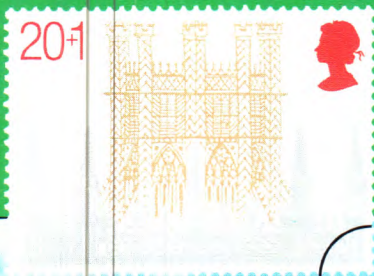


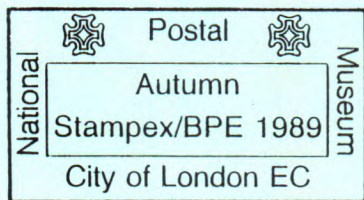
British Philatelic Bulletin

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Contents

- 27 Christmas, 1989
- 30 Christmas Aerogramme
1989 Collectors Pack
Royal Mail Yearbook
Christmas Stamps Surcharge
Christmas Stamps Greetings Cards
- 31 Designing the Industrial Archaeology
Stamps
- 34 British Special Issues: 155
- 35 Exhibition Retrospect: 1960
- 37 Autumn Stampex/BPE
"Our World" Wildlife Book
- 38 Student Stamp Designs
Lord Mayor's Show
- 39 Posting Boxes
- 40 New Country Definitives
Falmouth Exhibition
Definitive News
- 41 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
Competition
- 42 Letters
Book Reviews
Forthcoming Events
- 43 Royal Mail Competition for Schools
Cross Post
New Railway Letter Stamps
New Darlington Postcard
- 44 Sir Francis Freeling
- 45 National Postal Museum News
Royal Mail Exhibition Card
- 46 Commemorative Covers
- 47 Philatelic Counters
- 48 Slania Exhibition
October Digest



The special cachet available for use at the National Postal Museum counter at Autumn Stampex/BPE, 17-22 October. See page 37 for further details.

Machin Notes

A number of readers have written in concerning how to distinguish the £1.40 and £1.90 stamp (window) books printed by Harrison on the Chambon and Jumelle presses. £1.40 books bearing revised bar codes (100104) went on sale in late June (Chambon) and early July (Jumelle). £1.90 books with new code (100081) went on sale in late May and late June respectively. There was no specific first day.

The easiest way of telling the books apart is by cylinder number, the Chambon numbers are B30 (£1.40 books) and B17 (£1.90) and Jumelle B31 and B19 respectively. Cylinder numbers appear in approximately one in five books. A second means of telling the two printings apart is by study of the perforations. The Chambon books were perforated using a comb perforator so the holes (as seen from the back) are clean cut. The Jumelle books were perforated using a rotary perforator so the holes have rough edges and sometimes remains of paper can be seen in the holes. Thirdly, the different cylinders used result in a slight difference in the positioning of the value, on the Jumelle stamps the value is nearer to the left hand edge of the stamp design.

The perforation difference mentioned above can also be seen on the second printing of the 50p Marine Life machine-vended book issued on 8 August. This printing was perforated using a comb ("Rise and Fall") perforator so has clean cut perforation holes; the previous printing was perforated on the rotary perforator often referred to as "APS" (Ab Produktion Services — the Swedish company which originally made this perforator). Also it should be noted that the 8 August book was printed from cylinders B2 B16 whereas previous printings were from B1 B16 or B1 B17.

The £1 machine-vended book (Marine Life) issued on 18 July was perforated by a rotary perforator.

I am obliged to our stamp book specialist Len Newbery for advice in preparing these notes. Ed.

Cylinders for the 26 September definitives are: 15p — 3; 20p — 12; 24p — 2; 29p — 4; 30p — 2; 34p — 2; 37p — 2. Recent printings of the 14p Scottish stamp are from plates Q9Q9 and Q10Q10.

Christmas, 1989

14 November 1989



The five stamps to be issued on 14 November will be Britain's 24th issue of Christmas stamps (first issued in 1966) and commemorate the 800th anniversary of Ely Cathedral. Four of the five stamps carry a 1p surcharge for charity. The values are 15p (basic second class inland rate), 15p plus 1p, 20p plus 1p (basic first class inland and EEC rate), 34p plus 1p (Zone B airmail) and 37p plus 1p (Zone C airmail). The designs show some of the most important architectural features of the Cathedral.



The Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Ely is a well-known landmark of the Fen Country, and is sometimes referred to as the "Ship of the Fens". A religious community - probably of both monks and nuns - was founded at Ely in AD 673; the first Abbess was Etheldreda, Queen of Northumbria. The Saxon church was sacked by the Danes in 869 and only the base of a cross inscribed to Ovin



(Steward to Etheldreda) remains. In 970 Ely was re-founded as a Benedictine monastery for men, with Britnoth as the first Abbot. After the Norman Conquest, Abbot Simeon set about



building a new church but the main part of the cathedral was not completed until 1189, almost a century of the death of Abbot Simeon. In 1106 the white marble coffin of Queen Etheldreda was positioned east of the High Altar. Three years later Abbot Hervé le Breton was confirmed by the Pope as Bishop of the new diocese of Ely, carved out of the diocese of Lincoln.

The Octagon, the great glory of the Cathedral, was built in 1322 to replace the collapsed



central tower. Some 400 tons of wood and lead make up the Lantern Tower - each corner post was hewn from a single oak and are held by timbers resting on huge pillars of stone quarried at Barnack, near Stamford.

Henry VIII dissolved the monastery in 1539 and two years later established the "King's New College at Ely" with a Dean, canons, petitioners, scholars and "aged men decayed in the King's wars or service". The religious life of the Cathedral was interrupted only by Oliver Cromwell who closed the choir office; the doors remained locked for 17 years. The cloisters and Chapter House were destroyed at this time but fortunately not the Cathedral itself. The late

17th and 18th centuries were, in general, years of decline for the Cathedral; a great period of restoration began in 1839 with the arrival of Dean Peacock. In the 1870s, Prime Minister Gladstone described Ely as a “pattern for the Cathedrals of England”. The most recent restoration work was carried out in 1973–4; HM The Queen attended Divine Service in the Cathedral on 25 November 1973.



Technical Details

The stamps have been designed by David Gentleman and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure using specially-produced metallic inks. Printing was in sheets of 100 on phosphor-coated paper (20p–37p) and on standard fluorescent paper with a single phosphor band (15p stamps). Perforation 15 x 14, gum PVA Dextrin.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 203) will cost £1.50; it was designed by Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell with text by Tim Shackleton; printing by Litho-Tech colour printers. The text gives a history of Ely Cathedral and features some of its stained glass windows.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards featuring enlargements of each of the five stamps will be available from 30 October, price 18p each. They are numbered 122A–E.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices from 30 October, price 18p. Three pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one each for the British Philatelic Bureau, Ely and Bethlehem, Llandeilo, Dyfed. All show features of Ely Cathedral.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover

addressed to the destination required with the five stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 14 November.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped envelope under an outer cover endorsed “Special First Day of Issue handstamp” to:

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Ely Special Postmark Duty
Cambridge LDO
Clifton Road
CAMBRIDGE CB1 1AA

Bethlehem Special Postmark Duty
Swansea LDO
Wind Street
SWANSEA SA1 1AA

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial “First Day of Issue” handstamps. A pictorial First Day postmark, showing the arms of the City of London will be used at the City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 15 November, price 18p. This can be used to obtain relevant postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.

Earlier Related Issues

The treasures of British cathedrals have featured in two earlier sets of Christmas stamps: the 1971 set depicted stained glass windows in Canterbury Cathedral and roof bosses in York Minster and Worcester Cathedral were shown on the 3½p and 10p stamps of the 1974 issue. A representation of the “Boy Bishop” of Hereford was shown on the 34p stamp of the 1986 set.

