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19TH CENTURY GARDEN
BIDDULPH GRANGE

Contents

- 151 Editorial
 - G.B. Definitives – Unfounded Rumours
- 152 The Post Office salutes the British Army
- 153 The British Army Wallchart
 - New Presentation Packs – Definitive Stamps
- 154 Postcard Stories:
 - 4. Clovelly's Donkey Post
- 155 Gems from the R. M Phillips Collection CXIII:
 - To all Postmasters
- 156 National Postage Museum News
 - Withdrawal of Present Low Value, and Country, Definitive Stamps
 - New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme
 - New High Value Definitive Stamp
- 157 British Gardens Stamp Issue
 - 24 August 1983
- 159 British Special Stamps:
 - 101. European Architectural Heritage Year, 1975
- 160 New Regional Postcards
- 161 Posting Boxes
 - Forces Cover
 - Book Reviews
- 163 Forthcoming Events/Commemorative Covers
 - Forthcoming Events
 - Commemorative Covers

Editorial

After contributing to the Philatelic Bulletin in a small way by providing the 'Phillips' Gem' from the National Postal Museum for the last 3 years, it is a pleasant challenge to be more involved with the Bulletin by becoming Editor. The high standards set by the Bulletin over the years will provide a level which we will strive to maintain in future issues.

A particular question that is frequently raised by collectors of British stamps concerns the positioning of cylinder numbers. One view is that it is sometimes difficult to obtain cylinder blocks, particularly at small post offices who do not hold large stocks of sheets of stamps. To overcome this, it might be helpful if the printers were to include the cylinder numbers twice (or more) on different corners of the same sheet of stamps. The opposing view is that there are philatelists who must have examples of all variations printed, and as such additional cylinder numbers on sheets would increase the cost of their collecting.

This is very much something that is down to personal choice, and it would be interesting to receive readers' comments on this topic. While it is obviously not possible to promise any change in the existing procedures, we will certainly pass on any constructive comments to the printers.

CHARLES GOWEN

G.B. Definitives – Unfounded Rumours

Several philatelic magazines have reported rumours that Machin definitives will be replaced shortly by landscape designs.

Whilst speculation is an inevitable and welcome part of collecting, adding interest and a touch of mystery, it is no part of Post Office plans to replace definitives with landscape designs. We are very proud of our present definitives which we regard as the British "philatelic signature".

The Post Office salutes the British Army

Soldiers from pikeman to paratrooper represent the Army's advance in three and a half centuries.

Once soldiers were accoutered in armour for personal protection. Then they were dressed in bright colours for dash and panache. Today they wear camouflage combat kit for concealment.

The changing concept of the military uniform is illustrated by the British Army stamps, issued by the Post Office, to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the raising of The Royal Scots.

There is a pikeman, forerunner of the Royal Scots, who is equipped with pot helmet, breast-plate and hinged tassets covering his thighs – all designed to deflect musket balls and blows from enemy edged weapons. Pikemen formed a protective 'hedge' of levelled pikes to prevent musketeers being trampled by charging cavalry during the laborious business of loading and firing their cumbersome matchlock muskets.

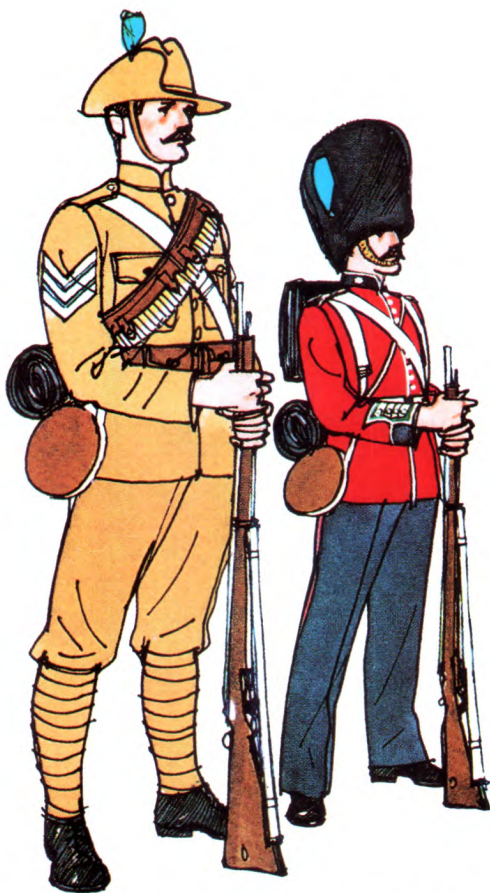
Redcoat was once a synonym for the British soldier. But there were to be some changes in uniforms and tactics.

