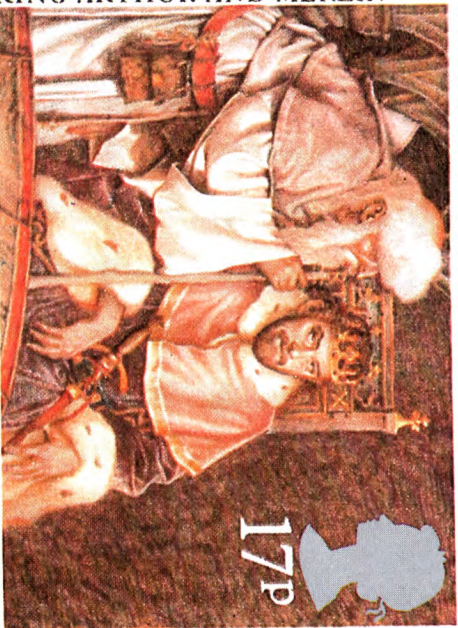


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KING ARTHUR AND MERLIN



17p

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These special handstamps for the 'Arthurian Legend' stamps issue will be used on first day covers from Tintagel and Edinburgh on 3 September 1985.



Editorial

Until 1984 The Post Office regularly attended both the annual national stamp exhibitions, Stampex and the British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE). Because of ever-increasing costs. The Post Office exceptionally did not attend BPE in 1984, but will return to BPE in October 1985.

This is the final Bulletin in the present volume, and an index is currently in preparation for volumes 21 and 22. It is planned to have this as a supplement with the October 1985 issue. In September, the Philatelic Bulletin begins its twenty-third year, and we intend to continue all the regular popular features. Several special articles are also planned, covering a variety of different philatelic subjects. These will include Machins, modern postal history, George V issues, local and official stamps, British overprints, and the effect of UPU regulations on British stamps and postal services. These should include something for everyone, but if there are any particular subjects that readers wish to see in the Bulletin on British stamps and postal history, we would like to hear from you.

The new history of The Post Office — Royal Mail; the Post Office since 1840 — is due to be published during September. It was specially commissioned by The Post Office and written by Dr Martin Daunt of the Department of History, University College, London. It covers the history of The Post Office from 1840-1980, and should prove of interest to both social and economic historians, as well as serious philatelists and postal historians. It will be published in a hard-backed version. It will go on sale at philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. Further details will appear in the next Bulletin.

The Christian Heritage (£4) prestige stamp book which was issued on 4 September 1984 was due to be withdrawn on 3 September 1985. It will, however, exceptionally remain on sale at its present outlets until the end of May 1986 when the campaign ends. This has been agreed with the Christian Heritage Organisation, and in no way marks a change of policy or departure from the existing twelve months availability for special stamp issues and associated philatelic products.

CHARLES GOWEN

First Day

Part 1

The Post Office was not to blame for the chaos of 6 May 1840, when many postmasters were not permitted to sell postage stamps, many others had not been sent any supplies and no Twopenny adhesive stamps were on sale anywhere. The Treasury (advised by Rowland Hill) had fixed the date; the Commissioners of Stamps & Taxes controlled (and manipulated) the totally inadequate stocks of postage-stamps.

By an Act of Parliament, effective from 13 August 1839 until 5 October 1840, the Treasury had been granted extraordinary temporary powers to take any steps necessary to reduce rates of postage and to introduce Uniform Penny Postage, to be prepaid by means of stamps.

The Post Office, having vigorously opposed Rowland Hill's scheme, was rarely consulted; indeed during this period even regulations on the postage and delivery of letters, made by the Postmaster General, were subject to Treasury approval. The Treasury was to instruct the Commissioners of Stamps & Taxes to provide dies or other implements for denoting the rates of postage: rates so denoted were to be deemed to be stamp duties and were to be under the management of the Commissioners.

Postage stamps (adhesive and stamped stationery), being forms of stamped paper, it was inevitable that the control of their production and supply would at some time be exercised by the Commissioners, who were responsible for impressing tax stamps on all parchment and paper on which legal or commercial instruments were to be engrossed or newspapers were to be printed. The stamping was carried out at the Stamp Office at Somerset House: here the public could bring their own parchment or paper for stamping or they could purchase pre-stamped sheets.

The Commissioners appointed Distributors, Sub-Distributors and Licensed Vendors of Stamps in many towns throughout the United Kingdom. They held stocks of stamped parchment and paper for sale to the public: in due course they would be entitled to sell postage stamps.

On 14 September 1839 Rowland Hill was appointed to the Treasury to advise the Chancellor of the Exchequer on planning the mode of introduction of Uniform Penny Postage. Himself

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GENERAL POST OFFICE,

June, 1840.

With reference to Instruction No. 1, of this Month,

I am now commanded by the Postmaster General to transmit you a License, to enable you to sell Postage Stamps, and a Bond, which it is requisite you should enter into, to the Stamp Office. You will carefully preserve the License in case it should be necessary to have it produced; and, with respect to the Bond, His Lordship desires that you will sign it in the presence of the Supervisor or Officer of Excise, who is requested to write his name and description at the foot of the attestation, as having witnessed the same, and return it to me *without delay*.

I am also to desire that you will distinctly state, when you return the Bond, whether you wish the Postage Stamps to be supplied to you from this Department or from the Stamp Office, in order that no misunderstanding on the subject may arise.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. L. MABERLY,
Secretary.

W. L. Maberly
Postmr.
of

Instructions transmitted with licences and bonds to country postmasters in June 1840. Post Office Circular No. 1 of June 1840 (the first to be numbered) stated that measures to this effect were in progress.

the patentee of a reel-fed rotary printing press, he had paid his first visit to the works of the banknote printers, Perkins, Bacon & Petch, on 25 July. Jacob Perkins had retired and was no longer a partner: Hill was received by the manager, J B Bacon, no doubt briefed on the patented steel plate printing process, shown a press of a type supplied by the firm to the Stamp Office, and he must surely have been informed that the firm had been supplying tax stamp printing plates to the Commissioners since 1828. He cannot have failed to be impressed by the high quality of the work and the two irascible characters probably got on well together.

Early in September the Treasury published a minute in which, after stating that it had been suggested that postage should be paid by means of stamped covers, stamped paper and stamps to be

used separately on any letter, they invited proposals from the public 'as to the manner in which the stamp may best be brought into use'. Prizes of £200 and £100 were offered for the two entries considered to be the most meritorious.

More than 2,500 entries were received, only forty-nine of which concerned adhesive postage stamps. After Rowland Hill had written a minute on the whole subject it was announced on 15 December that prizes of £100 each had been awarded to four competitors (one a joint entry) for the ingenuity of their proposals. It was considered (correctly) that none of the administrative proposals approached the efficiency of Rowland Hill's scheme and (fortunately) that no submitted stamp design was 'inimitable' or satisfactory in other respects. The exercise was rightly undertaken but preparatory work on the postage stamps was delayed for three months.

In the mean time, to accustom postal clerks to handle mail by weight irrespective of distance, a Treasury warrant directed that from 5 December 1839 Uniform Fourpenny Postage rates were to be charged on General Post letters within the United Kingdom, whether prepaid or unpaid. On ½oz letters the rate was mostly denoted by a manuscript '4', though a few handstamps were used.

On 11 December the Chancellor of the Exchequer authorised Rowland Hill to begin his own preparations for 'the stamp'. Two days later Hill's assistant, Henry Cole, called on William Mulready, RA, to commission a design for the stamped stationery. This was delivered two days later, approved on 4 January 1840, a brass die was engraved by John Thompson and it was agreed that William Clowes & Sons would print the stationery from stereotype plates.

