

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 17 Number 1 September 1979



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Editorial

We are always glad to offer our pages to help publicise philatelic conventions, annual rallies and so on. There is, however, a limit to the time and effort we can spare to produce the information in the form readers will understand. Many of our society friends write long, chatty letters full of well intentioned detail and it takes us more time than we can sometimes spare to re-write the feature. May we ask secretaries to let us have the information they wish us to print — *on a separate sheet of paper*. We will then gladly wield the blue pencil and edit accordingly!

Thousands of our readers have enjoyed and been instructed by Aubrey Walker's articles on

'The Development and Use of Post Office Phosphors'. The feature is comprehensive but has aroused considerable interest on somewhat tangential lines. The questions which have been posed by our readers include some which have a direct bearing on the storage of stamps and the likelihood of the depreciation in phosphor markings. Mr Walker has agreed to do what he can, in a supplementary note, to answer the points raised by our correspondents.

Forthcoming Events

Bournemouth Stamp Fair

The Bournemouth and District Philatelic Society will be the hosts at the forthcoming Bournemouth Stamp Fair to be held in the Bournemouth Town Hall, BH2 6DY, on Saturday 15 September 1979 from 10.00 am till 5.00 pm.

As well as general philatelic displays, there will be a Stamps, Covers and Cards Exhibition. Some dealers will be in attendance, and the Post Office will provide a philatelic sales counter and display.

Admission is 20p (children 10p).

Philatelic Bulletin

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The Development and Use of Post Office Phosphors

Part 4. Abnormal Phosphor Response on Stamps

It must be made clear that if stamps are to be produced economically, a small measure of contamination is inevitable. The only way to ensure no contamination whatever is to strip every piece of equipment to the last nut and bolt, and steam clean before re-use. This is not only impractical it is completely unnecessary. When one considers that the purest form of cellulose paper obtainable commercially (chemical filter paper) exhibits a degree of yellow phosphorescence after irradiation with UV at either 254 or 365 nanometres, and also that some adhesives may combine with brightening agents, used in paper, to impart a low level of phosphorescence, there is no point in the Post Office insisting on surgical purity. Rather, the Post Office and the printers work to a particular threshold level below which it is known that there will be no trouble caused to either facing or address-code recognition systems.

Nevertheless, occasional lapses may occur as they do in any business; the quality assurance system would normally detect and remove any printings not meeting required standards, and it should be pointed out that during 'make ready' operations, most of the production inevitably falls into this category, and it is extremely rare indeed for any of this to be delivered to the Post Office.

Considering that printing runs produce many millions of sheets, it is of interest that over the last ten years, the number of times corrective action has been found necessary can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Details are as follows:—

In 1972 an amount of PHD 'green' phosphor (Lettalite B1) was inadvertently used during a printing of 2½p stamps. This material was in constant use at that time for other security printing. As only two or three sorting offices were using mechanised inward sorting at that time (ie address code-marks applied in a possible 'stamp area'), the Post Office agreed to accept these stamps.

In 1973, there was a low level of contamination of the paper coating involving an inorganic yellow-green phosphor based on copper-

activated zinc sulphide; ½p and 5p are known to have been affected. The printers were quite prepared to remove and destroy the affected sheets but this was not necessary as the level was too low to cause any detection problems, being well below the agreed threshold value. Since this date other (book) issues have been found with the paper coating showing the same long-wave response, but at much too low a level to cause concern (eg 1977 10p books).

In 1976, 6½p sheet printing (cyl 4, phosphor cyl 20) contained some sheets showing slight contamination of the paper-coating with zinc sulphide yellow phosphor.

In 1977 and in May 1978 some stamp books were produced with the phosphor (not the coating) contaminated with long-wave address-coding phosphor. ('DLMA', see later.) Most were removed by the Printer's Quality Assurance team; it is possible that some could have slipped through the net. Those which were below the 'threshold' limit were released by agreement. Also affected were some 'Cycling' stamps, issued August 1978, the 11p and 13p showing the effect.

It is accepted that these may be philatelically confusing but as long as the luminescent properties fulfil the requirements of the Post Office there is no reason why they should not have been issued.

Address Coding

As mentioned in Part 1, the early Transorma equipment was not designed to prepare mail for subsequent automatic sorting, and being 'rhythmic' (ie its speed was not operator controlled) was not sufficiently flexible.

In 1947 a Post Office laboratory group was set up at Mount Pleasant to look into mechanisation aids, and subsequently develop an 'arhythmic' multi-position sorting machine, but this proved to be rather complex and in 1955 another simpler 'arhythmic' machine, the single-position letter sorting machine, built at the Post Office Research Station, Dollis Hill, was introduced at Bath for use operationally; and eventually twenty more, made by Thrissells, were used throughout

the country. These machines were more adaptable, having a simpler transport system than the multi-position sorters, and of course their speed was operator controlled. All these machines required the operators to learn a separate keying code for each destination.

However, a large proportion of the mail requires to be sorted many times between posting and delivery, and the machines mentioned above could not prepare mail for this. Nevertheless, the experience gained was extremely useful in designing a new generation of automatic letter sorting equipment which would not need human keyboard sorting for each stage, but would utilise special code-marks printed onto the envelope.

For reasons similar to those detailed for facing, phosphorescent marks were the preferred choice, particularly as suitable materials had already been developed for the purpose.

The picture for collectors as far as phosphor is concerned is somewhat simpler than it is for stamps.

The first operational coding desk fitted with a code-mark printer was installed at Luton in October 1959 (figs 1 and 2), and, in 1960, mail destined for London was sent from Luton to Mount Pleasant for automatic sorting in order to check the system operationally.

Supplies of Lettalite Y (amino-G-acid) and Lettalite B1 (PHD), obtained from Harrisons, were sent to Peerless Gold Leaf Ltd, who manufacture hot blocking foils used for printing on awkward surfaces such as book covers and for other decorative printing. Here, the phosphor powder was suspended in a solution containing a wax-resin mixture and coated onto specially prepared glassine tape, 2" wide.

At Luton, addresses were keyed by operators using 'extract codes' which did not need to be committed to memory. These codes were converted by the machine 'translator' into a binary form suitable for machine reading, and impressed onto the right hand side of the envelopes in a vertical column of code marks (fig 3). 'Parity odd' was used, ie the total number of dots was always odd. The phosphor used on 'live' mail was, initially, PHD (Lettalite B1), the Lettalite

Y hopefully being used only on dummy mail.

Early in 1961 Harrisons commenced manufacture of CSA phosphor (Lettalite B2) to be seen on stamps issued in June of that year. This meant that the new blue phosphor was available for use at Luton for address coding. The exact date when it was first used for this purpose is in doubt but seems to have been early in 1962, as existing stocks of PHD luminescent tape were used first.

In June 1965 a new coding desk, built at Dollis Hill, was put into service at Luton. The code format was changed to horizontal instead of vertical, and the phosphor used was CSA (Blue) (figs 4a and 4b). Odd parity was retained, and two rows of code marks could be printed instead of one column. The facility existed to print either 'outward' or 'inward' code marks in both upper and lower positions on the envelope.

Also in 1965 a new type of printer went on trial at Bird Street, London, being transferred in January 1966 to coding desks at Norwich HPO (fig 5). The phosphor was dispersed in melted diphenyl in early tests on live mail. (Diphenyl is not phosphorescent, though it is related to PHD. Diphenyl is used as a fungicide on paper wrappings for citrus fruit.) These code marks can be identified by their intense opaque white 'raised dome' appearance (figs 6 and 7). Unfortunately, the diphenyl had a tendency to evaporate away leaving the phosphor powder high and dry.

The phosphor suspension was melted at the base of the printer and pumped to an upper weir reservoir by means of an 'Archimedes Screw'. As it overflowed the weir it drained downwards past the tips of the waiting printing pins. When the required pins were projected forward, a little of the melted compound was gathered by the tips and projected onto the envelope, where it rapidly solidified.