Two riflemen, wearing uniform of about 1805, are in the 95th Rifles (later The Rifle Brigade) one of the former regiments of The Royal Green Jackets. The Regiment is also descended from two of the first Regiments of Light Infantry, the 43rd and the 52nd, and from the 60th Rifles, originally raised as the Royal American Regiment. Fighting the French and red indians in the Canadian forests, the 60th soon discarded both the scarlet uniforms and stereotyped tactics, for loose-fitting, hunting clothes and flexible, skirmishing tactics. Later, with the 95th Rifles (originally raised as the Experimental Corps of Riflemen), they pioneered the use of the rifle in the British Army. The rifle's long range and accuracy, inconspicuous green uniforms and American tactics as further developed by leaders such as Sir John Moore (Colonel of the 52nd), were to prove extremely effective during the Peninsular War. The old traditions are reflected today in The Royal Green Jackets' lack of colours, battle honours worn on cap and pouch belt badges and marching at 140 paces to the minute.



The Royal Welch Fusiliers, raised in 1689, is the senior regiment of Welsh line infantry. Fusiliers were originally specialist troops – used for guarding artillery trains and ammunition depots – who were armed with a fusil, a comparatively light flintlock musket with a smaller bore than the matchlock musket then in general use. The stamp illustrates the regiment's uniform in the middle of the eighteenth century. The mitre cap, similar to that worn by grenadiers, increased the soldier's stature and was supposed to make it easier for him to sling his musket on his back. The uniform of the modern regiment has a historical heritage. It includes a 'flash' of black ribbons on the back of the jacket – as a reminder of the ribbon once used to tie up the soldiers' long hair and decorate the periwigs of officers.

Foot guards regiments retain a scarlet tunic as part of their full dress uniform. Each regiment is distinguished by the grouping of buttons on the tunic. For example the Irish Guards, being fourth in seniority, have buttons grouped in fours. The regiments also have different coloured plumes in



their bearskins, that of the Irish Guards being St Patrick's blue.

The red beret is a distinguishing feature of the uniform of The Parachute Regiment, since most other regiments wear one which is dark blue. Their combat kit is strictly practical: from disruptive pattern camouflage smocks and lightweight olive green trousers down to rubber-soled boots. These crack troops are usually flown into action by Royal Air Force Hercules transport aircraft and are prepared, in an emergency, to drop from a few hundred feet.

Eric Stemp designed the stamps. A part-time lecturer at St Martin's School of Art, he specialises in modern fashion illustrations. This is the second time his work has appeared on stamps. He designed the 1979 Rowland Hill issue and miniature sheet, and he also designed the stamp booklet covers showing 19th century ladies' costume, issued in the past two years.

HUGH HOWTON

New Presentation Packs – Definitive Stamps

New presentation packs containing low value definitive and country definitive stamps will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters on 3 August 1983.

The low value pack will contain 20 stamps: ½p, 1p, 2p, 3p, 3½p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 12½p, 16p, 16½p, 17p, 20p, 20½p, 23p, 26p, 28p, 31p, 50p, 75p. The price of the pack (no 1) will be £3.84.

The country definitive packs will contain 6 stamps: 10p, 12½p, 16p, 20½p, 26p and 28p. There will be separate packs of Northern Ireland (no 2), Scotland (no 3) and Wales (no 4). The price of each of these packs will be £1.33.

The 2p, 5p and 75p stamps are printed offset litho by The House of Questa. The 4p and 20p stamps are printed offset litho by Waddingtons Ltd while the remainder are printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

The stamps for Northern Ireland are printed offset litho by Waddingtons Ltd except the 10p which is printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

The stamps of Scotland and Wales are printed offset litho by The House of Questa except for the 10p which is printed photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

The British Army Wallchart



A philatelic wallchart with a wealth of historical and background information on the British Army, will be issued on 6 July. Measuring 841mm x 594 mm (33" x 23") it provides an ideal companion to the five army stamps issued on the same day.

The wallcharts will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT at £1.50 each (including postage and packing) and at all philatelic counters at £1.25 each. Bulk purchases of 50 or more can be made from the Bureau at £1.25 each (including postage and packing).

4. Clovelly's Donkey Post

Placid in temperament, albeit, some say, with a piquant sense of humour, donkeys have a record of long and loyal service to the rural community. Donkeys roam free with the ponies in the New Forest and on Dartmoor, and remain unscathed by the worst of our winter weather. Donkey-rides have been a feature of our seaside beaches since Victorian times, and there was the celebrated donkey of Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight which operated a treadmill to raise pails of water from an ancient well. Before the advent of motor cars and vans, donkey-carts were the ideal (and often only) form of transport for the small farmer and the village postman. Perhaps best-known to holiday-makers and tourists are the donkeys of the picturesque cliff-village of Clovelly in North Devon where, when the paddle-steamers used to call, visitors were carried by the donkeys up the steep 'High Street', ascending in a series of steps and terraces for about 400 feet.