Cole had earlier sought information from Perkins, Bacon & Petch in regard to his entry for the Treasury Competition and he again made contact on 2 December 1839. On 13 December Rowland Hill discussed the production of adhesive stamps with J B Bacon, who sent him detailed proposals on the following day. On 16 December Hill ordered the engraving of the postage stamp, 'The Queen's head to be drawn from the City medal'. The portrayal of the monarch on a stamp was not a novel idea: heads of King George III and King George IV had appeared on Irish embossed revenue stamps and English bank note tax stamps respectively. On the last day of the year a memorandum written by J B Bacon and signed by Rowland Hill predicted some of the characteristics of the Penny Black.

In response to public dissatisfaction at the delay,

by a Treasury warrant, Uniform Penny Postage came into effect within the United Kingdom on 10 January 1840. On that day the privilege of free franking was suspended and the local Penny and Twopenny Posts came to an end. But for the absence of postage stamps, Rowland Hill's scheme had been fully implemented. On his day of triumph Hill did not wish to embarrass the Post Office by his presence there but sent Cole to report on the extraordinary scenes of enthusiasm.

On prepaid ½oz letters the 1d rate was denoted by a wide variety of handstamps used at provincial post offices, and a great increase in the volume of the mail had imposed a heavy strain on the postal clerks, and made the provision of postage stamps a matter of considerable urgency.

Despite close cooperation between Rowland Hill and J B Bacon, progress on the adhesive stamps was slow. After an experimental die had been rejected, a square die with a space left blank for the engraving of the Queen's features was sent to Charles Heath on 16 January: Bacon did not receive it back until 20 February.

On the following day the Lords of the Treasury, having approved the designs of the stamps and the proposed arrangements made for their completion, placed the remaining stages of production under the control of the Commissioners of Stamps & Taxes. The Commissioners were to confer with the Postmaster General as to the colours to be used for the stamps. The Chancellor of the Exchequer recommended that Rowland Hill's brother, Edwin, should be appointed Inspector of Postage Stamps at Somerset House (he was already there!). Paper on which stamps were to be printed was placed under the control of the Commissioners of Excise.

MARCUS SAMUEL

Strathclyde Postcard Club

At the recent AGM of the Strathclyde Postcard Club, Jimmy Logan was elected Honorary President. The club, which was founded a year ago, has a flourishing membership promoting the hobby of postcard collecting. It issues a quarterly newsletter, and meets regularly on the third Monday of each month at the Renfield Church Centre, Bath Street, Charing Cross, GLASGOW, G2. Further information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Stanley K Hunter, 34 Gray Street, GLASGOW, G3 7TY.

Thematics 3: Raleigh's Adventurers

The discovery and settlement of America is an exciting project and one that can be tackled from many angles. There must be hundreds of stamps depicting Columbus and his fleet, showing a variety of vessels mostly based on ships of the period as no actual likeness of *Santa Maria* exists. It always amuses me that the identical engraving of *Santa Maria* (USA 1893) was later used for Cabot's *Matthew* (Newfoundland 1897). It is an advantage to have a choice of stamps for often one particular item, because of its size, shape, clarity of design, or even colour, will provide a better 'balance' when shuffling stamps round on the page to find the most effective grouping. The stamps should tell the story. Writing up should be sufficient only to link the story together, for it is impossible to read an essay on display, and competition judges simply do not have the time.

In the 15th century the already known and all the as-yet-to-be-discovered lands were arbitrarily divided between Spain and Portugal. Other Europeans defiantly objected, and were eager to find new routes to the Spice Islands of the East, or to the mines of El Dorado in the West. Walter Raleigh was one of the outstanding personalities of the Elizabethan age — poet, scientist, historian, soldier, courtier and visionary. *The Boyhood of Raleigh* (Jersey 1971) captures the dreamer as the lad listened to tales of faraway lands, and Hilliard's miniature (GB 1973) marks the talented soldier-courtier. Related to Drake and other famous mariners of the time, he sailed with his half-brother Sir Humphrey Gilbert (Canada 1983) in 1578 on a voyage that stimulated his interest in exploration and ventures against Spain. As the favourite of Queen Elizabeth (GB 1968) he was forbidden to go adventuring in person, but he used his wealth and influence to sponsor expeditions to the New World. Although unsuccessful as a coloniser, his persistence focused the attention of his compatriots on the advantages of founding a new England in America.

After Gilbert's death at sea (Newfoundland 1933) his letters patent were transferred to Raleigh 'For the discovering and planting of new lands' for a period of six years. Without any loss of time two ships sailed in 1584 under Raleigh's orders, and cruised along the American coast for 120 miles before finding an inlet



in North Carolina, and a fertile island upstream where fish and game abounded. They remained six weeks, and took possession of the land they called Virginia after the Virgin Queen. Raleigh then launched a major expedition in a fleet of seven ships including *Roebuck* and *Elizabeth*, under the command of his cousin Sir Richard Grenville. The first English colony was set up in July 1585 on Roanoke Island which was accessible to small boats although larger vessels were at risk on the open sea.

When Grenville sailed for home about 150 men remained behind. The USA (1984) commemorated the 400th anniversary of the coming of the English

with the attractive 50-ton *Elizabeth*. Jersey (1976) produced a pictorial map of Cape Hatteras to Knott Island drawn by John White to illustrate Thomas Hariot's 'Brief & true report of the new found land of Virginia', and the dangerous shallows via the five inlets from the sea were indicated by wrecked vessels. Hariot was a noted astronomer and mathematician, and both men were members of the expedition as friends of Raleigh, and in his service.

Hariot was scathing about his useless companions who complained bitterly and continuously about the lack of home comforts, and in a land of plenty slowly starved because of their refusal to work. They were solely interested in the search for gold. By the time Drake (GB 1973) called the following year after plundering the Spanish Caribbean, the settlers, ill and famished, eagerly returned with him to England. Shortly afterwards Raleigh's relief supply ship arrived, but finding the settlers gone, returned with her provisions intact. About a fortnight later Grenville also appeared off the island with more supplies, and then left for home leaving 15 men behind (never to be seen again) as a holding force for the deserted settlement.

Raleigh's fourth venture to Virginia was more practical. This time 116 colonists included women and children under the leadership of Governor John White, who had already gained experience with the first colony. Although they sailed originally for Chesapeake Bay, the sailors refused to go any further than Roanoke where they dumped the settlers, and where Virginia Dare is recorded as the first English child to be born on American soil. Once more provisions ran short and the colonists persuaded White as their only man of influence to sail for England for supplies. Before he could return war with Spain intervened, and when the small fleet dropped anchor at Roanoke in August 1590 the settlement was deserted. After weeks of searching no trace of any colonist had been found. To this day the fate of Raleigh's 'Lost Colony' remains one of the major mysteries of American history. Many theories



swing between death through disease or massacre, or the possibility of assimilation by friendly Indians.