To overcome the evaporation problem, a little low molecular weight polystyrene was introduced, but this was not a success as the viscosity increased unacceptably with time as the diphenyl evaporated.

A new approach was needed, and Post Office chemists collaborated with Mr Gussefeld, a

chemist at Samuel Jones Ltd, to produce a formulation based on modified waxes and low molecular weight adhesive polymers. These code marks may be identified by their translucent pale amber appearance, and the fact that they 'stand proud' of the paper (fig 8).

This system worked fairly well until the printer was removed on 18 September 1967 as hot-transfer tape printers proved to have fewer maintenance problems.

During this period, work was progressing to develop high-speed sorting machines. Such a machine creates new problems, one being that the letters are carried past the UV lamp more quickly and therefore do not glow so brightly. Admittedly, it is 'viewed' by the photomultipliers more quickly also, but the net result is a loss of signal with phosphors with a long duration of afterglow. This is because it seems to be a fact of life that the longer a phosphor glows after irradiation, the longer it needs to be irradiated to saturate it optically. Thus an intensely bright phosphor with a *short* duration of afterglow would give an enhanced signal in a high speed system.

Such a phosphor was developed from the activator para-amino-benzophenone, which emits in the visible green.

To retain the advantages of CSA for medium speed automatic sorting machines, the two activators were blended into a new composite phosphor known as 'DLMA', produced by Derby Luminescents Ltd of Enfield, as indeed are all the current address coding phosphor powders for the Post Office. Luminescent tape made with the new address coding phosphor was despatched to Sorting Offices commencing September 1973; the exact date of first use is not known as existing stocks of CSA tape were used first. It is known to have been used in February 1974. The new phosphor is recognised with ease, its rapid initial optical decay makes it appear somewhat fluorescent under long-wave UV (unlike PHD or CSA) and it emits an initial bright green flash which rapidly changes to blue.

Meanwhile, Post Office chemists were looking at other activators in an attempt to simulate a

yellow inorganic granular phosphor used by certain overseas administrations. Such a phosphor could have advantages if used with solid-state photo-detectors which tend to be more sensitive to the yellow-red part of the spectrum, whereas the photomultipliers currently used are blue sensitive.

Efforts were successful and a completely new compound, previously unknown, yielded a brilliant yellow-green phosphor, considerably brighter than its inorganic counterpart, at lower cost and in a form which could be used on stamps to enhance print quality as well as imparting phosphorescence. It was developed primarily as an address-coding phosphor and is sensitive to 'long wave' UV at 365 nm. Its Post Office code name is 'SPYPA'.

A few rolls of luminescent tape were made for a trial which took place on dummy mail at Norwich in November/December 1975. Unfortunately by an oversight, 'live' mail was passed through a printer set up for the trial. Some thousands of items were coded but their ultimate fate is not known and the desk 'ident' not recorded.

It is also known that some of these trial rolls were despatched to other sorting offices early in 1976 but it is not known which offices were involved. The reaction under UV is quite different from any of the other phosphors used.

In June 1975, luminescent tape based on polyester film instead of glassine was phased in — the composition of the coating bearing the phosphor powder was changed, but the phosphor itself (DLMA) remained the same. There is a slight difference in appearance between the two after printing, but this is usually masked by the texture of the envelopes (fig 9 shows test-prints being made in a Post Office laboratory).

Early in 1977 a request was received from Postal Engineers in the North-Eastern Region to introduce coloured code marks for operational reasons. Previously it has been a requirement to render the marks as inconspicuous as possible, but with bright red marks being used in France, black magnetic marks in Germany, and bright yellow ones in other countries, colour was clearly more acceptable.

A very nice pale violet coding-tape was developed, but sadly a rather old sample of dyestuff had been used and the manufacturer had ceased to trade. An alternative was found — but found to be unsuitable on health grounds. Thus a change was made to a blue dyestuff cleared for use on food wrappings. This was the material introduced at Sheffield on 30 October 1978 (fig 10).

There have been some engineering problems which may have existed previously but highlighted by the presence of the dyestuff. Slight modifications of the formula have been made and further trials are to be arranged. It is stressed that the phosphor is unchanged, being DLMA.

Current work is directed at the production of a liquid phosphor precursor which phosphoresces within a few milliseconds of printing. This is required for high speed jet-printers suitable for use with Optical Character Reading Equipment, able to 'read' printed or typewritten address codes and print binary code marks at about five times the speed of current equipment (figs 11 and 12. Fig 12 shows Video Cameras to the left).

The difficulties involved in reading postcodes by machine are numerous. The letter mail, already faced, is presented to Video Cameras, and the electronic processing unit must first isolate the address code from other printed matter, then, using pattern-recognition techniques, identify each character. The complete code must then be checked for validity, converted into binary machine-language, and printed in the familiar 'dot' pattern.

Despite the complexity of the operation, the equipment can still deal with the mail some five times faster than a human operator reading visually and keying in the code. One must, therefore, either provide each unit with five conventional printers, such as are used at Mechanised Letter Offices at present, or design a faster printer. Ink-jet printers can cope with far higher speeds than this, but cannot accept inks based on conventional phosphors, which tend to block the very fine nozzles of the jets.

This is the background of the current programme to develop a phosphorescent ink suitable

for use in high speed printers of the type described. Marks made by these printers are even more 'invisible' than the hot-printed ones, unless a colourant is added, as it probably would be.

The colour of the afterglow from a phosphorescent jet printer ink would probably differ substantially from any used at present, and so make it easy for collectors to identify any new coding material should the present development programme prove successful.

In conclusion, there may well be philatelic curiosities not known to the author but similar to those described, just waiting to be discovered. We can always print further details later!

AUBREY WALKER

Grateful acknowledgements are made to the following:

Geoff Copping for material and information.

R F Allen and D N Muir for some of the material used in illustrations.

Barbara Baker for the Transorma cover.

Charles Forster and Douglas Shotton for details of early history on the chemical side.

Messrs Derby Luminescents and Levi West for information on inorganic phosphors and supplying one of the illustrations.

Harrison and Sons Ltd for kindly checking the script and also supplying some of the illustrations, and last but by no means least, Jim Hewett of Postal Mechanisation Dept, who is an inexhaustable source of historical details on post mechanisation-machinery and can produce more dates than a palm tree.

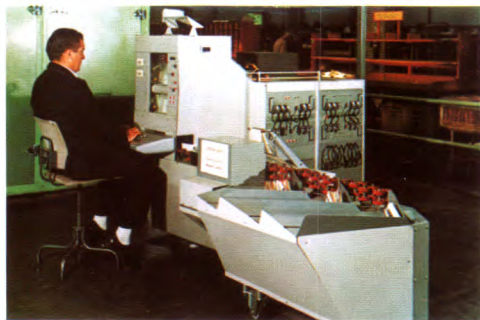


Fig 1 Early Luton Coding Desk

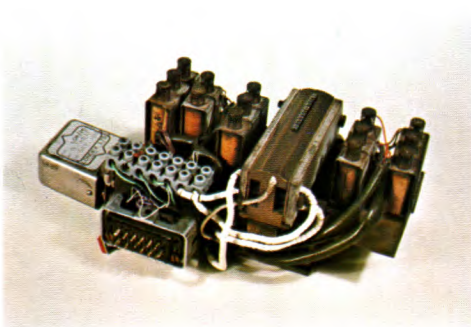


Fig 2 Early printer used in coding desk (see fig 1)



