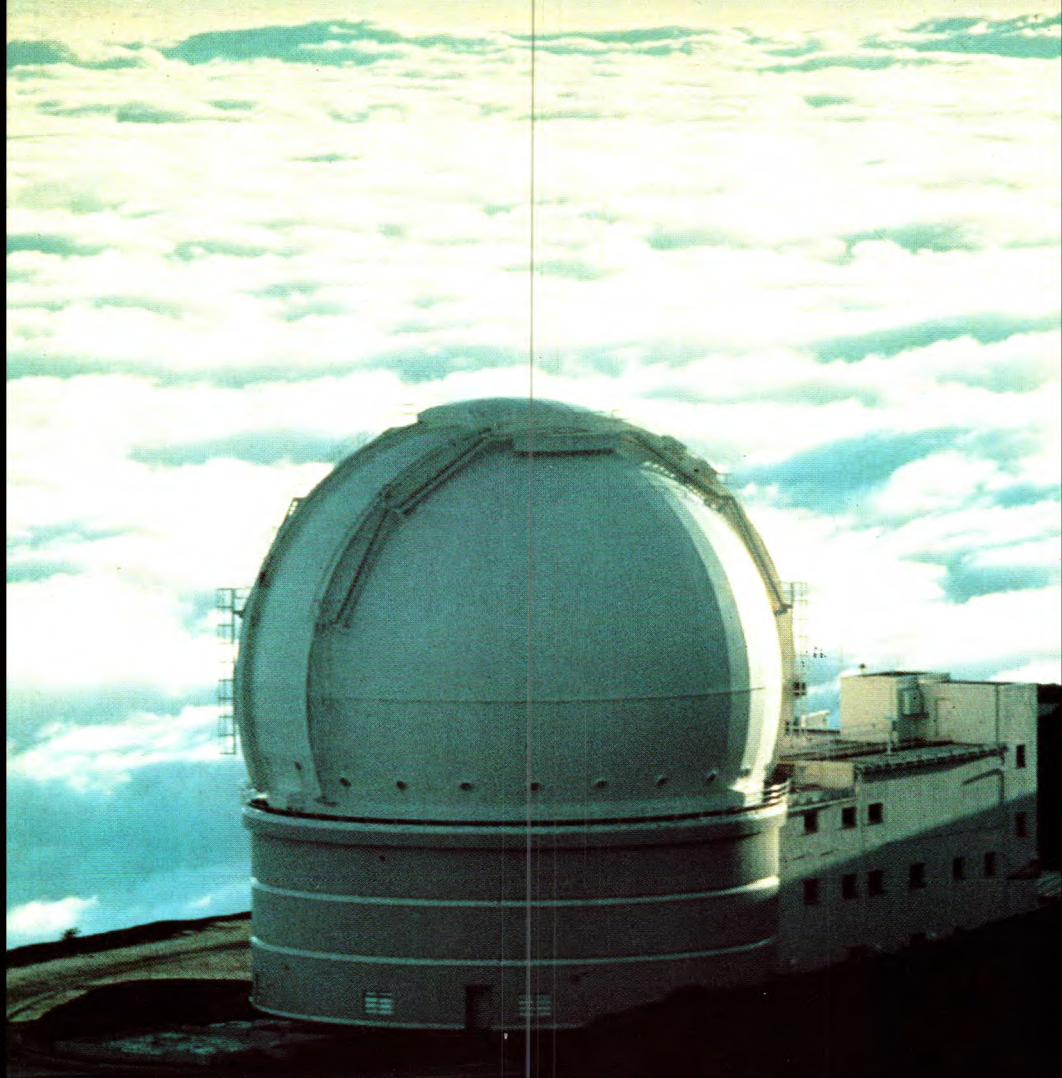


British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 28

Number 8

April 1991



Contents

- 175 1990 Special Stamps Poll
- 179 Cylinder Update
Stamping the Mail
- 180 Posting Boxes
NPM Shop News
- 181 British Special Issues: Christmas 1983
- 182 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
- 183 April/May Events
- 184 Themes of British Special Stamps: 4.
Architecture
- 187 Preserving Our Heritage
Stamp Designer's Exhibition
- 188 Definitive Withdrawal Dates
- 189 Six Month Digest
Railway Letter Stamps
- 190 Philatelic Organisations in Britain:
National Philatelic Society
- 191 Royal Mail Exhibition Cards
- 192 Books
Obituaries
- 193 1989 Special Stamp Quantities
Competition
- 194 Commemorative Covers
- 196 April Digest
Post Office Archives

Postage Due Discovery

A visitor to the National Postal Museum recently showed us a cover bearing the 4d Postage Due (S.G. D6) clearly postmarked Thornton Heath, Surrey on 23 December 1920. The date of issue of this stamp is normally given simply as 1921. The *Post Office Circular* of 21 December 1921 stated: "Postage Due Labels of 4d denomination... are ready for distribution. Each Head Postmaster should requisition a suitable initial supply forthwith." The Postmaster at Thornton Heath was obviously quick to order and put the stamp into use.

Our front cover features El Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos (Observatory of the Rocks of the Two Boys) on La Palma, Canary Islands. A multi-European team of astronomers works there. Four stamps on the theme "Europe in Space" go on sale on 23 April - previewed in last month's Bulletin. Photograph courtesy of Michael St Maur Shiel.

NPM 1990 Annual Report

The National Postal Museum's *Philatelic Year* annual report for 1990 will shortly be available. The report, edited by Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately, gives details of the NPM's work during 1990, including acquisitions, research, conservation, exhibitions and publications. A large section of the report is devoted to the "Postal Reform and the Penny Black" exhibition (April 1990/April 1991) and the Museum and Post Office Archives joint stand at Stamp World London 90 - both much praised by visitors. The NPM also played a major part in the Court of Honour at Stamp World, in association with the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Library. Also recorded are details of the activities of the Friends of the NPM and a review of the 1990 issues of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and *British Postmark Bulletin*, both compiled at the NPM.

The report can be obtained, price £2, from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

New Low Value Presentation Pack

A new presentation pack containing the following low value definitives will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres and philatelic counters on 14 May: 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 17p, 20p (sea green), 22p, 26p, 27p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p, 37p, 50p and 75p. The pack will be number 24 and will cost £4.55.



Country Stamps Variations

The Scottish 17p, 22p, 26p and 37p and Welsh 17p and 22p stamps have recently been reprinted on paper provided by Coated Papers Ltd with PVA gum. These will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres and philatelic counters on 14 May. No First Day of Issue facilities will be provided. The earlier printing of these stamps was on Harrison paper with PVA Dextrin gum.

1990 Special Stamps Poll

In the December *Bulletin* we asked readers to nominate their three favourite special stamp issues of 1990. Some 1,850 of you responded – slightly fewer than in previous years, but still a good response rate. We thank all readers who voted, especially those from overseas; voting forms were received from many countries. Points were allocated for each vote: three points for the first choice, two points for the second and one for the third. This enables us to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue of special stamps. The final voting figures were:

Queen Mother's 90th Birthday	2,202
Christmas	2,150
RSPCA	2,084
Gallantry	1,625
Europa (Buildings)	770
Astronomy	402
Queen's Awards	384
Kew Gardens	355
Thomas Hardy	200

The *Bulletin* Editor personally read all your comments and 1990 Yearbooks have been sent to the five readers whose comments were thought to be particularly apt or interesting. Their comments, and those of other readers, are quoted below.

RSPCA

This was your third most popular set of 1990; wildlife stamps are always popular – the Birds set was your favourite of 1989. The main reason given for liking the RSPCA stamps was simple, you like animals and found Tony Evans's photographs of the kitten, rabbit, duck and puppy particularly appealing. J Shrimpton of Gloucestershire thought the stamps "...cute, high in ah! A friend's daughter took the PHQ cards to bed with her!" Several of you commented on the fact that young children had become interested in stamp collecting because they liked these stamps. All recruits to the hobby welcome. Mrs Stone of Devon liked the stamps so much she was "encouraged to write long overdue letters to pet lover friends, using

the appropriate stamps despite the value." Some of you wrote strongly about the importance of the work of the RSPCA and were clearly worried about the still too-high level of cruelty to animals and of the plight of animals bought as presents and later discarded. The stamps had an important message as well as a strong sentimental appeal. There was praise for the photographic skill of Tony Evans and pleas for more stamps of similarly uncluttered design. "Keep it simple" wrote Jeffrey Kalp of Hertfordshire; "most appealing" commented John Rowlands of West Yorkshire, who continued "Let's hope we do not revert back to David Gentleman!" Although he liked the designs, Mr Evans of Co Down thought the values were not bold enough.



There was some good humour in your comments, P J Cole of Surrey wrote "the stamps are nearly as warm and cuddly as the animals themselves, and you don't have to worry about house training the stamps". Miss P Baldwin of Middlesex thought this set stood "head and paws above the other issues." Mr T Thompson of the Isle of Islay summed up your views on this set and wins a Yearbook: "...they express the vulnerability of animals without being soppy. They are graphically powerful and beautiful, everything good stamps should be. An encouraging piece of propaganda in a good cause."