Near the top of the hill is Clovelly Post Office and it was in the 1880s that donkeys commenced to carry mail from there to the Post Office at

Higher Clovelly, delivering the visitors' picture postcards etc for onward transmission to the Bideford Post Office, and collecting incoming mail. Every evening the donkey waited patiently outside Clovelly Post Office (as depicted on many postcards of the village) before proceeding up the cobbled hill at 4.50pm and along the moorland road to Higher Clovelly. Two panniers were carried, one containing mail and the other, herrings (when in season), and the round trip of about two miles took exactly one hour because the donkey had returned to base by 5.50pm. The 'donkey post' was replaced by a motor van in 1953.

For this information I am indebted to Mr A F H Inglis, Postmaster of Bideford, and to Mr Tony Shackson of Clovelly Post Office, whose grandfather, one Rowland Hortop, operated the service (with an allowance of 4 shillings weekly for donkey feed) for a number of years in the early part of this century. My card, published by Photo-Precision Ltd of St Albans, depicts 'Changing the Mail at Higher Clovelly Post Office'.

MALCOLM JAMES



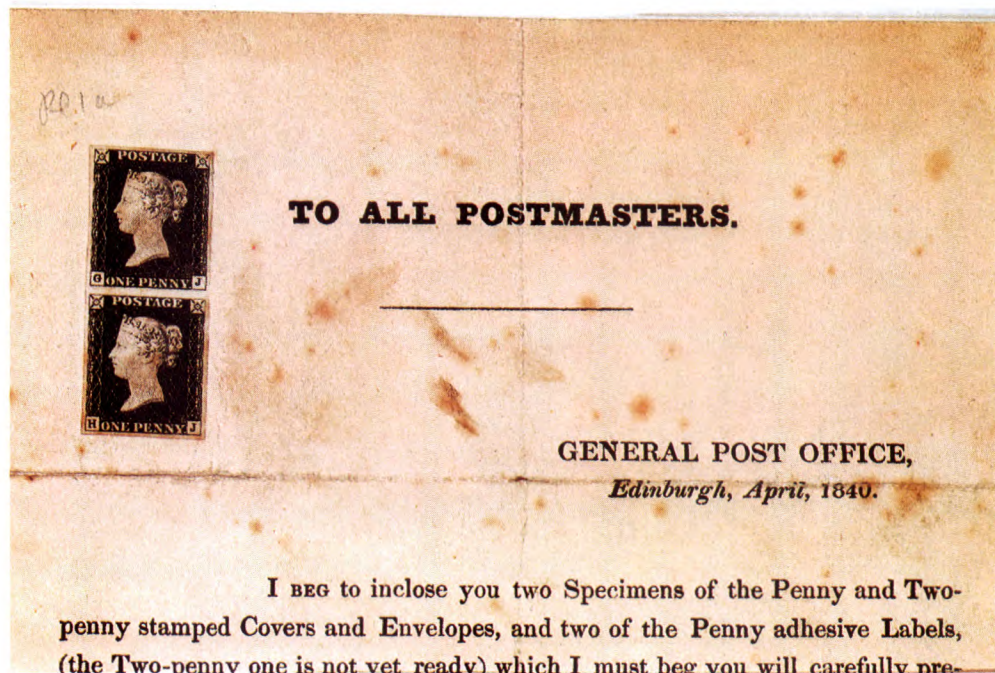
To all Postmasters

Following the 1839 Treasury Competition, events led towards the introduction of the world's first postage stamp which not only provided a practical method of prepaying postage, but also unwittingly started the world's most popular hobby. The Reginald M Phillips Collection on display in the National Postal Museum has a wealth of material on show which illustrates this story. One of the many interesting items included, in the Notice to All Postmasters, part of which is illustrated, advising of the novelty of adhesive postage stamps.

While postage stamps are accepted today without question, it would have been interesting to record the reactions of Postmasters on receiving this notice introducing such a revolutionary scheme. The Penny Black was in fact only one of Rowland Hill's reforms to establish a stamp tax

which would also 'diffuse a taste for fine art'. These main hopes were pinned on a more conventional idea for the times, the Mulready envelopes, but after their disastrous reception (much to Rowland Hill's surprise) they were withdrawn in 1841.

The public reception of the Penny Black took Rowland Hill by surprise and postage stamps became the most popular form of payment for letters. The historic notice introducing this scheme can be seen by visitors to the National Postal Museum in volume III/5 of the Reginald M Phillips Collection. A Press 'Notice to the Public' dated 28 April 1840 advising of the scheme (III/1), and an original letter of Rowland Hill's (30 April) to Samuel Lines enclosing a pair of proof impressions of the one penny black and a Mulready one penny envelope, are also on display.



