

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 22

Number 8

April 1985

THIRTY·FOUR·PENCE



SEA·PICTURES
Edward Elgar

Contents

- 134 Editorial
- 135 The Railway Letter Service: Part 6
- 137 Letters to the Editor
- 139 Melville National Junior Stamp Competition
Withdrawn Items
- 140 New Handstamping Regulations
Post Office Archives
New Postcards
Definitive Gum Change?
- 141 Gems from the RM Phillips Collection
CXXIV:
Treasury Competition — Entries
- 142 British Composers Stamps Issue
14 May 1985
- 144 Decimal Stamp Books
- 147 British Special Stamps:
119. Christmas, 1977
Forthcoming Events
- 149 Posting Boxes
Book Review
Forces Covers
- 150 Commemorative Covers

Editorial

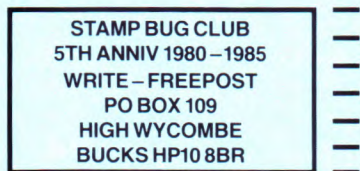
Does The British Post Office issue too many stamps? Are all stamp issues really necessary? These are two questions regularly asked by collectors, to which there is no simple answer. If The Post Office was asked these questions, the answer would be that stamps are changed for operational reasons, and special issues are strictly limited, particularly when compared to many overseas postal administrations. The collector's answer would probably claim that there are too many different stamps with too many variations compared to a few years ago.

The real answer might lie somewhere between these two viewpoints. From an operational point of view, increasing mechanisation of postal services, also technical progress in the printing industry, have led to the development of phosphor papers and other changes in definitive stamps. This is not something new; the definitive stamps issued before Machins were a rich source of different papers, watermarks and perforations. Technical changes are also reflected in the development of stamp books, which also change regularly with new tariffs.

The prestige stamp books which have appeared in the last few years combine both the operational and the philatelic, as well as embodying new developments in printing techniques. These compare favourably with such items as the Red Cross stamp books issued on the continent. Compared to many overseas postal administrations, the stamp output of the British Post Office today is still relatively conservative. While there are more British special stamp issues today than 25 years ago, this is very much a reflection of the times.

Finally, it may be argued that there are too many British stamps and variations, which make trying to collect everything too expensive. To a large extent this has always been the case, because the level of specialisation is personal to each individual collector. There is no rule which insists that everyone must collect everything. This is also reflected today in that it is no longer financially possible, or practical, to collect all the stamps of the world, which used to be every schoolboy's dream not very many years ago. Times have changed, and while everything does not always change for the better in a far from perfect world, hopefully commonsense will prevail.

CHARLES GOWEN



'This postmark slogan will be applied to all mail posted at 20 offices from 7 May — 29 June 1985 and 2 September — 26 October 1985.'

The Railway Letter Service

Part 6

In this article, the last in this series, we look at the railway letter stamps of one Midland line — the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire, one in the West Country — the East Somerset Railway and at the issues of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland.

Great Central Railway

This company operates the railway from Loughborough (Central) to Rothley in Leicestershire, a distance of five miles. There is one intermediate station at Quorn and Woodhouse. The line is part of the former Great Central Railway from London (Marylebone) to Nottingham (Victoria) via Aylesbury Town, Woodford Halse, Rugby Central, Leicester Central and Loughborough Central (126 miles) which was closed by British Railways in the late 1960s. The current service was restored in 1977.

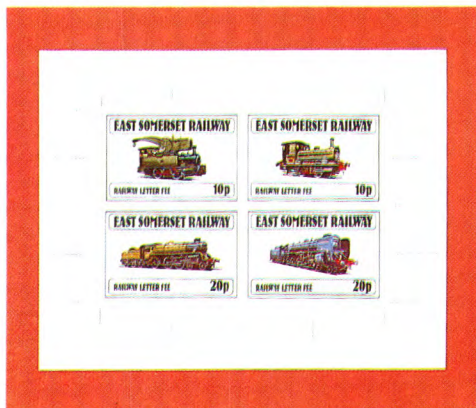
The railway letter service was started on 8 May 1982 when two 20p stamps were issued — printed horizontally *se-tenant* and depicting Great Northern Railway locomotive No.1 (which was loaned by the National Railway Museum to the Great Central Railway in December 1981) and GNR Class 2 locomotive No.4744 which arrived at Loughborough in 1975, having previously operated on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway. Two 25p stamps were issued in May 1983 — again horizontally *se-tenant*; they featured locomotive No.506 *Butler Henderson* (on loan to the railway from the National Railway Museum since 1975) and London & North

Eastern Railway B1 Class locomotive No.1306 *Mayflower*. Both these locomotives have operated on the Great Central Railway since 1978. The four stamps are amongst the most attractive of all the railway letter stamps of the minor railways.

The company usually refers to its railway letter service as a travelling post office service and the cancelling stamp used is worded 'LOUGHBOROUGH-ROTHLEY TPO' and the special sponsored PO handstamp used on 8 May 1982 was inscribed 'Inaugural Run of TPO Service.' The first railway cancellation was erroneously produced with a fixed date (8 May 1982) across the centre — this was used throughout the 1982 season. A new, movable datestamp was introduced on 12 December 1982.

East Somerset Railway

This company operates services between Merryfield Lane and Cranmore stations on the former British Rail Yatton-Witham Friary railway, south of Bath. The original East Somerset railway was opened in 1858 and was laid to broad gauge. The line initially ran from Witham Friary to Shepton Mallet, extending to Wells in 1862, but was not financially successful and was eventually taken over by the GWR who owned the Wells-Cheddar Valley-Yatton line which connected with the East Somerset Railway at Wells. The line had a quiet history and was closed to passenger traffic by British Rail in September 1963. The present East Somerset Railway Company was founded by wildlife artist David



Shepherd and the line officially opened by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in 1975. Some ten preserved steam locomotives are used on services on the 1½ miles of track currently operated. The railway letter service started on 22 April 1984 when four stamps were issued, each depicting one of the preserved locomotives: 10p crane locomotive built by Dübs of Glasgow in 1901, 10p *Lord Fisher*, 20p *Green Knight* and 20p *Black Prince*. The stamps are printed in a miniature sheet format. Normally railway letters are despatched from Merryfield Lane to be posted on arrival at Cranmore, the stamps are cancelled with a small circular handstamp worded 'ESR/MERRYFIELD LANE'.

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

This society does not operate a railway in the same way that the other minor railway companies do. Under agreements with the state-run Northern Ireland Railways and the Coras Iompair Eireann (in the Republic of Ireland), it operates weekend excursion trains from Whitehead to Carrickfergus on the NIR's Belfast-Larne line and weekend 'specials' are run elsewhere including services across the border into the Irish Republic. The society owns several preserved steam locomotives which were originally built for a number of different Irish railway companies.

The Society signed the Railway Letter Agreement with the British Post Office on 23 March 1981 and its first stamps (three at 20p) were issued on 16 May 1981. These were printed horizontally *se-tenant* and depict three of the Society's locomotives — *Slieve Guillion* (ex Great Northern Railway), No.164 (Southern & Great Western Railway) and No.4 (Ulster Transport Authority). In December 1981 these stamps were issued surcharged 'IRO.33p' in red for use on mail despatched from stations in the Irish Republic. Further stocks of the 20p stamps were overprinted and surcharged 22p were issued in August and September 1982 for use on covers carried on the 'Portrush Flyer' and 'Enterprise Express' trains. This time the overprinting was in black ink. A number of sheets were poorly

overprinted resulting in some stamps with the overprints omitted or applied diagonally instead of horizontally.