Meanwhile Raleigh dreamed of the legendary gold of El Dorado. In 1595 he returned to favour at Court after banishment following the scandal of his secret marriage. On his fall from grace in 1591 his cousin Sir Richard Grenville had taken his place as Vice-Admiral of a fleet sailing to plunder the Spanish treasure convoy off the Azores. Trapped alone, Grenville fought for 15 hours before falling mortally wounded, and Tennyson's epic poem was based on Raleigh's vivid account of the last fight of the *Revenge* (Turks 1972). Now, four years later, Elizabeth allowed Raleigh to command an expedition to the Orinoco where he searched unsuccessfully for gold. His account of their adventures *Discoverie of Guiana* was largely ignored, but he found Lake Asphalt (Trinidad 1935) and brought back the first samples of mahogany (Br. Honduras 1969). He now became Governor of Jersey where he strengthened the



Making the Master Die

defences, saved the venerable Mont Orgueil Castle (1969) from destruction, and is seen in consultation with the military engineer Paul Ivy (1980) in the building of Elizabeth Castle (1978). After the Queen's death powerful enemies brought about Raleigh's downfall, and James I (Newfoundland 1910) imprisoned him in the Tower of London (GB 1978) for 13 years where he wrote his 'World History'. But in 1616 the King allowed Raleigh to lead another expedition to Guiana, ordering him to avoid clashes with the Spanish. The expedition was a disaster, and he was unable to stop his men from attacking the Spanish fort up the Orinoco where his elder son, Wat was killed. British Guiana based their stamp (1938) on a portrait of father and son painted in 1602. Raleigh returned to imprisonment, and was beheaded in Old Palace Yard, Westminster on 29 October 1618. Although Raleigh's pioneer colonies did not survive, they led the way to the first permanent English colony in Virginia at Jamestown in 1607.

BARBARA LAST

Book Review

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 4, Queen Elizabeth II Decimal Issues

The 4th Edition of this volume is now available, and brings together, in one volume, a complete guide to the stamps of the present reign, with face values in decimal currency, up to the end of 1984. The contents have been completely updated since the 3rd Edition. To assist collectors further, revised codes for the various booklet perforation types have been included. A new section has also been added providing a complete priced listing for the Royal Mail Postage labels which appeared in 1984. Prices for most basic Great Britain stamps have risen slowly in recent years, and this trend has been reflected in the careful pricing in this new volume. There have been considerable price rises, however, amongst specialised material, especially where 'missing colour' errors are concerned.

The catalogue can be obtained from most reputable stamp dealers and bookshops, including Stanley Gibbons 399 Strand shop, price £14.95. Copies can also be supplied by post, and orders with the appropriate remittance (plus £1.30 for inland postage and packing, £2.25 for overseas), should be sent to Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

The engraving of a master die from which postage stamps can be made in vast numbers demands a degree of artistic ability far in excess of mere craftsmanship. A first class engraver has an interpretative role to play. Working from a drawing he has to render it in terms of incised lines on a die in such a manner that prints taken from it capture the spirit of the original in an entirely different medium. Such expertise demands great sensitivity and an acute awareness of what can, and what cannot be expressed by intaglio mass-production printing.

The printers Messrs Perkins Bacon and Petch entrusted this delicate and highly skilled work of engraving to Charles Heath (1785-1848) who had a considerable reputation for the artistry with which he engraved reproductions of paintings. In his work on the Penny Black dies, Charles Heath was probably greatly assisted by his talented son, Frederick.

Most of the early negotiations regarding the design of the stamp were undoubtedly verbal, as the matter was urgent, and for this reason many details of the work in preparing the design are not known. Evidently a number of dies were produced with the engine turned background engraved on the Perkins Rose lathe, a portion of this was then scraped out in the rude shape of a head, and over this, Heath executed his exquisite vignette from the drawing by Courbould of Wyon's City Medal.

The R M Phillips Collection, housed at the National Postal Museum, contains a number of beautiful proofs made from the dies, in the course of production, which present an interesting study of comparison. These proofs are to be found in volume II (2) pages 36 to 44, featured here is the proof of the original die with the accepted head (11/39).

JOHN MEMMOTT Assistant Curator



Why Postage Due?

The question with this cover is why *so much* postage due? How could it be that this item was so greatly underpaid at 4d. as to attract a surcharge of 1s.6d.? The envelope is very large — 13½ ins. by 5¼ ins. — and, from various tears at each end of the front and traces of sealing wax used in their repair, it would seem to have come open in the post. This is confirmed by the manuscript addition (beneath the handstruck instructional charge mark) 'Previous to resealing', obviously added to forestall any attempt by the addressee to claim that the addition of sealing wax by the Post Office had brought the weight above the 12 oz. limit!

Obviously the weight of 12 oz. is the key to understanding the surcharge raised and, on looking at the letter rates of the time, these reveal the following pattern:

Up to 1 oz. 1d.

1 to 2oz. 1½d.

For each additional 2oz.

up to maximum of 12 oz. ½d.

For letters above 12 oz. 1d. per oz. *starting from the first ounce.*

This most complex scale meant that a letter weighing between 10 and 12 oz. would cost 4d. but one of 12 to 13oz. (charged at 1d. per oz. *throughout*) cost 1s.1d. The reason for the surcharge on the item illustrated is now clear; as it weighed above 12 oz. it should have been prepaid not 4d. but 1s.1d. and was

thus 9d. deficient, attracting the surcharge of 2 x 9d. = 1s.6d.

How did such a cumbersome scale arise? For the first seven years after the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage on 10 January 1840, the maximum weight for a letter was 16 oz. but, thereafter, there was no weight limit (though *size* was restricted to 2 ft. in any direction). At a rate of 1d. per ½ oz., however the cost of sending heavy documents etc. was prohibitive and, as a result, special concessionary categories of mail were introduced — the 'Book Post' in 1847 and the 'Pattern and Sample Post' in 1863 — with a restricted scope as to what could be sent at these cheaper rates. In practice, the public treated the Sample Post (specifically intended for *bonâ fide* Trade samples of no pecuniary value) as a small parcels post, and so great was the abuse of regulations — a report in 1870 listed kettle holders, garters, feathers for bonnets, a brace of snipe and a host of other items found by the inspecting Postal Officials — that it was decided to abolish the system. This could not, however, be done without some concession to the public and so, on 5 October 1871, a greatly reduced *Letter Rate* was introduced. This changed from 1d. for each *half ounce* to 1d. for each *ounce* with, as shown in the table above, the further special sub-scale of ½d. per 2oz. stage between 2 and 12 oz., 12 oz. being the maximum weight which had been transmissible via the now abolished Sample Post. This scale remained operative until 1 July 1885 when the break in the scale at 12 oz. — which this surcharged cover illustrates — was removed, extending the ½d. per 2 oz. onwards with no maximum.

E KEITH PARKER



121. Historic Buildings, 1978

Centuries-old royal palaces and castles were the subject of the four stamps continuing the 'British Architecture' series, issued on 1 March 1978. The stamps were designed by Ronald Maddox and they were also issued as a miniature sheet to publicise the 'London 1980' International Stamp Exhibition — the sheet was designed by Jeffery Matthews.

The oldest and most important part of the Tower of London, the White Tower (keep of the original fortress), was pictured on the 9p stamp which commemorated its 900th anniversary. Its 90-foot high battlements and 15-foot thick walls protectively house the Crown Jewels. The White Tower began to be built under the supervision of Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester, about 1078 and was completed by 1100. It was constructed of Caen stone to a basic rectangular plan, externally buttressed, and with four distinctive turrets. Early kings and queens of England lodged there on their coronation eve, and some famous figures of history were detained there, among them Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh.

The Palace of Holyrood House (10½p), the Queen's official residence in Edinburgh, was originally an abbey founded there in 1128 by David I of Scotland. It first began to resemble a royal palace when James V built the tower shown on the stamp — the Palace was completed by Charles II. The old Abbey church is seen on the left. Caernarfon Castle (11p), the greatest of Edward I's castles in North Wales, was the birthplace of Edward II, first in the present line of Princes of Wales, in 1284. The 13th-century Eagle Tower is seen on the left, the Queen's Tower on the right. Behind the castle is a distant view of Anglesey across the Menai Strait.