Fig 4b



Fig 3 Luton cover showing vertical format code — 1960

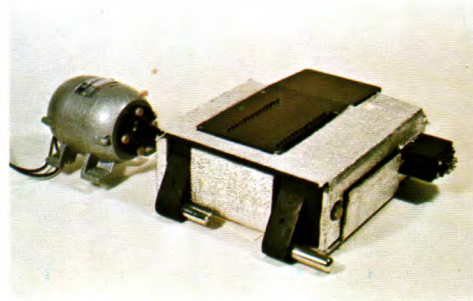


Fig 5 Phosphor Melt Printer 1966



Fig 4a

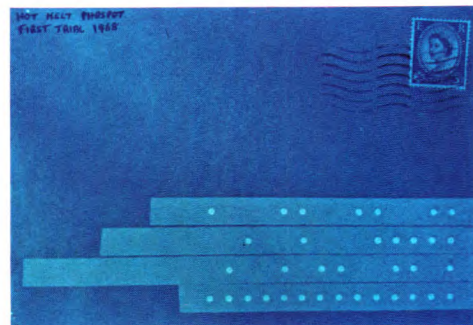


Fig 6

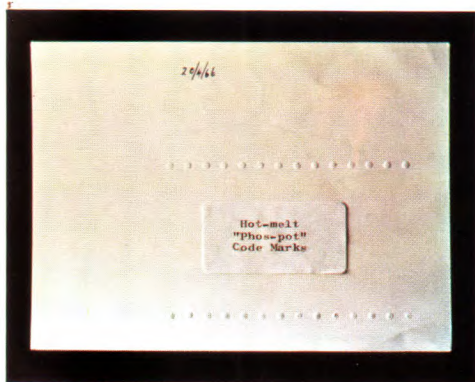


Fig 7

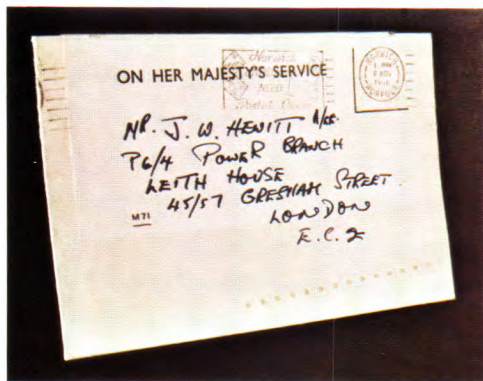


Fig 8 Wax-polymer based code marks Norwich 1966

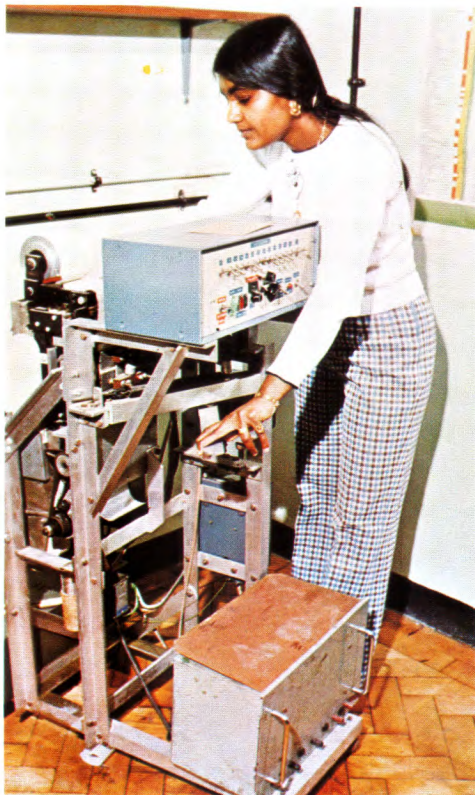


Fig 9 Lab Address Code Printer (LACP)

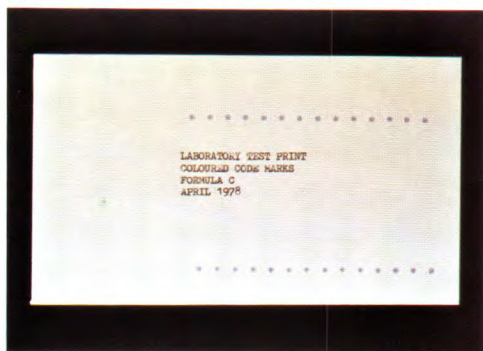


Fig 10 Blue dot test print

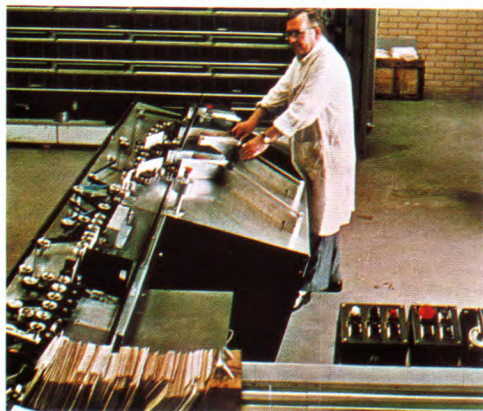


Fig 11 OCR

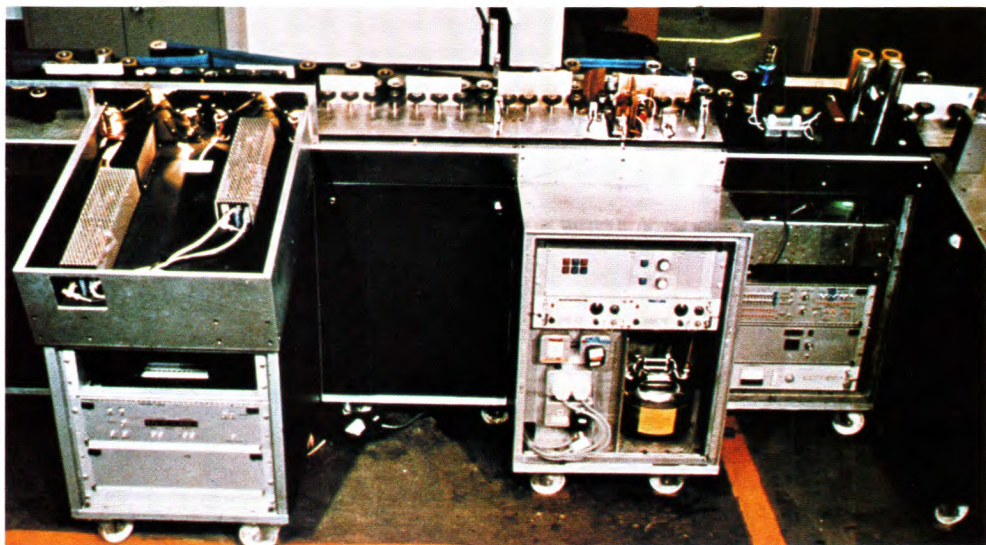


Fig 12 OCR

The Proud Collection 1929 Postal Union Congress

Reproduced by kind permission of Mr Edward Proud



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
CONGRÈS DE LONDRES, 1929.



Fulke R. RADICE Esq.,
Postal Union Congress,
Burlington Gardens,
W.1.

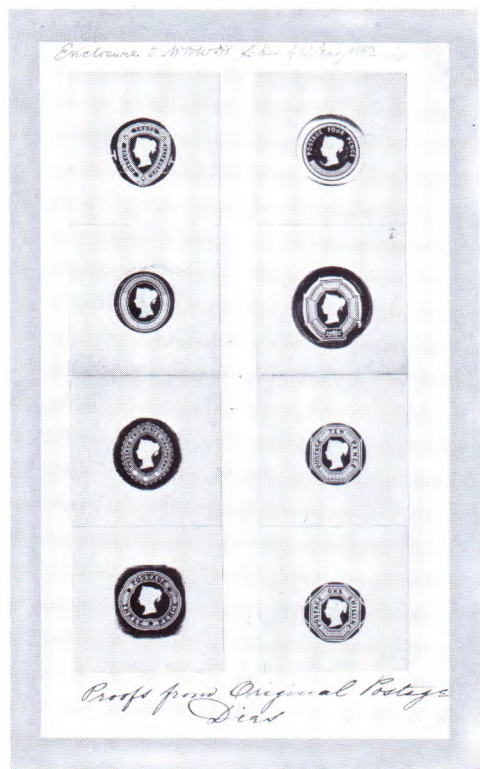


Monsieur Hennard,
Bureau international
de l'Union postale,
Berne.
Suisse.

