by Harrisons in photogravure, in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50), perf. 14 x 15, on phosphor-coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum.

Quantities sold by the withdrawal date (12 February, 1982) were: **14p**, 45,936,000; **18p**, 11,161,000; **22p**, 10,656,000; **25p**, 10,262,000.



Small Tortoiseshell



Large Blue



Peacock



Chequered Skipper

Nepa '88

The 39th annual convention of the North of England Philatelic Association will be held on Saturday, 23 April in the Newcastle upon Tyne Civic Centre. Two special cards are being printed illustrating a selection of local paquebot marks. Mint cards cost 15p each, serviced cards £1 for the two, from S H Foreman, 5 Eaglescliffe Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7RT, with cheques made out to Newcastle upon Tyne Philatelic Society, and enclosing an sae (160mm x 115mm).

A Thematic Collection with a Difference

IAN WILKINSON

Collecting stamps with a postal interest is one of the most popular subjects for a thematic collection and there are one or two notable collectors who have confined this to the part that the letter box has played in shaping postal history. In fact, one such display won a silver-gilt medal at the 1987 Autumn Stampex exhibition in London.

However, such a thematic collection does not necessarily have to be formed with stamps. A very interesting and less usual collection can be put together with cigarette cards, although this could not, obviously, be accepted as philatelic in any way and would only be for the amusement or interest of the collector. I have a particular interest in this subject and over a number of years have been searching for cigarette cards that show letter boxes and details of those found so far are given here.

The earliest card found so far comes from a set issued by W Duke, Sons & Co of New York, in 1888 (Fig 1). These cards each depict a subject connected with the mail and to each card a genuine stamp was affixed. This particular

card is entitled "Last Round" and shows a postman emptying a letter box built into a lamp post. The cards were not numbered but the set consists of 50 cards. Although the stamp (sadly damaged) stuck to this particular card is an American one, I would have guessed that this type of box was European.

The next card (Fig 2) is No. 23 in two similar sets entitled "Royal Mail", one being issued by Ogdens Ltd in 1909 and the other by Wm Clarke & Son in 1914, both being branches of the Imperial Tobacco Co. This card is interesting in that it shows the internal wirework that was fitted to many letter boxes to prevent the letters falling out when the door was opened. Others had a mail sack suspended inside to catch the letters. The box is, of course, the standard cylindrical design that was first introduced in 1879 and stayed with us for nearly 100 years, with only minor modifications being made to the design over the years.

In 1912 the British American Tobacco Co issued two similar sets of cards also under the



Fig 1

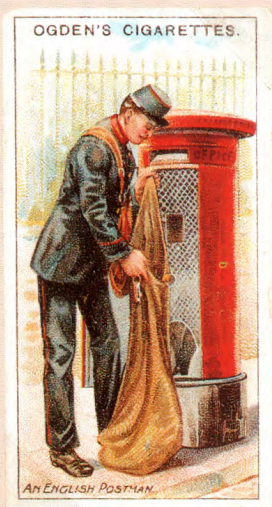


Fig 2



Fig 4



Fig 5

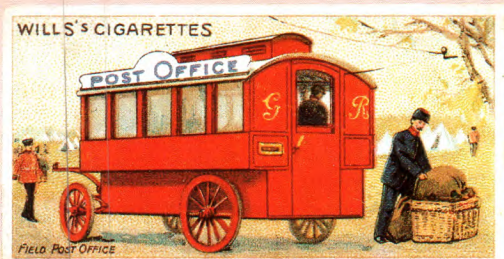


Fig 3



Fig 6

title "Royal Mail" and a year later W D & H O Wills issued a set in Australia. The cards of all three sets were the same and, strangely enough, it is the Australian set that seems easier to obtain. Some of the cards advertise "Capstan Navy Cut" tobacco and others "Vice Regal Mixture" within the set. From the post box point of view, this is the most rewarding set as no fewer than five cards show letter boxes although one of these is built into a vehicle described as a "Field Post Office". This is card No. 36 (Fig 3) and the caption on the reverse reads as follows: "On the occasion of a review or similar large concourse, the Postal Authorities are called upon to give facilities for the despatch and receipt of letters, telegrams &c. Without these facilities it would be very difficult to organize hugh musters of troops which is done from time to time in the great camping centres. The daily newspapers are particularly dependent upon the Field Post Office for their 'copy' on such an occasion." Of course, the Post Office still provide a similar service (but much more modern vehicles) for such events as the large agricultural shows etc.