Cardinal Wolsey acquired the site of the Palace of Hampton Court (13p) in 1514 and, having completed the enormous building as his own residence, he gave it to Henry VIII just before his (Wolsey's) death in 1530. Henry rebuilt the Great Hall and greatly enlarged the building, perhaps to accommodate his queens, five of whom lived there. The Great Gatehouse depicted on the stamp was originally built in 1520 in the middle of the west front — it was subsequently rebuilt in 1771-3 and again in 1882. The Palace today, with its beautiful



gardens and fine view of the Thames, is one of the nation's showplaces.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. Several listed varieties are relatively minor printing faults — a nick in the '9' and a similar white spot on the '9' of '9p', a broken 'P' in '10½p' and 'fo' joined in 'Caernarfon' (11p). Quantities issued were: 9p 43,770,000; 10½p 11,230,000; 11p 10,850,000; 13p 9,880,000; and miniature sheets, 2,520,000.

JAMES WATSON

Decimal Stamp Booklets

DB7 Second Class Counter Books — 10 x 13p — £1.30

(26) Swansea/Mumbles Railway — Code LH DB083, RH DB084. 3 September 1984.

The pane numbers are LH DP68, RH DP68A.

The single centre phosphor band is from cylinder B62.

Generally the relative position of the colour and phosphor cylinder numbers varies with each print run. Usually this variation is only a millimetre or so but occasionally it amounts to several centimetres with the phosphor number appearing either above or below the colour number and in extreme cases in another book.

Initially the books contained printings from B7 with the phosphor number B62 appearing below. Later issues were from B12 with the phosphor number above. In both cases columns I and II were issued.

Cylinder B7 with B62 was put to press 28 June 1984.

Cylinder B12 with B62 was put to press 27 September 1984.

The 'black bar' which is printed across the spine of some of the folded books is for accounting purposes. In a print run it occurs on every 25th cover and is found on the bottom book of every bundle of twentyfive.

The bar has no precise position though it is usually in a blank part of the cover design and can occupy several positions in an issue.

In early issues the bar was placed towards the top of the spine and in later issues was moved to just below the centre.

Books with the marker bar are widely collected abroad where they command a premium. As yet in Britain only a few collectors add the variety to their collections. This is surprising seeing that a 'black bar' book is four times scarcer than a 'cylinder book'. A book with the bar and containing a cylinder pane is quite scarce occurring once in every six bundles.

(27) Glasgow Tram. — Code LH DB091, RH DB092. 15 January 1985.

With a change of cover design, the second in a series of four on Trams by John Thirsk, the following cylinders have been issued:-

B12 phosphor B62 above and below colour number from columns I and II.

B7 phosphor B62 below and from column I only. Code — British Philatelic Bureau Stock List and Order Form code numbers.

LH — Left hand margin, RH — Right hand margin.

DB8 First Class Counter Books.

(26) Love Letters — Cassette offer — 10 x 17p — £1.70. 3 September 1984. Code LH DB087, RH DB088.

The pane numbers are LH DP69 and RH DP69A on PCP.

Both columns were issued with B7 only.

Cylinder B7 was first put to press 25 June 1984.

Cylinder B9 without the D device on gum side first put to press 21 December 1984.

(27) Letters abroad — 10 x 17p with 15p discount — £1.55. March 1985. Code LH DB095, RH DB096. Issue to be withdrawn 8 April 1985.

The stamps had a two line D printed in blue on the gum side to indicate discount. This is the only source of the stamps and they are only sold in complete books.

The pane numbers are LH DP69D and RH DP69E.

The D device was printed on the Chambon press at the same time as the stamps. The cylinder was the same size as the stamp cylinders and laid out with 120 D's, 12 x 10. There are no cylinder numbers or other marginal markings.

Three colour cylinders were used in conjunction with the D device on the gum side:-

B7 put to press 30 November 1985.

B9 put to press 18 December 1984.

B14 put to press 16 January 1985.

Both columns were issued with the exception of B14 which at the time of writing has only appeared from column I.

DB11 Mixed Class Counter Books. 6 x 17p + 4 x 13p — £1.54.

(12) To Pay labels — Code LH DB085, RH DB086. 3 September 1984.

The pane numbers are LH DP71 and RH DP71A.

The following cylinder number combinations from both columns have been issued.

B4 B5 phos B56 first put to press 12 June 1984.

B4 B5 phos B55 first put to press 21 June 1984.

In error there was a short run with the phosphor bars reversed giving the 13p stamps two bars and the 4 x 17p immediately above one side bar L or R. This was from B4 B5 phos B55, the cylinder numbers B4 B5 being in their normal position opposite the 17p top row in book 4 whilst the phosphor number B55 is opposite the lower row in book 6 (this pane also has the half arrow at the bottom).

The variety was issued in both columns. There is no record of the printing date.

The pane numbers are LH DP71D and RH DP71E.

(13) Embossed Stamps. Code LH DB093, RH DB094. 15 January 1985.

The initial issue from both columns was from a new cylinder combination:-

B4 B8 phosphor B56 first put to press 8 November 1984.

B4 was used for the 13p value and B5 and B8 for the 17p.

DB 9 50p Machine Booklets. 3 x 1p, 2 x 4p, 3 x 13p.

(27) 1st Orchids. Code DB082. 3 September 1984.

There are four cylinder combinations:-

B27 B7 B8 B57 — first put to press 9 July 1984.

B26 B7 B8 B57 — first put to press 30 July 1984.

B27 B6 B8 B57 — first put to press 1 August 1984.

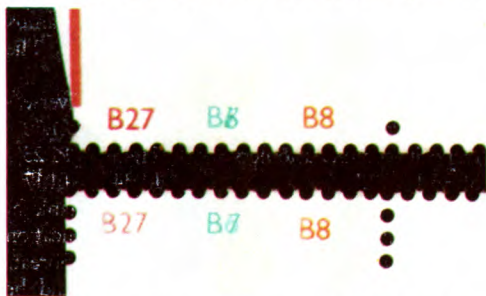
B26 B7 B9 B57 — first put to press 28 December 1984.

B26 and B27 were used for the 1p value, B6 and B7 for the 4p and B8 and B9 for the 13p whilst B57 was used for the phosphor bars.

Both columns were issued for each combination except B26 B7 B9 B57 which has appeared from column II only.

The cylinder numbers were etched on both selvages, that on the left (col I) appearing in the binding margin of the booklet and that from the right (col II) appearing in the wing margin at the bottom of the booklet.

Left selvedge column I showing B6 with incorrect ghost '7'.



Right selvedge column II showing B7 with a very faint ghost '6'.

In making the 4p cylinders, errors in engraving the cylinder number occurred. Cylinder 6 had the 6 correctly engraved in column II but had an erroneous 7 in column I. This was partially corrected by superimposing a 6 over the erroneous 7 but still left parts of the original 7 still visible.

Cylinder 7 was engraved with an erroneous 6 in both columns. This was corrected before going to press filling and retouching and engraving the correct 7 in both columns.

In the early printings of the true B7 the figure is quite clear but as the print runs proceeded the repair began to wear and a ghost 6 appeared which in later printings is quite distinct.

(28) 2nd Orchid — Bureau code DB090 — 15 January 1985.

The above four cylinder combinations from both columns have appeared except B26 B7 B9 B57 which is from column I only.