National Postal Museum News

The third part of the exhibition, the 'Post Office at War' will open at the National Postal Museum on 6 July. It will run until 30 December 1983 and covers the period 1920-1953. A new NPM postcard SS16 featuring a photograph of King Edward Street and King Edward Building (the home of the NPM) taken at the height of the Second World War Blitz will be issued to accompany the exhibition. The card will be on sale from the Museum sales counter from 6 July 1983, price 20p, or by post at 36p from the National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Bulk orders of 100 to 249 cards will receive a 10% discount, and for 250 or more a 20% discount. The normal Museum Maltese Cross handstamp only will be in use throughout the exhibition.

A further postcard SS17 will be issued on 24 August 1983 depicting a Rose, to coincide with the opening of the exhibition 'Roses - A Thematic Display'. This will celebrate the issue of the British Gardens stamps on the same date. Full details will be given later.

Withdrawal of Present Low Value, and Country, Definitive Stamps

The present low value, and country, definitive packs numbers 84, 85, 86, 90, 129A, 129B, 129C and 129D, will be withdrawn from sale at the close of business on 2 August 1983.

New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme

A new Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme commemorating the centenary of the formation, in Glasgow, of The Boys' Brigade will be available on Wednesday 10 August 1983. It will depict the

centenary badge, a portrait of the Brigade Founder, Sir William Smith, and illustrations of Brigade activities.

Priced 30p of which 26p is for postage, the aerogramme will be available from post offices in Scotland, philatelic counters throughout the United Kingdom, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT. The aerogramme is designed by Ruari McLean Associates with illustrations by Julie Lacombe.

New High Value Definitive Stamp

A new high value definitive stamp - £1.30 - will be available from 3 August 1983. The stamp is introduced to coincide with the charge for the first weight step (1kg) for national parcels. 1983 is also the centenary of the introduction of the parcel post service in this country.

First Day Cover Services SERVICE 'A'

This consists of a special pictorial Post Office cover - price 14p - addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing the stamp. The cover will be cancelled: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' or 'London EDO', as requested, and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamp, cancelled and despatched.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 25 July 1983.

The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.78	£1.55
Deposit account customers	£1.73	£1.51
Service 'B'	£1.64	£1.43

Technical Details

PRINTER: Harrison & Sons (HIGH WYCOMBE) Ltd

PROCESS: Photogravure

PERFORATION: 14 x 15

ADHESIVE: PVA Dextrin

PAPER: Phosphor coated, unwatermarked.

British Gardens Stamps Issue

24 August 1983

Gardens and Gardening have for centuries been part of the British tradition. Thanks to a climate without great extremes of heat or cold and to a variety of soils, plants from all over the world flourish in our gardens, whose design and character continue to develop and reflect an important part of our way of life.

Bearing this in mind The Post Office will issue on 24 August, four special stamps illustrating well known British gardens. Designed by Liz Butler the stamps depict, Sissinghurst (Kent) 16p, Biddulph Grange (Staffordshire) 20½p, Blenheim (Oxfordshire) 28p, Pitmedden (Scotland) 31p.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'Oxford' and 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover – price 14p – addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Oxford' or 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', as requested, and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested, and despatched.

The following charges will apply:-

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.38	£1.20
Deposit Account		
Customers	£1.33	£1.16
Service 'B'	£1.24	£1.08

The first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes.

Application forms, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 15 August 1983.

Printing Details

The stamps are printed off-set litho by Waddingtons Ltd on phosphor coated, un-watermarked paper. They are vertical in format, size 30mm x

41mm, printed 100 to a sheet. The perforations are 14 x 14, and PVA dextrin is the adhesive.

Colours

The following colours will be used on all four stamps: yellow, blue, red, black, silver and special green.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 10 August 1983, price 13p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack number 146, designed by David Driver, containing all four stamps, will be available on 24 August 1983, price £1.15.



101. European Architectural Heritage Year, 1975

Seldom have British commemorative stamps had such a grand title, though it will be seen that it is merited by the grandeur of some of the architectural gems depicted on them. The issue marked the culmination of a three-year campaign promoted by the Council of Europe to awaken interest and pride of Europeans in their common architectural heritage. The Post Office honoured the occasion with five special stamps designed by Peter Gauld, FSIA, which were placed on sale on 23 April 1975. The denominations were 7p x 2 (issued in *se-tenant* pairs within the sheet), 8p, 10p and 12p and the design subjects included four noble edifices from the past and London's ultra-modern National Theatre.

Charlotte Square, Edinburgh (7p), stands at the western end of the city's celebrated Princes Street, and it was designed by Robert Adam (1728-92), the Scottish architect, in 1791. Robert and his brother James fashioned their own elegant variations of the existing Palladian theme while retaining the original classic style, and Charlotte Square has been described as one of the glories of Edinburgh's 'New Town'. 'The modern Athens' – as Edinburgh is known – took its name from Edwin, King of Northumbria, in the 7th century: it was created a burgh in 1329 by Robert the Bruce, and recognised as the Scottish capital in the 15th century, under the Stuarts.