Card No 25 in these sets (Fig 4) shows one of London's first pillar boxes. Alas, none of these boxes have survived and, as far as I'm aware, not even a photograph exists of any of them.

The best description we have is contained in the *Illustrated London News* of 24 March, 1855 which was accompanied by an artist's drawing of one of them. This, together with a cast-iron plate that was affixed to these boxes giving postal information and now in The Museum of London, is all we have left as evidence of their appearance. They were, like all our letter boxes up to 1874, painted green.

Another card, No. 12 (Fig 5) in this series shows a "First National Standard" box being emptied. These boxes were the first attempt by the GPO to standardise on the design of our pillar boxes, all previous ones being designed and manufactured to the order of the various postal districts. They were first introduced in 1859 and six of them are still in service today with another eight preserved in museums, private collections, etc. The final two cards in these sets are Nos. 44 and 49 (Figs 6 and 7) which both show wall boxes, the former being in the then Cape Colony and it is interesting to see that in addition to doubling as a police station, the post office was also the Births and Deaths Registration office!

Also in 1913, Gallaher's issued a set of 100 cards depicting Tricks and Puzzles. No. 48 (Fig 8) shows what is described as the "wonderful

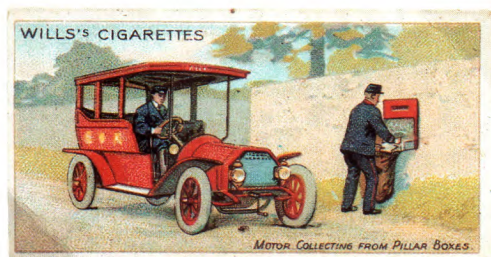


Fig 7

postcard trick" and shows a postman beside an open pillar box holding up a pull-out postcard. The solution to the puzzle is shown on the reverse side of the card.

During the 1914–1918 war many women went to work for the first time in their lives, taking over jobs previously only done by men. In 1916, Carreras issued a set of cards with their Black Cat cigarettes entitled "Women on War Work" and No. 3 in the set (Fig 9) shows the postwoman. She is depicted with a pillar box in the background.

The next card hardly seems worth including yet it does include a pillar box and just goes to show the fact that you never know where a card showing a letter box might turn up. This is No. 36 (Fig 10) of a set issued by Ogdens in 1932 entitled "By the Roadside".

In 1925, Carreras issued two sets of "Happy

Families" cards. Both carried the same illustrations but one was in the standard cigarette card size and the other in a larger (packet of 20) format. No. 12 (Fig 11) is Mrs Ash, The Dustman's Wife and there is a pillar box on the pavement behind her.

About the same time (actual date unknown) Godfrey Phillips put out a set of 50 cards on "Things to Make" and No. 43 (Fig 12) is how to make a Pillar Box. Incidentally, No. 10 in this set is "How to Make a Mail Van".

One of my favourite finds comes from a set of cards issued in 1937 by Peter Jackson of "Speed Through the Ages". From the set of 250 cards, No. 194 (Fig 13) shows a letter being posted at 11 am in one of the blue air mail pillar boxes, and being read in Paris at 5 pm that same day. These boxes were introduced in 1930 to help speed air mail letters and special vans were also introduced to collect the mail from them. However, with the introduction of an "all-up" air mail scheme, firstly to Europe and then the Empire, the GPO no longer wanted the sender to decide what went by air and these boxes were withdrawn in 1938. The illustration on this card (like some of the others) is not quite accurate as all these boxes had two "times of collection" plates and a few of them still exist in service, now painted red but identified by the collection plate holders. One of these stands at the entrance to Shoreham Airport in Sussex and another, still



Fig 8



Fig 9

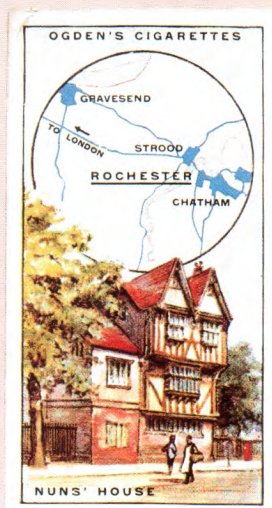


Fig 10



Fig 11

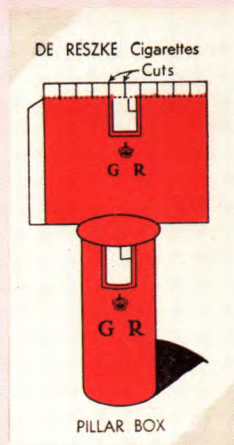


Fig 12



Fig 14

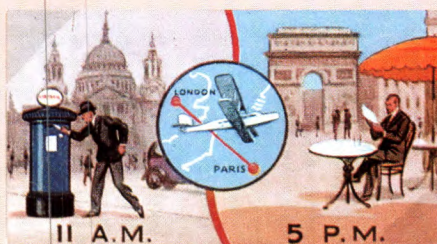


Fig 13

in its original blue livery can be seen at Bruce Castle Museum at Tottenham in North London.