Five cathedrals were depicted on a set in May 1969; St Paul’s Cathedral has featured on stamps issued in 1965 and 1980 and Westminster Abbey on two stamps issued in 1966 and the “London 1980” 50p stamp.

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



CHRISTMAS
ELY CATHEDRAL 1189-1989

side. The e
Galile
(below) da
the Magi

good dignit
well-
But unlik
plum
turbo

exis. Standing in the nave,
minimised by the massive
weight of limestone,
you can sense how it ex-
pounds the Christianity of
William, the Conqueror's
time. 'Ely's huge, dark-
streaked spaces and high
arches do not tell of the
human failings of us or-
dinary people,' wrote Tom
Davies in *Natural Glow Hours*, 'but of the vast,
intangible mystery of God.'

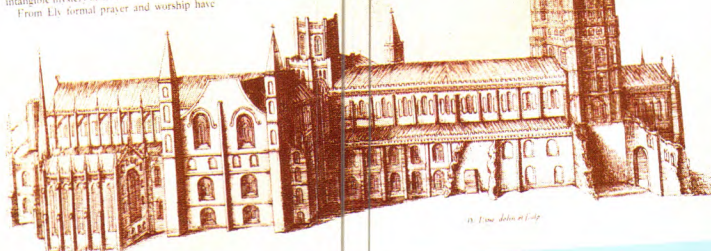
From Ely formal prayer and worship have



about building a new church.
He was then eighty-six, but
his faith and energy were
prodigious. In 1116, twenty-
five years after work began,
the white marble coffin of
Etheldreda, the nun-queen
was moved to the east of the
High Altar (like many of
Ely's images and reli-
quaries, the shrine was destroyed during the
Reformation). The main part of the cathedral

stamps, to David
Gentleman, show
some of the details
that embellish this
marvellous treasure-
house of English
architecture.

seen (above)
from the choir.
The cathedral is
seen (below) from
the north in an
early engraving.



Dr. James Jackson, 1847



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

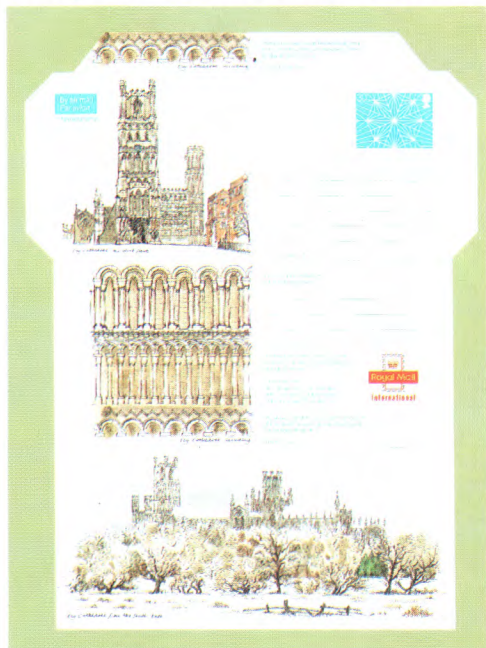


CHRISTMAS
ELY CATHEDRAL 1189-1989

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Christmas Aerogramme

Christmas aerogrammes have been issued annually since 1965. This year's aerogramme, designed by David Gentleman, features Ely Cathedral, showing the West Front, the arcing and a view from the south-east. The printed 30p stamp shows the famous Octagon. The aerogramme, which has been printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd, goes on sale on 14 November, price 40p. It will be withdrawn from general sale on 23 December but will



remain on philatelic sale for one year. This is Mr Gentleman's first Christmas aerogramme; he designed the aerogramme commemorating the Investiture of the Prince of Wales 20 years ago.

Christmas Stamp Greetings Cards

A pack of Christmas cards featuring enlarged special stamp designs will go on sale this year. Each card features one of the five special stamps issued for Christmas 1989.

The pack will contain 10 cards comprising two of each of the five designs. They will go on sale at selected post offices, philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau from 30 October, price £1.99 per pack. These unique cards will have the added attraction of being able to be sent with matching stamps on the envelopes.

Royal Mail Yearbook

Volume 6 of the Royal Mail Special Stamps Yearbook will go on sale on 14 November. The handsomely produced book contains background information about the development and production of all the special issues of 1989.

The book is hardbound with a matching slipcase and includes sets of all 1989 special issues and the Industrial Archaeology miniature sheet. It will be available from the Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices, price £17.50.

1989 Collectors Pack

The 1989 edition of the Collectors Pack will be issued on 14 November, coinciding with the issue of the Christmas stamps, price £9.75. The pack contains all 1989 special stamps but not the Industrial Archaeology miniature sheet, mounted on a quality display board. In addition to the stamps, there is a colourful and informative brochure, giving details of the stamp subjects. The pack will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices.

Christmas Stamps Charity Surcharge

The 1989 Christmas stamp sales will raise money for charities. Four of the five stamps cost 1p above the normal postage rates. When customers buy these stamps every extra penny raised will be donated by The Post Office to UK charities. The Post Office will be working in co-operation with the Charities Aid Foundation, who will distribute the money to selected charities.

This is the first time since 1975 that The Post Office have run such a scheme. Many other countries have schemes which are long established and very successful. The Post Office are pleased to take part in this and feel sure that with the generosity of customers and enthusiasm of Post Office employees it will receive the success it deserves.

For those who do not wish to use charity stamps, the second class Christmas stamp will be issued without surcharge and definitive stamps will be available.

Slogan Campaign

Associated with this charity scheme will be a postmark slogan which will incorporate the official logo of the charity campaign: Post a Penny/Show You Care. This will also be used on publicity material.

Designing the Industrial Archaeology Stamps and Miniature Sheet

RONALD MADDOX, PRI, FCSD, FSAI

Interest in industrial archaeology has developed from relatively small beginnings in the past 30 years or so, when groups of enthusiasts began to try to save those monuments of Britain's industrial past that were disappearing without trace, to the position nowadays where sites such as the Ironbridge Gorge Museum attract thousands of visitors.

My own interest in the subject arose from visits made to many parts of Britain where the relics of this part of our history were still evident, often neglected and ruinous, but appealing to the artist's eye. Engine houses in Devon and Cornwall, flights of canal locks and aqueducts being repaired and brought back to use, watermills and windmills restored by small groups of enthusiastic amateurs, and some enlightened local authorities, the National Trust or Department of the Environment, began to appear in my sketchbooks.

When, during 1988, I read that the 1989 stamp programme was to include a set of stamps on the theme of Industrial Archaeology, I wondered which of the many sites I knew might be featured, little realising at the time that I should become involved in designing the issue. I had just returned from a visit to Wales, where I had stopped to make drawings of Telford's great aqueduct at Pontcysyllte, when I received a call from the Design Division of The Post Office, asking me to bring in and discuss some preliminary ideas on the subject. Naturally, I felt Pontcysyllte Aqueduct just had to be amongst them!

The Initial Pencil Roughs

Some rapid research through my own library of sketchbooks and various publications gave me some other ideas for my first stamp scale pencil roughs. The most important site in England seemed to be Ironbridge, described everywhere as "the cradle of the Industrial Revolution", but this was only one of 30 of the preliminary designs which I took to my first meeting with the Design Adviser, Barry Robinson.

The subject seemed naturally to be one where each country in Britain could provide



One of Ronald Maddox's original sketches

material for a stamp, yet at the same time, one had to be aware that there were certain buildings or structures that represented a specific industry. The over-riding theme which seemed to come through was the importance of water to early industry, either beneficial, as a means of transport and to operate machinery; or a hazard, as in mining, where pumps had to be used to provide safe working conditions.