L F NEWBERRY

Forces Covers

Safety at Sea

Forces cover number RFDC 36 was issued on 18 June 1985 for the Safety at Sea stamps. The covers have the full set of Safety at Sea stamps affixed,

cancelled by the BFPS special handstamp, '70th Anniversary of No 22 Squadron'. The covers were flown by Wessex helicopter of No 22 Squadron, based at RAF Manston, to the Walmer lifeboat at sea. After being returned to the shore, the covers were signed by the Coxswain of the lifeboat and the OC No 22 Squadron detachment at Manston. The price of the cover is £3.50 including postage and packing for inland orders, but overseas customers should add 50p to cover this. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to; the Director of Appeals, Royal Air Force Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON, NW9 5LL.

Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service

Forces cover number RFDC 37 was released on 30 July 1985 for the Royal Mail: 350 years of service stamp issue. The cover was jointly produced by the Army and the RAF, marking the introduction into service of the new Army trunk telecommunications system, Ptarmigan. The covers have the full set of Royal Mail: 350 years of service stamps affixed, cancelled on 30 July 1985 by the BFPS Handstamp, 'Ptarmigan in service'. The covers were flown in an Army Air Corps Lynx helicopter, and signed by senior members of Plesseys, the manufacturers, and the Royal Corps of Signals. The price of the covers is £3.75 including postage and packing for inland orders, but 50p should be added for overseas customers to cover this. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to; the Director of Appeals, Royal Air Force Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hendon, LONDON, NW9 5LL.

Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service Stamps

Colours and Cylinder Numbers

- 17p: Black, greenish yellow, bright carmine, greenish blue, yellow brown, grey-black, silver.
- 22p: Black, greenish yellow, cerise, steel blue, light green, grey-black, silver.
- 31p: Black, greenish yellow, bright carmine, dull blue, drab, grey-black, silver.
- 34p: Black, greenish yellow, cerise, ultramarine, light brown, grey-black, silver.
- 17p: 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G
- 22p: 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 2F 1G
- 31p: 2A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G
- 34p: 2A 1B 1C 1D 1E 2F 1G

Arthurian Legend Stamps

Issue 3 September 1985

Of all Britain's Legends, none has had more magical hold on the imagination of successive generations than that dream landscape where knights in shining armour pursue the Holy Grail through enchanted forests.

The stories of King Arthur, of Merlin, of Lancelot and Guinever, of the Round Table and of the Quest are told in their most memorable form by Sir Thomas Malory. The printing of his epic work, *Le Morte D'Arthur*, in 1485 is the occasion for this set of stamps.

Malory's version of the legends was preceded and followed by many others; his is the finest, one of the great works of English literature.

The four stamps illustrate episodes from the tales.

ARTHUR CONSULTS MERLIN (17p)

'After this Merlin told unto King Arthur of the prophecy that there would be a great battle besides Salisbury, and Mordred his own son would be against him.'

THE LADY OF THE LAKE WITH THE SWORD EXCALIBUR (22p)

'So they rode till they came to a lake, the which was a fair water and broad, and in the midst of the lake Arthur ware of an arm clothed in white samite, that held a fair sword in that hand.'

LANCELOT AND GUINEVER FLEE FROM CAMELOT (31p)

'... then he made straight unto Dame Guinever, and made a kirtle and a gown to be cast upon her, and then he made her to be set behind him.'

SIR GALAHAD AND THE QUEST (34p)

'Galahad, Sir, ... start upon this horse and go where the adventures shall lead thee in the quest of the sangrail.'

First Day Cover Service

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

SERVICE 'A'

This service consists of the official first day cover — price 15p — addressed to the correct postal address of

the destination required and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Tintagel, Cornwall', or 'British 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'	£1.49	£1.30
Deposit account customers	£1.43	£1.25
SERVICE 'B'	£1.34	£1.17

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 Head Post offices should be returned not later than 23 August 1985.

Technical Details

Designed by Yvonne Gilbert, the stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited. The format is horizontal, the size is 41 mm x 30 mm with 15 x 14 perforations. There are 100 stamps per sheet and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

Reposting Facility

Those customers who wish to send their own stamped and fully addressed covers for cancellation with the 'Tintagel, Cornwall' postmark, should enclose them in an outer envelope, fully addressed and stamped, and send them to:

The Head Postmaster,

PEC — CRU, Head Post Office, Circuit House, TRURO, Cornwall, TR1 1AB.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 20 August 1985, price 14p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 164, and first day cover are designed by Cooper Thirkell Ltd. The pack will cost £1.25.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, price 15p, also designed by Cooper Thirkell Ltd, will go on sale the day after the stamps issue 4 September 1985.



power, sometimes worldly wisdom. He tells of Arthur's imagined conquest of Norway, Gaul and even Rome. Then, while attempting to put down a rebellion led by his nephew Mordred in England, he receives a deadly wound in one climactic battle. Finally, Arthur is mysteriously transported to Avalon, the Isle of the Blessed. He was led away in a

chariot... then he rode straight into Dinas Emrys, and made a kerf, and a spear to be cast upon her; and then he made her to be set behind him.

Sir Galahad and the Quest. Galahad, Sir... start upon this horse, and go where the adventures shall lead thee in the quest of the Grail.

inspired by 'General Arthur'. However it is archaeologists who have given most substance to the legend. Cadbury Castle, the supposed site of Camelot, Tintagel, thought to be Arthur's birthplace, and Glasbury where by tradition he is buried, have all produced evidence.

There is another more mystical view of the legend. The Chorus of Virgils



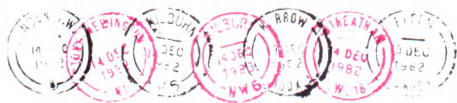
Arthurian Legend
Royal Mail First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir,

The letter from L N Williams in the June Bulletin is indeed thought provoking and generally admirable, but he seems to have confounded the back of a letter with the back of a cover or envelope.

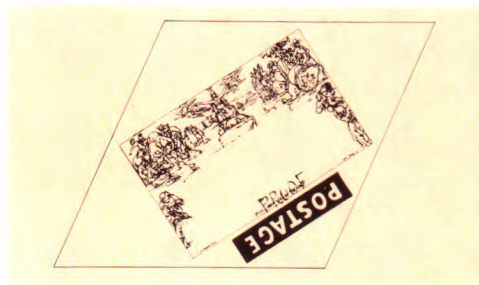
Of an un-enveloped letter, the back is the part folded outward so that the contents are shielded both from casual observation and casual dirt. The address is provided on that side; and supposing that the folded missive has originally both visible sides blank, that on which the address is actually supplied is still just as much the back as the one on which it is not.

Mr Williams emphasises that Rowland Hill had the Mulready covers particularly in mind; but the Mulready address-face was quite obviously the inevitable back of the letter. Extending one's letter into one or more of the fold-down triangular flaps was no doubt feasible — with care. It can hardly be claimed that the design encouraged such extensions.

Compared with the number of illustrations of the Mulready address-face, illustrations of the whole article are very scarce. I enclose a tracing sketch of a photographic illustration. The smaller rectangle had a printed background of 'fine weave', upon which, in blank, appeared the word POSTAGE, so placed as to appear right way up at the bottom margin of the folded letter. Thus a facer immediately knew whether a face-down Mulready needed only to be turned over left to right, or a more complicated procedure. Perhaps this merit of the design helped to blind Rowland Hill to some of its other features that were less admirable.

Yours faithfully,
W H Shepherd

Manchester



'The British Post Office — a History' by Howard Robinson of an unused Mulready in his own collection. Probably, therefore, still in copyright. Certainly the whole article is very seldom illustrated, compared with the number of illustrations of the face only.