Chester, famous as the finest example of a walled city in England, has many noteworthy medieval buildings, among them 'The Cross', set amongst the group of fine old half-timbered buildings known as 'The Rows', 16th-century piazzas or balconies which stretch along the main shopping streets on the level above the shops, forming pedestrian walks, at the western end of Eastgate Street. Chester was the *Castra Legionis* of the Romans, and both The Rows and Edinburgh's Charlotte Square were two of the conservation pilot projects planned for Heritage Year.

The Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich – Sir Christopher Wren's Flamsteed House – featured on the 8p stamp, was designed for the first Astronomer Royal – 'for the Observer's habitation and a little for Pompe' as Wren explained it. It was established at Greenwich by Charles II in 1675, but astronomical observations there were gradually hampered by the smoky environment and the removal of the telescopes to Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex was completed by 1958. The meridian of zero longitude still passes through the old site, which now houses the National Maritime Museum's Department of Navigation and Astronomy. St. George's Chapel, Windsor, is a fine example of medieval church architecture – the style is English Perpendicular



and it was erected by Edward IV. A great deal of restoration work took place in 1930, and it has long been the chapel of the Knights of the Garter (10p).

Britain's National Theatre, located on the south bank of the Thames, just downstream from Waterloo Bridge in London, was designed by Denys Lasdun and contains three separate auditoriums – the principal Lyttelton Theatre opened on 16 March 1976 with a performance of 'Hamlet'. The Olivier Theatre was named after the National Theatre Company's first director, while the third is a small studio theatre for experimental productions.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. Listed varieties include missing outlines to the chimneys of the 7p Charlotte Square building, and a thick 'T' in 'The Rows' (7p).

JAMES WATSON

New Regional Postcards

London Postal Region

A special postcard to celebrate the centenary of the official parcel post will be issued by the London Postal Region on 1 August 1983.

Mint cards, price 13p each, can be obtained by personal application at London Postal Region philatelic counters and the National Postal Museum. Bulk orders for mint cards only are obtainable from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, where normal discount facilities and handling charges apply.

A special handstamp will be applied to all mail posted in the special posting box in Hampstead Post Office, 79-81 Hampstead High Street, LONDON NW3 1QL. Normal reposting facilities will be available from the Philatelic Duty, Postal Branch, North West District Office, 220 Eversholt Street, LONDON NW1 1AA.

Orders for serviced cards, price 44p each including the cost of the card, first class postage and bearing the first day of sale handstamp should be sent to – Regional Postcard, Admail 45, LONDON NW1 1AD. Orders must be received by 1 August, and remittances should be sent if possible by Giro transfer to account number 507 1003; cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Post Office.

South East Postal Region

The first of two sets of 2 postcards, reproducing cartoons on a Post Office theme by nationally known artists, will go on sale on Monday 18 July 1983.

Orders for serviced cards, including the cost of the card, first class postage and handling charge, bearing a special first day of sale handstamp, should be sent to the Philatelic Counter, 51 Ship Street, BRIGHTON BN1 1AA, where normal reposting facilities will apply.

The cost is 88p per set or 44p singly.

Mint cards, either in sets price 26p, or singly price 13p, can be obtained from the Philatelic Counter, Brighton. Remittances should be sent, if possible, by postal order or Giro Transfer (Account Number 314 0210).

Bulk orders for mint cards only are obtainable from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, where normal facilities and handling charges will apply.

Midland Postal Region

To commemorate the rebuilding of Nantwich Post Office in the 400th anniversary year of the Great Fire of Nantwich, Crewe Head Post Office commissioned a mural competition in association with the North West Arts Council. The winning mural design will be featured on a set of 3 postcards which will be issued with an accompanying booklet guide to Nantwich on 5 July 1983. The mural will be unveiled by the Chairman of the Post Office.

The cards will be numbered MPB 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3, and will cost 39p per set of 3, or 75p per set including the explanatory booklet. A special commemorative handstamp, 'Mural Unveiling by the Chairman of the Post Office, Nantwich 5 July 1983' will be available. Serviced cards can be provided at £1.55 per set (including the booklet) from The Mural Office, Nantwich Post Office, 32 Pepper Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5AA. Orders by post must be received by 5 July, and be accompanied by the appropriate remittance made payable to 'The Post Office'.

The mint set of postcards with the accompanying booklet will be available to personal callers at all philatelic counters in the Midland Postal Region and from the National Postal Museum. Bulk orders, for mint cards only (plus booklet if required), are obtainable from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, where normal discount facilities and handling charges will apply.

Posting Boxes



No. 49: This month we extend our thanks to Mr D J Herring of Singapore for reminding us of the posting box illustrated.

It stands in a remote part of the New Forest, near Fritham in Hampshire. It is made of iron and was erected close to a gunpowder factory towards the end of the last century. It was necessary for the factory personnel to have their own collection point nearby. We are grateful to Mr Andrew Smith of The Letter Box Study Group for sending the transparency to us.