The stamps on covers carried on the weekend excursion trains are cancelled with an undated oval handstamp worded 'WHITEMEAD/STATION/B & NCRY' (B & NCRY = Belfast & Northern Counties Railway, a predecessor of the present Northern Ireland Railways). The handstamp — a replica of the original type of railway letter stamp cancel used in the 1890s — is normally struck in red ink but has also been seen in black and violet. Railway letter stamps on covers carried on 'special' trains have been given various cancellations — sometimes of a pictorial nature.

Railway letters carried on the Whitehead to Carrickfergus service can be passed on to NIR for onward transmission to other stations in Northern Ireland or indeed anywhere in the British Isles. I have in my collection a cover despatched from Whitehead Station, carried by the RPSI before being handed over to NIR for transmission to Larne. From there it went to Sealink ferry to Stranraer (Scotland) and then by British Rail mainline service to London, by van to Charing Cross and then by suburban train to be posted on arrival at my home town in Kent. The cover was despatched from Whitehead on 19 January 1982 and posted in Kent on 4 February. The total cost was 82p — 14p first class postage, 20p. RPSI fee and 48p NRR railway letter fee. NIR do not use railway letter stamps, covers are given the rubber date stamp of the station of despatch and sometimes an additional cachet worded 'PER PASSENGER TRAIN'. My cover was given the station datestamp of Belfast (York Road).

Enquiries concerning the railway letter stamps mentioned in this article should be addressed to: Great Central Railway (1976) PLC, Central Station, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics., LE11 1SS; East Somerset Railway Co. Ltd, Cranmore Station, Cranmore, SHEPTON MALLET, Somerset, BA4 4QP and Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, Whitehead Excursion Station, Whitehead, CARRICKFERGUS, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland BT38 9NA. JOHN HOLMAN



The Railway Letter Service

John Holman, the author of this series, has sent these notes referring to points raised by previous articles.

In order to keep the record straight I should be obliged if you would publish the following corrections to my articles 'The Railway Letter Service'.

In the first article (October 1984) on the Talylllyn Railway, the initials of Mr Rolt who wrote a book about the railway should be LTC, not RTC and the name of one of the stations using handstamps is Rhydyronen, not Rhydronen.

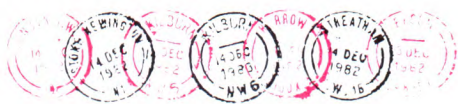
In the second article on the Ffestiniog Railway (November), I stated that the passenger service ceased in 1930. The all-year round service ceased that year, a summer tourist service continued until 1939. The Ffestiniog Railway Company established in 1836 is still in existence, my reference to a new company being formed in 1954 refers only to a change in the control of the company. In recent times the Company has spelt its name Ffestiniog on publicity material, its legal name remains Festiniog. The double-F spelling is in keeping with similar name changes elsewhere in Wales. The designer of the doubled-ended locomotives was Robert Fairlie, not Farlie, these locomotives were not unique to the FR as I stated but they are best-known for their service on that railway. The locomotive named Earl of Merioneth is of recent construction and is not one of the four original Fairlie double-ended locomotives. Of these only Merddin Emrys remains in use as stated. Both of the original 1863 locomotives Prince and Princess are still in existence but only Prince is still in use. Finally a few place names were incorrectly spelt — Gelliwig (not Gelliwog), Llyn Ystradau (not Lyn). Blaenau Ffestiniog was wrongly spelt on page 44 but was spelt correctly later in the article.

In Part 3 (December), the gauge of the Welshpool & Llanfair Rly was given as 2' 3" rather than 2' 6" (2' 3" is the gauge of the Talylllyn Rly). The railway is located in the county of Powys — wrongly spelt as Powis which is (confusingly) the correct spelling for Powis Castle, home of the Earl of Powis. The name of one of the Llanberis Lake Railway locomotives is variously spelt Helen Katherine or Helen Kathryn. I quoted the former from one of the railway's 1978 publicity leaflets; I gather the latter is the spelling on the locomotive's nameplate.

I am greatly obliged to Mr E K Stretch of Newcastle, Staffordshire for taking the trouble to inform me of inaccuracies in historical detail and spellings and so allowing me to set the record straight.

I gather from the railway companies that my articles have generated increased interest in their railway letter stamps. This is gratifying, the stamps are of great interest to collectors of private post issues and thematic collectors alike. Purchase of the stamps (at modest costs) helps the companies in restoring some of our most beautiful railways.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir

On reading in the January issue of the Philatelic Bulletin the description of a new Midland Postal Region postcard, I was curious to know to what class the London and North Western Railway locomotive 'Rowland Hill' belonged. I consulted 'Premier Line' by O S Nock, which contains lists of all named engines owned by the LNWR. It was a widespread custom on that railway to pass names on to the next generation of locomotive as older ones were scrapped and this is what happened with 'Rowland Hill'. Your readers might like to know that there were in fact four engines with this name, spanning at least seventy years from 1854 well into the lifetime of the London Midland and Scottish Railway. The four were as follows:

Allan 2-4-0 goods engine number 326, built 1854.

Mc Connell 'Large Bloomer' 2-2-2 number 1008, given the name in 1872, but built much earlier.

Webb 'Dreadnought' 2-2-2-0 number 659, built 1886.

Whale 'Percursor' 4-4-0 number 2582, built 1905 (became number 5234 of the LMSR; but was certainly scrapped before 1934).

It is a possibility that 'Rowland Hill', in one of the his last three guises, took his turn on such trains as the West Coast Postal and the Irish Mail.

Which engine is depicted on the new postcard?

Yours faithfully

PETERBOROUGH

D J Belson

The engine illustrated on the Midland Postal Region postcard is the Webb Compound Dreadnought class.

EDITOR

Dear Sir

I have been a subscriber to the Philatelic Bulletin for about 18 years but I have never written to express my opinion on any stamp issue, but I think that the Post Office have just issued the best set of stamps for many years in the Railway Engines issue.

I would now like to comment on the cost of collecting mint stamps as far as the young collector is concerned.

At one time special issues were limited to four stamps all of low value, but today we are getting this

increased to five stamps, in fact this year The Post Office have eight special issues in the programme three of which have five stamps not including the Christmas issue, if this has five it will mean that half of the programme this year will contain five stamps and most of these are of high value.

Would it not be possible as the costs continue to rise each year to bring down the cost by cutting the sets down to four stamps and include the 2nd class stamp each time instead of only once a year for the Christmas issue thus giving more thought to the young collectors.

It may be that more of these young people will be able to afford these sets and this I am sure will make them happy and at the end of the day the Post Office may be better off by the sales of stamps which are put into a stamp album.

MELTHAM
Huddersfield

Yours faithfully
P. Beaumont

Dear Sir

Malcolm James's article on 'The Mulready and the Maltese Cross', in the British Philatelic Bulletin for January 1985, seems to me to give quite the wrong impression concerning Rowland Hill and his views on various forms of stamps for prepayment. It is said that he "was almost obsessively insistent on promoting the use of postal stationery" instead of adhesive stamps, and that he was disappointed that "the adhesive stamps sold like the proverbial hot cakes". I am unaware of any evidence for such statements.

There is a difficulty in interpreting some of the writings of the 1830s concerning this, because the phrase 'stamped covers' was sometimes used *specifically* to mean ready-stamped envelopes, but sometimes *generically* to mean all forms of stamped mail. Many examples of each of these two usages exist. I suspect that Mr James has misinterpreted examples of one usage, thinking that they are the other. To be quite sure of Rowland Hill's actual views, it is necessary to find examples where the specific usage is clearly indicated, such as those that follow.