Dear Sir,

Mr Shepherd's suggestion about the back of the letter being its front inscribed with the address is ingenious and worthy of consideration. It is thought provoking. One thought provoked in me is that a direct parallel can be drawn between his suggestion and the use by some persons nowadays of 'endorsed' to mean written on the front, whereas most people know that the plain meaning of that ordinary English word is written on the back. Rowland Hill would, doubtless, have looked askance — maybe unbelievably — at anyone suggesting to him that the back of the letter was its front, or that the address side was other than the front. Had he intended the stamp to be affixed to the address side he would, assuredly, have written that in his pamphlet, *Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability* published in February 1837.

Yours faithfully,

L N WILLIAMS

London NW11

Dear Sir,

In your June 1985 issue, L N Williams expresses surprise that adhesive stamps were introduced "so that illiterates could post letters". Similar surprise was expressed by Sir Rowland Hill himself who, in his autobiographical *History of Penny Postage*, says "It is curious to observe . . . that the adhesive stamp, now of universal and indeed almost exclusive use, was originally devised as a mere expedient for exceptional cases".

Mr Williams, however, also remarks upon "the frantic impracticability of attaching the adhesive postage label to the back of the letter". May I suggest a possible explanation of this? "The back of the letter", to us nowadays, implies the back of the envelope, but in the 1830s envelopes were not used because they would have doubled the cost of postage. The letter was written on one side of the paper, which was then suitably folded and the address written on the other side, that is to say "on the back of the letter". Rowland Hill's wording may therefore merely mean attaching the stamp to the same side of the paper as the address. This is only a guess on my part, but it seems a reasonable one. Can anyone offer any evidence on what "the back of the letter" would have meant to a reader in 1837?

In the same issue, John Memmott, in his article on the Wyon medal, refers to Rowland Hill as having turned to Perkins, Bacon and Petch after judging the

Treasury Competition in December 1839. He says that this firm had not entered the competition "because they were under the impression that the Government wanted 'some cheap kind of thing'" and this is certainly what Mr Bacon is recorded as saying in evidence to a committee in 1852, adding that they "never had dreamt of having the work to do".

Mr Bacon had evidently forgotten that as early as July 1839, before even the Chancellor of the Exchequer's original announcement that Penny Postage was to be adopted, Rowland Hill was negotiating with the firm about the possibility of their producing a postage stamp. This astonishing fact is indisputable, because their letter to him dated 9 August 1839 (two weeks before the Treasury Competition was even announced) is still in existence and refers to "the notice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the day after we had the honour of seeing you)". Perhaps it might be made the subject of a future article in the *Bulletin*.

It cannot be called a Gem from the Phillips Collection, because Phillips never had it. It remained with the Hill family until February 1977, when the present Mr Rowland Hill (great-grandson of Sir Rowland) generously presented it to the National Postal Museum.

Yours faithfully,
Chorleywood, Herts. Dr I D Hill

Dear Sir,

Another "back means front" suggestion! That Rowland Hill knew the difference seems clear enough from two references: contrast p.42 — "the part used for the address"; with p.45 — "the back of the letter".

I expressed no surprise, least of all at the paradox. What caused amazement was its lack of general apprehension. Rowland Hill's autobiographical work is well enough known to me. If what is printed there points the true paradox (which I take leave to doubt) the pointing is abstruse. His surprise was that the public preferred adhesives to his cherished Mulready's.

His memory is to be honoured for his actual not imagined accomplishments.

London NW11 L N WILLIAMS

Stamps of the Universities

On page 178 of the June Bulletin, the Keble College stamp in the first column has been inverted for which we apologize.

Posting Boxes



No. 74. Our photograph this month has been sent to us by Mr A W Rhodes of Luton. It was taken by him during a visit to Mount Gambier in South Australia. The box is a British type 'fluted' box probably cast by Smith & Hawkes of Birmingham around 1857. Thank you Mr Rhodes.

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale during August:

July 1985 Discount Stamp Book — 31.8.85.

August 1984 Scottish Aerogramme — 31.8.85.

Forthcoming Events

Plymouth Stamp Fair and Exhibition

An Exhibition and Stamp Fair will be held by the Plymouth Philatelic Society and Wessex Philatelic Federation on Saturday 21 September 1985 in the Upper Guildhall, Plymouth. The Plymouth Philatelic Society will be displaying members' individual exhibits, and the Wessex Federation will be exhibiting competition entries and presenting awards to the winners. There will be dealers' stands, and refreshments will also be available throughout the day. The Exhibition and Stamp Fair will be open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 21 September. The official opening ceremony will take place at 10.30 am when the Lord Mayor will open the exhibition. Further details can be obtained from the Plymouth Philatelic Society Press Officer, Mr T J Fray, 76 Merrivale Road, Beacon Park, PLYMOUTH, PL2 2RP.

Commemorative Covers

The Zetland Lifeboat Museum

A commemorative cover is currently available depicting the world's oldest existing lifeboat, the 'Zetland' now housed in the Zetland Museum, Redcar, Cleveland. The cover has a 17p 'Lifeboat' stamp affixed, cancelled with the Cleveland Philatelic Counter handstamp illustrating Guisborough Priory. The cost is £1.70.

Alternatively, with all four 'Safety at Sea' stamps affixed, registered at Redcar Post Office, the cover is priced at £3.75 plus 25p postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to Mr S Muscroft should be sent to him at 43 Farndale Drive, Guisborough, CLEVELAND TS14 8JJ. Proceeds from sales will aid The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Minehead RNLI

To coincide with the Safety at Sea special stamp issue on 18 June 1985, a special philatelic cover is available from Minehead RNLI. This consists of the standard RNLI printed envelope, with a 17p Safety at Sea stamp affixed, cancelled by the Taunton first day of issue handstamp. The covers also bear a special

cachet indicating that they have been carried at sea by the Minehead Lifeboat and have been signed by the crew members. The cost of the cover is £1.50, and all proceeds from sales will go to the RNLI. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the RNLI should be sent to: Mr G Durman, Honorary Secretary, Minehead RNLI, 1 Tides Reach, Quay Street, MINEHEAD, Somerset, TA24 5UL.

Orders should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

The Burns Federation

To mark the centenary of the Burns Federation which was founded on 17 June 1885, three special souvenir covers are being produced. The first depicts Burns and his wife against the words and music of his best-known love song, 'My luvie is like a red, red rose', also commemorating the bicentenary of their first meeting. The second depicts Burns' portrait and his armorial bearings, now used as the logo of the Burns Federation. The third is designed as an airmail cover, incorporating Burns' portrait in the airmail 'label', with a montage of harp and plough symbolising Burns, the ploughmen poet. The covers will all bear a 17p Scottish country definitive stamp cancelled with the Ayr pictorial handstamp on 17 July 1985. The price of the covers is £1.20 each, or £2.50 for the set of three. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Burns Federation, should be sent to the Federation's Philatelic Officer, Peter Westwood, 28 Stranka Avenue, PAISLEY, PA2 9DW.

Scouts — Jamboree Cymru 1985

The 10th Welsh Jamboree was held by the Welsh Scout Council (Sgowtiai Cymru) at Margam Park, West Glamorgan, from 24 July to 2 August 1985. A philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate this event. It depicts the Scout Badge, the West Glamorgan Coat of Arms, and the International Youth Year logo. The covers will have either a 17p Famous Trains stamp or 17p Safety at Sea stamp affixed, cancelled with a special handstamp on 24 July 1985. The handstamp depicts a window in the famous Orangery at Margam Park. The price of the covers is £1.00, inclusive of postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Welsh Scout Council, should be sent to: Mrs Mary Mostyn, Rose Cottage, Bridle Way, Woodford, STOCKPORT, SK7 1QL.