Forces Covers

Royal Visit to Malta

The fortieth anniversary of the visit to Malta by HM King George VI occurred on 20 June 1983 and is commemorated with the issue of a special cover.

The design on the front of the cover is of HMS 'Aurora', the ship in which the King set sail,

arriving at Malta. A 16p 'British Engineering' stamp is affixed cancelled with a pictorial hand-stamp, number BFPS 1813. The cost is 80p.

Alternatively the cover bearing a 28p 'British Engineering' stamp, cancelled as above, but signed by Captain D McEwen DSC RN, Squadron Navigation Officer, HMS 'Aurora', and Commander R D Hamilton-Bate RN, Staff Officer, Operations, HMS 'Aurora', is priced at £2. In addition the cover signed by Commander Hamilton-Bate only with a 20½p 'British Engineering' stamp affixed, the charge is £1.30.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'The Fleet Air Arm Museum' should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, RNAS, Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset BA22 8HL, accompanied by a 7"x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Book Reviews

An Introduction and Guide to the Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain

by A M Goodbody

Travelling Post Offices and their datestamps have long been a source of interest to postal historians, railway philatelists and postmark collectors. A second edition of this informative booklet, originally published in 1977, which has been out of print for some time, is now available. The contents have been completely revised and updated to include details of the current TPOs as well as historical and background information. Many of the illustrations in this edition are also new.

Published by The Railway Philatelic Group, the booklet can be obtained from the Publications Officer: A J Lowe, Stable Becks, Grasmere, AMBLESIDE, Cumbria LA22 9PX, at £1.00 plus 15p p&p.

Collect British Stamps (32nd Edition)

This latest edition of Stanley Gibbons popular publication is now available from the usual philatelic outlets and all Post Offices philatelic counters (including Bath, Torquay and Taunton), at £1.90. It includes all issues up to and including the 'Commonwealth Day' stamps. This checklist, with stamps illustrated in full colour, remains the ideal guide for collectors of GB stamps who want easy-to-follow listings. As well as all stamps, stamp books, presentation packs, First Day Covers and PHQ postcards listed in previous editions, prices for gutter pairs are also included for the first time.

This new edition comprising 100 pages with over 600 illustrations is also available from Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 391 Strand, LONDON WC2R 0LX plus 30p extra for postage and packing as well as the Philatelic Bureau, EDINBURGH, where normal handling charges will apply.

The Private Post 1983

This is the 6th edition of this informative annual handbook produced by the British Private Post Study Group of the Cinderella Stamp Club. It contains nine articles covering several of the different kinds of private posts including railway and bus parcel stamps, strike posts and nineteenth century carrier stamps. In addition, the journal contains a reference list for collectors and researchers, of nearly 170 books and articles published during 1981.

Published by the Cinderella Stamp Club, the handbook is available from the Membership Secretary: G M Dorman, 35 Smith Street, LONDON SW3 4EP, at £3.00 (post free).

Squared Circle Postmarks of the London Suburban District Offices

by Stanley F Cohen

This is the first specialised study to be published on the subject of Squared Circle Postmarks. The

author, Stanley F Cohen, has collaborated with Daniel Rosenblat and many others who specialise in this field of collecting, to produce this interesting publication. In addition, the illustrations have been specially drawn for the book by M Maurice Barette.

Copies may be obtained from dealers or direct from the publisher, Harry Hayes, 48 Trafalgar Street, BATLEY, Yorkshire WF17 7HA. The price of the book is £3.40, including postage and packing inland and overseas. By airmail, £5.

Royal Mail Cards, an Illustrated Catalogue of Post Office Postbus Postcards

by R A Haddock

The 3rd edition of this catalogue on a popular aspect of postcard collecting is currently available. It updates and amplifies the information contained in the 2nd edition published in 1982. New discoveries are listed as well as further information about postbus tickets and card types. In addition, every subsequent postmark that previously issued cards have received during 1982 has been listed.

Copies of the catalogue can be obtained from R A Haddock, 54 Wicheaves Crescent, Worsley, MANCHESTER M28 6DT, at £3.50 + 25p (p&p).

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EDINBURGH EH3 0HN.

Forthcoming Events/ Commemorative Covers

Details of any special forthcoming events or commemorative covers due to be issued will be included in future editions of the Bulletin when space permits. The Editor will be pleased to receive any such information, and will try to include it in the appropriate issue of the Bulletin where possible. It must be stressed, however, that all such information is printed in good faith, and the Bulletin cannot be responsible for any inaccurate information or for the failure of customers to receive private covers when ordered.

Forthcoming Events

Medway Stamp Bourses

Two stamp bourses will be held in the Medway area in the next few weeks. The relevant details are as follows:-

GRAVESEND: to be held on 3 August at the Anglo-Saxon Hall, Berkley Road, GRAVESEND, Kent, from 7.30pm to 10pm;

RAINHAM: to be held on 25 July at the White Horse (Functions Room), High Street, RAINHAM, Kent, from 7.30pm to 10pm.