My last card is not, in fact, a cigarette card but is one of similar size issued in 1957 by Priory Tea. It is No. 15 (Fig 14) in a set of 24 cards on the subject of "I-Spy Out & About" and this one shows one of the fluted pillar boxes with a vertical posting aperture. These boxes were introduced in 1856 and again, a few of them still exist in service to this day. Possibly the best known are the one that stands in Eton High Street and the two at Eastgate and Westgate in Warwick.

The foregoing is in no way claimed to be a

complete listing of cards showing letter boxes and I know for a fact that there is at least one other that I have not yet managed to track down. Do you know of any others?

The author of this article is the Publications Officer of The Letter Box Study Group who, besides recording details of all the known types of real letter boxes, cover all aspects of collecting any items that relate to this subject. Further details of the Group many obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to The Secretary, LBSG, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.21: Philatelic “Shorthand”

The frequent abbreviations used in advertising and reading matter in philatelic journals is often confusing. In advertising this peculiar “shorthand” is used as a space-saver, hence a money-saver in that a few more items can be crammed into the space available. Most of this “shorthand” is in standard use but some individuals have their own abbreviations and print an explanatory list to “decode” them.

The following is an attempt to explain many of the “short-cuts”. Readers’ requests for details of any other sets of initials or any other word or phrase will be welcome. *It should be noted that this article is principally concerned with GB stamps.*

B.P.F. British Philatelic Federation, the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse St., LONDON EC1M 6PT. An organisation founded in 1977 on the amalgamation of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and the British Philatelic Association. Membership is open to collectors and dealers.

B.T.A. British Thematic Association. A grouping of individual collectors and study groups concerned with collecting according to the subject of design rather than the country of issue. Part of the BPF (*above*).

C.T.O. Cancelled to Order. This generally refers to mint stamps in sheet form which are postmarked and sold by the issuing postal authority as used stamps at a substantial discount off face value. It is a common practice in some Eastern European countries who supply cto stamps to wholesalers for making up sets or packets.

F.D.C. (or f.d.c.) First day cover. An envelope stamped and posted to receive a cancellation on the day of issue of the stamps.

F.F.C. First Flight Cover. A cover carried by air on the first flight between any two given towns. It also refers to covers carried on the first scheduled flights of a regular air mail service (e.g. England to South Africa).

f/u fine used. Arbitrary, but should mean stamps with clear town cancels (especially on modern issues) rather than wavy lines or a slogan cancellations.

F.R.P.S.,L. Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. This honour is granted for long membership and/or distinguished service to “The Royal Philatelic Society, London” (its official title). Only Fellows may use these initials after their names. (*Members of “The Royal” may not put “R.P.S.,L.” after their names.*)

Graphite lines: 1st & 2nd. The first QEII stamps with graphite lines, printed under the gum, on the back of the stamps were placed on sale on 19 November 1957 on paper watermarked “St Edward’s Crown” and “E 2 R”. The second issue was released between 1958 and 1961, the watermark being the Multiple Crowns, without any “E 2 R” (See entry for *Watermarks*)

GP (or Gutter Pair) Two stamps sold intact with an intervening, (normally) unprinted area which arises due to the stamps being printed in a continuous roll with two (or more) panes occurring within each sheet. With British stamps it is particularly associated with stamps printed by Harrisons on the Jumelle press.

Gums: G.A. or g.a. natural gum arabic, at one time used almost universally, except in certain hot and humid tropical conditions where it would dissolve and stick sheets together; **PVA** – polyvinyl alcohol, a quick-drying and almost invisible adhesive which was initially tinted yellow to show that the stamps really were gummed and ready for use. **PVAD** – polyvinyl alcohol with dextrine added.

MS or m.s. – Miniature sheet. A small sheet of stamps (normally four or six) contained within a surrounding margin which usually carries a commemorative inscription and an indication as to whether or not the sheet was issued for sale at more than the face value of the stamps, the premium (if any) being in support of a stated cause.

NPM Postcards. Postcards issued by the National Postal Museum, London, usually to mark the staging of an important exhibition at the Museum or to celebrate a notable philatelic anniversary. Cards are numbered serially as they are published.