The Next Stage — Colour Roughs

Following discussions with the Design Adviser, I began to develop my ideas further as colour roughs, still at stamp size, with sets of four or five stamps in varied techniques. At this stage, the subjects began to fall into definite categories, as well as regional locations. Ironmaking, mining and quarrying, textiles, potteries, canals, railways, all played a major part in early industry, with water providing the main source of power until superseded by coal, gas, electricity and oil.

I also completed a set of finished visuals four times up in size from the original designs for presentation alongside the stamp size roughs to the Stamp Advisory Committee. For five of these larger paintings I used a landscape format, whilst suggesting that the same subjects could equally well adapt to the vertical format shown in other designs. The locations covered import

sites over a wide area of Britain, and, as the issue was also to promote Museums' Year, several had their own Museum or Visitor Centres, which would not only encourage philatelists but those interested in industrial archaeology to collect the stamps.

The SAC's Choice

The SAC approved my designs, preferring the upright format and slightly freer style of the stamp size roughs (Set 2), to the horizontal visuals. So that I could try to recapture the freedom of the original miniature watercolours, whilst still retaining accuracy, I suggested that my final artwork be done twice up in size. Having received approval for this, I went ahead with the four subjects selected by the Committee: Ironbridge, the Cornish tin mine, New Lanark and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

The choice of subjects was very much in line with my own conclusions that water was a common factor between these four sites and that each represented a different industry. Ironbridge Gorge Museum is probably sufficiently well-known to require no explanation for its inclusion in the stamp issue with its designation as a World Heritage Site, but the other three subjects were equally interesting on both visual and historic grounds.

In Cornwall, a major impact was made on the county by mining of tin and copper, and the ruins of these mines have left an indelible impression upon the language. Britain was once the world's largest producer of tin, and although efforts have been made to revive the industry in recent years, the collapse in world tin prices had led once more to closures.

New Lanark, the model industrial village

developed by Robert Owen, has been saved from dereliction by the efforts of a Conservation Trust set up in 1974-5, and is now well on its way to becoming the major industrial archaeological site in Scotland, scheduled for completion within a year or two.

Finally, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct represents not only the canal era, but one of the major feats of that great engineer, Thomas Telford. Built between 1794 and 1805, it carries the canal on stone pillars across the Dee Valley, at a height of 127 feet above the river.

The Sites Revisited

Beginning the artwork involved returning to make more detailed drawings where necessary, the visit to New Lanark being the most memorable, not only for the amount of restoration work which had been done since I last visited it, but for the weather. No wonder the village was built in a deep valley on the banks of the Clyde — the amount of rainfall in that area must have ensured ample water always in the river to operate the machinery.

Making drawings at one time of year, and then seeing a place again at a different season always gives pause for thought. A visit to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct this summer provided an entirely different view, with thick foliage obscuring many of the arches, which I had previously seen quite clearly in early spring when the trees were scarcely in leaf.

The Miniature Sheet takes shape...

Having completed the artwork, I was then asked if I would produce designs for a miniature sheet featuring the four stamps. These were done, showing them in full colour, but con-

Industrial Archaeology stamps — design roughs at stamp size





Industrial Archaeology stamps — design roughs stamp scale & finished design visuals 4 x up

tinuing the illustrations in pencil into a surrounding border. However, having presented these, I was then faced with a new challenge!

To make the issue even more interesting, the Stamp Advisory Committee had looked again at my original horizontal designs, and asked if I would produce a miniature sheet in full colour, but translating the subjects used for the upright stamps into a landscape format. Back to the drawing board!

To develop a design from one format to another is not an easy task, but eventually I came up with what I believed was the answer, a finished small detailed painting of each location, bleeding off into a surrounding border, to give the whole sheet the appearance of one miniature watercolour. I hope the result has been as interesting to philatelists as it was to me in meeting the design brief.

Visits to Harrisons to see the stamp essays, and checking of these and the miniature sheet followed in quick succession, and then, the usual

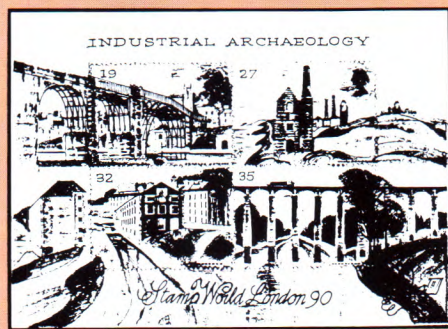
lapse of time between producing the designs and the day of issue — or rather days of issue in this case, since the stamps came out on 4 July, and the miniature sheet on 25 July.

With a set of stamps relating to particular locations, as all my designs so far have done, it has always been interesting as the designer to visit one of the places featured on the day of issue, and in this instance, my wife and I were invited to Ironbridge by the Director of the Museum Trust, Stuart Smith.

Being there, with celebrations going on all round, crowds of people, a band playing, a hot air balloon, the stamps displayed in many forms, large and small, it is hard to realise that this is the result of a design which you have initiated and been closely involved with during the past year. Photographers and journalists all wanted to know why Ironbridge had been chosen for the first class stamp, the only possible answer being “because it was where the Industrial Revolution began”.

Usually, with the day of issue, the excitement fades away, but in addition to the Ironbridge event, The Post Office's London & South East Region Publicity Office organised another at Stoke Bruerne Waterways Museum in connection with the issue of the miniature

Design rough for miniature sheet (at stamp size)



sheet, so again we were invited to take part. A journey down the Grand Union Canal by narrowboat gave us some idea of what it would have been like — especially through the Blinworth Tunnel, which took half an hour — to spend one's days travelling along at such a slow pace.

Altogether, it has been a most exciting and interesting commission, and one I shall look back on with much pleasure.

British Textiles

British Special Issues: No.155

FRANCIS KENNEDY

The long-term policy of The Post Office to issue stamps designed to illustrate all phases of British history, culture and industrial development prompted the release of this British Textiles issue on 23 July 1982, the date being chosen to co-incide with the 250th anniversary of the birth of Richard Arkwright who is generally considered to be the founder of the industry. What had been largely a home craft became a mass production industry as Arkwright's power-driven spinning machinery was made available to mills in Lancashire in particular.

The stamps themselves were cleverly designed by the Peter Hatch Partnership to suggest examples of British printed cloths of various periods. The effect was heightened by the omission of the normal white margins between the stamps so that, in sheet form, each design presented an overall impression of a repeated pattern, as would be seen in a roll of cloth.

Seeing the finished stamps, Peter Hatch, the designer, said that the fabrics on which he had based the stamp designs were much more interesting than the Arkwright machine which had made the production possible!



The 15½p reproduces William Morris's famous "Strawberry Thief" design of 1883 on chintz, a favourite with Victorian interior decorators.

The 19½p reproduced the untitled and anonymous design of stylised scarlet tulips printed in 1906 by F. Steiner & Co. who became the "William Morris" of the early 20th century.

The 26p illustrated a typical abstract design

by Paul Nash (1889-1946) who was commissioned in 1929 by Ereata Silks Ltd to produce seven designs. Entitled, for no apparent reason, "Cherry Orchard" the abstract chosen for the stamp proved very popular when it was screen-printed on silk in 1930.

Finally the 29p was from a 1973 design by Andrew Foster for Textra Furnishing Fabrics Ltd. Called "Chevron", the design was a good example of modern screen-printed cotton, extensively used for curtaining. This printing method eliminated the production of expensive



engraved rollers and encouraged cloth manufacturers to experiment with a range of designs, which could easily be proofed and was a great encouragement for young artists.