Rochester Stamp & Ephemera Fair

This will be held on 30 July at the King's Head Hotel, High Street, ROCHESTER, Kent, from 10am to 4pm (Admission Free).

Further information on both the Medway Stamp Bourses and the Rochester Fair can be obtained from Mr D Stevens, 18 Gayhurst Close, Rainham, GILLINGHAM, Kent, ME8 9EA.

Essex Stamp Fairs

Two Stamp and Postcard Fairs will be held by K C Fairs during July at the following locations:-

UPMINSTER: to be held on 16 July at the St Laurence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, UPMINSTER, from 10am to 5pm;

ILFORD: to be held on 2 July at the Vine Church Hall, Grosvenor Road (Off High Road), ILFORD, from 10am to 5pm.

Further details can be obtained from S Suri, 27 The Drive, ILFORD, Essex, IG1 3EZ.

Ray Watts Stamp Fairs will also be holding a Fair at Ilford during July, details as follows:-

ILFORD: to be held at the Ilford Labour Hall, 400 High Road, ILFORD, Essex.

Further details can be obtained from M M Watts, 1 Court Avenue, Harold Wood, ROMFORD, Essex, RM3 0X5.

Postal Mechanisation Study Circle – Pendley Manor Centre Weekend

The Postal Mechanisation Study Circle will be holding a weekend of activities at Pendley Manor Centre, Tring, Herts, from 14–16 October 1983. The speakers will include Aubrey Walker of the Post Office who has been responsible for the development of stamp and address coding phosphors. There will also be a number of displays by members, and a visit to the nearby Mechanised Letter and Parcel Concentration Office at Watford. The Circle's Annual General Meeting, Competition and Auction will also take place. The cost of the whole weekend, including accommodation and all other charges, will be approximately £42 per head. Non-members are welcome to attend, and further details can be obtained from Martin Robinson, 17 Tuckwell Close, Stockton, RUGBY, Warwickshire, CV23 8JP.

The Postal Mechanisation Study Circle is also producing a series of special covers to mark events of importance in the Post Office mechanisation programme. The latest cover marks the official opening of the Mechanised Letter Office at Chester, and further covers are planned for the future. Full details can be obtained from Mr D Murray, 40 Dudley Drive, GLASGOW, G12 9RZ.

Commemorative Covers

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Diocesan Centenary

To mark the Centenary of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Diocese, a special commemorative cover is being produced on 2 July 1983. This will commemorate the final event of the centenary celebrations, which is a pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, the Cradle of Christianity in Great Britain. The covers feature Lindisfarne Priory with a Celtic Design Border and will bear the 15½p 'Commonwealth' stamp cancelled on Lindisfarne with a special pictorial handstamp.

The cost of the cover is £1 inclusive, and customers are requested to supply their own SAE

not smaller than 10" x 5". Orders and remittances should be sent to I McGregor, the Post Office, Marygate, Holy Island, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, TD15 2SN.

Norfolk Scout Jamboree 1983

The Norfolk Scout Association are holding their Sixth International Jamboree at Costessey, Norwich from 24-30 July 1983. A special commemorative cover has been produced for this event by the Association. The cover will be stamped with the 26p 'Youth Organisations' stamp and cancelled with a special handstamp for the week. Covers are £1 plus 18p for postage and packing, from The Jamboree Treasurer, Norfolk Scouts, Church Lane, Eaton, NORWICH NR4 6NN.

Remittances should be made payable to, 'The Jamboree Treasurer'.

Ensign Miniatures Model Soldiers Exhibition

A special commemorative cover is being produced for Ensign Miniatures to coincide with the issue of the British Army stamps on 6 July. The cover will show 6 detailed model soldiers in colour and there will be a special handstamp commemorating the Ensign Miniatures Model Soldiers Exhibition at Boston, Lincolnshire. All the covers will bear the full set of 5 stamps and include an information card stiffener. The cost is £3.00 per cover plus 25p to cover postage and packing.

Orders with remittance made payable to Hawkwood Stamps should be sent to Hawkwood Stamps, Freeport, LONDON E4 7BR.

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers

A special limited edition commemorative cover was produced by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) for the British 'Engineering Achievements' stamps issued on 25 May 1983. The cover reproduces in full colour a rare Engineering Union Emblem dating from the 1850s. The AUEW badge in full colour and gold foiled is also featured on the cover, and the insert card provides interesting background information about the historic Emblem. A special AUEW handstamp has also been produced for the cover. The cost of the covers is £1.50 (with a single stamp only - customer to state preference), and £2.50 with a complete set of stamps. Covers signed by the AUEW President, Mr Terry Duffy, and the General Secretary, Gavin H Laird, are also

available with a full set of stamps, cost £4.50. In addition, covers are available with the House of Commons postmark, costing £2.50 with a full set of stamps, and £4.50 for these also signed by a prominent Parliamentarian. (All prices include postage and packing for inland orders, £1.00 should be added for overseas).