PHQ Postcards. Postcards published by the British Post Office to coincide with the issue of new special issues. The picture side provides an enlargement of one of the stamps concerned.

For each stamp issue a new serial number is allocated to A, B, C, D and possibly E are added for each stamp in the issue. (The initials come from "Postal Headquarters")

PTS Philatelic Traders' Society, 27 John Adam St., LONDON WC2N 6HZ. The major organisation in Great Britain to which most stamp dealers belong. Membership is open to overseas stamp dealers as well.

Papers. Paper used in the early days of stamp issuing was broadly divided into "laid" or "wove", variations of each of these being recognised for certain issues. "Laid" papers showed traces of the parallel wires over which the pulp was laid in the course of drying out. Wove paper did not show these lines but frequently carried watermarks which differed for each country.

So far as Great Britain is concerned, the introduction of phosphor to assist the automatic facing of letters for cancellation has brought into being the following distinct varieties of paper:

ACP – Advanced Coated Paper; **FCP** – Fluorescent Coated Paper; **OCF** – Original Coated Paper; **PCP** – Phosphor Coated Paper.

Perforations are frequently referred to as "P" (e.g. "P15" or "P15 x 14" etc. In measuring perforations the top edge of the stamp is measured first (over 2 centimetres), then one of the sides.

P.P. Presentation Packs. Complete sets of British commemoratives or special stamps sold mint in a special descriptive folder. The text in each folder gives a good summary of the occasion for the stamps and describes the designs in considerable detail.

Phosphor-Graphite Stamps These were a particular issue on 18 November 1959 of Q E II Wilding stamps with graphite lines on the back and phosphor bands on the front. They were originally graphite lines only but were over-printed with phosphor bands when the automatic letter facing machine (ALF) was modified to recognise phosphor signals.

R.D.P. Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Established by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1921, the Roll is now administered by the British Philatelic Federation. Up to four philatelists, nominated from all parts of the world, are invited to sign the Roll at the annual BPF Congress. Signatories are entitled to use the letters RDP after their names, the highest philatelic honour accorded internationally. At pre-

sent, there are only 265 names on the Roll, four of them being women.

SG Stanley Gibbons. Although copyright to Stanley Gibbons Ltd, many advertisers identify stamps by SG catalogue numbers (e.g. "France, SG 117") as a means of saving space. Intending purchasers refer to Gibbons catalogues to identify the stamps concerned.

SPB Stamp Publicity Board. A committee of the British Philatelic Federation now responsible for the work of the former Stamp Collecting Promotion Council (**SCPC**). The SPB employs a full-time public relations officer whose main function is the promotion of the hobby on the broadest possible front.

Th. – Thirkell. This refers to the Thirkell Position Finder, a transparent plastic accessory, finely engraved with a grid lettered along the vertical lines and numbered along the horizontal lines. Placed over a stamp, the position of any minor flaw can be quoted (e.g. "Th D4") thus identifying the variety.

Traffic Lights A line of coloured dots, lines or small squares, one for each colour used in the printing of multicoloured stamps, usually in the lower left corner margin of a sheet, or, occasionally, in the gutter margins between panes in a sheet. They are printers' control marks showing that each colour cylinder is operating correctly.

U/M or **u.m.** unmounted mint, a stamp which has never been hinged and, therefore, has completely undisturbed adhesive on the back.

Wmk. Watermarks – GB Q E II issues.

a. "Tudor Crown" as used for the issues of 1952–54. An almost flattened crown in conjunction with "E 2 R"

b. "St Edward's Crown" (1955–58), a bolder crown with rounded "shoulders", also with "E 2 R"

c. "Multiple Crowns" (1958–67), the St Edward's Crown *without* the "E 2 R"

When regional or country stamps were first introduced in 1958, Scottish objections were raised to the use of watermark b., then current, on the grounds that "E 2 R" implied that the Queen was Elizabeth II of Scotland, an historical inaccuracy. To avoid any confusion or chance of error, *all* GB stamps were switched to watermark c. With the advent of the Machin head stamps for the national and country issues in 1967, watermarks were discontinued for all British stamps.

Gems of the R M Phillips Collection

150. Victorian Printing Methods

Illustrated is a proof of a 1d Mulready envelope on India paper. This was printed from the original brass block with the value added from a second block and the panel containing the word POSTAGE from a third. From these brass blocks the printing stereotypes were made. The Mulready envelopes and letter sheets were issued at the same time as

the Penny Black.

This item can be seen in the open display – Victorian Printing Methods – of the R M Phillips collection at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4.00pm on Friday.