Printing was by Harrison's in photogravure, on phosphorised paper, perf. 14 x 15. Three major flaws are catalogued: 19½p, row 3 stamp 4, a "caterpillar" flaw on the right-hand of the tulip bloom in the top left corner of the stamp; 26p, row 2 stamp 7, a long horizontal scratch just above the bottom row of perforations; 29p, row 2 stamp 5, a dark patch of green between the top of The Queen's head and the base of the chevron design.

Sales by the withdrawal date (23 July 1983) were: 15½p 40,144,500; 19½p 9,236,000; 26p 8,732,600 and 29p 8,441,800.

The official Royal Mail first day cover featured an amusing coloured sketch of a thrush "stealing" a strawberry. The Philatelic Bureau at Edinburgh used a cancellation symbolising the weaving of fabric and at the Lancashire cotton mill town of Rochdale the cancellation incorporated a facsimile of Richard Arkwright's signature. Among privately-sponsored cancellations were two from Leicester, one marking the 99th year of the School of Textiles and the other the Leicester and District Knitting Industry Association. The usual four postcards reproducing the stamp designs were coded PHQ61a-d.

Exhibition Retrospect

Part 2 — 1950

JAMES NEGUS

1950 Grosvenor House Exhibition

With the coming of peace, thoughts once again turned to London as venue for a major exhibition. In 1950 the first of the postwar International Exhibitions staged here took place and the pleasant custom has grown up since then for Britain to be host once each decade.

The 1950 event took place in the Great Room of Grosvenor House, Park Lane, from 6 to 13 May. There were 31,000 visitors and the chairman was again Sir John Wilson. The organisation this time was undertaken jointly by the Royal Philatelic Society and the British Philatelic Association. The King honoured the Exhibition with a visit, accompanied by HRH Princess Margaret, and lent material from the Royal Collection. A further notable visitor was ex-King Carol of Romania, well known as a philatelist and whose Moldavian stamps were in the Court of Honour.

Available space at the Grosvenor House hotel restricted the number of frames to just over 900. The very high quality of the exhibits compensated for this as the excellent Exhibition Catalogue readily shows. The Post Office had Rowland Hill's diary for 1840 and the original die of the Penny Black on view. No foreign postal administrations were present but the Exhibition was truly international, attracting entries from collectors in 26 countries. Awards for foreign-country material outweighed British Commonwealth though the *Grand Prix* went to H C V Adams for superb Great Britain.

Lithographed publicity labels appeared for the Exhibition, featuring St George and the Dragon (Fig 1). Produced as sheets of 10 rouletted in colour and available in five different colours, these swelled the funds at 2s. 6d. per set of five sheets. The motif was taken from Benedetto Pistrucci's engraving for the gold sovereign coin first employed in 1817. A treatment of it (by Milner Gray again) was used as obverse of medals presented at the Exhibition.

The St George theme reappeared on the souvenir envelopes against a silhouette of St Pauls and Big Ben. The envelopes were photo-gravure-printed in royal blue on cream stock



Fig 1 Publicity label for 1950 International

and were in two sizes. The smaller sold at 3d. and a larger (at 4d.) was advertised as "suitable for sending by air mail with a block of four current British stamps".

An interesting insert was available. This was a line-block reproduction in blue of the Mulready envelope. The back of the card was an advertising message from John Dickinson & Co. Ltd., designers and producers of the souvenir envelope. Dickinson manufactured the "silk thread" paper for the original Mulreadys of 1840.



Fig 2 Nicklin souvenir label

Large souvenir labels making use of the motif were produced under authority in New York by the editor and airmail dealer, John W

Nicklin (Fig 2). Issued in sheets of 15 with gum, perf. 14 or imperforate, they are typographed in two colours. The background sun is lemon-coloured and the design and inscription occur in emerald, deep blue, violet or chocolate.

The Post Office publicised the exhibition with a slogan cancellation at major sorting offices between 31 March and 1 May 1950. About 150,000 items of mail were handled at the Exhibition temporary post office itself, special machine (and some handstamp) cancels for which were applied at the London Western District Office (London W.1).

The special cancel (Fig 3) was a duplex, greater in depth than was customary. A circular die at left had the Exhibition inscription and dates; to the right was a numbered Maltese Cross resembling the London type of 1843-44. The numeral in the centre corresponded to the day of use, with "6" on opening day, 6 May, up to "13" on the last day, 13 May. The machine cancel showed one of four times: 12.45PM, 5.15PM, 7.15PM or 8.15PM, but not all times for all dates. A spare handstamp at the W.1 office also showed times and was used to cancel odd stamps that had missed the machine cancel. Other handstamps used for registered mail at the Exhibition were without time indicator or showed only PM. A fault with the cancelling machine led to some spoiled covers in the first three days before it was put right.

Fig. 3 1950 souvenir envelope with machine cancel



Fig 4 1950 non-postal souvenir sheet

The 1950 Exhibition saw the issue of a handsome non-postal souvenir sheet of philatelic merit (Fig 4). Five imperforate classic stamps

are presented actual size in their original colours by the collotype process, chosen because of its fidelity of reproduction. A Waterlow production, the sheet has a watermark of striations and is without gum. It sold for 1s. Press specimens were overprinted in red letterpress with the words SAMPLE/NOT/FOR/SALE.

When the accounts of the 1950 International Exhibition were finalised, there proved to be a surplus of £574. This became a "Philatelic Fund", a modest forerunner of the finance now usefully dispensed by the British Philatelic Trust.

Autumn Stampex/BPE

Autumn Stampex/BPE will be held at the halls of the Royal Horticultural Society, Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, London SW1 from 17-22 October; hours of admission 10.30am to 7pm. The halls are situated within walking distance of St James's Park (Circle & District) and Victoria (Circle & Victoria) underground stations. Convenient bus routes are 10, 11, 24, 29, 70, 76, 149, 500 and 507.

The visitor will find over 115 dealers and postal administrations as well as hundreds of frames of rare and medal-winning collections. There will be extensive displays by two specialist societies — the German & Colonies and the Magyar (Hungarian stamps). "Kids kornet" will be popular with the younger visitor and Stamp Bug will, as ever, be in attendance.

The British Post Office will provide full philatelic facilities and a display relating to the Lord Mayor's Show stamps which go on sale on the opening day. A special handstamp will be applied to mail posted at the exhibition and a Royal Mail Exhibition Card will be available (see page 9 of the September *Bulletin*).

Staff from the National Postal Museum will be on hand at a counter in the New Hall at Autumn Stampex; Museum postcards and other souvenir items will be on sale and a special cachet will be available for stamping on mail — but not to cancel postage stamps! It is hoped to have a stamp-cancelling machine on display.

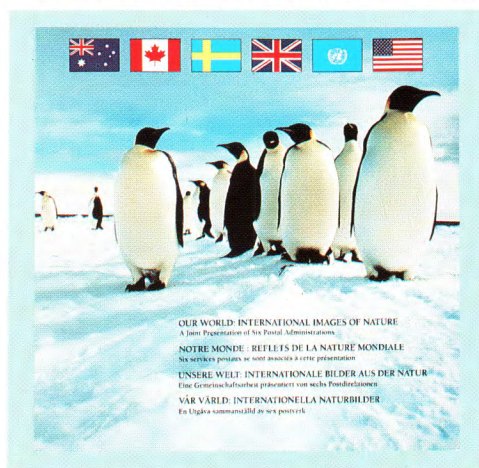
The cachet is illustrated on the inside front cover of this Bulletin.

"Our World" Wildlife Book

In a unique cooperative venture, six postal administrations have developed an entertaining and educational philatelic product, *Our World*:

International Images of Nature, to promote stamp collecting internationally by including a variety of stamps from around the world which focus on a popular topic.