Europa

This set prompted praise that belies its position in the voting table. W Lewin of Greece wrote: the set "...stirs my soul in three ways – my fascination with buildings, my passion for the use of subtle colours in philately and my loyalty to my old Templeton carpet." P Koutsomitopoulos, also of Greece, thought the stamps gave

"a good opportunity to enrich the European Architecture Thematic collection with fine examples of British Architecture." A number of readers commented on the attractiveness of the buildings depicted, Mr MacIver of Stirling suggesting we all "look at these and compare them with the monstrosities erected now and called architectural wonders." The execution of the designs was appreciated by M B Taylor of West Yorkshire – "they are a dignified set, beautifully printed in excellent clear natural colours and of course incorporating our own Philatelic Bureau – very appropriate". M Phillips of Hertfordshire and D Ferguson of California commented on the great attention to architectural details; the latter calling the stamps "simple, honest and clean in design quality". Mr Phillips praised "the variety in building styles and the balance of the images chosen, centred about a spire or cross." For C Kenyon of Lancashire "they will always be synonymous with Stamp World London 90 and whenever I view this set of stamps memories of the exhibition flood back." I am sure many will feel the same.

Queen's Awards

This set was not popular in terms of votes and a good number thought the designs dull and repetitive – at least one reader objecting to paying over £1 for a set of the same basic designs. However those who voted them their first choice wrote enthusiastically about them. Both Miss B Willis of Essex and Y Olsson of London thought this set the only one of 1990 "that look like stamps!". B Hodgkinson of Cyprus found them "the only set in an otherwise uninspired year to avoid sentimentality, trendy pop styling or finicky over-detailing; and providing a simple, direct, well-coordinated design with immediate impact." R Field of East Sussex, describing himself as "no designer" appreciated "the subtle differences in the make-up of each pair including the initials 'ET' which, intentionally or not, symbolise technical co-operation – even beyond planet Earth."

H Epworth of Yorkshire admired the Queen's Awards logo (by Abram Games), opining that "by comparison the RSPCA, Queen Mother and Christmas are just pretty pictures." The comments can be summed up by H Weston of Hertfordshire, another Yearbook winner: "they are striking yet dignified, I like the colour reversal between the high and low value stamps and the subtle differences of the shadows."

Kew Gardens

The general comment about this issue was one of disappointment, most people who commented thought that real pictures of trees would have been better and that the stamps, whilst clever in concept, failed to capture the colour and splendour of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. However J Shackleton of Middlesex argued against this general feeling, writing "straightforward photographic style stamps would not have worked in miniature for this subject. The 'impressionistic' form shows the natural and man-made treasures to advantage." D McInnes of Ross and Cromarty was "pleasantly surprised" when he saw the stamps – "their colourful design and modern look brightened up and made interesting a subject I had previously found boring and unnecessary." M Pool of Warwickshire praised the "common design philosophy", having "the crispness of yesteryear"; G Brangwyn of Suffolk found the designs "refreshing... managing to conjure up the true essence of Kew", a sentiment echoed by Dr I Duff of Oxfordshire.

Many of you mentioned the "green" aspect of this issue, reminding us, said F Last of East Lothian, that "concern for trees (is) of global importance."

Miss H Kojima of Japan found these stamps "the most elegant"; Ms C Bagnall of Scotland thought "the trees are like 1930s travel posters – strong stark graphics not merely pictorial", biologist Dr M Usher of York was succinct – "Bold and Green" and D Wilkinson collected opinions from his local philatelic society where the stamps "breathed life... by way of comment and heated argument on the merits of design. Members who had not spoken for years joined in. More controversial issues please."

Last words on this set go to A Pickerin of Hampshire: "beautiful design, creating the image of exotic trees, yet the down to earth reality of the architecture in the background beautifully drawn and printed." Mr Pickerin was less complimentary about the Astronomy stamps, adding as a postscript "Wooden spoon to Astronomy – a meaningless jumble!"

Thomas Hardy

I was somewhat surprised at the very low vote for this stamp which was one of my personal favourites. It would seem you just found it rather uninspiring; there were no violent expressions of dislike. The "simple non-fussy design" met with approval of R Pilkington of

Lancashire, with similar comments from T Ogden of Belgium (adding “only one stamp, thank heavens”), B Needoff of London, and H Briscoe of Birmingham. Mr Briscoe, *et al*, suggested “you ought to have a poll for the worst stamps – my vote would be for the Kew Gardens set (really ugly, a wasted opportunity) followed by Astronomy (cluttered) and Queen’s Awards.”

The colours chosen for this stamp found favour with R Allan of Hampshire – “evocative of a contemporary photograph” – and R Ho of Cheshire – “the soft colour gave a very commemorative touch.” Several thought the design captured “the mood of Hardy’s work” (N Hankem of Hertfordshire); “epitomises the England of Hardy’s novels and encapsulates the dignity of the man and the character of his work” (D Gwynn of Swansea and A Godfrey of Warwickshire).

A number praised the decision to issue just a single stamp with well-argued comment from A New of Hertfordshire and R Brown of West Yorkshire who remarked “it also included the ‘pence’ which makes it look like a stamp.” Final comment from H Fanshawe of East Sussex, another Yearbook winner: “a most appropriate single stamp. Composite parts and colouring make a dignified memorial to one of our greatest writers. In fact it had more impact on me than a series of stamps.”

Queen Mother

Your favourite set for 1990 brought out the full range of patriotic feeling – praise for the Queen Mother’s devotion to public duty as well as kind thoughts for her as a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The choice of portraits of Her under four different titles was admired, especially the portrait as Queen Consort to George VI which reminded many of you of the £1 Silver Wedding stamps. T Cawtheray of London wrote: “the 29p value reminds me of the second most beautiful stamp we ever issued – the £1 silver wedding of 1948”. R Powers of Derbyshire commented “they stand head and shoulders above many other fine issues, powerfully transmitting the feeling of halcyon days long gone – regal, serene but straightforward, the best since the £1 Silver Wedding.”

It is evident from your comments that “photographic” stamps of this type are more appreciated than “artistic” designs. There was no doubt as to what the stamps commemorated – wrote A Charman of Kent “The little old lady

collecting her pension and buying some stamps does not have to ask what the issue commemorates – they speak for themselves, unlike Europa, Queen’s Awards and Astronomy.” But such feelings were not unanimous, some of you clearly prefer the artistic approach whereby designers give their own interpretation of the subject. There is, no doubt, room for both approaches to stamp design – photographic or artistic depending on the theme of the stamps but few suggested anything other than the photographic approach to the Queen Mother issue.

Finally Mrs M Kennett of Surrey commented on the attractiveness of the Royal Mail first day cover envelope and the “First Day of Issue” postmark of the British Philatelic Bureau which incorporated the Queen Mother’s coat of arms. Mrs Kennett much appreciated the roses shown on the cover as appropriate to the royal subject of the stamps.



Gallantry

Like the previous issue, this set also generated strong patriotic fervour with a number of you commenting on the bravery of those involved in the “Gulf War” as well as the servicemen of the First and Second World Wars. Turning from remarks on the subject matter to the designs themselves, R Sanderson of South Yorkshire suggested “a medal for the designer of the stamps – it took courage to produce a plain, dignified stamp in this age of clutter and symbolism”; dignified was a word often used about this issue. For P Howes of Avon, “this long overdue recognition of gallantry is represented in a simple, yet expressive manner. Mixed vertical and horizontal design are enhanced by natural colours of medal ribbons.” “The Queen’s head tying in with the colour of

the ribbon was a great idea", wrote B Elrick of Aberdeen; W Marshall of Gloucestershire is obviously a man of few words – "Clean, Uncluttered, Meaningful!" Similar words were used by L Cox of Kent, who continued, "a potent reminder of the sacrifices of others at a time when 'what's in it for me?' or 'what compensation can I get?' are prevailing attitudes." E Baker conducted a Christmas Party Competition at the Greater Eastside Stamp Society in Bellevue, USA, the members voted for Gallantry "as being the most worthy and informative ... all colourful and educational of the whole year's issues of stamps."

Astronomy

Not one of your favourite issues, with A Sibell of Hertfordshire expressing a much-held view that the designs were cluttered – "the designs look like a flightdeck of an aeroplane. They are cluttered, you have no conception of the significance of the parts." But they found favour with, amongst others, G White of Surrey – "superb examples of inspired design, incorporating an extraordinary number of aspects of astronomy... an incredible achievement, I display them to my students." M Giuliano of Kent reckoned "a lot of thought has gone into this – not just a photo or a copy of some one else's work." B Sharp of Humberside admired "the rich but subtle choice of colours" as well as the "original and imaginative designs."

B Linney of Worcestershire voted Astronomy his favourite set with the enigmatic comment: "having looked at them ever since they were issued I still don't understand them." He described all other sets as "very obvious and self explanatory", and ended with "hope the designer is better now." The fourth yearbook goes to J Selby of Warwickshire for his comment: "Although a hotch potch the four stamps still represent a colourful microcosm of the history of Astronomy ... I particularly like the original treatment of the value numerals."