Commemorative Aerogrammes

Sir,

I am writing to congratulate the Post Office on the very attractive 1987 Christmas aerogramme. My only regret is that people south of the border are only entitled to one pictorial aerogramme per annum, whereas our Scottish friends have at least two a year to mark some special Scottish event. Are the people of Wales, Northern Ireland and England any less deserving, or is it because the Edinburgh Bureau gives Scotland a special status?

During the course of any year there are several special events that, whilst not meriting an addition to an already overfull stamp programme, certainly warrant an attractive pictorial aerogramme.

Because of the indifferent issuing policy for these items, the public demand is limited, but if the Post Office were to reconsider their policy and produce special event aerogrammes for all parts of the United Kingdom, then, without question, they would develop a following of their own.

I therefore suggest that the aerogramme policy be reviewed, even to the point of discontinuing straightforward definitive aerogrammes and replacing them with more attractive pictorial examples, similar to those used by many other postal administrations. An argument against the discontinuance of definitive aerogrammes may be put forward that they are needed for commercial purposes, but since the advent of word processors and printers, the present aerogramme format is unsuitable for the printers and a revised A4 format without flaps should be considered for commercial purposes.

I would be interested to learn whether there are any plans afoot for aerogramme policy to be reviewed.

A W BENJAMIN, B Alan Ltd, London SE25

The Post Office is currently reviewing the design and marketing of aerogrammes, concentrating on their use for social mail. This may well lead to the introduction of more pictorial aerogrammes but we believe the majority of people writing to friends and relatives abroad

would prefer the picture postcard approach with views and buildings of Britain rather than a specifically commemorative series.

We would be interested in the views of *Bulletin* readers on these ideas. *Ed.*

March Digest

Issued in March

1 March **Welsh Bible stamps** 18p, 26p, 31p, 34p

designer: Keith Bowen

printing: Harrisons, photogravure, 35mm x 37mm, perf 14 x 14½, printed on unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper, in sheets of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum.

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Tŷ Mawr

presentation pack: £1.31

7 March **Sport stamps:** 18p, 26p, 31p, 34p

designer: Jake Sutton

printing: Harrisons, photogravure, 34.7mm x 34.7mm, printed on unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper in sheets of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum.

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: Wembley

presentation pack: £1.31

29 March **Scottish aerogramme for "Year of the Bible"** 30p (26p stamp)

printing: offset litho, McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd

Withdrawn in March

2 March **P & O £5 Prestige Stamp Book**

23 March **Sir Isaac Newton** all items

New Style (Window) Books

A reprint of the new style window stamp books has taken place at Harrison & Sons, affecting the books with the letter codes B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I. A slight modification to the closing tab has been introduced giving a rounded semi-circular shape as opposed to the original rectangular tab which has been liable to scuffing during handling. There are no new cylinder numbers and no special philatelic distribution has been made of the reprinted books. This means that philatelic counters may not be able to supply them and they will not be sent to customers with standing orders at the British Philatelic Bureau.



Posting Boxes

No.88 Submitted by H Levy of London NW7 is this photograph of an unusual letter box in the hamlet of St Germans, Cornwall. It seems to be a locally-made wooden box with a George V Ludlow plate. Any further information from readers would be welcome.

This box is particularly attractive in that it combines the old with the new, there being a sticker added stating that "Letters posted here are machine sorted – please use postcodes".

Appointments at the National Postal Museum

Two new appointments have been made at the National Postal Museum. On 18 January 1988, Douglas N Muir took up the post of Curator, Philately. He will be responsible for the conservation, cataloguing and describing of the Museum's philatelic collections and devising philatelic displays in collaboration with Tony Gammons, the Museum's Exhibitions Officer. Overall responsibility will also be retained for the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and he will be directly responsible to Stan Goron, the Manager of the Museum.

Douglas Muir's former position as Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* will be taken over, as of the April issue, by John Holman, previously Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.

Sport Covers

Souvenir covers bearing the 34p Football stamp cancelled with special handstamps have been prepared by Dawn Covers, official cover designers for the Football League and the Football Association. These feature Arsenal, Aston Villa, Accrington, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham. Price £3 per cover, orders and enquiries to: Dawn Covers, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, STOCKPORT SK3 8UD.



Benhams have produced football and tennis covers, the football covers being available with eight different postmarks. The tennis cover depicts Virginia Wade, Pat Cash and Chris Evert. Signed covers will be available. All enquiries to: Benham, Westcliff House, FOLKES-TONE, Kent CT20 1SZ.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Douglas N. Muir

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