Now that the £1 PUC issued in 1929 is rare it is beyond the pockets of many collectors and some may wish to turn their attention to the cancella-

tions used. The ordinary date-stamp used is not scarce but the rubber type intended for use on printed matter, parcels etc, is rare.

LXIX Victorian Embossed Die Proofs



The eight proofs — all struck in black on buff card — which are illustrated as this month's 'Gem', together formed the enclosure to a letter dated 15 May 1882 from William Warren De La Rue to someone in the Inland Revenue.

Unfortunately the copy of this letter which was in the De La Rue Archives was destroyed during World War II and I have so far not been able to locate the original, presumably now in the Public Record Office. Though the story behind these proofs cannot therefore at present be told, the die proofs themselves are of very considerable interest, forming as they do almost a complete record of the embossed dies used prior to 1882. The duplicate set of these proofs was, until recently, in Inland Revenue volume 4 of the De La Rue correspondence archives; now kept in the National Postal Museum. The proofs of the

duplicate set were defaced (in ink) but, alongside, each was endorsed with the De La Rue die number.

Listed in chronological order the eight proofs are from the following dies:

- 1840 The (no value) master die produced by William Wyom for the 1841 1d and 2d embossed envelopes (DLR Die No 3).
- 1848 Tenpence die (without die number) used for the embossed adhesive stamp (Die No 7).
- 1853 One shilling die (inscribed '2 WW') for the embossed adhesives (Die No 8).
- 1854 Sixpence die (without value or die number) for the embossed adhesives (Die No 6).
- 1859 Threepence die (issued with date slugs inserted) for use on newspaper wrappers stamped to order (Die No 4).
- 1860 Fourpence (issued with date slugs inserted), for use on envelopes stamped to order (Die No 5).
- 1860 Three halfpence; prepared for use but not issued until 1890 (with date slugs inserted) for stamped to order envelopes (Die No 2).
- 1876 Two pence halfpenny die (issued with date slugs inserted) for overseas rate envelopes stamped to order (Die No 44).

All these black proofs are of uncleaned dies (except the 4d) and are believed to be unique, except for the duplicates in the De La Rue archives.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

British-French Youth Exhibition

A British-French Youth Philatelic Exhibition is to be held at Bois-Colombes (Paris), 16-18 November 1979. Participation is limited to young British and French collectors — and 'young' means up to 25 years of age on 1 January 1979.

Entry forms and copies of the regulations are now available from M Didier Lachnitt, 14 Avenue de Charlebourg, F 92250 La Garenne-Colombes, France, to whom the completed forms should be returned by 30 September 1979.

Commemorative Covers

The Salvation Army Scottish Congress

To commemorate The Salvation Army Centenary Congress in Scotland, a specially designed philatelic cover has been produced. A handstamp has been sponsored for the celebrations at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, on 1 September 1979. It depicts the Army's Scottish Centenary motif. The cover bears either (a) one bluebell 11p stamp or (b) one 11p Scottish regional stamp. Please state preference. The cost is 65p which includes return postage and packing. Orders with remittance should be sent to Major Ken Daws, The Salvation Army, International Headquarters, 101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EP.

Warley District Scout Council

As part of the Warley Scout Fellowship's contribution to the 'Year of the Child', a commemorative cover is currently available, price £1.00. All four 'Year of the Child' special stamps are affixed, cancelled on the first day of issue. Orders should be sent to Mr Howard Collins, 57 Lightwoods Road, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 5BD. The covers will be despatched on receipt of a remittance accompanied by a 7" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

All profits will be donated to the 'Year of the Child' Fund.

The Philatelic Music Circle

The tenth anniversary of the formation of the Philatelic Music Circle will be commemorated with the issue of a special cover. It will depict a portrait of Sir Thomas Beecham taken from a sculpture by David Wynne, and bear a 9p Xmas 1978 stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp.

The cost of the cover is 50p (\$1.00). Alternatively, the cover signed by the designer, Miss Jennifer Toombs, is available price £1.00 (\$2.00). Orders with remittances to include an extra 10p postage and packing should be sent to Mr G Datson, 183 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2RN. Orders in N America should be sent to Mr

C J Sabados, 528 Rimini Road, Del Mar, California 92014, USA, with an additional 15p (30c) for postage and packing. Remittances should be made payable to The Philatelic Music Circle.

Guild of Saint Gabriel

The 25th anniversary of the founding of the Guild of Saint Gabriel was commemorated on 1 September 1979 by the mounting of a philatelic exhibition in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, London. To mark the occasion a special cover was designed by Miss Jennifer Toombs, depicting the altar in the Lady Chapel, St Paul's, and a handstamp illustrating the Gabriel motif. Serviced covers are 40p each, or 50p each under separate envelope. Covers signed by the designers are £1.25 each. Orders should be sent to Mr Humphrey Ward, 47 The Chase, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3RS.

A Sequel to 'A Beautiful Problem Cover'

I should like to thank the very many readers who have jointly answered a major part of the queries raised by the R M Phillips 'Gem' illustrated in the July 1979 Bulletin.

The 'VIA DI Pt BEAUVOISI . . .' marking was an Italian (or rather Kingdom of Sardinia) marking applied to letters entering Italy from France through PONT DE BEAUVOISIN. In 1840 Savoy was part of the Kingdom of Sardinia; and at Pont de Beauvoisin (which lies between Lyon and Chambéry) the frontier was the River Guiers, which separated the two parts of this small town. Savoy was transferred by Sardinia to France in 1858-59.

The 1840 letter thus probably went by the route Calais-Paris-Lyon-Pont de Beauvoisin-Mt Cenis Pass-Turin-Leghorn.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

Police Stamp Issue

26 September 1979

On 26 September the Post Office will issue four special postage stamps, values 10p, 11½p, 13p and 15p, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Metropolitan Police Force. The designs are the work of Brian Sanders and his illustrations portray members of the modern police force carrying out their day-to-day duties.

A police constable on his beat is shown on the 10p stamp while another is directing the traffic on the 11½p stamp. The 13p features a police-woman on horseback while a river patrol in action on the 15p completes the set.

Printing Details

Designer: Brian Sanders

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd

Format: Horizontal

Process: Photogravure

Size: 41 mm × 30 mm

Perforation: 15 × 14

Sheet size: 100

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked.

Pre-treated with phosphor.

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Values and Colours

- | | |
|------|--|
| 10p | bistre-yellow; bright carmine; emerald; blue; red-brown; black. |
| 11½p | bistre-yellow; bright orange; slate blue; dull ultramarine; reddish-brown; black. |
| 13p | bistre-yellow; bright cinnamon; brown-olive; deep turquoise blue; lake brown; black. |
| 15p | grey-green; rose-carmine; deep dull blue; olive-sepia; reddish-brown; black. |

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available approximately two weeks before the issue date of the postage stamps, price 8½p each.

Presentation Packs

Presentation packs, price 61½p, containing all four stamps, will also be available from 26 September.



POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVER

POLICE

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Within a year the Metropolitan Police had grown to a force of 3000 men organised in 17 Divisions covering an area within about 7 miles from the centre of London. The uniform was designed to appear unimpressive: a blue swallow-tail coat, and a top hat made of wool strengthened with a leather crown and cane stays. The constables carried no arms beyond a staff. At first they were exposed to criticism and prejudice. Policemen on patrol were hidden down and blackballed. Complaints poured into the central office and although the Commissioners investigated every one personally, they were accused of partiality. But the organisation stood, discipline firm and the instructions to constables were clear: to do their duty as they saw fit.

not to interfere idly or unnecessarily in order to make a display of his authority; when required to act, he will do so with discretion and boldness.