Enhanced by 30 beautiful stamps from far-flung regions, informative text in four languages and superb photographs, the book captures the essence of animals and climate from around the world. The book is a joint effort by the postal administrations of Australia, Canada, the United Nations, the United States and Sweden as well as the British Post Office; it is hoped that *Our World* will be the first in a series of such products. The US Postal Service coordinated the project and the book and stamp folder were printed under the auspices of Australia Post. The book contains the four British Birds stamps



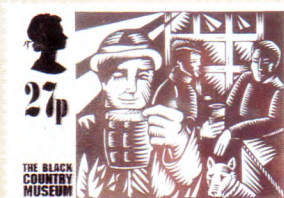
(January 1989), five Australian Antarctic Territory stamps issued in recognition of several international conferences on the environment held in the Commonwealth in 1988 (July 1988), four Canadian stamps showing Butterflies (July 1988), six Swedish stamps showing species in threatened habitats (January 1989), the United Nations stamps were issued to honour the World Weather Watch of the UN's World Meteorological Organization (April 1989) and the five US stamps are from the North American Wildlife issue of June 1987.

The stamp designs are illustrated in full colour in the book; the accompanying stamp folder, which can be inserted in a pocket on the inside front cover of the book, contains clear acetate strips for protection and display of the 30 stamps. The book will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 9 October, price £7.50.

Student Stamp Designs

Shown here are four designs by Sara Stevens of the Stourbridge College of Technology & Art, submitted as part of the Royal Society of Arts Design Bursaries Competition. The designs, representing the Black Country Museum, were on the theme of Museums' Year. It should be noted that these designs are not being used for postage stamps. Details of the Competition and the awards made were given in the August *Bulletin*, pages 292-3.

Readers are reminded that a touring exhibition featuring entries in the RSA Competition can be seen at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee from 3-25 October.

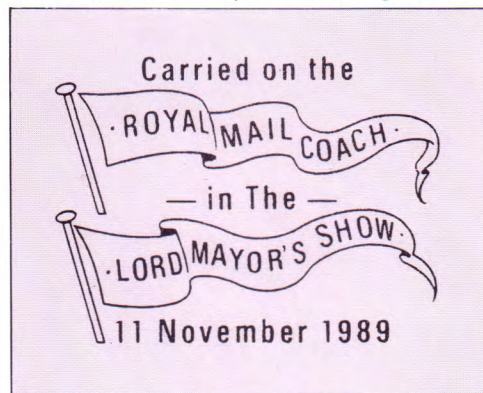


Lord Mayor's Show

The presentation pack for the Lord Mayor's Show stamps will include a ticket allowing free entry to the Tower Bridge exhibition, museum and walkways. The Bridge, one of London's main tourist attractions, is open daily from 10am.



Readers are reminded that a limited number of first day covers of the Lord Mayor's Show stamps are being carried in the Royal Mail coach in the Lord Mayor's Procession on 11 November. A special cachet, illustrated here, will be applied to the covers. Orders should be sent to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT by 16 October, price £3.



The special cachet to be applied to first day covers carried in the Lord Mayor's Procession

Royal Mail Stamps will have a sales kiosk in Paternoster Square, near St Paul's Cathedral, on 11 November; stamps, presentation packs and covers will be available. The Royal Mail will have two floats in the Lord Mayor's Procession, one featuring stamp collecting, the other the postal service.

Posting Boxes

104. Replica Penfold Boxes

Replica Penfold boxes have recently been produced for use in conservation areas and places of special historical interest; these boxes are made to special order by Macham Engineering Ltd of Denny, Stirlingshire. The Royal Mail has been given special permission by the Lord Chancellor's Department to install these boxes which bear Queen Victoria's coat of arms and initials.



Posting one of the first items of mail in the replica Penfold box at Nairn, 21 June 1989

The first of these boxes was installed at Nairn in Scotland on 21 June; a special one-day handstamp marked its introduction. The second box was installed at the National Waterways Museum, Gloucester on 4 July, day of issue of the Industrial Archaeology stamps; again a special handstamp marked the event. The last original Penfold box in Gloucester was sited at Southgate Street entrance to the Docks where the Waterways Museum is now located; the original box was decommissioned in 1963.

The third replica box was brought into use at Blists Hill near Ironbridge in Shropshire on 25 July, day of issue of the Industrial Archaeology miniature sheet. A Victorian community has been re-created at Blists Hill, part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum complex. Mail posted in the box is given a pictorial cachet worded POSTED AT BLISTS HILL IRONBRIDGE SHROPSHIRE by Museum staff before being transferred to the post. Collectors wanting an example of this cachet should write to the Publicity Dept, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, TELFORD, Shropshire, TF8 7AW. They will address

and post cards stamped with the cachet at the cost of 50p per card (70p overseas); this covers the cost of a picture postcard and postage stamp. Collectors are asked to include adhesive address labels for affixing to the cards. The Museum can also despatch, at the same prices, cards bearing the POSTED ON THE WORLD'S FIRST CAST-IRON BRIDGE IRONBRIDGE SHROPSHIRE cachet, illustrated in the July *Bulletin*, page 267.



(Above) The Blists Hill cachet, Nairn and Gloucester special handstamps; (below) the replica box at the National Waterways Museum, Gloucester



New Country Definitives

28 November 1989

New 15p, 20p, 24p and 34p Country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be issued on 28 November. The designs will be the same as previous issues, the colours of the new stamps being the same as for the national definitives: 15p light blue, 20p black, 24p terracotta and 34p slate. Printing will be in offset litho by The House of Questa in sheets of 200, perforation 15 x 14. The 15p stamp will have a single phosphor band, the 20p, 24p and 34p stamps will be on Advanced Coated Paper.

First day covers, price 18p each, will be available from the Bureau, philatelic counters and main post offices in the respective countries. Pictorial First Day of Issue handstamps will be provided for the Bureau, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. First day covers will be provided in sets of three - one set with the Bureau handstamp, the other with the handstamps of the three capitals. Either set will cost £4.20 (inland, including VAT), £3.66 (overseas, no VAT). Application forms, available from the Bureau and philatelic counters, should be returned by 28 November.

Collectors preparing their own covers may send them for first day postmarking to the Bureau or to the Special Postmark Duty at: LDO, 20/22 Donegall Quay, BELFAST BT1 1AA, LDO, 220/228 Penarth Road, CARDIFF CF1 1AA or LDO, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH EH1 1AA. First day posting boxes will be provided at all offices which normally provide them in each of the three countries and at philatelic counter offices in England.

A presentation pack (No. 20), containing all 12 stamps, will be available, price £3.05.

Falmouth Exhibition

An exhibition marking the 300th anniversary of the introduction of the Falmouth Packet Service is now on show, until the end of the year, at the Falmouth Maritime Museum, 2 Bells Court, FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 3AZ. Further details will be published next month.

Definitive News

Illustrated here are the new definitives issued on 26 September — 15p light blue, 20p black, 24p terracotta, 29p purple, 30p sage, 34p slate and 37p red. Also shown are the 50p and £1 machine-vended books, issued on 2 October; these are number 1 in new "Aeroplanes" and "Mills" series.



A new mixed value ("Readers Digest") coil strip will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters from 10 October; this will comprise three 4p and one 3p stamps. No first day of issue facilities will be provided.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

168. Treasury Competition

Last month we featured two essays produced by Charles Fenton Whiting using the method of compound printing devised by Sir William Congreve. Charles was the son of James Whiting, head of the firm of Whiting and Branston, engravers and printers; James was also proprietor and publisher of a Sunday newspaper, *The Atlas*.