Christmas

"In a generally lacklustre year, they were philatelic jewels, and proved that the Christmas issue is not a seam worked to exhaustion." So wrote N Steele of Leicestershire, echoing many views that the Christmas stamps were the best for many-a-year. J Peat of Durham was of the opinion that "at long last here are festive stamps with a theme the general public can understand, appreciate and enthuse over." Many com-

mented on the inclusion of a village church in each design – ensuring, said F Spencer of Dorset, that "the Christ in Christmas is not forgotten." Likewise many wrote of the designs reflecting the traditional English Christmas although most appreciated that in reality Christmas is not often like that. Nevertheless it is an ideal we all like to believe in – rather like Santa Claus himself. Mr West of Essex postscripted his form with "No prizes expected" for his comment "For the first time in ages they look like Xmas stamps and not some 'arty-crafty' mess!"; similar words were used by J Aynsley of Wiltshire. One man's meat is another's poison and D Tatham of London found this set "appalling – an old fashioned idea with awful 1930ish illustrations. Quite the worst I've ever seen." This contrasted with S Jowett of the USA who praised their "tremendous warmth and spirit", wishing "the designers of the US Christmas stamps did such a beautiful job." The last word goes to J Norridge of Oxfordshire who wins the fifth Yearbook – "they typify the Christmas holiday spirit without being overtly religious. They are excellently laid out with movement, peace, fun and the Christmas spirit all crystalised in beautiful colours."



A number of you suggested we include the Greetings stamps in future and we will consider this request. However we should point out that the Greetings stamps are regarded as Definitive rather than Special issues. The "Smiles" clearly generated strong feelings for and against. Mr L Price of West Yorkshire wished they had been included as they would "take top honours" but P Domone of the USA thought we "were wise omitting the Greetings stamps – probably the most grotesque ever issued by the Post Office."

Finally I must thank Harry Reeves, one of the custodians at the National Postal Museum, who for the third year running has patiently opened all the poll envelopes and tallied up the votes.

Cylinder Update

Gallantry

The cylinders and colours used for the Gallantry stamps were:

20p GC – 2A grey-black 1B pale stone 1C flesh 1D grey 1E ultramarine 1F ultramarine

20p MC and MM – 1A grey-black 1B pale stone 1C ochre 1D pale blue 1E ultramarine 1F scarlet 1G violet

20p DSC and DSM – 3A grey-black 1B pale stone 1C flesh 2D pale blue 1E ultramarine 1F ultramarine

20p VC – 2A grey-black 1B pale stone 1C stone 1D bistre-brown 1E bright carmine 1F bright carmine

20p DFC and DFM – 1A grey-black 1B pale stone 1C yellow-brown 1D bluish grey 1E purple 1F purple

Note: Two cylinders of the same colours were used for four of the five stamps. This, Harrisons tell us, results from “separate working” of different parts of the design in the same colour, in other words separate cylinders were used to print different parts of the design in the same colour. The cylinder and colour information given above supersedes that published in September 1990 and January 1991.

Dogs

The Venerable T Barfett of Cornwall reports a cylinder block of the 33p stamp with cylinder 2D (new blue) in place of 3D previously reported.

Scientific Achievements

The numbers and colours as follows:

22p *Faraday* – 1A (silver) 1B (olive-brown) 1C (greenish-yellow) 2D (magenta) 1E (slate-blue) 1F (grey) 1G (black)

22p *Babbage* – 1A (silver) 1C (chrome yellow) 1C (red) 1D (grey-black) 1E (brownish-grey) 1F (sepia)

31p – 1A (silver) 1B (deep turquoise-green) 1C (violet-blue) 1D (steel-blue) 1E (deep dull blue)

37p – 1A (silver) 1B (olive-bistre) 1C (rose red) 1D (turquoise-blue) 1E (new blue) 1F (grey-black)

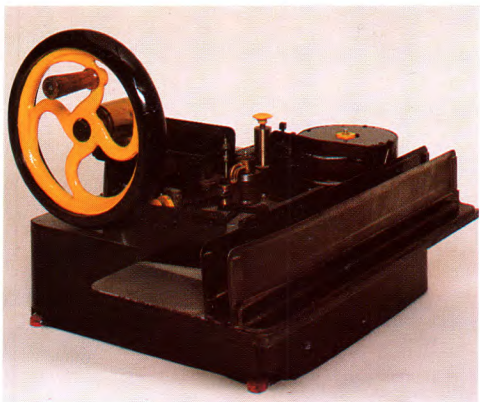
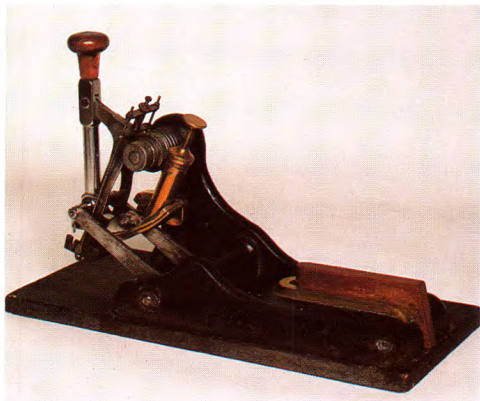
Greetings (Smiles)

Cylinders and colours: B1A (gold) B1B (greenish-yellow) B1C (bright rose-red) B1D (new blue) B1E (bright blue) B1F (grey-black) B91 (phosphor).

Stamping the Mail

An exhibition under this title opens at the National Postal Museum on 14 May and will continue until April 1992. It tells the story of cancelling the mail from the Bishop Mark of 1661 to the Second World War.

Four postcards will be issued on 14 May, two of which, illustrating early cancelling machines, are shown here – Pearson Hill parallel motion machine of c.1858 and a hand-operated



Krag machine of c.1906. The cards cost 20p each and can be ordered from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order 80p, handling charge 22p on orders up to £22, £1.97 over £22 (sent by registered post).

A special handstamp will be used on 14 May; cards/covers to receive this should be sent to: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA requesting NPM Special Handstamp – 14 May.

Posting Boxes

119. Replica Penfold Box

There can be little doubt that the "Penfold" is the most popular of British posting boxes and we featured both original and replica "Penfolds" here on several occasions. This month, courtesy of Royal Mail Carlisle, we feature the replica box installed in Carlisle in December 1989 to commemorate the fact that Carlisle was the first place in mainland Britain to have a road-side pillar box, in 1853.



Photo: Jean Willcox, Carlisle Photo News

Royal Mail Carlisle produced a souvenir cover showing the box (see March 1990 *Bulletin*, page 167) and a special handstamp is used on souvenir covers posted in the box or on all mail sent in to Carlisle asking for this postmark. The handstamp was applied in red ink from 15 December 1989 and in black since 17 September 1990. Covers to receive this handstamp should be sent to: Business Customer Care, Royal Mail Carlisle, Junction Street, CARLISLE CA1 1AA. Covers must be fully addressed and bear 4p in addition to the postage rate, i.e. 21p second class or 26p first class inland mail. Collectors wanting their covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope; this need not bear additional postage.

Details of these replica boxes were published here in December 1989 (page 95).

Readers interested in letter boxes are reminded of the existence of the Letter Box Study Group – details of which can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9BS.

I have on file a considerable number of photographs and transparencies sent in by readers for this "Posting Boxes" feature – enough to last for the next few years. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.

NPM Shop News

The National Postal Museum shop stocks over 60 postcards published by the Museum; these are available to both callers and by mail order. A list of cards may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

In addition the shop now stocks a range of postcards featuring posting boxes and rural post offices (published by David Shaw and Colin Baxter) and over a dozen different model postal vans, lorries and horse-drawn vehicles manufactured by Corgi and other companies. The model vehicles are priced from £2 upwards. Limited numbers of cards and models are available, hence all are offered subject unsold to callers to the Museum only. The NPM is open Monday–Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm and Friday 9.30am to 4pm, admission free.



Mr Shaw has recently produced a card – reference 1990 (44) – featuring as Royal Mail Parcelforce van with a double-aperture EIIR box in the background. This card is also available to callers to the NPM shop (limited stock, offered subject unsold).

Christmas 1983

British Special Issues: No.165

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The Post Office's perennial problem of finding a new slant for the Christmas stamps' designs was neatly solved for 1983 by a newcomer to stamp designing, Tony Meeuwissen of Stroud, Gloucestershire, who was an established designer in other fields. The theme, taken from the Christmas message "Peace on Earth", is carried through the five stamps by the presence of a dove in each design. This harbinger of peace takes some finding on the 12½p, being very small and just below the figures of value.

The designs were: **12½p** Christmas Post (a pillar box); **16p** decorative chimney pots representing the Three Kings, together with a cat and dove at peace!; **20½p** Dove and blackbird sharing an umbrella with a world map (in snow) on its top; **28p** the dove and blackbird sharing "The Light of Christmas" (a street lamp); and **31p** "Christmas Dove" – a snow-covered piece of topiary work on which other birds are perched.

The designs had the merit of being really original and, while neither specifically religious or secular, managed to convey the spirit of the festive season from both aspects. The presentation pack was especially interesting as it quoted sources as varied as the Old Testament, Tennyson, the Charter of the United Nations and the Koran, applying each quotation to a particular Meeuwissen design.

Printing was by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd in photogravure. Despite the complicated detail, the standard of printing was such that only three constant flaws are listed by Stanley Gibbons: **20½p** – a curved line from the umbrella edge to the blackbird (no dot cylinder, row 3 stamp 9); **31p** – a large extra snowflake touching the wing of the blackbird just below the topiary dove's tail wing (dot cylinder, row 1 stamp 1) and a missing wing from the same blackbird (dot cylinder, row 9 stamp 4).

An exceptional variety is listed for the 12½p, namely, a complete imperforate in horizontal pair; the 16p is also listed imperforate between stamp and bottom sheet margin.