London policeman's eye, courage and the public he was. The Metropolitan Police forces were reorganising. In 1856 the Metropolitan Police Act was passed, giving the force the right to form a police force in London.

POLICE



The stamps, issued on 26 September 1979, were designed by Brian Sanders and printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Limited. This pack number 112 was designed by Lowland Design Limited, and made and printed in Great Britain by Moore & Martin (Printers) Limited.

Further details about British postage stamps and philatelic facilities can be obtained from the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, Leith House, 124 Leith Road, Edinburgh, EH11 9BB.

Photographs permission of The Mary Evans Picture Library The Metropolitan Police Library The Daily Telegraph picture library.



First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided.

Two special pictorial handstamps will be available: Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, depicting a police station lamp, and London SW illustrating a policeman's helmet.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, or, London SW, as requested, and despatched for a charge of 68½p. Deposit account customers will be charged 64p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 57½p per cover.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 17 September 1979.

Adult Education Course

In the philatelic year now starting which has, as its climax next May, London 1980, it is fitting that the London Borough of Hillingdon is expanding its adult education course 'Philately — Enjoying Stamps' to three terms, instead of just the two winter terms as in the past four years. It is a measure of the success of the evening course, moreover, that it is now to be augmented by a parallel daytime one. Both courses will be held on Thursdays, starting on 20 September 1979, at the North Hillingdon Adult Education Centre, 86 Long Lane, Ickenham, Uxbridge UB10 8SX, Middlesex, but advance enrolment at the Centre on Saturday 8 September, 9 am to 12 noon, is advised.

The course has proved popular with collectors right from the beginners' stage up to the level of

winners of club competitions, and many come back year after year. Some, indeed, have attended regularly every year since the course started, a fact which serves as a powerful reminder of the wide field covered by the subject. Topics for consideration are selected to suit the interests and requirements of those enrolled, and there is a natural bias towards British stamps. Most tastes, however, are amply catered for during the year, and while the novice is shown the merits of some degree of specialisation, the specialist is urged, conversely, to embark also on a sideline collection. Attendance at local events — exhibitions, sales, fairs, society meetings — is encouraged, and facilities for exchange are available. The aim is to reach a balanced view of the subject through the sheer enjoyment which is there for the taking at all stages. Both this emphasis on enjoyment and the establishment of a serviceable bridge between 'stamps' and 'philately' are implicit in the title chosen for the course — *Philately — Enjoying Stamps*.

New Regional Postcards

A new picture postcard, produced by the Eastern Postal Region, depicting five tourist attractions located in Norwich, will be available from 3 October 1979. Serviced cards bearing a first class postage stamp, cancelled with a first day of sale handstamp can be obtained from the Head Postmaster, Sorting Office, 13-17 Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1AA, price 30p each. Unserviced cards are 7p each plus the cost of postage and packing of 20p for orders up to 20 cards; plus 30p for 21-100 cards; plus 60p for 101-250 cards and an additional £1 for order over 250 cards. Remittances should be made payable to 'The Post Office' and crossed 'A/C payee', or by direct Giro transfer to Norwich Head Post Office, Giro A/C number 2058014. For postcards destined for overseas, the appropriate amount should be added for the difference between British first class rate and the relevant overseas postage rate (eg an additional 2p for Canada and USA). Orders from overseas should be accompanied by International money order or postal order, or by cheque drawn

on a British bank. Payment must be in sterling. The handstamp to be used on 3 October is circular depicting Norwich Castle.

Three picture postcards featuring postbuses, have been produced by the North West Postal Board and are currently available.

- 1 Grizedale Forest Postbus
Card available from:
Postmaster, County Square,
ULVERSTON, Cumbria LA12 7AA.
- 2 Duddon Valley Postbus
Card available from:
Postmaster, BROUGHTON-IN-FURNESS,
Cumbria LA20 6HQ.
- 3 Penrith/Martindale Postbus
Card available from:
Postmaster, Crown Square, PENRITH,
Cumbria CA11 7AA.

The cost of the cards is 8½p each, plus 10p postage and packing.

For further details please write to the Postmasters concerned.

Forces Covers

Royal Navy Cover

To mark the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the shooting down of the first enemy aircraft during the 1939-45 war, a commemorative cover will be available from 26 September 1979. The cover depicts a Skua aircraft shooting down a Dornier Do 18 flying boat, with the aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal* in the background. Also illustrated are the crests of 803 NA Squadron and HMS *Ark Royal*.

The cost of the cover bearing a 10p 'Rowland Hill' stamp is 55p. The cover with an 11p 'Rowland Hill' stamp affixed and signed by Rear Admiral T V Briggs CB CBG, the Gunnery Officer aboard HMS *Ark Royal* during the action, is £1.00. Alternatively it is available, signed by Vice Admiral Sir Charles Evans KCB CBE DSO DSC, the senior pilot of 803 Squadron during the action, as well as Admiral Briggs, bearing a 13p 'Rowland Hill' stamp at £1.85. All covers are cancelled with BFPS 1662 handstamp. Orders should be accompanied by a 7" × 5"

stamped addressed envelope and remittances made payable to the 'Philatelic Officer' at Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset BA22 8HL.

Royal Air Force Covers

The 60th anniversary of the First Direct Crossing of the Atlantic was marked by the issue of two commemorative covers.

The first cover (FF3) is based on a painting by Brian Withams, showing the Vickers Vimy aircraft of Captain Alcock and Lieutenant Whitten Brown flying over the Atlantic on 15 June 1919. The cover bearing a 10½p 'Coronation' stamp, is cancelled with BFPS 1643 handstamp, and flown on a special Concorde 'Alcock and Brown' flight from America on 15 June 1979. The price is 50p plus 8p postage, and is available from Mr J Robinson, RAF Boscombe Down, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 0JE.

The second (C60) shows a Vimy Vickers aircraft and an RAF Phantom jet aircraft. It has a 7p Scottish definitive stamp affixed which is cancelled with BFPS 1643 handstamp. The cover was flown to the RAF Detachment, Goose Bay, Canada, where it received a 7c Canadian stamp and cancelled 'Goose Airport, station N NFLD 21 June 1979'. The aircraft used for this special flight, an RAF Phantom, 'Alcock and Brown', was piloted by Squadron Leader J Alcock (nephew of Captain Alcock) and Flight Lieutenant N Brown. The cover, price £2.00 plus 8p postage, is available from Mr J Robinson, RAF Boscombe Down, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 0JE.

All proceeds to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The first crossing of the Atlantic by an airship — the R34 — took place on 2 July 1919. The R34 then returned to Norfolk thus completing the first double crossing. A special cover marking the events, and depicting the airship over the Atlantic, is currently available. It bears a 7p Scottish definitive stamp cancelled with BFPS handstamp 1645 having been carried on Concorde to make the double crossing of the Atlantic in 6 hours 58 minutes. Priced at 50p plus 8p postage, the cover may be obtained from Flight Lieute-

nant D Eastwood, RAF Museum Cosford, Wolverhampton WV7 3EX.

Proceeds to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

No 7 Squadron, RAF St Mawgan, is commemorating the career of Captain J A Liddell VC MC with the issue of a special cover. Captain Liddell, who lost his life winning the VC in

1915, is depicted flying over Ostende. The cover bears a postage stamp cancelled with BFPS 1654 handstamp and was flown in a Canberra bomber of No 7 Squadron. It is available from Flight Lieutenant R Jones, RAF St Mawgan, Newquay, Cornwall TR8 4HP, price 50p plus 8p postage.