Orders with remittance made payable to 'AUEW Commemorative Cover', should be sent to the AUEW, Commemorative Cover, 110 Peckham Road, LONDON SE15 5EL.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

To coincide with the issue of the British Army stamps on 6 July, a limited edition of covers is being produced by Greenberg and Porter for the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst (RMAS). The cover features the RMAS badge, printed in gold, and the famous ceremony seen at each Sovereign's Parade where the Adjutant, mounted on horseback, climbs the steps and enters Old College. For every cover sold, a donation will be made to the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst.

The cost is £2.25 for a cover bearing a single British Army stamp (customer to specify which stamp is required), and £3.75 for a cover bearing all 5 British Army stamps. In addition, a few covers signed by one of the following are available at £5.00 each - the Commandant, the Adjutant, the Academy Sergeant and the Inspecting Officer, Sovereign's Parade, RMAS. 25p extra should be added to orders for covers for postage and packing.

Orders with remittance made payable to 'Greenberg and Porter' should be sent to RMAS Cover, Greenberg and Porter, 13 Fordyke Road, Beacontree Heath, DAGENHAM, Essex RM18 1PJ.

National Trust

To commemorate the British Gardens stamps being issued on 24 August, special Commemorative Covers will be produced by Benham (A Buckingham) Limited as the official agent for the National Trusts. Two of the gardens featured on the stamps, Pitmedden and Sissinghurst, are National Trust properties. Both Trusts will benefit financially from the promotion.

A large cover for Pitmedden will feature the gardens and contain the four stamps cancelled at Pitmedden with the National Trust for Scotland logo. The cost is £3.30, or £5.30 for covers signed by George G Barron. (The former Head Gardener at Pitmedden and now a BBC Gardening Presenter). A large cover for Sissinghurst will

feature the gardens and contain the four stamps, cancelled by a special handstamp at Sissinghurst incorporating the National Trust logo. The cost is £3.30, or £5.30 for covers signed by Graham Stuart Thomas, OBE, VMH, DHM, VMM. Gardens Consultant to the National Trust.

Four small covers will also be produced, featuring two other National Trust properties, Crathes Castle (Grampian Region) and Lyme Park, Cheshire as well as Pitmedden and Sissinghurst. The covers will each have one stamp, and as well as the relevant Pitmedden and Sissinghurst postmarks, the National Trust has also sponsored two further postmarks at Crathes Castle and Lyme Park for the appropriate covers. The cost of the set of 4 covers is £5.50.

Orders should be sent to Benham (A Buckingham Ltd), The Stamp Shop, 51a Old High Street, FOLKESTONE, Kent CT20 1RN. All prices quoted are inclusive of postage and packing.

London Transport Golden Jubilee

On 1 July 1933 the London Passenger Transport Board was created.

From 1 July 1983 a special commemorative cover, bearing a 15½p 'Information Technology' stamp will be available marking the thanks-giving service held at the church of St Martin in the Fields. A special one day posting box will be situated in the Vestibule of the church. The cover featuring an RT bus and the new D78 passenger train, is printed in full colour in conjunction with the London Transport Philatelic Society. A special handstamp depicts the facade of St Martin in the Fields, including the high steeple. 1000 covers are available and may be obtained from the LPTB philatelic agent, J&M Arlington Ltd, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL. The cost per cover is £1.30 including postage and packing. They can also be obtained by personal callers to London Transport Headquarters, 55 Broadway, LONDON (St James's Park Station).

Claremont by 'Capability' Brown

Claremont Mansion in Esher, is one of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's celebrated commissions, and is a splendid example of architecture in the Palladian style.

To commemorate this, and to publicise the bicentenary of the death of the famous architect and landscape gardener, a special cover is being produced to coincide with four new stamps to be issued by The Post Office on 24 August 1983 depicting famous gardens.

Claremont is now the home of Claremont Fan Court School attended by 650 pupils.

Joyce Grenfell, one of the school's most distinguished 'old girls' agreed that the building of an arts and drama centre at the school could bear her name. To assist in raising much needed funds for the school, J&M Arlington Ltd in conjunction with Philcovers have been commissioned to produce 2000 covers. Reggie Grenfell, the husband of the late Joyce Grenfell will sign a number of these. 667 will bear the full set of stamps and are priced at £3.25 each. The covers signed by Reggie Grenfell are £5.25 each. The remainder will have the 29p stamp affixed and the cost is £1.85 each. These covers signed by Reggie Grenfell will be available at £3.65 each. The prices include VAT and return postage and packing. The special pictorial handstamp depicts Claremont Mansion. Orders with remittances made payable to 'J&M Arlington Ltd' should be sent to 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL.

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