On 16th February 1838, in his evidence to the Select Committee on Postage, he was asked by Lord Seymour (question 791) "Would you rather prefer covers, or adhere to what you stated the other day, that your plan simply meant to sell stamps?" He replied "That is a question which, I think, would be better answered by the officers of the Stamp-office. It would depend almost entirely, I conceive, upon the difficulty and the danger of imitation, and so

forth; but for the expense, covers would probably be more desirable; the estimates show that there is a very considerable difference in the expense of the two." Where is the supposed obsession for one rather than the other?

On 13th August 1838, the Select Committee's Third Report stated (page 38) "Mr Hill proposes to effect payment of postage in advance by the sale of stamps; that is, of stamped covers, or stamped sheets of paper, or stamped labels, or stamps in any form that convenience might require." No obsession is evident there.

On 13th June 1839, Rowland Hill's paper 'On the collection of postage by means of stamps' states that "I have been understood by many to recommend the *exclusive* use of stamped covers; but a glance at my evidence will show that such is not the case. *The exclusive use of covers* would be objectionable ..." [his italics]. In this paper, he describes his plan for adhesive labels in considerable detail and says "Having thus secured a means by which any one may, if he think proper, purchase a single stamp, and thus for one penny, frank his letter written on any kind of paper in any part of the kingdom where it can be posted, (an arrangement which is very important to the poor man), I conceive the distribution of stamped letter paper and stamped covers may safely be left to the ordinary commercial channels." Again the supposed obsession seems entirely absent.

It is true that he thought that the public would prefer the envelopes to the adhesives, and was surprised that the actual preference went the other way, but everyone seems to have guessed wrongly what would happen. Those who thought the adhesives would be preferred thought that they would be stuck directly on the folded letters. Nobody, so far as I know, supposed that the public would choose to buy plain envelopes and stick adhesive stamps on them.

HARROW
Middx.

Dr I D Hill

Malcolm James comments: I admit that 'obsessively insistent' and 'hot cakes' may be slight exaggerations, however I think that the following quotations from authoritative works published by the National Postal Museum support my general theme:

(1) 'The method of prepayment most favoured by Rowland Hill, and proposed in his 1837 pamphlet, was the sale to the public of 'stamped covers' to be produced by the Stamp Office ... The price of each cover would include the cost of postage so that it could be posted without any further payment.' (There followed a specification for what

transpired to be the Mulready, i.e. stamped (prepaid) stationery, 'to have the most beautiful design that can be engraved...')

From: The Story of the Penny Black & Its Contemporaries, By A. C. Rigo de Righi.

(2) 'To Rowland Hill's own great surprise, the Penny Black (which he had envisaged as an expedient for use only when a supply of the stamped stationery was not at hand) quickly proved the most popular method of prepaying postage...')

From: The Life & Work of Sir Rowland Hill, 1795-1879. By Jean Farrugia.

Dear Sir

What is the British Post Office allegedly doing to allow Mrs Thatcher's representative on the Peoples Europe Committee to propose (let alone design!) a British Eurostamp on which the country of origin is identified solely by the symbol of its (sadly, declining) currency?

British stamp design, for long the envy of other stamp-issuing nations, is too important to leave to amateurs, even if appointed by the Prime Minister. If we must have ECU's as currency, let us at least retain the traditional Royal silhouette as a discreet reminder of the origin, not only of the Eurostamp, but of stamps themselves.

BLAGDON
Bristol

Yours faithfully
J R Millar

There were widespread press reports on 23 January 1985 about a proposal for a common stamp issue by all EEC member countries. The reports stated that this would mean that the sovereign's portrait would be omitted from a British stamp for the first time, and that the stamps would be denominated in ECU's (European Currency Units).

Readers may be interested (and perhaps relieved) to know that there is no substance to the reports, and that The Post Office has no plans to remove the Queen's head from any of its stamp issues. We understand that the Committee on People's Europe which was mentioned in the Times, Guardian and Telegraph reports, made no such proposal to the EEC heads of government to whom the Committee reports.

EDITOR

Special Issues 1983

Would readers please turn to page 101 of the February Bulletin and delete the word 'sheets' under the heading. It found its way there quite by mistake, for which we are sorry.

Melville National Junior Stamp Competition

The Melville and Youth Committee of the British Philatelic Federation is pleased to announce that the Melville National Junior Stamp Competition will take place in the Autumn this year as part of the British Philatelic Exhibition.

The competition is open to anyone under 21 on 1st January 1985.

It is hoped that all entries will be on display, in full, at the British Philatelic Exhibition which is to be held at the Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1 from 15th to 20th October 1985.

This year for the first time, entry forms will have to be completed and returned by 1st July 1985, but exhibits will not be required until 31st August 1985.

Entry forms are available from the British Philatelic Exhibition offices, 27 John Adam Street, LONDON WC2N 6HZ or Mrs E A G Berry, 24 Irwin Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey, GU2 5PP.

Withdrawn Items

The following items will be withdrawn from sale during April.

Urban Renewal stamps and presentation pack on 10 April.

2p definitive p.c.p. — stocks exhausted.

Social Letter Writing Discount Stamp Book at £1.55 on 6 April in England, Wales & N. Ireland, and on 8 April in Scotland.

The September 1984 Bulletin announced the withdrawal from general sale of stamp values containing ½p. The following values which have remained on sale from the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic sales counters will be withdrawn on 28 June 1985:

½p, 3½p, 12½p, 20½p national definitive stamps, and 12½p, 20½p 'Country' definitives.

The Royal Mail Postage Labels pack containing three labels (3½p, 12½p and 16p) will be withdrawn from sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic sales counters, and Shirley Branch Office, Southampton on 28 June. The other two packs in the range will remain on sale from these outlets until further notice.

New Handstamping Regulations

Some confusion has arisen since the 'New Post Office Handstamping Regulations' were printed in both the Postmark Bulletin and the Philatelic Bulletin in September 1984. The confusion stems from the final sentence of the opening paragraph.

'It must be stressed that they apply only to items submitted to The Post Office, including the British Philatelic Bureau and the Directorate of Postal Courier Services, requesting a special philatelic handstamp cancellation (privately sponsored or Post Office sponsored, including first day of issue handstamps).'

Some collectors have understood this to mean that any post office can supply a philatelic quality handstamp on request. This is not so.

The rules apply only for philatelic handstamps in use at selected offices, details of which always appear in the Postmark Bulletin. This includes the 64 offices with philatelic sales counters.

Post Office Archives

The study of handstamps and postmark slogans continues to attract collectors, as our postbag reveals almost daily. We would like to remind readers that the new Post Office Archives in Freeling House, 23 Glass Hill Street, LONDON, SE1 0BQ, is now open from Monday to Friday 9am-4.45pm. No appointment is necessary, and all are welcome who wish to pursue this area of Philatelic study.

Philatelic Bulletin readers may wish to be reminded that the Postmark Bulletin gives advance information about all special handstamps and postmark slogans. It is published fortnightly and is available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT. The cost is £6.50 per annum for 25 editions.

New Postcards

South Western Postal Region

South Western Postal Region will issue a new postcard on 25 April 1985 to coincide with the departure of the Orient Express from Bristol Temple Meads station. This will be the first card of a series of four to be issued in 1985 to mark the 150th

Anniversary of the Great Western Railway, with a Post Office/Railway theme.