Proceeds to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

British Special Stamps

56. British Anniversaries, 1968

The Post Office is always inundated with requests for special stamps for this or that anniversary or event, and what makes the task of selection all the more difficult for them is that many of the suggestions are justifiably worthy of commemoration. Yet, in 1968, there were only four special issues (including the Christmas stamps), compared with nine in 1965 and eight in 1966, and it must be assumed that the authorities 'put the brake on' commemoratives in that year and, for the first time, grouped four separate and distinct anniversaries in the one issue.

The four stamps, issued on 29 May 1968, commemorated the following events: 4d Centenary of the Trades Union Congress; 9d 50th anniversary of Women's Suffrage; 1s 50th anniversary of the Royal Air Force; and 1s 9d Bicentenary of Captain Cook's First Voyage of Discovery. David Gentleman designed the 4d stamp, while Clive Abbott was responsible for the other three, and the designs were uniformly horizontal in format with the small profile of the Queen's head in the top right corners.

David Gentleman's design for the 4d featured the letters 'TUC' in elongated form, filling most of the stamp and including, within the letters, tantalisingly anonymous, parts of the faces of 'trade unionists'. What might have been a plain and even drab design was enhanced by the choice of colours for the letters which made a pleasing combination — green ('T'), olive ('U') and blue ('C'), with the Queen's head and value in black.

The Trades Union Congress, initiated in 1868, is a voluntary association of British Trade



Unions, whose representatives meet annually to consider the report of its General Council, the executive body whose members are elected annually, on matters appertaining to Congress activities of the past year, industrial and labour developments, and motions from affiliated societies on questions of policy and organisation.

The 9d stamp takes us back to 1918 when, after a long and persistent militant campaign, women were first admitted to the franchise. Inscribed 'Votes for Women 1918-1968', it shows the statue of Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928), who founded the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903 and led the so-called 'suffragettes' in their battle for the vote. The Premier, Asquith, was publicly assaulted, a woman threw herself in front of a horse in the Derby and others chained themselves to railings in public places. Mrs Pankhurst, who was assisted in her work by her daughters, Christabel and Sylvia, was herself imprisoned several times.

A Sopwith 'Camel' fighter of World War I and a trio of zooming 'Lightning' jets mark the 50th anniversary of the RAF on the 1s stamp. Mr Abbott's design shows the wartime biplane in a steep climb after a strafing mission and the cropped wings make a strong impact. T O M Sopwith was a pioneer aviator and aircraft designer who later became chairman of the mammoth Hawker-Siddeley Group. In April 1918, the Royal Flying Corps, formed originally in May 1912, joined forces with its former naval wing, the Royal Naval Air Service, to become the Royal Air Force.

The 1s 9d stamp shows Captain Cook's *Endeavour* with the added embellishment of his signature scrawled across the ship's rigging. The text 'First Voyage of Discovery 1768-1968' was somewhat ambiguous as, although it was quite clear what event was being celebrated, a ship called *Discovery* accompanied Cook's *Resolution* on a later voyage — those who habitually jump to

conclusions concluded, not unreasonably, that *Discovery* was the vessel depicted. The *Endeavour* was an old Whitby collier in which Cook set sail from Deptford on 30 July 1768 on his first great voyage of exploration, ostensibly to observe the transit of the planet Venus. He visited Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia, and returned to England in July 1771.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (6 × 20) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. A noted variety is a retouch on the large 'C' of 'TUC' on the 4d stamp, while Cook's *Endeavour* may be found with broken bulwarks, evidently storm damage, on the 1s 9d. The phosphor bands were normally faint and difficult to see, but all values are known with the bands omitted.

Quantities sold were: 4d 97,757,920; 9d 9,135,240; 1s 9,872,160; and 1s 9d 6,217,440; presentation packs, 67,639.

JAMES WATSON

The Postcard Story

6. World War 1 – Patriotic and Sentimental Cards

The First World War marked the beginning of the decline of the picture postcard as a collecting craze. At the same time it enabled the publishers to introduce a whole new range of cards which expressed the patriotism, emotions, grim realities and humour of a people at war.

For the first time in history whole nations, and not merely armies, were at war — the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria, by a Serb at Sarajevo in June 1914 sparked off a chain of events and ultimatums which culminated in Great Britain declaring war on Germany on 4 August that year. Lord Kitchener became War Secretary and Field-Marshal Sir John French was appointed to lead the British Expeditionary Force to France. These men, with Albert, King of the Belgians, and Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French army, were the heroes of the day. They were featured prominently on patriotic postcards which combined photo-portraits and colourful

artwork — flags and loyal sentiments such as 'For King and Country', 'For the Glory of Old England', 'Britons for Ever' and, on the home front, 'We'll Keep the Flag Flying'.

Kitchener's famous recruiting poster, 'Your Country Needs You', appeared on cards, and Lord Roberts, like Kitchener a hero of the Boer War (who died of a chill caught while crossing to France in November 1914), lent his name and postcard picture to the National Relief Fund — 'On every card sold one half-penny goes to the Fund'. Canada's entry into the war, marked by the Canadians' capture of Vimy Ridge in 1917, brought cards displaying the Canadian flag and patriotic verses — 'The Maple Leaf for ever'. Field-Marshal HRH the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, 1911-16, was pictured in resplendent full-dress uniform.

Soldiers in uniform were perhaps the most ubiquitous subjects of wartime picture postcards, both artist-drawn and photographic types. Many

of the former were openly and unashamedly sentimental, portraying couples embracing in fond farewells with appropriate captions — ‘God be with you’, ‘God have you in his keeping’ and ‘Au revoir, but not goodbye’, while the French cards, inscribed ‘Entente Cordiale’, usually depicted more dramatic and *galant* embraces, posed in the photographer’s studio, captioned ‘Le baiser — exquis griseries’ (‘The kiss — exquisite intoxication’), or in similar vein. Another French card bearing the field post office and censor markings of 1917 shows a young lady in a soldier’s cap emerging from a large trunk labelled ‘Calais’, inscribed ‘A surprise for Tommy’. Surprise indeed!

The field post offices in France and Belgium gave moral support to the Allied troops and handled vast quantities of mail — postcards and letters. Among the most popular cards sent home from the trenches were those embroidered in silk, adorned with brightly coloured ‘hearts and flowers’ and sentimental greetings in elaborate designs or bearing regimental crests. Some were in the form of envelopes with pockets for small, slip-in greetings cards or folded silk handkerchiefs. They precisely expressed the sentiments the British Tommy, confined to a muddy trench, wished to convey to his loved ones at home.

Comic postcards helped to relieve the apprehensions and tensions of war — these usually pictured humorous situations of the ‘sergeant-major and recruits on parade’ type, or the various (mis)adventures of the ‘boys in blue’, the war-wounded at home. Probably the best-known of the comic artists was a serving officer, Bruce Bairnsfather, who, while in France, created the famous ‘Old Bill’ character, and the equally famous postcard cartoon showing Bill with a companion in a trench under heavy bombardment — ‘Well, if you knows of a better ‘ole, go to it’.

The progress of the war, its battles and defeats, the sorties of the Royal Flying Corps and the Zeppelin attacks, the great naval occasions at Jutland and Zeebrugge, and finally the Armistice and peace, was all documented on picture postcards. The *Daily Mail* issued a long series of

cards reproducing official war pictures which showed soldiers in action, the artillery manning their guns, troops on the march and the rescue of the wounded. British tanks, first used in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, are seen on some cards, while one of them was pictured in London’s Trafalgar Square where it publicised the sale of War Bonds.

Hostilities ended with the Armistice on 11 November 1918 on the collapse of the Central Powers and the fall of their Governments; a series of peace conferences at Versailles and elsewhere in 1919 brought the war to an end. It was also the end of the ‘golden age’ of the picture postcard.