Sales at the withdrawal date, 15 November 1984, amounted to: 12½p – 289,209,100 (this



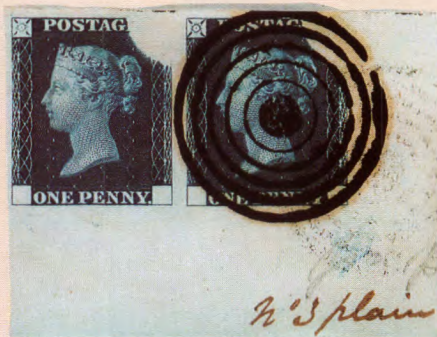
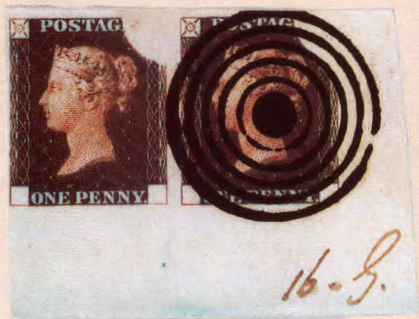
was the popular second class rate for Christmas cards); 16p – 150,863,200; 20½p – 16,798,600; 28p – 15,709,200; 31p – 13,985,900. The accompanying PHQ cards were numbered 71a to 71e; some 210,000 sets were produced. The customary pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks were provided at the British Philatelic Bureau (Edinburgh) and at Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed; there were in addition a number of sponsored handstamps and the usual standard (non-pictorial) "First Day of Issue" cancels.

There was also a special Christmas aerogramme costing 30p (with a postal value of 26p), designed by Harry Titcombe. Printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd, its theme was Christmas flora against a background snow scene.

A Christmas gift gesture by the Post Office was a special booklet of 20 x 12½p definitive stamps for £2.20, a discount of 30p, reducing the cost of each stamp to 11p. All the stamps in these booklets were underprinted on the back with a double-lined blue star to deter any reselling at face value and to assist in accountancy. The seasonable (pantomime) cover design for the booklet was by Barbara Brown, designer of the Jane Austen bicentenary stamps of 1975. The book was on general sale from 9 November until Christmas Eve.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

184. 1841 Penny Red



Periodically selected pages from the Phillips Collection are taken from the pull-out frames and put on open display in the main gallery of the National Postal Museum. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Penny Red and Twopence Blue with added white lines, a fine display of these stamps is on open display until the end of 1991. The display focusses on the reason for the change of colour from black to red.

Shortly after the issue of the Penny Black, Rowland Hill noted: "All sorts of tricks are being played by the public who are exercising their ingenuity in devising contrivances for removing the obliterating stamps by chemical agents." It was obvious that the security devices incorporated in the design to prevent fraudulent re-use had failed. Originally, it was decided that the postage stamp should be black, as this was the most convenient printer's ink. As a result the obliteration, in the form of the Maltese Cross, was in a red ink, supposedly impossible to remove without damaging the stamp. But with the success of various people in removing the cancellation new inks had to be found for both stamp and cancellation.

In 24 April 1840, even before the Penny Black was issued, Rowland Hill had written to the Secretary to the Post Office, calling his attention to the power of creosote to wash out the cancellation. Experiments were put

in hand to find new inks. Hill asked Perkins, Bacon & Petch to produce new stamp inks; they created a small printing plate, firstly of three and then of 12 impressions, specially made from the 1d die. The upper right corner of each stamp was made void to prevent any examples being used for postage. These "stamps", printed in a wide variety of colours - black, blues, lilac-rose and shades of green and red, have become known as the "Rainbow Trials". These were given to various chemists for testing.

It was decided fairly early on that black letterpress printing ink was the best basis for a cancelling ink but obviously ineffective used on a black stamp. A red stamp would be much better. Perkins, Bacon manufactured several red inks to comply with the necessary conditions and then produced stamps from the trial plate. What was required was a printing ink which would be fugitive with any of the substances that might be used to remove the cancellation. The ink chosen (reference No. 16G) was affected by creosote, turpentine and all oleaginous liquids as well as the proposed obliterating ink.

As far as the 2d stamp was concerned, although it was not considered necessary, a new blue ink (No. 3 plain) with similar advantages had been prepared and so it was proposed that the 2d be printed in this at a slightly higher cost. In order to distinguish

the new 2d from the original a white line was added to the design above and below the head.

In September 1840 Hill proposed that the stamps should be printed in the new inks and that the Maltese Cross cancellation be changed from red to black. Trials with an apparently satisfactory black ink had taken place in London during August with a canceller of concentric rings conceived by Hill himself. However, it later proved possible to remove this ink as well without destroying the stamp and so a new one was required. This was produced by adding alkanet root to black printing ink. As a further precaution this ink was prepared in

London and supplied to country offices; the original red ink had been mixed locally.

Printing of the new 1d red stamps began on 30 December 1840 and they were put on sale on 10 February 1841. The 2d followed with printing beginning on 27 February, being put on sale in March. With many variations of shade, plate and perforation the penny red, the world's third adhesive postage stamp, was to last for the next 39 years.

Shown here are Rainbow trial "stamps" printed from inks 16G and No. 3 plain, referred to above, cancelled with the trial concentric circle postmark designed by Rowland Hill.

Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately, NPM

The Museum, in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1 is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm; admission free.

April/May Events

The **Northamptonshire Philatelic Society** will hold its 16th annual stamp fair and exhibition at the Exeter Rooms, Kettering Road, Northampton on 13 April (10am to 4.30pm). About 18 dealers will be present offering stamps, postal history, postcards, cigarette cards and accessories. The exhibition will include the winning entries of the annual competition together with exhibits from less advanced collectors and juniors. There will be a Stamp Bug Club area for young collectors. Refreshments and car parking available; the Exeter Rooms are about 200 yards from the town centre. Enquiries: Neville Watterson, 449 Abington Park Parade, Wellingborough Road, NORTHAMPTON NN1 4EZ, tel. Northampton 27323.

The **1991 Essex Stamp Day**, organised by the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies and hosted by the Southend-on-Sea Philatelic Society, will be held at the Adult Education Centre, Ambleside Drive, Southend-on-Sea on 18 May. As usual, the Association's Spring competitions (stamps, postal history and aerophilately) will be held and there will be a number of dealers' stands. Refreshments available. Enquiries about the event and the Southend-on-Sea PS: Trevor Mills, 131 Glendale Gardens, LEIGH ON SEA, Essex, SS9 2BE.

An exhibition of the work of **Abram Games** will be on show at the Ben Uri Art

Society Gallery, 21 Dean Street, London W1 from 15 April to 12 May. Games is probably best known for his Festival of Britain and Queen's Awards emblems, both of which have featured on British stamps. He designed the 3d stamp in the 1948 Olympics set. On display will be over 20 of his celebrated posters, together with stamps, medals, emblems and magazine covers. The exhibition will be open Monday-Thursday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 2-5pm.

The **Railway Philatelic Group** will be celebrating its silver jubilee during 1991 and a central feature of the celebrations will be the annual Convention to be held in the Board Room, North Eastern Railway Company Building in York on 20 April (9am to 4pm). Several dealers will be present and displays and talks will be given. The RPG will be running membership and publication stands and group packet books will be available for sale. Enquiries: W J Mason (Hon Secretary), 16 Larkfield, Ecclestone, CHORLEY, Lancs, PR7 5RN.

Displays of old letter boxes and other postal artefacts are given regularly by enthusiast David Harrop at events throughout the country. On 13-14 April he will be at the Spring Festival at the Manchester Museum of Transport, Boyle Street, Cheetham Hill; on 4-6 May at the Llandudno Victorian Weekend and on 18-19 May at the Isle of Anglesey Vintage Rally at Plas Goch, Llanfair P.G.

Themes of British Special Stamps

4. Architecture

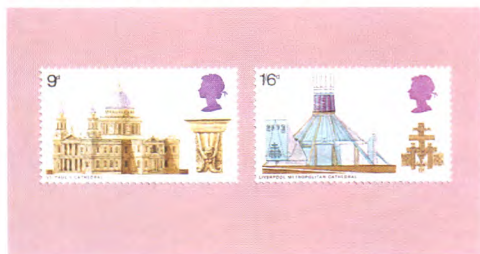
G E DRABBLE

The thematic collector whose aim is to produce a pleasing, elegant and instructive collection needs to define a theme with care. The inclusion under "Architecture" of any stamp remotely linked with buildings or structures could result in a somewhat motley and inharmonious litter of stamps with the only obvious common feature being their shape! Since 1964, when the Forth Bridge set appeared, there have been over 60 stamps issued which have a tenuous claim to be included under the label of Architecture; the Forth Bridge itself, the Post Office Tower (now Telecom Tower), and the Investiture of the Prince of Wales are just three examples. But of these, only the sets including Architecture in their title are here considered. These begin with Cathedrals in 1969, followed by Rural Architecture in 1970, Modern University Buildings in 1971, Village Churches in 1972, European Architectural Heritage Year in 1975, Historic Buildings in 1978, and British Architects in Europe in 1987. Even with the limitation stated, seven issues, incorporating 32 stamps, is a generous recognition by the Post Office of architecture as a worthy and pleasing subject for philately.