The card, SWPR 25, will depict Post Office station staff and a broad gauge locomotive in the old Bristol Temple Meads station. It will cost 14p, and orders up to £18.00 will cost 18p extra for postage and handling, while orders over £18.00 will cost £1.28 extra. The card will be available to personal callers at all philatelic counters in the South Western Postal Region and at the National Postal Museum in London. It will also be available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh where normal handling charges will apply.

Fully serviced cards bearing a 17p definitive stamp cancelled with a first day of issue handstamp will cost 46p. The card will also be available bearing a 29p Famous Trains stamp depicting the Cheltenham Flyer, cancelled with a special commemorative handstamp for the departure of the Orient Express from Bristol to Venice, and will cost 58p.

Orders and remittances should be sent to the Philatelic Officer, The Head Post Office, Cattle Market Road, BRISTOL, BS1 1AA. Payments should be made by National Girobank transfer to account number 202 1005, or by cheque or postal order made payable to 'The Post Office.' Orders should arrive no later than 25 April 1985.

Definitive Gum Change?

An important change will shortly be made to all the British definitive and country stamps which are currently available. This follows the latest technical developments in the production of the gum used for postage stamps and many other items.

This breakthrough in gum technology means that British stamps will be the first in the world to have flavoured gum. For ordinary Machin definitives this will be roast beef flavour; for country definitives the flavour for Scotland will be porridge, Wales will be leek, and Northern Ireland will be bacon. A vegetarian flavoured gum will also be available to cater for dietary requirements. A further 57 varieties of flavours are currently being developed jointly with a major food manufacturer.

The first new stamps with flavoured gum will go on sale from 1 April 1986 at all philatelic counters and by post from the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh. They will go on sale at all post offices when existing stocks of definitive stamps become exhausted.

Treasury Competition – Entries

This month's 'Gem' from the R M Phillips Collection illustrates two entries submitted in the Treasury Competition by Robert W Siever, a noted engraver and sculptor of the time. Siever produced several essays for the competition.

Both designs were given the Treasury number 22811, the first is an embossed stamp measuring $29\frac{3}{4} \times 33\frac{3}{4}$ mm, coloured in blue and red on a sealed letter sheet – endorsed and signed by the competitor. The embossed stamp bears the words 'Penny' in the top panel and 'Post' in the bottom panel.

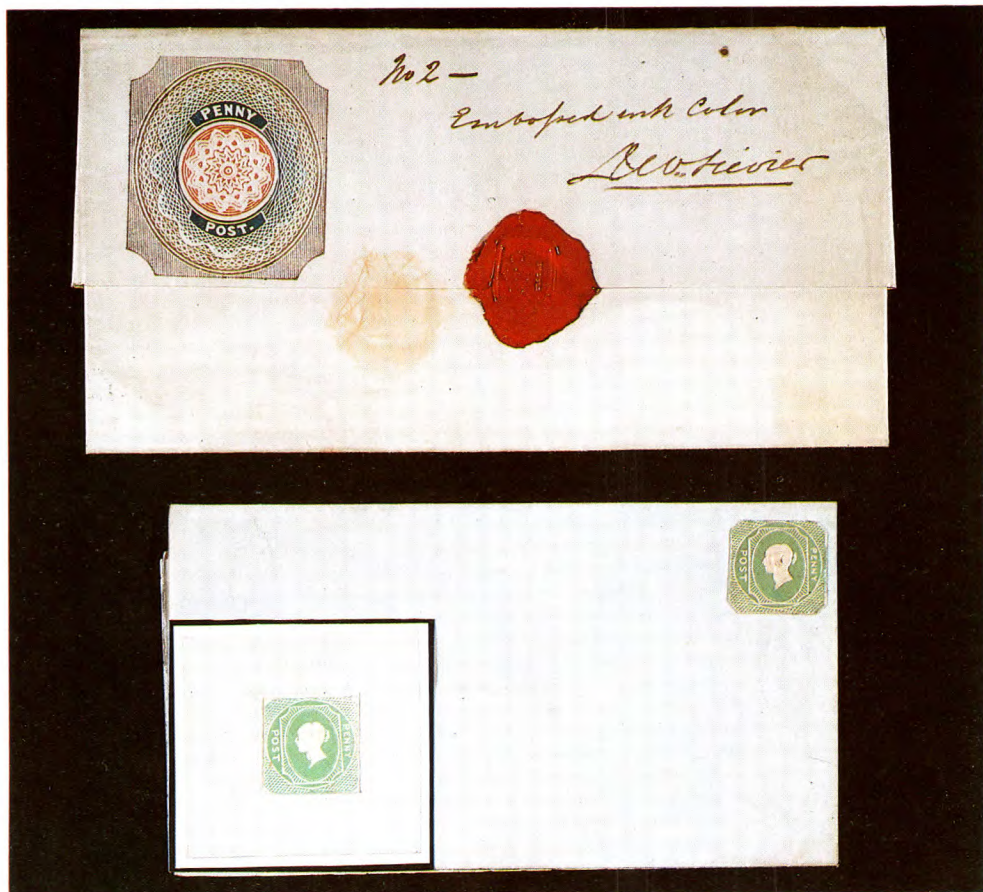
The second, produced in green, bearing the

Queen's head with 'Penny' in the right hand panel and 'Post' in the left, is attached to an envelope.

It is interesting to note that although the Penny Black was the first postage stamp proper to be issued, the Post Office did go back to the idea of using embossed stamps. After the failure of the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets, envelopes with embossed stamps were introduced as replacement in 1841.

The Siever essays can be found in volume 1/19 of the R M Phillips Collection on display in the National Postal Museum.

JOHN MEMMOTT Assist. Curator



British Composers Stamps

Issue 14 May 1985

In the latter part of the 19th century Britain was supposedly known with some derision as 'The Land without Music' since native composers of real quality were noticeably absent. The relative demise of English music during Victorian times is hard to explain since in Elizabethan and Jacobean days there had been a Golden Age when Gibbons, Weelkes, Morley, Byrd, Dowland and to crown them all, Purcell had made a matchless contribution to English culture. Perhaps it was the arrival of Handel on the scene in 1711 that induced a sense of national inferiority from which it took nearly two centuries to recover. A few generations later another German composer, Mendelssohn, was to exert an overwhelming influence; orchestras and choral societies flourished under his dynamic direction but he found no potential rivals to challenge his supremacy. Fostered no doubt by the Germanic background of the monarchy the idea that only German music was worthy of consideration gave little encouragement to native talent. It is all the more ironic then that two of the most significant composers to lead the English musical renaissance, Elgar and Delius, should have received their most important early recognition in Germany. Acceptance abroad compelled the ultra-conservative British to admit that here indeed were composers of real stature. English folk song was one of Holst's greatest sources of inspiration. Until 'The Planets' brought him fame he led an unassuming life, delighting in working with amateur choirs and orchestras and directing the music at St. Paul's Girl's School.

The Post Office is issuing a new set of special stamps celebrating European Music Year, the theme chosen by the CEPT, and commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Handel. The stamps graphically illustrate some of the works of four British composers, George Frideric Handel, Gustav Holst, Frederick Delius and Edward Elgar. The denominations and subjects are: 17p 'Water Music' by Handel: 22p 'The Planets Suite' by Holst: 31p 'The First Cuckoo' by Delius: 34p 'Sea Pictures' by Elgar.

Printing Details

The stamps are designed by Wilson McLean and printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons (High



YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
LONDON SW1

Europe, which has for centuries been the centre of much of the world's greatest music, is in 1985 celebrating the tercentenaries of the births of Bach, Handel and Domenico Scarlatti with a musical festival covering the whole of the continent.