MALCOLM JAMES

Posting Boxes



No. 12: Our illustration this month of a posting box, has been sent to us by the Rev Canon Hartley of Prestbury, Cheltenham, to whom we are grateful. The box stands at the corner of Pettiville Circus Road and Hewlett Road, Cheltenham.

The Penfold pillar box, named after its designer Mr J W Penfold, is the most common of the Victorian non-cylindrical pillar boxes still in use today. A recent survey by The Letter Box Study Group indicates that there are about 75 of these boxes still being used. First introduced in 1866, this attractive six-sided box continued to be made until 1879, when the Post Office reverted to the cylindrical shape of pillar box.

Book Reviews

'Commonwealth' Five Reigns Stamp Catalogue

14th Edition Price £14.00 Postage UK £1.00
USA £3.50 (Air)
Australia £5.10 (Air)

Published by Bridger & Kay Ltd, 24 Pall Mall,
London SW1Y 5LP.

Beautifully printed and elegantly bound, this B & K specialist catalogue weighs in at £14 sterling and is a very impressively produced volume indeed. Even the cover with its black design on a white leather background is definitely in the luxury class.

Its contents embrace thousands of Commonwealth stamps from Aden to Zululand and its coverage is comprehensive in the extreme. It even lists and illustrates test labels and Nazi propaganda stamps. It must be stressed that the five reigns cover Queen Victoria to King George VI. No Queen Elizabeth II stamps are featured.

Prices quoted are enough to make a simple reader's mind boggle and presumably the upward trend has not yet reached its apex. Nonetheless it is still a little staggering to see a mint 1929 UPU £1 stamp priced at £1,250.

One consequence of the acquisition of rare stamps for investment purposes can be clearly seen half way down page 130 where a one cent British Guiana stamp of 1856 is confidently offered at four hundred thousand pounds. Maybe we should all start collecting oil wells!

While I no longer collect stamps I must say that if I did it would certainly be with the aid of a sumptuous catalogue — preferably one like this which would impress my friends as I slid it gracefully out of my library shelves like easing a Rolls out of a garage.

History of the TPOs of Great Britain

Part 2 Revised 2nd edition

Published by The Railway Philatelic Group,
Stable Becks, Grasmere, Ambleside LA22 9PX.
Price £3.75

When a publication arrives from the Railway Philatelic Group no one needs to ask whether it

is authoritatively written, carefully researched or well illustrated. It always is.

This 2nd edition of Part 2 of the History of the TPOs of Great Britain is no exception. It covers England south of (and including) the Midland TPO, and contains all the information an enthusiastic collector needs to know. A great deal more than he will ever find out if left to his own devices in fact!

There are 14 plates, 5 time bills, 2 route maps and 80 closely printed pages of text complete with 400 cancels from TPOs in line illustration.

For 'live steam' addicts, plate 10 alone is almost worth the entrance fee. It shows the Cornwall SC No 1 drawn by an exotic 7 foot gauge 'Stag' class engine, a real original which continued to puff along for many years and was, with 'Leopard', the last broad gauger to steam in 1894.

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue: Part I.

British Commonwealth: 1980: 82nd Edition.

Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 391 Strand,
London WC2R 0LX.

Price £9.50.

The familiar red clothbound cover with its associated illustrations of Commonwealth 'classics' has now reached its 82nd edition — and deservedly so. With nearly 1,100 pages of listings plus 26 more of introductory notes, it grosses 3 lbs 9 ozs (1.625 Kg to the metrically minded) and retails at £9.50.

Considering what must go into the massive revision and printing, one wonders how SG manages to do it at the price. For clarity and ease of reference it is hard to equal. For sheer weight of authority it is unsurpassed.

The volume lists only stamps of the British Commonwealth and the publishers have thankfully reverted to their original usage by calling it 'Part I'. This reviewer never spoke of it in any other way and occasioned quizzical looks from those bookshop assistants who obviously couldn't recall the palmy days when every collection worth looking at contained one or two Cape Triangulans.

Some idea of the scope of SGs current listing activities may be gauged from the announcement that this weighty tome is only the first of a 22 part series. Another opulently produced catalogue was recently described as a 'Rolls Royce'. This vast undertaking must be the grand-daddy of them all. A 'Jumbo Jet' perhaps.

Prices? Well, a recent listing quoted one very exotic piece of British Guiana postal history at £400,000. This one, later by only one month, quotes a figure £25,000 higher. As they say in the trade: 'A continuing buoyant market'.

Disregarding all such flights of philatelic fancy, let it simply be said that if you are — or aspire to become — a serious collector of British Commonwealth stamps this 82nd edition is every bit as indispensable as its predecessors.

The Deegam Catalogue of Se-Tenant Stamps

(GB Elizabethan Definitives)

£3.50 plus postage (UK 40p. O'seas 50p surface)
From: D G A Myall, 20 Widbury Gardens,
Ware, Herts SG12 7AT.

Se-tenant stamps are to be found most frequently in stamp books, less frequently in coils and extremely rarely on sheet but, common or rare, all are eagerly sought by collectors.

With prices rising as they are at the moment no sensible person starts assembling a collection without first looking round for a good reliable catalogue.

As usual the motto is 'Get sound advice' and the advice you will get from this particular catalogue is as sound as the proverbial bell.

Compiled by an enthusiast for enthusiasts it is produced in a loose leaf format to facilitate inexpensive updating. Its entries are priced realistically, tho' how long the quoted prices will stand up is anyone's guess.

If you are 'into' collecting se-tenant stamps of the GB Elizabethan variety this is a book you have been waiting for. Its editor was for a long time responsible for the 'Bookmark' journal of the GB Decimal Postage Stamp Circle. At £3.50 his latest effort must be deemed a very good buy.

Islands Postal History Series

by James A Mackay

No 9 **Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree**

No 10 **Islay, Jura and the other Argyll Islands**

Available from the author at 11 Newall Terrace,
Dumfries DG1 1LN.

£1.50 per volume plus 15p each p&p (inland)
(50p each postage o'seas)

These two books complete a ten-volume series on the postal history of Scotland's off-shore islands.

Coupled with his companion volumes 'Circular Namestamps' and 'Skeleton Marks', plus a double volume on three centuries of Scottish postmarks, the author has covered the entire scene with a thoroughness which ensures that his books must remain a standard reference source for a very long time.

The final volumes, both devoted to islands off the west coast of Scotland, are as well written, carefully researched and generously illustrated as all the others. It has to be said that this series is a monumental undertaking for which the Scottish postmark enthusiast owes the author a considerable debt.

It is difficult to see how any advanced collector or serious research student can do without them. This reviewer certainly would not envy anyone's task if they were unwise enough to try.

The Postal History Annual 1979

by James A Mackay

Price £1.65 (UK postage included)

£2.00 (O'seas post included)

From the Author at 11 Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LN.

Mr Mackay has devised a very interesting solution of the long-standing problem of keeping reference books up to date. It is to issue an annual handbook of addenda and corrections to earlier works.

This 1979 annual is largely the result of asking readers to comment on the contents of his own textbooks on Scottish postmarks and similar matters. It also contains a good measure of new material and is laid out and illustrated in a man-

ner which makes it extremely convenient for cross reference to the main books.

A praiseworthy venture and one which will, one hopes, commend itself to other philatelic publishers. A major headache at the moment is the purchase of expensive textbooks which have the habit of becoming dated before we can walk out through the bookshop doorway.

Covers of the Royal Air Force

by J C W Field

Published by Francis J Field Ltd, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6BJ.

Price £1.50

This 24 page booklet is based on a talk given to the West Berlin FISA Symposium in 1976 and includes a check list of RAF services from 1918 to 1970 along with a bibliography.