Charles Whiting also produced a number of embossed essays. Shown here are two vertical oval-shaped designs, both 1d denomination, inscribed POST OFFICE HALF OZ with the crown and VR Royal cipher as the main symbolic design; both were submitted in the Treasury Competition. The intricate engine-turned pattern surrounding the central design is typical Whiting — to be seen on the non-embossed essays (shown last month) and on other embossed essays. These include a circular design featuring the Royal arms in the centre with a lion on the Royal crown above (also submitted in the Treasury Competition). Another embossed Whiting essay featured the head of Queen Victoria and he produced other dies showing the Duke of Wellington and Lords Byron and Brougham. Some of these dies, not used for postage stamps, were used on commercial products such as a label for “Extra Superfine Sealing Wax” (1845).

The two essays shown here are on page 26 of Volume 1 of the Phillips Collection which can be seen at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm Friday.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning a 1989 Royal Mail Yearbook (to be issued on 14 November). The Yearbook contains all the special stamps of 1989 and the Industrial Archaeology miniature sheet. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin* and send with your name and address on a postcard to: October Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 24 November.

The senders of the first five all-correct entries drawn will be sent the Royal Mail Yearbook. Answers and winners' names will be published in the January *Bulletin*.

1. Which Cathedral is commemorated by this year's Christmas stamps?
2. How much will the 1989 Royal Mail Yearbook cost?
3. Which famous engineer designed the Pont-cysyllte Aqueduct?
4. Where was the 1950 London international stamp exhibition held?
5. In which Scottish city does the RSA Touring exhibition open on 3 October?
6. Who was born in Redcliffe on 25 August 1764?

The competition is not open to staff of Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, 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 July competition were: J A Portughes of Malta, H B Leech of Somerset, S H Martin of Cornwall and I Maor of Israel. Each will be sent the *Royal Mail* book by Martin Daunt.

The answers were: 1. New Lanark, 2. Thomas Telford, 3. Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, 4. William Playfair, 5. Six.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Illustration of Ely Cathedral on front cover courtesy of Woodmansterne Ltd.



The Iron Bridge

Sir,

We have been delighted by the coverage given to Ironbridge in the *Bulletin* recently, particularly the article by Barbara Last in the July issue.

However I should like to point out that the Iron Bridge is most definitely not made of wrought iron, but of cast iron. Also it was the third Abraham Darby who built the bridge, the grandson of the man who in 1709 perfected the coke-smelting technique. Finally it is not the foundry at Blists Hill which makes wrought iron but the Wrought Ironworks; the Foundry makes cast iron.

KATIE FOSTER, Head of Public Relations, The Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, TELFORD, Shropshire, TF8 7AW

Window Books

Sir,

I should be obliged if I could correct an error in my article "Mark III Window Books" in the August *Bulletin*. On page 300 I stated that "The stamps printed by offset litho are from the same printing as those in the Mark 2 books issued in August 1988...". The date should be 11 October 1988.

L F NEWBERY, Welling, Kent

Worthing Ship Letter Handstamp

Sir,

I am compiling a record of the WORTHING SHIP LETTER handstamp and I should be most grateful if any of your readers would be so kind as to send me a photocopy if they have one.

I would also like to know the following details:

1. date of despatch
2. name of ship or packet
3. date of arrival
4. country of origin

Naturally I shall refund the cost of the photocopy and postage. Thanking you for your kind help.

JOHN E O HOBBS, FRPSL, Worthing Society of Postal Historians, 12 Ophir Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 2SR.

The well-known aerophilatelists, Francis J Field Ltd, have recently published **Internment Mail of the Isle of Man** by Charles Field. During the First World War there were two internment camps on the Isle of Man — at Douglas and at Knockaloe (south east of Peel) and during the Second World War camps held many Germanic Jews who were rounded up and interned until the "Enemy Aliens Tribunals" could screen them. Internee mail is popular with postal historians and new discoveries are being made for the Second World War period. In 1915 an artist produced a series of perforated sheets containing what is known as "the Knockaloe stamp" which was withdrawn prior to issue; a sheet exists in the Manx Museum and a few examples have come on the market in recent years. It is valued in this catalogue at £1,000. Mr Field records over 70 Second World War cachets used at various camps, hospitals and by the Manx Police who were responsible for the issuing of passes permitting civilians access to Rushden Camp. 20 pages, limp binding, illustrated. Price £3 UK, £4 overseas, postpaid, from: Francis J Field Ltd, PO Box 607, SUTTON COLDFIELD, W Midlands, B73 6AS.

The 1990 edition of Part 1 of the **Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue** covering issues of Great Britain and the (British) Commonwealth was published in mid-August. For the first time the catalogue includes advertising. Prices have been revised since the *GB Concise* catalogue was published in May. The Machin section has been revised so that litho stamps printed by Waddington, Questa and Walsall are now separately listed; some catalogue numbers have subsequently been altered. The number of Machins listed now runs to 147 - 125 printed by Harrisons, four by Waddington, 16 by Questa and two by Walsall.

Available from booksellers, stamp dealers, and from: Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

Forthcoming Events

The Colchester & District and Clacton philatelic societies will be holding a Stamp Fair & Exhibi-

tion at the Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton on 29 October, 10am to 4pm. Displays will be given by members of the two societies and 15 dealers will be in attendance. Admission free, refreshments will be available. Enquiries to the secretaries of the two societies: Clacton - Joyce Chadwick, telephone Clacton 420329 or Colchester - Maurice Hogg, Colchester 45515.

The seventh Autumn Assembly of the Midland Philatelic Federation will be held at the Civic Centre, Gravel Hill, Wombourne, Staffordshire on 4 November, from 10.30am to 5pm.

The Federation is promoting four 18-sheet competitions in the following classes: Stamps, Postal History, Aerophilately and Thematics. At least 12 dealers will be present, free parking will be available and refreshments will be served all day. Admission 25p, children 10p. Enquiries to: Dr E R Clark, 122 Coniston Road, WOLVERHAMPTON WV6 9DU.

Royal Mail Competition for Schools

Children, under age 12 on 31 August, can enter a nationwide photo competition organised as part of Royal Mail Stamps education programme for primary schools. Themes for the contest are "My Friend" and "The School Trip" - and prizes for the winners include cameras, cash for photographic equipment, books on photography and stamps. Prizes will be awarded in each of the two subject areas for the best work by an individual child and for the best body of work by a school or class. The closing date for entries is 31 October; black & white or colour prints may be submitted and should be sent to: Mail Bag Photographic Competition, Freepost, NORTHAMPTON NN3 1BR.

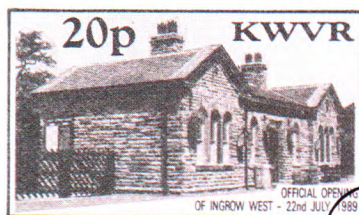
Details of the competition were given in *Mail Bag*, Royal Mail Stamps special newspaper for schools which is sent to 18,000 schools who have asked to receive regular information about stamp issues. Teachers interested in this publication should write to: Youth Philately, Royal Mail Stamps & Philately, 76 Turnmill Street, LONDON EC1M 5NS.

Cross Post

The Spring 1989 issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum is now available from the Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP, price £2 (£1.25 to members). Contents include a feature on the Stamp Advisory Committee and a list of abbreviations used in postmarks.

New Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here are recently issued Keighley & Worth Valley and North Yorkshire Moors Railway stamps detailed in the August and September issues of the *Bulletin*, pages 306 and 23 respectively.



New Darlington Postcard

The Darlington Philatelic Society issued its fourth and final "Postmarks of Darlington" postcard on 5 September. The card is in the same format as the previous three, with details of the postmarks printed on the reverse. The card costs 10p, 30p with 19p Microscope stamp and Darlington First Day of Issue or Philatelic Counter handstamp. Postage extra. Orders/enquiries to: P F Lyons, 7 Orchard Road, DARLINGTON, Co Durham, DL3 6HS.