Here in the United Kingdom we are planning a programme of extraordinary richness and variety. Our Music Year, as well as offering musical events to suit all tastes and interests in almost every part of the British Isles, will include projects such as the foundation of a new Baroque Orchestra, a composers' competition and a special course for conductors.

I hope that 1985 will be a year in which the superb musical heritage of Europe will be enjoyed by more people than ever before and that it will also make a permanent and valuable contribution to our cultural life.

H.R.H. The Duke of Kent
Chairman - United Kingdom Committee

We are pleased to publish this message from H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, Chairman of European Music Year, United Kingdom Committee.

Wycombe) Ltd on unwatermarked phosphor coated paper. The format is horizontal and the size is 37 mm x 35 mm with 14 x 14½ perforations. There are 100 stamps per sheet, and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

Reposting Facility

For customers who wish to send their own stamped and fully addressed covers for cancellation with the 'Worcester' postmark, should enclose them in an outer envelope, fully addressed and stamped, and send them to: The Head Postmaster, PEC Mails and Transport, Head Post Office, 8-10 Foregate Street, WORCESTER, WR1 1AA.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 30 April 1985, price 14p each.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 161, and first day cover are designed by Tayburn London. The pack will cost £1.25.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover — price 15p — designed by Tayburn London, will go on sale on the day after the stamp issue 15 May 1985.

EUROPEAN MUSIC YEAR ~ BRITISH COMPOSERS ~

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS

Handel Gustav Holst Delius Edward Elgar

100 YEARS



It is
depen
Germ
succe
held
were
taken

promising young composer, but the Leipzig Conservatory, where he later enrolled. Perhaps the most helpful influence was Grieg, but Delius was a slow developer and produced little of substance until his late thirties. First recognition came in Germany, but in 1907 Delius found a notable champion in Thomas Beecham who was to become the greatest interpreter of his works, introducing them to English audiences and ultimately conducting definitive performances on

primarily they were slow to gain acceptance in England. General's daughter brought some relief from musical drudgery and after an unsuccessful foray to London, Elgar gradually established a provincial reputation as a composer of choral works. His first major success came in 1899 with the 'Enigma Variations', a portrait of friends 'pictured within'. With the powerful advocacy of Hans Richter, the German conductor, Elgar suddenly found himself much in demand at



poetry
ing
overtures
arches
rised from
anxiety



EUROPEAN MUSIC YEAR
~ BRITISH ~
COMPOSERS
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

*Handel Gustav Holst
Delius Edward Elgar*

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Decimal Stamp Books

L F Newbery

DB5 (5) Christian Heritage Prestige Book — £4

Pane 2 — DP73 6 x 13p, pane 3 — DP74 se-tenant and pane 4 — DP75 6 x 13p have all been issued without phosphor bars though not altogether in the same book. Pane 1 — DP72 6 x 17p having been printed on ACP type paper is unaffected.

Panes also occur with the phosphor bands misplaced resulting in one column (vertical row) of stamps being without the phosphor bands whilst the remainder of the pane has a broad (double width) phosphor band on each stamp.

Another printing aberration — a kind of doctor blade variety — has a band about ½" wide in a paler shade running at a slight oblique angle upwards across the pane. This is caused by a piece of soft ink, no larger than a pea, being squashed into cells on the printing cylinder and almost filling them. These 'shallow' cells print in a pale shade until cleared in normal way shortly afterwards.

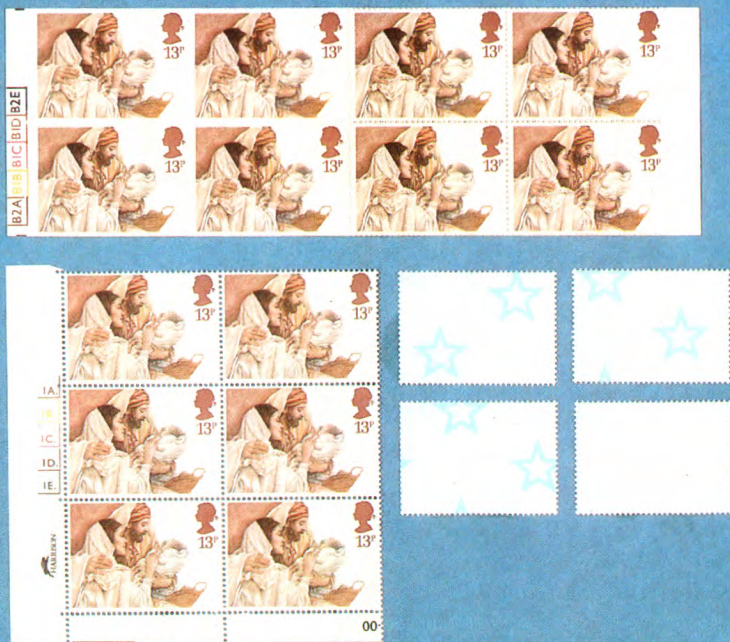
In the previous notes on page 46 (vol 22, no 3, November 1984) the paper used for the covers and interleaves was incorrectly described. It should read for covers Huntsman Silk and for interleaves Ikonorex.

DB12 (1) Christmas 1984 Special Offer £2.30

THE SECURITY STARS PRINTED ON THE GUMMED SIDE

The jumbo roll of paper after coating and gumming was printed reel to reel on an Albert machine in a web width of 890mm from a cylinder 1035 set and 686mm in circumference.

The cylinder was laid down as 23 rows of 23 stars and 23 rows of 22 stars making a total of 1035 set. The two line, five pointed stars measure 14mm from point to opposite point. The layout is such that no more than two complete stars can occur on a single stamp. Usually there are portions only of three or four.



DB12(1) Christmas 1984 Special Offer £2.30

MISPLACEMENT OF PHOSPHOR CYLINDER NUMBER

Normally the coloured cylinder numbers occur close to the lower edge of the binding margin reading upwards B2A B1B B1C B1D B2E with the phosphor number P79 above midway in top row.

As the phosphor bands are in continuous bands around the cylinder no special care is taken to line up the cylinder number in a constant relative position when assembling for a print run. Sometimes the variation is negligible, just a millimetre or so, at other times quite conspicuous.

The main differences are (i) phosphor number printed over the coloured numbers in the lower row and (ii) coloured numbers only in one book and the phosphor number only opposite the top row in another book.

MISCUT BOOKS

Normally the issued books have a coloured cutting bar on each of the top and bottom edges of the binding margin. Should the web at the commencement of a print run or after a web break or join on the Libra book making machine start one row later than normal, the coloured cutting bar will appear in the centre of the margin. These books will be deemed 'miscut'. Panes of the same value stamp

will be unaffected except for the transposition of any marginal markings. In addition to the centrally placed cutting bar the only other marginal markings are the cylinder numbers half of which at the top of one book and the other part at the bottom of the adjoining book's margin.

DB7 (26) Swansea/Mumbles Railway Car No.3 £1.30

The panes bound left or right, DP68 and DP68A, were initially printed from cylinder B7 and phosphor cylinder P62. Soon after the issue date September 1984 printings from cylinder B12 column 1 (bound left) were issued followed by those from column II a month later.

DB8 (26) Love Letters £1.70

The Postal Cassette Offer in connection with this book provides, in addition to the cassette, packing for its reposting to all parts of the world including gift card, customs and air mail labels. A post paid label affixed to the protective envelope covers UK posting only, for abroad an additional 50p stamp is required.