Tintagel Parish Council

A special philatelic cover is being produced by Tintagel Parish Council to coincide with the issue of

the Arthurian Legend stamps on 3 September 1985. The covers will depict King Arthur's Castle at Tintagel, and will have the full set of Arthurian Legend stamps affixed, cancelled with a special Tintagel handstamp. The covers will cost £2.50 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Tintagel Parish Council, should be sent to:— Mrs J Patterson, Treknow, TINTAGEL, Cornwall, PL34 0EL.

40th Anniversary of VJ Day

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August 1985, a special philatelic cover is being produced. The cover will carry a photograph of a Burma Star, also showing General Slim and Major Wingate. The covers will have a 22p British Composers stamp affixed, depicting Holst's Planet's Suite, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp at London SW1 on 15 August 1985. The handstamp will depict the badge of the 14th Army and the badge of the Chindits. The cost of the cover is £1.40. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to K&D Covers, FREEPOST, LONDON, SE17 2BR. Four weeks should be allowed for delivery.

Arthurian Legend

1 To coincide with the stamp issue on 3 September 1985 celebrating the 500th anniversary of the printing of Sir Thomas Malory's 'Le Morte d'Arthur'; a special philatelic cover is being produced. This limited edition cover depicts the 'Coronation of Arthur' and the design is partly gold-foiled. The covers will be cancelled with a special handstamp at Glastonbury on 3 September 1985. Glastonbury has long been associated with the legend of King Arthur. The price of the covers bearing at 17p Arthurian Legend stamp is £2.25. Bearing the full set of stamps the covers will cost £4, and a limited number of covers signed by Richard Barber, the noted author of books about Arthurian Legend, will be available at £6.75 each. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing, but overseas customers should add 50p to cover postage and are requested to pay in sterling. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to A G Bradbury, should be sent to him at 'Arthur's Avalon FDC, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

2 To coincide with the issue of the 'Arthurian Legend' stamps on 3 September 1985, a philatelic cover featuring the Round Table in full colour has been produced by Hampshire County Council. The cover contains an insert describing the Round Table and its present location in the Great Hall at Winchester.

A special hand stamp depicting the Great Hall will be used to cancel the cover on 3 September 1985. A limited number of the covers bearing all four 'Arthurian Legend' stamps and signed by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Lt. Col. Sir James Scott, Bt., will be available at £4.75. Covers bearing a full set of 'Arthurian Legend' stamps, but unsigned, will be available for £3.25 each. A cover bearing a single 'Arthurian Legend' 17p first class stamp will be sold for £2.40. The proceeds of sales will be applied to the maintenance and further restoration of the Great Hall.

Orders, with remittances made payable to 'Hampshire Country Council' should be addressed to The Country Secretary (First Day Cover), The Castle, WINCHESTER, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ.

85th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

1 A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the 85th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The cover will be gold-blocked with blue backing framing a full colour picture of Her Majesty on silk like material. The covers will have the 80th birthday stamp of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, affixed, together with an additional 5p definitive stamp. (ie 80 + 5).

A special pictorial handstamp featuring St Paul's Walden, her birthplace has been produced and will be used to cancel the covers on 4 August 1985. The covers will also be available with either the Buckingham Palace, or Windsor Philatelic Counter handstamp, each with a different picture of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. An 85th birthday postmark is also being produced, again with a different picture on the cover. The price of the covers is £1.50 for each type, including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Benham (A Buckingham Ltd), Westcliff House, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SZ.

2 To commemorate the 85th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, patron of the National Trust for Scotland, a special philatelic cover is being produced in conjunction with Glamis Castle, Her Majesty's family home.

This hand-made cover will be printed in colour, depicting a photographic portrait of Her Majesty, taken by Norman Parkinson.

A special postmark has been designed for use on this happy occasion at Glamis on Sunday 4 August, to cancel the Post Office 350th Anniversary 22p stamp which will be affixed.

In addition, a limited number of covers will be signed by either the Earl, or the Countess of Strathmore. Proceeds to NTS and named charities.

The covers will cost £2.20 each, inclusive post & packing under separate cover, and £4.65 inclusive, for signed covers. Access/Visa accepted. Orders to: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd., National Trust for Scotland, 33 St. Georges Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

West Somerset Railway

The SS Waverley, the last working ocean-going paddle steamer, visited Minehead on 25 May 1985, and a limited number of West Somerset Railway (WSR) covers were posted on board. The covers were then carried on a special WSR train to Williton. The WSR stamps were cancelled with the 'Posted aboard SS Waverley' cachet; and endorsed 'to be called for at Williton'. They have a 17p stamp affixed, cancelled with the standard WSR cancel, and have also been signed by the Captain of the Waverley. The price of the covers is £1.50, inclusive of postage and packing.

In addition, covers have been produced for the Tercentenary of the Battle of Sedgemoor on 6 July 1985, The Post Office — 350 Years of Service stamp issue on 30 July 1985, and one is planned for the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth on 22 August 1985. Further details of these covers are available on application. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to John Nash, should be sent to him at: Flat 2, 5 South Road, WATCHET, Somerset, TA23 0DA.

National Association of Boys' Clubs

Ten illustrated philatelic covers are being produced during 1985, depicting different activities pursued in Boys' Clubs. This limited edition of covers is being issued to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the National Association of Boys' Clubs (NABC) in 1985. Eight of the covers have special issue stamps affixed, cancelled with a special Diamond Jubilee Logo Special handstamp on the first day of issue. The covers all have signatures of well-known celebrities printed on them, and a custom-made album is also included for displaying them. As well as celebrating the NABC, the covers also celebrate International Youth Year 1985. All proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to assist Boys' Clubs in expanding their work with young people throughout the country.

The price for the collection of covers bearing single stamps is £20, and for those bearing full sets of stamps £32. These prices are inclusive of the album and postage and packing for inland orders. For overseas orders £5.00 should be added to cover

postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'NABC', should be sent to NABC Cover Collection, 24 Highbury Grove, LONDON, N5 2EA.

20th Anniversary of Solent Hovercraft Service

Two special philatelic covers and a postcard were produced to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Hovertravel Solent Hovercraft Service between Ryde, Isle of Wight and Southsea, on 24 July 1985. The first cover has a printed design and photograph of the latest Hovertravel hovercraft, and has a 17p Safety at Sea stamp affixed, cancelled with the Portsmouth Philatelic Counter handstamp. The covers are all numbered and carry a cachet indicating that they have been carried from Ryde to Southsea by hovercraft; they are also signed by the hovercraft pilot. The price of the cover is £1.75.

The second cover has a printed design and photograph of the latest Hovertravel hovercraft, and has a 22p Safety at Sea stamp affixed, cancelled with a special commemorative handstamp at Ryde, Isle of Wight, on 24 July 1985. The covers are all numbered and carry a cachet indicating that they have been carried by hovercraft from Southsea to Ryde; they are also signed by the hovercraft pilot. The cost of the cover is £2.00.

The special postcard illustrates a hovercraft in use on the route, and has a 17p Safety at Sea stamp affixed, cancelled with the special commemorative handstamp at Ryde, Isle of Wight. The cards have all been signed by the pilot and bear a special cachet indicating that they have been carried by hovercraft from Ryde to Southsea and return. The price of the postcard is £1.50.