Cathedrals

In May 1969 a set of six stamps appeared, designed by Peter Gauld, illustrating British cathedrals. This was the first of five issues under the common heading "British Architecture". Four of the stamps were 5d value in a se-tenant block, and although this was not the first time this had been done, it was perhaps the first time that the block had been designed as such, rather than just four stamps connected together. Seven colours, mostly light pastel shades, were used on the block, but no stamp carries more than four. The buildings (the cathedrals of Durham; Canterbury; St Giles, Edinburgh; and York Minster) are printed in three colours, the roofs contrasting with the elevations. The four stamps appear "back-to-back" with the Queen's head in silhouette looking outwards from the centre of the block. Beneath the Queen's head appears a detail of an architectural feature, such as the

capital of a column. St Paul's and Liverpool Metropolitan cathedrals appeared separately on the 9d and 1s 6d stamps, with a similar format. Canterbury Cathedral in green, with a bright blue roof may sound bizarre, but the visual effect is very pleasing throughout. The set is a worthy introduction to the theme.



Rural Architecture

The second issue, illustrating four examples of rural architecture, appeared in February 1970 and was the work of David Gentleman and Sheila Robinson. The issue appeared unusually in two sizes: 41 x 24mm for the 5d and 9d, and 41 x 31mm for the 1s and 1s 6d values, a size, incidentally, not since repeated. David Gentleman produced the two lower values and Sheila Robinson the others, but there is a similarity of style between the two pairs. The stamps illustrate particular forms of traditional rural architectural style, from Scotland, England,



Wales and Ireland, Gentleman's depictions of "Fife harling" and "Cotswold limestone" each show cottages which almost fill the small frame, with just sufficient room for the Queen's head and the value on the upper right hand corner. Sheila Robinson's use of the larger space was perhaps less happy. The Ulster thatched cottage occupies only half the larger frame of the 1s 6d stamp, whereas her Welsh stucco perhaps overfills the same space; the Queen has to be content with a small oval space superimposed on the upper wall and roof, and one suspects that the roof ridge lies just beyond the upper edge of the frame. This inconsistent use of space somewhat detracts from the quality of the issue as a whole; there were difficulties with this design, which apparently failed to show detail of the centre section of the large window. The picture is redeemed partly by the intriguing view of the lane through the covered passage.

Universities

The task of illustrating modern university buildings fell to a newcomer, Nicholas Jenkins, in September 1971. He adopted a fairly conventional and uniform style to show some of the new university buildings at Aberystwyth; Southampton; Leicester; and Colchester, Essex,



with drawings verging on a poster style and somewhat dark background colours – indeed, Essex appears almost as a moonlit scene. The drawings stress the modern use of concrete, and multi-storey and rectilinear construction, although the popular charge of "match-box" construction is belied by a gentle curve on the main facade of the building at Aberystwyth. The rather sombre colouring throughout suggests that the designer was anxious to depict the modern style of building faithfully, without necessarily being seen as supporting or celebrating it. The depiction on the 9p stamp of the Hexagon restaurant at Essex poses a minor puzzle; the building has all the appearance of a rectangular cuboid.

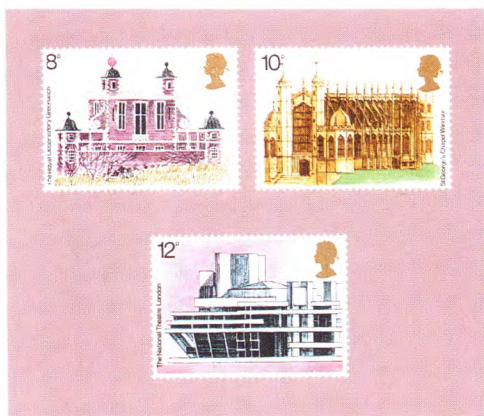


Village Churches

June 1972 saw the fourth British Architecture issue, devoted to village churches, and Ronald Maddox was entrusted with the design of five stamps which must make up the favourite page of many collectors. The instant appeal of this set seems to rely on two factors: first, the combination of black-and-white line drawings of the churches, against very colourful backgrounds of blue, khaki, green, orange-red and bright blue; second, the continuation of the background right up to the perforate edge of the stamp, leaving no margin. All five stamps are in vertical format, all centring on the steeple or tower of the church, and omitting some of the main body; all with the Queen's head in gold, in the upper right hand corner, and the values in white opposite. Apart from Huish Episcopi, the building of which is pure black-and-white, the church buildings themselves include just a touch of colour – a red-clad person in a porch; a red window, a blue-tinted roof. Interestingly, the same six colours – black, blue, green, khaki, red and gold – appear on all four of the lower value stamps, albeit in a different order. The set was one of two included in the Post Office "Belgica" 1972 souvenir pack.

Heritage Year

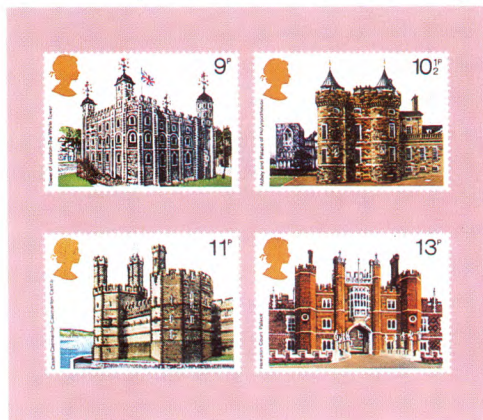
1975 was designated European Architectural Heritage Year, and a set of five stamps appeared in April, designed by Peter Gault. The five stamps, with two 7p value in a se-tenant pair, have attractive features, particularly the pair, showing Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, and The Rows, Chester. But certain features seem deliberately to avoid uniformity; the titling of the five pictures appears somewhat capriciously across the top, or along the left or right hand sides. The four lower values all show historic buildings, the Tower of London and St



George's Chapel Windsor being the other two, whereas the 12p portrays the National Theatre, with a rose colour-wash ground instead of plain white, and with a noticeable difference of drawing style. One might feel that a better set may have resulted just with the four lower values, with a consistent titling style. The National Theatre, if included, ought, one feels, to have been in a more definitely contrasting style. It is significant that it appears on the first day cover separate from the others.

Royal and Modern Buildings

The set of four stamps illustrating Historic Buildings issued in March 1978, also the work of Ronald Maddox, must also be reckoned a strong contender for the most attractive page in an album of British commemoratives. It is indeed difficult to point to any fault in this issue, which also featured as the subject for the first miniature sheet. The stamps illustrate the Tower of London, Holyrood House, Caernarfon Castle; and Hampton Court Palace; four buildings,



quite different in appearance and character, yet possessing common features which link them as a "set". The design style is uniform throughout, the four buildings all appear at an interesting angle, and the colours used include black, green and stone throughout, resulting in a certain uniformity of colour, with variations for each stamp to bring out the individual differences of the four buildings.

Four stamps illustrating British Architects in Europe appeared in May 1987, in conformation with the "Europa" theme of modern art with emphasis on architecture. They were designed by Brian Tattersfield, an artist with a strong predilection for architecture, who chose buildings in Ipswich; Paris; Stuttgart; and Luxembourg. Rather than illustrate complete buildings, he chose instead to concentrate on specific



details, with a not entirely felicitous result. Even with explanatory notes, it is not easy to identify some of the detail. One gains less impression of the European Investment Bank of Luxembourg than of the buildings opposite. Ventilation pipes and escalators do not make for an exciting or satisfying picture, and there is a certain perversity in using a reflecting exterior wall of the Willis Faber and Dumas building in Ipswich to show a view of another building! Mr Tattersfield made use of the interesting technique of making accurate models of his subjects, which were then photographed.

Architecture as a subject for stamp design has always been a popular theme. But it does impose restrictions on the imagination of the designer. When your subject is architecture, there is not a great deal you can do other than illustrate buildings, and it says much for the skill and competence of the designers of these issues that within these restrictions, they have produced some very pleasing results.

Preserving Our Heritage

At the AGM of the Friends of the National Postal Museum in November, Dr Eric R Inman asked if The Post Office might maintain the grave of William Wyon in West Norwood Cemetery in London. Wyon was Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint and was responsible for the Guildhall Medal marking Queen Victoria's visit to the City of London in November 1837. The "Wyon head" on the medal formed the basis for the design of the Penny Black and Twopence Blue three years later. Wyon died October 1851, eight months after his wife Catherine who lies in the same grave. The National Postal Museum will in future pay the cost of having the grave maintained.



Shown above is a post office counter currently on display as part of the "Edwardian Post Office" exhibition at the National Postal Museum. The counter comes from the sub office at Ringmer, Sussex; it was found boarded up in a forgotten store room in the mid-1980s. The base is certainly Victorian, but the grill and glass panel are probably later. We are obliged to Cyril Macey, of the Friends of the NPM, for this photograph.

Stamp Designer's Exhibition

Collectors who admired Keith Bowen's 1988 Welsh Bible stamps will be interested to know that illustrations by him will appear in a new book *Snowdon Shepherd: Four Seasons on the Hill Farms of North Wales* to be published shortly by Pavilion Books of London. A limited edition of this book, each numbered and signed by Mr Bowen, and containing a set of the Winter Season stamps, designed by Keith Bowen, will be available when the stamps are issued early in 1992. Full details will be given here nearer the time.

An exhibition of his work for the book will be on show at the National Museum of Wales – Museum of the North at Llanberis, Gwynedd from 4 May to 2 July 1991. The Museum is open daily from 9.30am to 6pm, telephone enquiries on 0286-870636. There will be a Royal Mail presence at the exhibition, including the designs for Mr Bowen's Welsh Bible stamps.

An article by Bowen on his Welsh Bible designs was published in the March 1988 issue of the *Bulletin*.