The card is also available from the Sales Counter at the National Postal Museum in London, together with the third Darlington card issued in September 1987 (see *Bulletin*, September 1987, page 22).

Sir Francis Freeling – Postal Administrator

TONY GAMMONS

Exhibitions Officer, National Postal Museum

Francis Freeling was born in Redcliffe in Bristol on 25 August 1764. He joined the Bristol Post Office, in a part-time capacity, just before John Palmer set up his Mail Coach service in 1784. Freeling, who was known to Palmer, was employed to establish the first “cross-post” mail coach service between Bristol and Portsmouth, via Salisbury, in the spring of 1785. His title was that of unattached Surveyor, that is to say he was not tied to any one district but had a roving brief which enabled him to get an overall view of the workings of the Post Office, something that was to stand him in good stead in his long career with the department.

Palmer's departure from the Post Office caused Freeling, and some of his colleagues, a problem. Although Palmer had been able to suspend staff members he had not been empowered to “take people on” and so, technically, Freeling was not employed by the Post Office! This remedied, he was transferred to London where he successively filled the posts of surveyor, principal and resident surveyor, joint Secretary and finally sole Secretary. Freeling took over from the long serving Anthony Todd in 1789 and became one of the Post Office's greatest administrators. In a debate in the House of Lords in 1836 the Duke of Wellington stated that the English Post Office under Freeling's management had been better administered than any post office in Europe, or in any other part of the world. He said that Freeling possessed “a clear and vigorous understanding ... and the power of expressing his thoughts and opinions, both verbally and in writing, with force and precision”.

Todd and his predecessors seemed to have had little time for organised paperwork, for little, other than financial records, have survived. In 1790, when he was the Resident Surveyor, Freeling introduced the *Report* and *Minute* series of records which are perhaps the most valuable source of information for the period, since they comprise cases dealt with at Post Office Headquarters level and usually culminate in a “report” or “minute” to the Postmaster General for a policy decision. A

baronetcy was conferred upon Freeling in March 1828 for his “services to the public”. He died at his residence in Bryanston Square, London on 10 July 1836.

Some people at the time held that by maintaining the very high postal rates after the Napoleonic Wars, Freeling was indirectly responsible for the agitation which led to the



postal reforms of 1840. This is, I feel, a somewhat simplistic view because it fails to take into account the way the Post Office operated at the time. Pitt, for example, had been enthusiastic for Palmer's scheme not only for its obvious advantages but because it offered to increase the revenue by increasing postal charges instead of imposing an unpopular tax on coal, as he had in mind. The Post Office was, in fact, purely a revenue raising department of Government and had little say in matters of charging.

The “Freeling Papers” were rediscovered in 1962 by The Post Office's present Archivist, Jean Farrugia, who matched them with the relevant minute books. This opened up a rich source of research material which had last been used towards the end of the 19th century by Hendy and Joyce in the writing of their well-known works on the Post Office.

Freeling is featured on one of three new National Postal Museum cards to be issued on 17 October.

National Postal Museum News

Postcards

Three new NPM cards go on sale on 17 October, numbers 4-6 in the Stamp World London 90 series; they feature Ralph Allen, John Palmer and Francis Freeling. Details were published in the August *Bulletin* (page 296). A special NPM handstamp will be used on 17 October; items for reposting to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.



Readers may be interested to have a complete list of NPM cards still on sale (dates of issue in parentheses); all cards cost 20p except where stated:

H1 Mail Coaches, set of 5 (30 July 1985) £1 per set

H2 Uniforms, set of 5 (14 January 1986) £1 per set

H3 Post Office Vans, set of 4 (23 June 1986) 80p per set

SS40 Mails to India (14 October 1986)

87/1-3 Queen Victoria Jubilee, 3 cards (6 January 1987)

87/4-6 Monarchs Heads, 3 cards (6 May 1987)

87/7-9 Pillar Boxes, 3 cards (8 September 1987)

88/1-3 Post Office & Railways, 3 cards (11 January 1988)

88/4-6 Transport & Communications, 3 cards (6 May 1988)

88/7-9 Victorian Stamp Boxes, 3 cards (8 August 1988)

88/10-12 Monarchs Heads, 3 cards (7 November 1988)

89/1-3 Transatlantic Mails, 3 cards (1 February 1989)

89/4-6 Uniforms, 3 cards (5 May 1989)

89/7 Penny Black (*Childrens' souvenir card*) 10p

89/8 British Philatelic Congress, Brighton (5 May 1989)

SWL90/1-3 London Stamp World 90/Postal Personalities, 3 cards (25 July 1989)

Unnumbered. Queen Victoria by Von Angeli, 1885 (14 October 1986)

All cards are available by mail order, minimum order 60p, plus handling charge of 19p for orders up to £18, £1.59 for orders over £18 (sent by registered post). Orders to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

Museum Souvenirs

The Museum has the following items available, all can be ordered by mail order, handling charges as above.

Leather telephone/address book (black or brown), £1.50

Leather credit card holder (brown), £1.90

Leather neck purse (black, blue or red), 95p

Leather key fob with metal tag (black, blue or red), 95p

Leather key fob (black or blue), 45p

Leather bookmark (black, blue or red), 50p

Three pencils in case, 66p

Single pencil, 22p

All Museum leather souvenirs bear the NPM Maltese Cross logo; they make attractive Christmas gifts.

Royal Mail Exhibition Card

Exhibition Card No. 3 will be available with special exhibition handstamps for the Philatelia exhibition (3-5 November) and World Stamp Expo '89 (17 November-3 December). The cards will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £1.50 each plus usual handling charge. A cachet will be applied to cards sold at the British Post Office stands at these exhibitions. Collectors unable to visit the Philatelia exhibition can order cacheted cards from: Georg Roll Nachfolger, Holbeinstrasse 2, Postfach 1346, D-2880 BRAKE, West Germany. The cards will cost £3 including handling charge and postage and orders must be received by the date the exhibition closes, i.e. 5 November.

The address for the World Stamp Expo '89 card will be given in next month's *Bulletin*.

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 Editor.

Benham Railway Covers. Benhams continue to produce a large number of covers commemorating anniversaries and events in railway history. Recent examples include the 50th anniversary of the locomotive "Hinton Manor" (15 February); 150th anniversary of the York & North Midland Railway (29 May) and the 150th anniversary of the Midland Counties Railway (4 June). All covers bear the well-known Benham "silk" illustrations. For full details write to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Benham House, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Lord Mayor of London. Benhams, in association with the City of London, are producing a number of covers for the issue of Lord Mayor stamps on 17 October. Cover 1 features the Lord Mayor in front of his coach, the stamps will be cancelled with a City of London coat of arms postmark – price £3.99, carried in the Lord Mayor's Show £5.99, signed by the present Lord Mayor (Sir Christopher Collett) £7.50, signed by Sir Christopher and the next Lord Mayor £9.50. Cover 2 marks the 800th anniversary exhibition at the Museum of London, it features the Lord Mayor's coach on parade and bears a pictorial Exhibition postmark. Prices as for cover 1. Cover 3 is "22 carat real gold" with illustration of the City of London coat of arms and will bear a special postmark at the Guildhall. This cover will be produced in a limited quantity. Price £7.50, carried in the Show £9.50, signed by both Lord Mayors £15. Postage 35p extra. All orders/enquiries to: Benham, address above.

Scottish Railway. A special cover has been produced to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock, Ayr Railway; the covers are available with a special handstamp used at Ayr on 5 August, for £2.50. Orders/enquiries to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Benham House, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD. The cover is one in an ongoing series documenting the historical development of British railways.