DB9 (27) Orchids — *Dendrobium nobile* and *Miltonia hybrid* — 50p

With this issue cylinder numbers appeared for the first time in the issued books, either in the binding



margin or in the wing margin at the foot of the pane. Printings were from the following combinations:-

1p B27 B27 B26 B26

4p B7 B6 B7 B7

13p B8 B8 B9 B8

Phos B57 B57 B57 B57

Normally the three colour cylinder numbers appear grouped in the wing margin under the 4p value and the phosphor number under the 13p. Whilst in the binding margin the colour numbers are above the left hand 1p and the phosphor number is above the right hand 1p.

There was a short run with the cylinder combination B26 B7 B8 unsynchronised in which the numbers B26 B7 and the phosphor number B57 appear in their normal position and cylinder number B8 in the adjoining book. At the time of writing only those from the wing margin have been seen.

There has also been a certain amount of misalignment in the assembling of the phosphor cylinder. As the 50p book stamps are printed sideways the phosphor bands, which run down the centre of the stamps, are laid out along the cylinder. As long as the phosphor cylinder is lined up to give

the bands a central position on the stamps no great care is taken for the phosphor cylinder number to have a constant location. This often varies with each print run.

The following variations from combination B27 B7 B8 are collectable:-

Wing margin (i) Phos number B57 superimposed on colour number B27.

(ii) Colour cylinder numbers only in book, phosphor number under 4p in adjoining book.

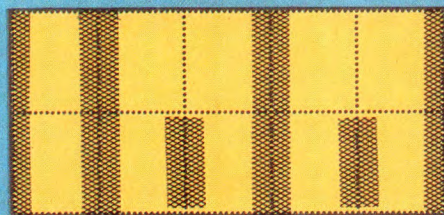
Binding margin (iii) Colour cylinder numbers only in book, phosphor number above left hand 1p in adjoining book.

DB11 (12) Postal History — To Pay Labels £1.54

A very short print run was issued with the phosphor bands transposed. This error of lining the phosphor cylinder B55 affected the 4 x 13p and the 4 x 17p immediately above giving the 4 x 17p a single side band left or right and the 4 x 13p one full length side band and one short side band left or right. It would appear only column II books (bound right) with the error were issued.



B55



119. Christmas, 1977

'The Twelve Days of Christmas' was the ambitious subject of the six Christmas stamps designed by David Gentleman and issued by The Post Office on 23 November 1977. The origins of the carol, which is really a chant or rhyme, are obscure. One suggestion is that it was a parody by 13th-century French minstrels 'poking fun at solemn chants celebrating Christmas'; another source was reputedly a 'forfeits' party game played by children in the late 18th-century. In Victorian times it was undoubtedly sung as a parlour game on Twelfth Night, on the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, and the numerous versions vary slightly in detail.

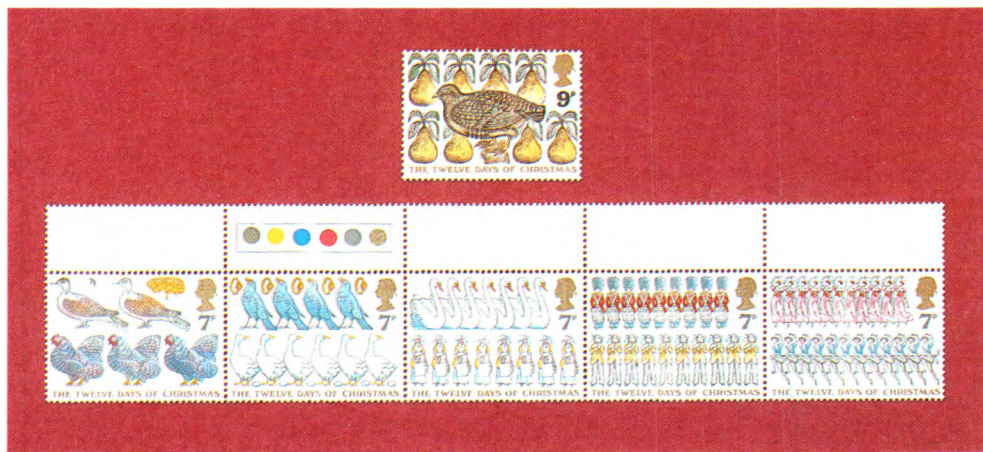
The five 7p stamps are arranged in a horizontal strip in the order of the 'Twelve Days', while the dominant motif — 'a partridge in a pear tree' — is boldly featured on the single 9p stamp. The sequence of the 7p stamps, left to right, commences with (1) a 'mini' pear tree, two turtle doves and three French

hens; (2) four colly (or 'calling') birds, five gold rings and six geese a-laying (with their eggs!); (3) seven swans a-swimming, and eight maids a-milking; (4) nine drummers drumming, and ten pipers piping; (5) eleven ladies dancing, and twelve lords a-leaping.

The artist successfully contrived to get the subjects in the right order while at the same time making space in the upper right-hand corner of each stamp for the profile of the Queen and the figure of value. Hence 'seven swans' preceded 'eight maids'; 'nine drummers' came before 'ten pipers' and the 'eleven dancing ladies' preceded the 'twelve leaping lords' (who rather resembled a chorus line!). The final artwork from which the stamps were printed was made up of prints from Mr Gentleman's wood engravings.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked paper, the 7p stamps with a single phosphor band and the 9p with 'all-over' phosphor. Just one constant printing flaw is recorded — the extreme left-hand goose on stamp No.2 with a break in the outline of its chest. The quantities issued were: 7p (x 5 *se-tenant*), 265,590,000; 9p 111,230,000. The 7p stamps were sold out prior to the withdrawal date, 23 November 1978.

JAMES WATSON



Forthcoming Events

British Philatelic Federation Congress

The British Philatelic Federation's (BPF) 67th Annual Congress will be held from 19 to 24 August 1985 at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. It was originally scheduled to take place from 5 to 10 August 1985 at St Hilda's College, Oxford, but the venue had to be

changed due to rebuilding work at the College.

Accommodation will be available for those requiring it, and the business sessions and Roll Signing Ceremony will be held in the Examination Schools adjacent to St Edmund Hall. The banquet will also be held there and the cost is £12.

The Registration Fee is £3 and the estimated accommodation costs per person at the College are £95. Free parking is available.

The Chairman of Congress will be Ken Chapman, consulting editor of Stamp News; the Vice-Chairman will be Roy Garland, for many years until 1984 the Federation's Honorary Treasurer. Bookings should be made through Mrs Susan Johns, 24 Winchester Road, BURY ST EDMUNDS, Suffolk, IP33 3QT.

Telford and District Philatelic Society

The T&DPS will hold its Spring Stamp Fair at the Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford on Saturday 27 April 1985, between 10 am-4 pm. There will be dealers' stands, a Post Office stand and refreshments.

The Belmont Hall is within the Wellington centre in the new town of Telford, and is sign-posted from the Wellington Ring Road. There is an adjacent free car park, and the bus and railway stations are close by.

Stevens' Stamp Sales

Fairs will be held by Stevens' Stamp Sales at the following locations:—

SIDCUP: to be held on 20 April and 25 May at Emmanuel Church Hall, Hadlow Road Sidcup.

ROMFORD: to be held on 27 April at the United Reform Church Hall Western Road, Romford.

SITTINGBOURNE: to be held on 4 May at Carmel Hall, Upton Lane, Sittingbourne.

EAST HAM: to be held on 18 May at the Hartley Centre, 267 Barking Road, East Ham.

RAINHAM: to be held on Sunday 19 May at The White Horse, (Functions Room), High Street, Rainham, from 11 am to 5 pm.