KEITH BOWEN

Ardangonfa o waith o'r llyfr
BUGAIL ERYRI
Cyflwynwyd gan Llyfrau Ffardd

AMGUDDFA GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
AMGUDDFA'R GOGLEDD, LLANBERIS, GWYNEDD

MAI 4 - GORFFENNAF 2 1991

Oriau Agori: 9.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. (Saith dydd o'r wythnos)

An Exhibition of work from the book

SNOWDON SHEPHERD

Published by Pavilion Books
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES
MUSEUM OF THE NORTH, LLANBERIS, GWYNEDD
Telephone: 0286 870636

MAI 4 - JULY 2 1991

Opening Hours: 9.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. (Seven days a week)

Definitive Withdrawal Dates

A number of readers have asked when Machin definitive stamps were withdrawn from general sale at post offices as opposed to philatelic sale at the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. The following list may, therefore, be of interest.

½p	29 March 1985
1½p	8 February 1977
2½p pink	8 February 1977
2½p rose	26 February 1982
3p bt blue	8 February 1977
3½p grey-green	23 September 1975
3½p lt reddish-brown	7 September 1984
4p lt sepia	8 February 1977
4½p	23 September 1975
5½p	24 February 1976
6p	28 November 1979
6½p	27 July 1979
7p red brown	28 November 1979
7p brick red	18 October 1986
7½p	28 November 1979
8p	30 September 1980
8½p	27 July 1979
9p blue	30 September 1980
9½p	30 September 1980
10½p blue	17 October 1980
11p	21 November 1980
11½p mushroom	26 February 1982
12p yellowish green	30 October 1981
12p emerald green	18 October 1986
12½p	7 September 1984
13p grey-green	30 October 1981
13p lt brown	9 September 1988
14p steel blue	14 January 1983
14p deep blue	30 September 1989
15p bt blue (1979)	14 January 1983
15p bt blue (1989)	15 September 1990
15½p	29 April 1983
16p	7 February 1986
16½p	9 March 1984
17p lt green	14 August 1981
17p steel blue	18 October 1986
17½p	14 August 1981
18p blue	14 January 1983
18p grey-green	9 September 1988
19p	30 September 1989
19½p	29 April 1983
20p grey	22 August 1988
20p sea green	25 September 1989
20½p	7 September 1984
22p dp blue	29 April 1983
22p yellowish-green	30 September 1989

23p rose	7 September 1984
23p yellowish green	15 September 1990
24p light purple	9 September 1988
24p terracotta	15 September 1990
25p	14 January 1983
26p red	9 September 1988
27p rust	30 September 1989
28p blue	22 August 1988
28p sand	15 September 1990
29p sepia	29 April 1983
29p purple	15 September 1990
31p	9 September 1988
34p sepia	9 September 1988
34p slate	15 September 1990
35p	30 September 1989
£1	17 October 1988
£1.30	7 September 1984
£1.33	16 September 1985
£1.41	1 September 1986
£1.50	17 October 1988
£2	17 October 1988
£5	17 October 1988

Notes

1. Stamps not included in this listing, for example the 10½p yellow and 11½p sepia, had no specific withdrawal date, supplies being sold to exhaustion.
2. The dates also apply to Country stamps.
3. The dates also apply to 15p, 29p, 34p and 37p Penny Black Anniversary definitives. Any remaining stock of the 20p Penny Black stamp was withdrawn from general sale on 31 December 1990 and the 20p sea-green stamp will replace the 20p black definitive as stocks become exhausted.
4. Colours are given only where a particular stamp denomination exists in more than one colour.

Stamps of the following denominations currently on general sale at main post offices are: 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 17p, 20p, 22p, 26p, 27p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p, 37p, 50p, 75p, £1, £1.50, £2 and £5.

The following stamps, now withdrawn from general sale, are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau: 15p bright blue (1989), 24p terracotta, 27p rust, 28p sand, 29p purple and 34p slate (includes Country and Penny Black Anniversary versions where appropriate).

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until September 1991. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

1 Oct	Astronomy stamp cards (AQ135)
16 Oct	Astronomy stamps (AS430)
16 Oct	Astronomy pack (AP091)
16 Oct	Autumn Stampex exh. card (EQ025)
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ140)
30 Oct	Our World Book - 2 (PA117)
1 Nov	ASDA National exh. card (EQ027)
13 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS435)
13 Nov	Christmas pack (AP092)
13 Nov	Christmas stamp book (UB030)
13 Nov	Christmas aerogramme (QX012)
13 Nov	1990 Collectors' Pack (AR020)
13 Nov	1990 Year Book (AY020)
13 Nov	NPM Xmas Posters cards (NQ906)
27 Nov	Mixed Value Roll (DC849)
4 Dec	N Ireland 17p (IS170)
4 Dec	N Ireland 22p (IS222)
4 Dec	N Ireland 26p (IS262)
4 Dec	N Ireland 37p (IS370)
4 Dec	Scotland 17p (SS170)
4 Dec	Scotland 22p (SS223)
4 Dec	Scotland 26p (SS262)
4 Dec	Scotland 37p (SS370)
4 Dec	Wales 17p (WS170)
4 Dec	Wales 22p (WS222)
4 Dec	Wales 26p (WS262)
4 Dec	Wales 37p (WS370)
4 Dec	Country stamps pack (CP009)
29 Dec	Dogs stamp cards (AQ146)
8 Jan	Dogs stamps (AS441)
8 Jan	Dogs pack (AP093)
14 Jan	NPM Edwardian PO cards (NQ907)
5 Feb	Greetings (Good Luck) stamps (JB002)
19 Feb	Science stamp cards (AQ152)
26 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card (EQ028)
5 Mar	Science stamps (AS447)
5 Mar	Science pack (AP034)
12 Mar	Scot Aerogramme (Rugby) (QS027)
19 Mar	Prestige stamp book (YB002)
26 Mar	Greetings (Smiles) stamps (JB003)

Forthcoming

9 Apr	CEPT/Space stamp cards
23 Apr	CEPT/Space stamps & pack
14 May	NPM Stamping the Mail cards (4)
14 May	Definitives Pack No. 24
28 May	Sport stamp cards

11 Jun	Sport stamps & pack
2 Jul	Roses stamp cards
16 Jul	Roses stamps & pack
23 Jul	Scot aerogramme (Gaidhealach)
6 Aug	Dinosaur stamp cards
20 Aug	Dinosaur stamps & pack
3 Sep	Maps stamp cards
17 Sep	Maps stamps & pack

Railway Letter Stamps

London Underground Limited issued four "Underground Letter Service" stamps on 4 November 1990 to commemorate the centenary of the tube railway system in London. The stamps, of 95p denomination, were designed by Darren Pattenden and printed, in miniature sheet format, by Joh. Enschede en Zonen; they feature a tube locomotive of 1890 and tube stock of 1923, 1938 and 1972. The miniature sheet



costs £3.80 plus 50p post and packing; covers are also available with various station cancels for 4 November and 18 December 1990, respectively the centenaries of the royal and public opening of the tube railway. Orders for stamps, and requests for details of covers, to: Business Manager City & South, London Underground Limited, 318 Kennington Park Road, LONDON SE11 4PP. It should be noted that these stamps were in use only on the dates stated and that no regular railway letter service is operated between Underground stations.

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway will issue a 25p stamp showing Grosmont station to mark the 10th anniversary of its Railway Letter Service on 22 April. A commemorative book of stamps will also be issued. Enquiries (enclose SAE) to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

Philatelic Organisations in Britain



2. National Philatelic Society

JAMES NEGUS, FRPSL

Thirty years after the (Royal) Philatelic Society, London, was founded, a new organisation was set up in Britain that is still very active.

A meeting at Clapham Common, London, in November 1899 launched the Junior Philatelic Society, formed initially to appeal to young collectors. But its founding membership of 29 was soon supplemented by distinguished adult collectors and its title came to refer simply to its status as junior partner to its august predecessor.

The Royal Philatelic Society's rules (and possibly its general outlook in that era) were one reason why the new JPS came into being. Its initiator was Frederick John Melville, whose age in 1899 was just under 18. Already an enthusiastic philatelist, fledgeling author and stamp club organiser, he had been disappointed in being barred from the Royal Philatelic Society because he was not yet 21.

His own JPS rapidly prospered; by 1901 it had a library and had organised its first exhibition. In 1902 an exchange packet was begun. Within a few years branches were formed in Manchester and Brighton. Social functions seem to have been prominent, early records showing dances, garden parties, bicycle runs and weekend gatherings.

The JPS launched its own journal, *The Stamp Lover*, in June 1908 and except for one short break Melville was its energetic editor until his death in 1940. It continues in publication to this day and has a fine reputation for the permanent value of its contents. During the editorship of Melville's successors, L. N. and M. Williams, an important literature index began to be featured in its pages, of general benefit to philately.

The special youthful zest of the early JPS owed much to the untiring proponent of philately, Fred Melville. The "Junior" part of the Society's name was, however, increasingly anachronistic and misleading and in 1965 was finally replaced by "National".

The National Philatelic Society differs in one fundamental way from the Royal Philatelic Society. It is open to both amateurs and professionals and so has had among its members many leading names in the philatelic trade.

Indeed, its home for much of its life was the Fleet Street premises of the specialist dealer, the late H.F. Johnson. He was one of the earliest members and between 1900 and 1949 held one office or another up to President. To many his contribution ranks equally with Melville.