Prince Albert. To mark the 170th anniversary of the birth of Prince Albert on 26 August 1819 at Rosenau Castle, Coburg, G K Eldridge

produced a full-colour cover. This bears West German stamps with the Coburg postmark for the anniversary date. Price £2.30. A companion cover marking the 170th anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth, with appropriate Kensington Palace stamp, is available price £1.70. Overseas customers add 50p for postage. Orders/enquiries to: G K Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

50th Anniversary of Second World War. On 3 September the Portsmouth D Day Museum issued a commemorative cover to mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War; the cover bears a 19p stamp cancelled with a special handstamp. Price £1.60 plus 50p post & packing; orders/enquiries to: R Thorne, Administrative Officer, City Museum & Art Gallery, Museum Road, PORTSMOUTH PO1 2LJ.



Middlesbrough Town Hall. The centenary of the Town Hall is being commemorated by a special cover and handstamp on 17 October. The Hall was opened by the Prince & Princess of Wales (later Edward VII and Queen Alexandra), the Princess set in motion the Town Hall's famous clock. The cover with full set of The Lord Mayor's Show stamps costs £4.50, signed by the Mayor of Middlesbrough £6.75. Covers with single stamp cost £2.25. Covers bearing the full set plus additional stamps to cover registration, all cancelled with the Middlesbrough c.d.s. will be available, price £5.25. Orders/enquiries to: Stan Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 8JJ.

Normandy Veterans Association. The Association produced a cover to mark the 45th anniversary of D Day on 6 June. The cover shows the Association's badge and a map of the Normandy coast showing the landing beaches — Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. A special Forces handstamp was applied. Price £1.50 or £2.50 signed by the Association's President, General Sir John Mogg, GCB, CBE, DSO, DL. Postage extra, remittances payable to

"NVA National Council". Orders/enquiries to: A E Innes, 71 Pooltown Road, Ellesmere Port, SOUTH WIRRAL, L65 7AE.

Danish Graphic Museum. An exhibition of the graphic work of stamp designer Keith Bassford is on show at the Danmarks Grafiske Museum, Brandts Passage 37, 3 Sal 5000 Odense C, Denmark until 26 November. Mr Bassford is well-known for his stamp designs for both the Danish and British Post Offices, most recently for the four British Microscopes stamps (5 September) and the three Danish stamps commemorating anniversaries in the film industry (28 September). A special first day cover, designed by Mr Bassford, has been produced to mark the opening day of the exhibition, 28 September. It is available, price 36 Danish krone, or £3, including postage, from the Museum, address above.



The special first day cover bearing the British Microscopes and Danish Film Industry stamps with relevant first day cancels. The stamps were designed by Keith Bassford.

Coventry Canal Society. The day on which the first British stamp depicting a canal was issued, was also the 30th anniversary of the reopening of Wyken Basin at Coventry. This was the first section of canal to be restored by voluntary labour and to commemorate the occasion a special cover was produced. This bears the 35p Industrial Archaeology stamp featuring the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and is cancelled with the Coventry Philatelic Counter handstamp of 4 July, price £1.20. Orders/enquiries to: P L Roberts, 25 Harewood Road, COVENTRY CV5 8BS.

Philatelic Counters

The first of a new chain of philatelic "super centres" opens in October at Gloucester main post office, in a joint move by RMSP and Post Office Counters to make philatelic products more widely available. The new centre is the first under the name "Collections" to be introduced at key offices in main cities. They will sell a comprehensive range of philatelic products plus Royal Mint coins and a select variety of gift items. As a new feature, the centres will make products more accessible to customers who will be able to browse in comfort.

The planned major re-design of philatelic counters will continue with four more offices being refitted in Belfast, Cambridge, London (Trafalgar Square) and Windsor. If these prove successful, there are plans eventually to provide a total of up to 33 outlets around the country.

Starting after The Lord Mayor's Show stamps issue on 17 October, outdated and uneconomic philatelic counters will be withdrawn at Ayr, Ballymena, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Carlisle, Darlington, Grimsby, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Oldham, Portadown, Romford, Shrewsbury, Stoke on Trent, Sunderland and Worcester. The exact dates of closure were not available at the time of going to press. Further counters will be closed next year at: Bolton, Bradford, Hereford, Hull, Inverness, Lincoln, Londonderry, Luton, Newport, Norwich, Plymouth, Sheffield, Swansea, Swindon, Taunton and Torquay.

Further information will be published in the *Bulletin* as it becomes available.

The following counters are to be refurbished during 1990/1: Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Canterbury, Cardiff, Colchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Guildford, London (Chief Office), Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Truro and York. Refurbishment is scheduled for another 12 counters during 1991/2: Bath, Chester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Exeter, Leeds, Leicester, Oxford, Portsmouth, Southampton and Southend-On-Sea.

In addition to the "Collections" programme, refurbishment of main post offices is now taking place and where this coincides with philatelic counters earmarked for withdrawal in 1990 a designated counter position marked "Philatelic" will be provided, offering as full a service as possible.

Slania Exhibition

Czeslaw Slania is perhaps the world's best known stamp engraver, responsible for over 800 stamps from 14 different postal administrations, giving him a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*. He engraved the recess printed parts of the British Maritime Heritage, Royal Mail (Mail Coaches) and Victorian Britain stamps of 1982, 1984 and 1987. An exhibition of his work is on show, until 12 November, at the home of Countess Sonja and Count Lennart Bernadotte on the island of Mainau in Lake Constance, West Germany. The island, famous for its gardens and tropical plants, is reached by ferry from Konstanz. A lavish souvenir book has been produced for this exhibition, details from: Mainauverwaltung, Graf Lennart Bernadotte GmbH, Veranstaltungsbüro, D-7750 Insel Mainau, West Germany.

October Digest

Issued in October

2 October: 50p and £1 machine-vended books containing 2 x 15p, 1 x 20p and 5 x 20p stamps respectively.

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure. Stamps in 50p book have single phosphor band (15p) and two bands (20p); 20p stamps in £1 book on ACP.

£1.16 Stamp (window) book containing 4 x 29p stamps (Worldwide postcard rate).

Printing: Walsall Security Printers, litho. Stamps have two phosphor bands.

Stamp Rolls: Code RL containing 500 x 15p stamps, longways delivery; Code SF - 1,000 x 15p stamps, sideways delivery; Code TL - 500 x 20p stamps, longways delivery; Code SG - 1,000 x 20p stamps, sideways delivery.

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure. 15p stamps have single phosphor band. 20p stamps on ACP.

Lord Mayor's Show Stamp Cards (Nos 121A-E), 18p each.

10 October: Mixed Value Stamp Roll — 3 x 4p stamps, 1 x 3p stamp

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, ACP.

17 October: Lord Mayor's Show stamps — 5 x 20p se-tenant strip

Designer: Paul Cox

Printing: Harrison & Sons Ltd, photogravure, 30

x 41mm, printed on phosphor-coated paper in sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp: London EC4

Presentation Pack: (No. 202), £1.25

17 October. National Postal Museum cards showing Ralph Allen, John Palmer and Sir Francis Freeling (SWL90/4-6). Price 20p each.

18 October: Lord Mayor's Show souvenir cover, price 18p. Available from philatelic counters.

30 October: Christmas Stamp Cards (Nos. 122A-E), price 18p each

Christmas Greetings cards — pack of 10 (2 each of 5 stamp designs), price £1.99.

Withdrawn in October

10 October: All Mark III window books issued 11 October 1988.

17 October: £1, £1.50, £2 and £5 High Value definitives, issued in 1977 and 1986; High Value stamps Collectors' Pack (No. 13).

Correction - September Digest: The 14p light blue stamp listed for issue on 26 September should read 15p. Apologies for any confusion caused.

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