Admission is free at all venues and unless otherwise indicated above, the fairs will be open from 10 am to 4 pm. Further details can be obtained from Dave Stevens, 18 Gayhurst Close, Rainham, GILLINGHAM, Kent, ME8 9EA.

Solihull Philatelic Society

The Solihull Philatelic Society will be holding its annual Spring Stamp Fair and Exhibition on Saturday, 20 April 1985. This will take place from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm in the Exhibition Hall at Solihull Central Library, Homer Road, Solihull. The philatelic displays will be provided by the British Thematic Association. Several dealers will be in attendance and there will also be a Post Office counter. Further details can be obtained from the Society Press Officer, Roy Thompson, 23 Burnthurst Crescent, Shirley, SOLIHULL, West Midlands, B90 4UJ.

9th Northeast Philatelic Weekend

The 9th Philatelic Weekend to be held in the North East will take place at the Airport Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, from 7-9 June 1985. The programmes for these Courses have been designed to include aspects of philately for both beginners and the more advanced collectors.

Further details can be obtained by sending a large stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary to the Organising Committee; Dorothy M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE3 4RY.

Stampiau '85

The 16th Annual Convention of the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies, Stampiau '85, will take place on Saturday 20 April 1985. It will be held at the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Cyncoed Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff, from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm. There will be exhibitions, dealers stands, a private treaty stand, and a post office counter will also be in attendance. Admission is 20p, accompanied children free. Both ample car parking and refreshments will be available.

Further details can be obtained from the Publicity Officer, of the Host Society, the Cardiff and South Wales Philatelic Society; Bill Hicks, 116 Llandaff Road, Canton, CARDIFF, South Glamorgan, CF1 9PU.

Midland Philatelic Federation (1963)

The Spring Convention of the Midland Philatelic Federation (1963) will be held on 11 May 1985 at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa from 10 am to 5pm.

The host society is the Leamington and Warwick Philatelic Society. The 1985 Competition will be competed for, and there will also be about 20 dealers and a post office counter in attendance at the Convention.

Ample car parking and refreshments will be available on the day. Further details can be obtained from Dr E R Clark, Publicity Officer, 122 Coniston Road, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 9DU.

Portishead Philatelic Society

Portishead Philatelic Society will be holding a Stamp Fair and Auction on Saturday 13 April 1985. This will take place from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm at the Folk Hall, High Street, Portishead. Admission is free, and ample car parking is available. The Fair will include dealer's stands, club stands, displays of members' collections and an auction. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary of the Portishead Philatelic Society, telephone number 027581 4738.



No 70. Our posting box this month is situated in the Sub Continent of India. To be exact, in the West End Hotel, Bangalore in Karnataka State — previously Mysore. The box was cast by Suttie of Greenock around 1856 and is surmounted by a copy of St Edward's Crown. It is still in use, very well maintained and bears an interesting variant on the spelling of the word 'clearance.'

We are grateful to Mr C H Brissenden of Horsham, Sussex.

Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps: (Second Edition)

The second edition of this Stanley Gibbons catalogue is now available. The first, published in 1984, was an amalgamation of two existing catalogues, Collect Channel Islands Stamps and Collect Isle of Man Stamps. As well as the Channel Islands issues since 1969 and the Manx issues since 1973, regional stamps are included, also the Channel Islands wartime issues, plus the new 'regional' issue for Alderney. The catalogue lists basic stamps, gutter pairs, first day covers, presentation packs, stamp cards and booklets, as well as containing information on sheet sizes, quantities sold, withdrawal and invalidation dates, cylinder and plate numbers and imprints. This new edition has been fully revised and includes all stamp issues up to the end of 1984, while prices have been updated to reflect market trends. The catalogue contains 108 pages, and the illustrations are in black and white.

This new edition of the catalogue is available from most reputable stamp dealers and bookshops at £2.75. It can also be obtained direct from Stanley Gibbons Publications Limited, Unit 5, Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH. 30p extra should be added for orders by inland post, and 65p for overseas.

Forces Covers

Biggin Hill Air Fair 1985

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the 1985 Biggin Hill Air Fair. The cover depicts a member of the 'Red Devils' display team and a member of the 'Red Helmets' display team. It will have a 17p 'Insects' Stamp affixed, cancelled with BFPS handstamp number 1861 on 11 May 1985. The price of the cover is £1.00. Proceeds from the sale of the covers will be donated to the Army Benevolent Fund. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to 'Number 9 Account PCD RE' (Girobank a/c no 536 0102) should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, PCD RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON, NW7 1PX, together with a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

SSAFA Centenary Year 1985

A special philatelic cover was issued on 1 March 1985 to commemorate the centenary of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. (SSAFA). The cover features a colour illustration showing various aspects of the SSAFA's work in 'silk look' finish, enclosed by a gold border. The covers bear a 17p stamp cancelled with a specially designed and sponsored postmark depicting the Association's Logo, on 1 March 1985. The price of the cover is £1.50 plus 30p for postage and packing. A limited number of signed covers were also produced, and details of these are available on application. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: the Secretary SSAFA, Head Office, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, LONDON, SW1H 9BZ.

HMS 'Glowworm'

To mark the 45th Anniversary of the attack on the German heavy cruiser 'Admiral Hipper' by HMS 'Glowworm' on 8 April 1940, a philatelic cover is currently available. Bearing the 17p 'Insects' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, number BFPS 1864, it depicts HMS 'Glowworm' ramming the 'Admiral Hipper,' the 'Glowworm' badge, the German and White Ensigns and the Victoria Cross. The cost is 95p.

Alternatively the cover with a 29p 'Insects' stamp affixed, cancelled as above and signed by Mr A Harris, Leading Stoker aboard 'Glowworm' during the action and Lieut Commander MGB Roope RN retd., son of Lieut Commander GB Roope, Captain of 'Glowworm' during the action, is available price £2.15. In addition, for the cover bearing a 22p 'Insects' stamp cancelled as above and signed by Lieut Commander Roope only, the price is £1.40.

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

Commemorative Covers

GWR 150

Two special philatelic covers are being produced by GWR 150 during April 1985. The first is for the re-enactment of the Iron Duke at Hyde Park on 7 April 1985. The Iron Duke, which was one of the most famous broad-gauge locomotives built by the GWR, was specially re-built for the celebrations. It will make its first run at Hyde Park on a special track on 7 April 1985. The cover will be illustrated with a

painting specially commissioned by the Science Museum in 'silk look' finish, enclosed in a gold block border. It will have a 29p Famous Trains stamp affixed, depicting the Cornish Riviera Express, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp depicting the Iron Duke. The covers will also have a 55p GWR 150 Rail Letter Stamp, also depicting the Iron Duke, affixed.

The second special cover will be issued on 8 April 1985 when GWR 150 launches its celebrations at Paddington. This cover will depict a GWR Express train printed on 'silk look' fabric and will be carried on a special steam strain at Paddington. It will have a 29p Famous Trains stamp affixed, depicting the Cornish Riviera Express, cancelled with a special pictorial postmark. The cover will also have the 55p GWR Rail letter stamp or the City of Truro 55p Rail letter stamp affixed.

The price of both covers is £2.00 each, and the 30p should be added for postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to GWR 150 should be sent to: GWR 150 Philatelic Agents, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

The Selborne Society

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the centenary of the Selborne Society, coinciding with the issue of the Insects stamps on 12 March 1985. The Selborne Society was founded in 1885 to campaign for the preservation of 'Birds, Plants and Pleasant Places'. The title commemorates The Rev Gilbert White (1720-93), curate of Selborne in Hampshire, whose observations and discoveries were contained in letters to two correspondents. These were subsequently published as 'The Natural History of Selborne', a work which has inspired and set standards for all naturalists since. Today, the Selborne Society is a registered charity, and its affairs together with Perivale Wood, both a Bird Sanctuary and the first recognised woodland nature reserve, are managed entirely on a voluntary basis.