In 1987 the NPS moved into the newly opened British Philatelic Centre in the City of London. The regular monthly meetings take place there on Saturday afternoons throughout the year (except August), with displays by individuals or Study Groups. They are mostly preceded by an auction open to room or postal bidders. One meeting elsewhere than in London is arranged each year for provincial members and there are annual competitions.

The present membership is about 1,200 and there are no formalities to entry beyond payment of the annual subscription. The Exchange Packets remain among the most popular facilities and members may also purchase catalogues,



The British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1 – home of the National Philatelic Society



The National Philatelic Society Library

accessories and many books at a discount.

The NPS Library is situated at the British Philatelic Centre and is of outstanding interest. Its extensive holdings of books and journals are available to members by personal or postal loan; it can also be used for reference by non-members on payment of a nominal fee. It is open for, and well used by, members attending the Saturday meetings.

Melville's enthusiasm for exhibitions has continued unabated through the years. In his day the JPS organised such historic London Internationals as 1912 and 1923. In 1953 it was invited by the Philatelic Traders' Society to be joint sponsor of an annual National Stamp

Exhibition and arrange at the outset for invited displays. Thus began Stampex, now held twice a year, and at which the present NPS has a stand. In addition, the founding-promoters of the British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE) in 1965 were the philatelic press and this included *The Stamp Lover*; the NPS itself was among the sponsoring societies.

Stampex and BPE have been reorganised since 1986 but the NPS commitment remains strong through individuals. Among the awards for competition is its Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Trophy for the best display by a first-time entrant. It will also give free advice and appraisal to anyone bringing in sheets they propose entering anywhere for competition. Another recent pioneering effort with the Literature Class at Stamp World London 90 saw the NPS supervising an area where all the entries could be borrowed for reading.

Fred Melville and his youthful contemporaries would surely be proud of the enterprise still being shown by the National Philatelic Society and the very wide range of services it offers the collector.

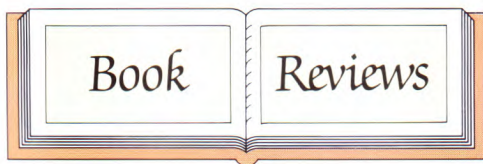
Address for information: Hon. General Secretary, National Philatelic Society, British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT. Tel. 071-251 5040.

Royal Mail Exhibition Cards

Exhibition cards for Stamp World London 90; Belgica 90; New Zealand 90 and Autumn



Stampex 90 are now sold out. Only cards for the ASDA and Spring Stampex 91 exhibitions are now available from the British Philatelic Bureau.



The Great Britain Collectors Club (North America) has recently published a collection of articles published in its quarterly newsletter over the period 1979-88. Edited by Tom Current and entitled **The Best of GBCC Newsletters to 1988**, this collection includes articles on booklets, forgeries, meters, postal history, postal stationery, postmarks, postal events as well as stamps. Information is given on "technical" subjects such as gum, perforations, ultra-violet and watermarks. The wide range of subjects should ensure that there is something to interest all collectors of GB material. 68 pages, illustrated. Available from: GBCC, c/o Tom Current, PO Box 4586, Portland OR 97208, USA, price £7.50 postpaid UK and Europe. Subscription to the GBCC is \$22 per annum.

In recent years interest has grown in old Post Office vehicles and there is a thriving Post Office Vehicle Club (address: 7 Signal Rand Drive, Wells, Som, BA5 2EU). One of the most popular vehicles was the Morris Commercial "J" type 10 cwt van as specially adapted for Post Office use. This van is the subject of a new book by D. Allison, **A Concise History of the G.P.O. J Type 1950-1990**. The van was used for both postal and telecommunications work having the Royal Mail or Post Office Telephones designations painted on the sides. Mr Allison's interesting account details the use and modification of this vehicle and includes illustrations of workshop manuals and driver's handbooks as well as about 50 photographs of the van in use, disrepair and preservation. 48 pages, card covers. Price £4.25, available from: Enthusiast Publishers, Box 5, 37 High Street, GLASGOW G1 1LX. A limited stock of this book is available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum shop.

Obituaries

The National Postal Museum has recently learned with regret of the death last August of Maurice Sheppard of Carlton, Nottingham who presented his extensive collection of Pitney Bowes meter machines and documentation to

the Museum in 1985. Mr Sheppard worked for many years for Pitney Bowes and his files contain much to interest students of meter franking. One of the meter machines (Simplex) is positioned in the Museum's main gallery and can be used to apply a "specimen" meter impression to postcards purchased at the Museum shop. This machine and meter impression were illustrated in the June 1985 *Bulletin* (page 184). Mr Sheppard's collection of machines and files of documents can be seen at the Museum by prior appointment. Maurice's advice and guidance on all matters relating to meters will be sadly missed.

The philatelic world has recently lost two important scribes. Tim Whitney, who died on 15 December 1990, will be best-remembered for his popular *Collect British Postmarks* which was first published in 1979 and proved an immediate success. The fifth edition was published last year; it is to be hoped that a new compiler and publisher will be found to keep the title in print. Amongst his many collecting interests were the postal history of the Isle of Man and the French islands; books on these subjects were published in 1976 and 1981, the latter in collaboration with Bill Newport. By the fourth edition (1983), the *Isle of Man Catalogue of Stamps and Postal History* had expanded into a major handbook. Whitney suffered from muscular dystrophy and devoted much time to raising funds for research into this disease. Users of his books will extend their sympathy to Diane Whitney and their children.

Edgar Lewy, who died on 16 February 1991, wrote extensively for the British and US philatelic press, his articles covered numerous subjects, in particular new issues. For many years he produced his own magazine, *New Issues*, with his wife, Lilly, produced first day covers under the "Philart" imprint, and was for a number of years Secretary of the Philatelic Traders' Society. He was a natural journalist with "a nose for a good story". In recent years many of his articles were somewhat "gossipy" in content and he clearly enjoyed writing on what he regarded as philatelic scandals. Yet he was very knowledgeable on philatelic matters, especially printing methods. Edgar's regular attendance at Post Office press previews and NPM functions will be missed. We hope that Lilly will continue to attend as a philatelic journalist in her own right; those who enjoyed Edgar's articles over many years will join in sending her their sincere condolences.

1989 Special Stamp Quantities

The quantities issued to counters were:

Birds

19p	31,399,600
27p	5,264,300
32p	5,091,300
35p	4,799,000
Stamp cards (sets)	95,260

Food and Farming

19p	29,474,800
27p	4,484,700
32p	4,344,600
35p	4,108,300
Stamp cards (sets)	63,750

Anniversaries

19p	29,025,400
35p	8,875,900
Stamp cards (sets)	63,100

Games and Toys

19p	33,106,900
27p	5,298,300
32p	4,791,300
35p	4,939,500
Stamp cards (sets)	53,960

Industrial Archaeology

19p	31,820,100
27p	5,189,600
32p	5,076,300
35p	4,857,800
Stamp cards (sets)	54,910
Miniature Sheet	1,141,300

Microscopes

19p	30,863,600
27p	5,242,600
32p	4,994,700
35p	3,989,900
Stamp cards (sets)	56,880

Lord Mayor's Show

20p	49,028,500
Stamp cards (sets)	52,812

Christmas

15p	200,430,900
15p + 1p	277,164,300
20p + 1p	205,278,200
34p + 1p	14,496,700
37p + 1p	13,356,400
Stamp cards (sets)	58,390

Competition



Win £50 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £50 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers to some will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: April Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 31 May.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £50 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Sport 91 stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the July *Bulletin*.

1. Which set of stamps did *Bulletin* readers vote their favourite of 1990?
2. Who designed the 1983 Christmas stamps?
3. Where is William Wyon buried?
4. Who presented his collection of Pitney Bowes meter machines to the National Postal Museum?
5. What were the face values of the 1965 Churchill stamps?
6. Who founded the Junior (now National) Philatelic Society in 1899?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps, the National Postal Museum, their agents and their families. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the January competition were: Mrs B Cooke of Queensland, Australia (£50 worth of Royal Mail products); Miss L Wisner of Essex; Mrs C Bristow of Nottinghamshire; D A Bagley of Co Dublin, Ireland; U Jansen of Germany; and P J Walker of Devon.

The answers were: 1. 28p (Blenheim); 2. 26 February 1991; 3. mauve; 4. Stan Goron; 5. Agatha Christie; 6. Museum of Transport.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin office.

Second World War. The Second World War 50th anniversary collection of covers was launched by the Cambridge Stamp Centre last Autumn. The CSC is now re-launching this extensive series to make it available to an increased number of collectors. Many of the covers in this series feature famous events such as the Battle of Britain, Battle of Narvik and the Battle for Malta. Included are famous aircraft such as the Spitfire, Hurricane, Halifax and Lancaster. Covers will be added on a regular basis until 1995, making this the most comprehensive collection of its type available. Covers will be available autographed by veterans. Full details from: David Nish, Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA, tel. 0223 63980.

Rescue Services. To mark the 50th anniversary of Rescue Services in the RAF, a souvenir cover (ref. JS(AS)48 in the Co-ordinated Series) was produced on 5 February 1991. The cover, showing a rescue scene incorporating all the principle elements employed in the Rescue Service today, bears the Gallantry stamps cancelled by a special handstamp, and a flight cachet. Price £2 unsigned, £3 pilot signed, £4 signed by A V M Morris (AOSNI) or £5 signed by Flt Lt Reid and Flt Lt Cruickshank – two RAF VC holders. All profits go to the RAFBF. Remittances payable to “NONPAS RAF Turnhouse”. Orders/enquiries: Wg Cdr D I McCrae, RAF Pitreavie Castle, DUNFERMLINE, Fife, KY11 5QF.