The publishers are well known experts in the airport business and are commended for producing a booklet catering for so specialised a field. With print costs soaring as they currently are, it takes a good deal of courage and enthusiasm to bring out a work like this.

Well illustrated and a mine of information for any dedicated RAF Aerophile but be warned! It does not purport to concern itself with today's RAF Museum covers. They have their own catalogues.

Great Britain Display in Gibbons' Gallery

The 3-30 September exhibition in Stanley Gibbons' Romano House Gallery, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX, features selections from the outstanding collection of early line engraved material of Great Britain formed by Nigel H Howard.

The exhibit falls into three sections. The first features the Black Plates with particular emphasis on the states of Plates V and VIII. There is also the recent 'find' of the block DC/ED and the unique PB State 2 in red on cover. From Plate VIII there is the rare Ormskirk Pink Cross on cover.

The second part of the display covers the Two-penny Blues, Plates I to IV, and opens with the 1840 cover AG/AI with AH re-entry. From the 1841 printings there is the Rainbow Colour Trial Sheet, several mint copies and used strips, and examples of repairs, etc. Also from Plate IV is a block of 14 in very fair condition and the BH 'spectacles' variety in a mint pair.

The final section is devoted to Penny Reds, together with examples of Maltese Cross varieties on Penny Reds and a few trial perforations. This includes a Rainbow Colour Trial Sheet, a page of mint copies of some early plates and examples of the repaired states from Plates XII and XVI. Of great historical value is a unique envelope signed by Gladstone to his arch rival Disraeli with an Archer Perf 16, as well as the mint marginal pair OA/OB Plate VIII Perf 16 which was discovered by the late H F Johnson in 1922.

2 Burton Crescent

Rowland Hill's famous pamphlet *Post Office Reform: its importance and practicability* was dated Feb. 22, 1837 from 2 Burton Crescent, but as R M Willcocks points out in *England's Postal History* 'no Burton Crescent is listed in current maps of London', so what became of it?

The answer is to be found in the minutes of St Pancras Borough Council for 26 February 1908, concerning a communication from the London County Council asking for views on a suggested renaming, put forward by the Skinners' Company who owned the property. 'The Skinners' Company state that Burton Crescent was in the early part of last century a respectable residential neighbourhood, but the property has now become deteriorated in character, and some twenty years or more ago had become notorious in reputation by reason of a murder which took place in one of the houses. Towards the end of the leases many of the houses were occupied by tenants who allowed them to be used for immoral purposes. The Company . . . find that the evil reputation attaching to the name is a bar to letting.' The Borough Council did not 'see the

necessity for renaming this thoroughfare' but the London County Council evidently thought differently for the name was changed on 30 June 1908 to Cartwright Gardens, as it remains today.

The new name derives from Major John Cartwright (1740-1824) who lived at No 37. He was known as 'the Father of Reform' and, according to his statue that stands in the gardens, he was 'The Firm, Consistent and Persevering Advocate of Universal Suffrage, Equal Representation, Vote by Ballot and Annual Parliaments. He was the First English Writer who openly maintained the Independence of the United States of



America'. The Hill brothers evidently had a high opinion of him, for Matthew Davenport Hill — Sir Rowland's eldest brother — called his second son John Cartwright Hill.

The western side of the gardens is crescent-shaped and the original houses still stand there, now mainly converted to hotels and hostels. Sir Rowland's No 2 was one from the southern end of the eastern, straight, side. Here the houses have gone and the present occupant of the site is a modern hostel for students of London University, called Commonwealth Hall and opened in 1962. It bears no indication of the interest of the site for philatelists and postal historians.

ID HILL

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear 1p in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

Until 15 September 1979 (O)/(I/D)

48th East Midlands Home Life Exhibition Post Office Stand at The Granby Halls Leicester. Special posting box at the Granby Halls, Aylestone Road, Leicester LE2 7LF.

17 September 1979 (P/R)

1979 Mod Nan Eilean Stornoway Isle of Lewis Western Isles 17 Sept. Special posting box at the Head Post Office, 16 Francis Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 2AA.

22 September 1979 (P/R)

Bi-centenary of the Flamborough Engagement Serapis Bonhomme Richard 22 Sep 79 Bridlington North Humberside. Special posting box at Sewerby Hall, Church Lane, Sewerby, Bridlington, North Humberside YO15 1EA. (Items for reposting to Postmaster, Quay Road, Bridlington, North Humberside YO15 2AA.)

26 September 1979 (P/C)

Headquarters of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police Wakefield West Yorkshire 150 Years 26 September 1979. Special posting box at the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police Headquarters, PO Box 9, Laburnum Road, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 3QP.

26 September 1979 (P/C)

26th Day of September 1979 New Scotland Yard London SW1. Special posting box at the Careers Information Office, New Scotland Yard, Victoria Street, London SW1.

27 September 1979 (C)

Corps of Royal Engineers British Forces 1658 Postal Service Opening Gibraltar Barracks Hawley 27 Sept 79. Special posting box at the Postal and Courier Depot

RE Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX. Items for reposting to Philatelic Officer at the same address.

27 September 1979 (P/C)

Corps of Royal Engineers Opening Gibraltar Barracks BFPO Gibraltar Hawley 27 Sept 79 British Forces 1659 Postal Service. Special posting box at the British Forces Post Office Gibraltar BFPO 51. Items for reposting to the Philatelic Officer at the same address.

29 October 1979 (P/R)

1914 1979 Age Does Not Protect From Folly 29th October London N3 The Windmiller Trust. Special posting box at Finchley Church End BO, 59 Ballards Lane, London N3 1XZ.

Postmark Slogans

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

Until 15 February 1980

Central Library and Museum Sunderland Centenary 1879-1979. To be used at Sunderland. 1st and 2nd class.

Until further notice

Don't Just Post It — Code It. To be used at Manchester. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 3 November 1979

Central Milton Keynes Shopping As It Should Be. To be used at the following offices: Bletchley, Wolverton, Buckingham and Newport Pagnall. 1st and 2nd class.

Until further notice (P)

Post Office Telecommunications Museum Taunton Open Saturdays 1.30 to 5.00. To be used at Taunton. 2nd class.

Until 27 October 1979 (P)

Oswestry At Work Oct 31st-Nov 1st 1979 Leisure Centre Oswestry. To be used at Oswestry. 2nd class.

Until 29 September 1979

The Friendliest Friendly Society An-

cient Order of Foresters Annual Conference Torquay Sept 1979. To be used at Torquay.

1st class 24-29 September 1979.

2nd class Until 29 September 1979.

Until 15 September 1979

Road Safety Week 9-15 Sept. To be used at Cleveland. 1st and 2nd class.

Until 22 September 1979

1-20 October 1979 (P)

Use The Phone And Save Petrol. To be used at Liverpool. 1st class.

10-29 September 1979

8-27 October 1979 (P)

Be Bright Ring Tonight. To be used at Liverpool. 1st class.

17-29 September 1979

Falkirk And District Boys' Brigade Join Us Now. To be used at Falkirk. 1st and 2nd class.

18 September-12 October 1979 (P)

Mod Nan Eileen Stornoway Isle of Lewis Western Isles. To be used at Stornoway. 1st and 2nd class.

Repeat Campaigns

Until 27 October 1979

Swindon Shopping Spree Oct 19-27. To be re-used at Swindon. 1st class.

30 September 1979-29 March 1980 (P)

2000 Years Of Coinage In Surrey 21 BC-1979 AD. To be re-used at Sutton. 1st and 2nd class.

30 September 1979-29 March 1980 (P)

Isle Of Man Millennium Coins Minted At Sutton. To be re-used at Sutton. 1st and 2nd class.

Please note: That for all future issues Falkirk and Fort William will be First Day of Issue Philatelic Offices.

P denotes Pictorial

ID denotes Interchangeable Date

C denotes Circular

O denotes Oval

R denotes Rectangular