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing, and orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'Chris Barton' should be sent to; Flat 1, Wilmington, Appley Rise, RYDE, Isle of Wight, PO33 1LE.

Royal Visit to Great Yarmouth

On 1 August 1985, HM Queen Elizabeth II paid an official visit to the town of Great Yarmouth. To commemorate this event, and also to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the opening of the Royal Posts to the public by King Charles I in 1635, a special philatelic cover has been produced by the Great Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce. The cover depicts the Great Yarmouth coat of arms and contains an insert card giving brief details of the monarchs of the last 350 years. The covers were available (uncancelled) at selected stores in Great Yarmouth throughout July, and serviced covers are

now available by post from the Chamber of Commerce.

The covers have the Royal Mail: 350 Years of Service stamps affixed, cancelled with a special commemorative handstamp on 1 August 1985. The price of the covers, bearing a 17p stamp only is £1.50, bearing the 17p and 31p stamps only is £1.50, and bearing the complete set of Post Office: 350 Years of Service stamps is £2.00. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Great Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce should be sent to: Great Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce, Commemorative Cover, 2 South Quay, GREAT YARMOUTH, NR30 2QH.

Orders should be accompanied by a 9" by 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Braemar Gathering

To commemorate the 1985 Braemar Gathering in September, The Post Office, will use a special philatelic postmark at Braemar. An official mobile post office will be set up in the Memorial Park, with philatelic posting facilities for the convenience of visitors.

A specially designed commemorative cover, printed in full colour, with an informative insert card showing the Royal Family at the Gathering will be on sale. The special Post Office postmark will be used on 7 September 1985 for the one day only, to cancel the Post Office 350th Anniversary 22p stamp affixed to the covers. In addition, a choice of 72 different clan crests, in the form of rubber handstamps will be available enabling your covers to be personalised. A small number of these covers will be signed by a Vice-President of the Braemar Royal Highland Society.

The covers may also be ordered by post, price £2.00 each including postage (£2.50 for any overseas airmail destinations). Please state Clan Name. Signed covers will be available at £5.00 each complete (£5.50 for overseas). Covers will be sent after postmarking in a stiff-backed envelope to avoid damage. Please allow 14 days for delivery.

These covers, being the first for the Braemar Gathering, will make a most unusual souvenir.

Orders to: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd., Philatelic Sales, The Braemar Royal Highland Society, Society Office, BRAEMAR, Aberdeenshire, AB3 5YQ.

Cheques/Postal Orders payable to: The Braemar Royal Highland Society. (BRHS) Access/Visa accepted.

Quincentenary of the Battle of Bosworth Field/Death of Richard III

A special philatelic cover is being produced on behalf

of the Richard III Society, to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of his death at the Battle of Bosworth Field on 22 August 1485. The covers are being produced to coincide with the Arthurian Legend stamp issue on 3 September 1985. Bearing the full set of stamps cancelled with a first day of issue handstamp, the price of the covers is £3.00. For covers bearing the 17p Arthurian Legend stamp only, the price is £1.50. A limited number of signed covers will also be available at £4.50 each, £1.00 of which will be donated to the Richard III Society. (Details available on request). Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: J V Starkey, 23 David Street, GREAT GRIMSBY, DN32 9NL by 22 August 1985.

Le Morte d'Arthur/Aubrey Beardsley

To coincide with the special stamp issue featuring Arthurian Legend and celebrating the 500th anniversary of the printing of Sir Thomas Malory's 'Le Morte d'Arthur', four philatelic covers featuring the work of Aubrey Beardsley are being produced. These illustrations, Beardsley's first major commission, first appeared in J M Dent's publication of Malory's 'Le Morte d'Arthur' which was issued in monthly parts during 1893/94. This mammoth work, involving a total of 585 drawings, took Beardsley two and a half years to complete, and established his reputation. A limited number of covers are being produced, and each design is printed on a different shade of parchment-like paper.

The price for the set of four covers, each bearing a single Arthurian Legend stamp cancelled with special handstamp on 3 September 1985 is £6.75. The price for the set of four covers bearing the full set of stamps is £14.75. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing, but overseas customers are requested to add 50p to cover this and make payments in £ Sterling. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to A G Bradbury should be sent to him at: 'Beardsley FDC' 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

Shropshire Girl Guides Tudor Rose Camp

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Girl Guides Association and the Tudor Rose Shropshire Girl Guides County Camp on 27th August 1985.

The Shropshire Girl Guide cover, priced 50 pence, will bear a 17 pence 'Insect' postage stamp and will be cancelled with an attractive 'Tudor Rose' special handstamp. Orders with the appropriate remittance and s.a.e. should be sent to: Mrs T D Aveston, 11 Eastwood Road, The Mount, SHREWSBURY, SY3 8YJ.

New Postcards

London Postal Region

Four new LPR picture postcards were issued on 30 July 1985. They are numbered LPR 6 a to d.

- (a) A 1646 'London Post' etching of a mounted messenger
- (b) Railway sorting carriage of 1838
- (c) Mail being loaded into an aircraft at Croydon Airport in 1920
- (d) International Datapost going by helicopter from the City Heliport to London Heathrow.

A first day of sale handstamp has been applied cancelling a 17p definitive stamp affixed to the postcards. Serviced cards are 46p each. A set of four postcards is £1.84. Mint cards are 14p each.

Orders accompanied by remittances made payable to 'The Post Office', should be sent to: Regional Postcard, ADMAIL 30, London, EC1A 7PA.

Mint cards are available to personal callers at Philatelic Counters in the London Postal Region, the National Postal Museum, and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT.

1984 Holiday Postcards Promotion

Following the Post Office 1984 Holiday Postcards Promotion, the prizes for the winning towns/cities were to have a postcard produced for each of them in 1985. The winning resorts in 1984 were Bath, Bournemouth, and St Ives. A postcard has been produced for each locality and these are currently on sale, price 14p each, from the following sales outlets. All three are available from Bristol, Gloucester, and Southampton philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum, or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, where normal handling charges will apply. The Bath philatelic counter will sell the Bath postcard only, and the Bournemouth philatelic counter will sell the Bournemouth postcard only. The Exeter, Plymouth and Truro philatelic counters will only sell the St Ives postcard. There is no official first day of issue for the three postcards.

South Eastern Postal Region Postcard Transorma Anniversary

The fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of sorting equipment — the Transorma — at Brighton Post Office in 1935, is being commemorated with the issue of a postcard (SPR 46) on 7 October 1985.

The postcard depicts a monochrome photograph of the early machine surrounded by colour pictures

of modern equipment. A special handstamp will be available on the first day of sale, and cards may be ordered from the Head Postmaster, (Philatelic Counter), 51 Ship Street, BRIGHTON, BN1 1AA (Girobank account number 314 0210), or by cheque made payable to 'The Post Office',

Cards will cost 14p mint and 46p fully serviced.

Midland Postal Board

The first of two new postcards illustrating the history of Post Office postmarks for Worcestershire was issued on 31 July 1985. This card depicts Worcester postmarks from the first cancellation mark, the two line 'Worcester' of 1720 to the famous Maltese Cross of 1840. (The second card, which will be issued at a later date will portray the '918' numeral of 1844 to a postmark of the present day). Mint postcards, price 14p each, can be obtained by personal application from all philatelic counters in the Midlands Postal Region, or by mail order from: The Head Postmaster, Head Post Office, 8/10 Foregate Street, WORCESTER WR1 1AA.

British Philatelic Bulletin

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