Royal Grammar School Worcester. The school was founded well before 1291 but the first specific reference is to be found in a document from the Bishop of Worcester dated 26 May 1291. To commemorate this 700th anniversary a commemorative cover has been produced showing part of the school buildings by artist David Birtwhistle. Covers will be cancelled with a special handstamp incorporating the 1291-1991 logo on 26 May. Covers bearing the 20p Queen Mother stamp cost £5, covers with two 12p 1980 Sports stamps (running) signed by A G K Brown, Headmaster 1950-78 and winner of 1936 Olympic gold

medal or a 17½p 1980 Sports stamp (cricket) signed by Tim Curtis, a former pupil and England Test cricketer will cost £9.50 each. Orders/enquiries: R G S Worcester Enterprises Ltd, 120 Henwick Road, WORCESTER WR2 5PB.

Gallantry/10th Gurkhas. To mark the 25th anniversary of the 10th Gurkha Serekin VC action 300 official first day Postal and Courier Services covers with five Gallantry stamps or single VC stamp were produced. All covers have been signed by Rambahadur Limbu, VC, MVO; other combinations include signatures of Company Commander, Major “Kit” Maunsell MC and Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel P O Myers OBE, MC. Covers with five stamps and three signatures cost £9.50; one signature £5. Covers with single VC stamp and three signatures £7.50, two signatures £5 and one signature £3. Postpaid orders/enquiries: R Litherland, 2 Sutcliffe Close, BUSHEY, Herts, WD2 3PL.

RMS Titanic. A commemorative cover is being produced to mark the 80th anniversary of the launching of the *Titanic* from Harland and Wolff's ship yard, Belfast on 31 May 1911. The cover features the famous ship from a painting by Ken Marshall; a special handstamp will be applied. Price £2.95 or £5.95 autographed by survivors and other people associated with the ship. Orders/enquiries: Rembrandt Philatelics, Regency House, Beacon Road, West End, SOUTHAMPTON SO3 3BS.

Agatha Christie. A cover bearing the mixed value pane from the Agatha Christie prestige book (19 March) has been produced by Benham. The cover will feature a “silk” picture of Poirot, alias the actor David Suchet, travelling on the Orient Express. The stamps were cancelled by an special Orient Express cancel at Folkestone. Price £6. Covers also available, with “silk” picture of Miss Marple played by actress Joan Hickson, with mixed value pane cancelled with the Marple, Cheshire postmark, price £6. Details of other Agatha Christie covers, including one with the three new single stamps from the prestige book, are available from: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Conquest of Space. Benhams are producing covers on 23 April to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's historic flight and the 25th anniversary of the Moon landing by the Americans. The Gagarin cover carries the four

Europe in Space stamps cancelled by a special postmark at Rocket, Liverpool, price £4.99. Some of these covers will be taken to the USSR and bear a Soviet cancel, price £7.99 or £9.99 signed by a Soviet astronaut. The cover commemorating the 25th anniversary of America's soft landing on the Moon will bear the Space stamps cancelled by a Jodrell Bank special handstamp, price £4.99. Covers taken to Cape Canaveral for American postmarking will cost £7.99; it is hoped to get some signed by an American astronaut. Early ordering recommended. Postage 40p extra. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

Europe in Space. Benhams are producing sets of four small "silk" covers featuring historic scenes from the conquest of space by aviation and space artist Gordon Davies. Each bears a pictorial space postmark, price £7.99 per set. Another four scenes by Mr Davies will feature on luxury "silk" postcards, again with special postmarks. Price £7.99 per set or £2.99 unused. Limited editions of 5,000 sets of silk covers and 2,500 sets of postcards. Early ordering advisable, postage 40p. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

Europe in Space. The British Interplanetary Society have commissioned a first day cover depicting, in silver foil, the Society's crest. The stamps will be cancelled by a handstamp featuring the Society's logo. Price £5 or £9.75 signed by Society President W G Childs (limited to 100). Overseas customers add £1 postage. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

Halifax Aircraft. The Cambridge Stamp Centre is offering a collection of covers commemorating the Halifax aircraft which was extensively used during the Second World War. One of its missions was to convey materials to be dropped to the various Resistance movements; the covers in this series will be autographed by, amongst others, members of the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society, and by at least one agent who was dropped into Occupied France. Only 50 collections have been produced, each comprising approximately 40 covers, all of which have been flown to Bordeaux which was part of Occupied France. Full details from: Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd, 9 Sussex Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA.

Space Shuttle Discovery. The Europe in Space stamps will be issued on the first

anniversary (all but for one day!) of the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope. A special first day cover (limited to 250 copies) will be available; this shows a photograph, reproduced by permission of NASA, of the launch of "Discovery" soaring into the morning skies above the Kennedy Space Center. The Shuttle carried the Hubble Space Telescope and a crew of five. Covers with four Europe in Space stamps and special HST Cambridge postmark cost £9.75 (overseas add 50p postage). Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

British Aerospace Companies. 1991 marks the 75th anniversary of the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) – now internationally recognised as the representative body of Britain's aerospace industry. 1991 also marks the 50th anniversary of the development of the Whittle jet engine and its harnessing to the Gloster E28/39. A first day cover was produced reproducing a painting by Kenneth McDonough of the maiden flight of the Gloster E28/39 over the RAF College, Cranwell and the SBAC crest in gold foil. Covers with 37p Jet Engine stamp and special SBAC postmark cost £3.50 (overseas add 50p postage). Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Loughborough University of Technology. To commemorate the University's 25th anniversary a special cover was produced on 5 March when a special anniversary handstamp was used. Covers cost £4.75 (limited edition of 350) or £7.50 signed by the Chancellor, Sir Denis Rooke, and Vice-Chancellor, Professor D Davies (limited to 50). Also available are covers with Loughborough circular datestamp (limited to 50) £5.50 and with the Loughborough University 25th Anniversary slogan postmark – £5. Orders/enquiries: S Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 8JJ.

Stansted Airport. A commemorative cover was produced to mark the official opening of Stansted Airport by HM The Queen on 15 March 1991. The cover depicts the new terminal building and bears the 37p Scientific Achievements stamp cancelled by a special handstamped worded LONDON'S THIRD AIRPORT STANSTED ESSEX 15 MARCH 1991. Price £2.50, remittances payable to "Post Office Counters Ltd". Orders/enquiries: M Greavett, Branch Manager, Bush Fair Post Office, 1-2 Corner House, Bush Fair, HARLOW, Essex, CM18 6NY.

April Digest

Issued in April

9 April: CEPT: Europe in Space stamp cards, price 19p each.

23 April: CEPT: Europe in Space stamps – 2 x 22p, 2 x 37p se-tenant pairs.

Designer: Jean-Michel Folon.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 30 x 41mm, perf 14 x 15, phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Cambridge.

Presentation Pack: No. 217, price £1.50.

24 April: CEPT: Europe in Space souvenir cover, price 19p (available from "Collections" centres and philatelic counters).

Withdrawn in April/early May

9 April: Queen's Awards stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

16 April: 80p stamp book containing 4 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps printed by Harrison in cover produced by Walsall. *Note:* this is the only source of the 20p stamp printed in photogravure with straight edges at top and right, and bottom and right.

£1.16 stamp book containing 4 x 29p definitive, litho-printed on phosphor coated paper. *Note:* this is the only source of this stamp.

£1.50 stamp book containing 10 x 15p Penny Black Anniversary stamps printed by Questa in litho. *Note:* this is the only source of this stamp.

£2 stamp book containing 10 x 20p Penny Black Anniversary stamps printed by Questa in litho. *Note:* this is the only source of this stamp.

23 April: Scottish Aerogramme – Forth Rail Bridge.

30 April: National Postal Museum Stamp World 90 cards (numbered NPM/SWL90/1-12), Penny Black maxi-card (NPM/MX1), and Penny Black miniature sheet card (NPM 90/1). *Note:* these cards will be withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau on 30 April but will remain on sale at the National Postal Museum.

2 May: Penny Black Miniature Sheet and Penny Black Souvenir Book.

Post Office Archives

The Archives will be relocated later in the year; the move being made necessary by the expiry of our lease on Freeling House. The move offers us the opportunity to unite the Archives and our Modern Records Centre (currently outstationed in another building) at a single location in new, specially designed accommodation. This is being constructed for us in a wing of the Mount Pleasant Letter District Office in Phoenix Place, London EC1.

As I am sure *Bulletin* readers will appreciate, a move of this kind is a major operation and thus it will be necessary to close our Public Search Room to visitors from 9 September until 5 November 1991. Every effort is being made to ensure that the facilities of our new Search Room will be as comfortable as possible for researchers; and we hope that our temporary closure will not cause too many problems for individual readers.

Jean Farrugia, Archivist

The date in question 3 of the March Competition should read 1965 not 1985. The closing date of the competition has been extended to 31 May. All entries already received will be treated as correct, whatever answer has been given to question 3.



British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN — 0953-8119

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by The Post Office.

Compiled and typeset by John Holman at:
National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £6
Rest of World (Airmail) £9.25

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Single copies from "Collections" and philatelic counters: 55p

Binders, to hold 24 issues, are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £6. Also available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum sales counter.

Printed in Great Britain by Moore and Matthes (Printers) Ltd for The Post Office.