The attractive diastamped cover has been designed by Henry Hubble of the Selborne Society. The covers will bear the Insects stamps, cancelled with a specially designed and commissioned handstamp. The price of the covers is £4 each bearing the full set of Insects stamps. The covers are also available signed by the designer of the Insects stamps, Gordon Beningfield, at £7.50. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: Cotswold Covers, Liege House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts, SN14 8LZ.

The Royal Opera House

A special philatelic cover is being produced by the Royal Opera House commemorating 250 years of Handel's music at Covent Garden and the 300th anniversary of his birth, to coincide with the Composers stamps being issued on 14 May 1985. The cover depicts the outline of the Royal Opera House, gold blocked, with a full colour picture of the Royal Opera's 250th Anniversary production of *Semele* by Handel. The covers will have the four Composers stamps affixed, cancelled with a special Royal Opera House postmark, and will cost £3.30 each. Some covers will also be available signed by famous stars of the Royal Opera world, at £5.30 each, including a donation of £2.00 to the Royal Opera House funds. Prices are inclusive of postage and packing.

A second special philatelic cover is also being produced by the Royal Opera House, with a special postmark, to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the baptism of John Gay. Further details are available on application.

Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Royal Opera House, should be sent to: First Day Cover Offer, The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, LONDON WC1N 2EG.

40th Anniversary VE Day

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of VE Day, 8 May 1985, Pilgrim Philatelics are producing a commemorative cover using a special postmark in London. The cover will include in the design a photograph of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret together with Winston Churchill, on the Balcony of Buckingham Palace, after returning from the Thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral. An insert card will be included, showing a picture of Field Marshal Montgomery signing the Surrender document.

The stamps to be used will include the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Stamp of 1973 showing the "Palace of Westminster". This cover is priced at £2.65 including postage and packing.

Orders and remittance to: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd; 33 St George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

Another special cover marking the 40th Anniversary of VE Day will be available bearing both 'Europa' stamps cancelled with a philatelic handstamp at Freeland, Oxford. The cover will include a photograph of the celebrations 40 years ago and will cost £1.50. Orders with remittances to: K & D Covers, Freepost, LONDON, SE17 2BR.

Glasgow MLO

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the installation and first day of operational use of mechanised sorting equipment at Glasgow MLO. The cover depicts a coding desk and sorting machine, and there will also be an insert giving details of mechanised sorting. A Scottish country definitive stamp will be affixed to the cover, and will be cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp featuring a keyboard and sorting boxes, on 25 March 1985. The price of the covers is 40p each, and 15p should be added to cover postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: D Murray, 40 Dudley Drive, GLASGOW, G12 9RZ.

London Marathon 1985

To commemorate the 1985 London Marathon on 21 April, a commemorative cover will be available using a special philatelic postmark in London. The cover, the first in the series for 1985 for 'Famous British Sport Events', will incorporate in the design a high quality colour photograph of the winner of the London Marathon on Westminster Bridge at the finish of the race. The stamps to be used will include an Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference of 1975 showing 'Palace of Westminster' which complements the cover showing an aerial view of Westminster Bridge. The price of this cover includes post and packing in a stiff backed envelope, and will be £2.65.

Orders with remittance to: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd; 33 St George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX. Covers can be personally addressed if required, please add 30p extra.

Another London Marathon commemorative cover will be available as soon as possible after the event. It will include a photograph of the winners, and bear a 17p 'Trains' stamp cancelled with a special handstamp. The cost is £1.20. Orders with remittances to K & D Covers, Freepost, LONDON SE17 2BR.

Last Day of Issue £1 Note

A green tinted envelope containing an uncirculated crisp new £1 note, set behind an acetate window, has been produced for this Historic event. The cover carries a 31p 1984 'Heraldry' stamp and was postmarked on 31 December 1984, at London E.C. The envelope design includes a line drawing of the Bank of England. Priced at £4.65 inclusive of postage, this cover may be ordered with remittance from: Pilgrim Philatelics Ltd; 33 St George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX.

75th Anniversary of Sailing of Terra Nova

A special philatelic cover is being produced by the Cardiff and South Wales Philatelic Society for Stampiau '85, the 16th Annual Convention of the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies, being held on 20 April 1985. The cover will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the sailing in 1910 of the 'Terra Nova' from Cardiff docks taking Captain R F Scott on his ill-fated trip to the South Pole. Blank covers will be on sale at Stampiau '85, and serviced covers will also be available by post. The serviced covers will bear a 16p Greenwich Meridian Stamp cancelled with the Cardiff philatelic counter handstamp on 20 April 1985. The price of the serviced covers is £1.00 including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Cardiff and South Wales Philatelic Society should be sent to: Bill Hicks, Society Publicity Officer, Cardiff and South Wales Philatelic Society, 116 Llandaff Road, Canton, CARDIFF, South Glamorgan, CF1 9PU.

Borough of Newport (Gwent)

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Newport's First Borough Charter. The cover will contain an insert with a brief summary of Newport's history and images of the Borough Badge and the specially-designed 600th anniversary logo. It will have a 20½p Heraldry stamp affixed, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp on 13 April 1985. The price of the cover is £1.75. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the 'Borough of Newport' should be sent to: the Director of Leisure Services, Civic Centre, NEWPORT, Gwent, NP9 4UR. A stamped addressed envelope, measuring 9" x 5½", should be enclosed for collectors wishing for the cover to be returned in an outer envelope.

Humber Lifeboat

To link the Humber Lifeboat Station with the 'Safety at Sea' commemorative issue, a special cover will be available depicting the Humber Lifeboat with Spurn Point and Lighthouse in the distance. The Humber Lifeboat is the only permanently manned station in the country. The issue is limited to 500 covers all of which will be carried on the 'City of Bradford IV', an Arun Class Lifeboat. Coxswain B Bevan will sign 100 of the covers, for which a donation of the proceeds will be made to the RNLI. Each cover will bear authentication together with a logo and an individual number, and will be cancelled with the Grimsby First Day of Issue handstamp to link both sides of the Humber Estuary. The Covers will cost:

£1.50 bearing a first class stamp, £3.00 bearing a full set of stamps, £4.50 bearing a full set of stamps and signed by Coxswain B Bevan. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to JV Starkey, 23 David Street, GREAT GRIMSBY, South Humberside DN32 9NL by 31 May 1985.

Maundy Money at Ripon Cathedral

A special philatelic cover is being produced to commemorate the visit of HM The Queen to distribute Maundy Money at Ripon Cathedral on Maundy Thursday, 4 April 1985. The covers will bear either a single 20½p Heraldry stamp, or the complete set of Heraldry stamps, cancelled with a special handstamp. The price of the covers is £1 for those bearing the single stamp, and £2.25 for those bearing the full set of stamps. 20p should be added to cover postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to:- J H Cooper, 36 College Road, RIPON, N Yorks, HG4 2HA.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

The Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by:

British Post Office
Postal Headquarters
Philatelic Marketing Section
Room 102-104
33 Grosvenor Place
LONDON
SW1X 1PX

to where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscriptions (*Inland, Europe and overseas*)

Surface mail £3.50

Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:

British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters price 30p.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £4.00.

Printed in Great Britain by
Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd
for the Post Office