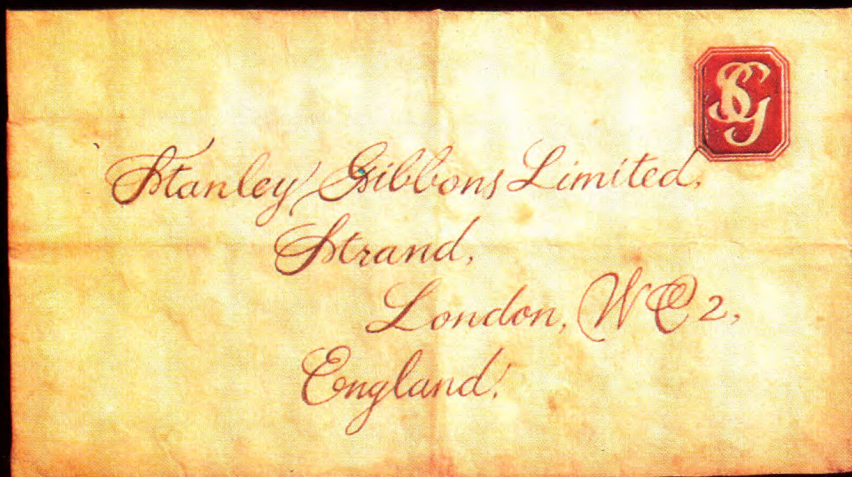


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 19 Number 8 April 1982



£4 BOOK of STAMPS and STORY of STANLEY GIBBONS

- 106 Editorial
 - National Postal Museum Notes
 - New Philatelic Policy
- 107 ABC of Postcard Themes
 - 16. P for Political
- 108 New Illustrated Stamp Books
 - Regional Postcards
- 109 New Postal Stationery
 - New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme
 - Posting Boxes
- 110 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
 - LXXXXVIII
- 111 Glittering Historical Playbill
- 112 British Theatre Stamps Issue
 - 28 April 1982
- 114 Stanley Gibbons Stamp Book
- 115 Maritime Heritage Stamps Issue
 - 16 June 1982
- 116 Special Stamps for 1983
 - Forthcoming Events
- 117 New Philatelic Sales Counters
 - Forces Covers
- 118 Commemorative Covers

New Philatelic Policy

Picture Postcards

We propose to change the sale period for PHQ postcards from the present policy of 'till exhaustion' to 2 months at ordinary offices and 1 year at the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. The operative date for the change will be 1 May 1982, and will bring it into line with the sale period for presentation packs.

Definitive Stamps

From 1 May 1982, definitive stamps will be available for a period of 1 year only at the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters after they have been withdrawn operationally. Definitive stamps withdrawn prior to 1 May 1982 will be available from the Bureau and philatelic counters only up to the above date.

Stamp books and aerogrammes

From 1 May 1982, stamp books and areogrammes will be available for a period of 1 year only from the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, after their dates of issue.

In this edition we include a profile of Adrian George the designer of the 'British Theatre' stamps to be issued on 28 April. This is the first time that Mr George, a distinguished artist, has designed a set of stamps for the Post Office; our congratulations to him on an excellent piece of design.

Also featured in this edition are the details of the special 'Stanley Gibbons' stamp book to be put on sale on 19 May 1982, together with the details of the first day cover arrangements. The book, value £4, is similar to the now famous 'Wedgwood' book of April 1980.

Our congratulations to Mr E A B Mattsson of Hull, winner of the 1982 Post Office Stampex trophy with an exhibit of the first plate of the 1840 Penny Black and to Mr A J Walker of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, winner of the Stampex National Postal Museum Medal with an exhibit of Machin pre-decimal definitives.

JOHN MEMMOTT

National Postal Museum Notes

When the current postcard exhibition in the Museum closes during April, it will be replaced by a new exhibition entitled 'The Post Office at War'. This will feature both examples of mail sent during campaigns and background on the times, from the Tudors to 1881. Two further exhibitions continuing the story to modern times will be opened later in the year.

During part I of this exhibition – 21 April to 16 July 1982 – a special handstamp reading 'Army Bag' will be used. During part II – 21 July to 19 October – another handstamp which includes the initials 'BA E' (the first postmark for the British Forces in 1882) will operate.

The current Maltese Cross handstamp will also be used in addition to these handstamps from 7 to 28 May and 7 June to 31 July. A special posting box will be situated in the Museum and normal reposting facilities will be available. A new postcard – No. 7 in the Museum special series – will be issued on 21 April 1982.

16. P for 'Political'

Here is a lively postcard subject which has an established following, and it is another instance of the adjective supplanting the noun — one collects 'politicals' rather than 'politics' (the art or science of government). The early picture postcards were contemporaneous with the lives and careers of numerous distinguished statesmen, and with significant developments in British politics. The spectrum of personalities and events from, say, the 1890s to the end of the First World War is so broad that several sub-divisions of the political theme are available to the collector according to personal preference. Around the turn of the century most of the prominent politicians were lampooned in satirical postcard caricatures and cartoons, usually reflecting public opinion or even that of the artist himself.

Wars and uprisings such as the Boer War, the Boxer Rebellion in China, the Russo-Japanese War and World War I (known then as the 'Great War') were the sources of innumerable picture cards of political propaganda published by the

respective protagonists. No collection of Boer War postal history and ephemera would be complete without a few anti-British satirical cards, or those poking fun at Paul Kruger, the Boer leader. Similarly, in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, the Japanese published numerous propaganda cards picturing alleged atrocities and the sinking of non-combatant ships when, in fact, Russia suffered the major naval reverses off Port Arthur.

The politics of the Great War embraced comic and patriotic picture cards, portraits of prime ministers Asquith and Lloyd-George, the Allied generals, numerous cards satirising the Kaiser (the ineffectual Emperor Wilhelm II), the merciless shooting of Edith Cavell, the reproduction of *Punch* war cartoons and the acidic anti-German cartoons drawn by the Dutch artist, Louis Raemaekers.

However, it is on the 'home front' that most collectors expend their energies (and spare cash) — on subjects such as elections (local and national), 'Free Trade' and tariff reform, 'Home Rule' for



Ireland and women's suffrage. Picture cards supported political campaigns and candidates, illustrating the manifestoes and declared intentions of the respective parties and accompanied by portraits and slogans. As Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1908 to 1915, David Lloyd-George (later 1st Earl of Dwyfor) became the supreme social reformer with his introduction of the Old Age Pensions Act in 1908 and the National Insurance Act of 1911. The 'Worker's Emancipation' card shown here quotes the loquacious minister from a speech at Limehouse, London, in July 1909 in support of the Liberal candidate, Hobart, contrasting the prosperous family with the old couple heading for the workhouse: 'It is rather hard that an old man should have to find his way to the gates of the tomb bleeding and footsore through the brambles and thorns of poverty. We are cutting a new path, a longer, an easier, a pleasanter one, through fields of waving corn.'

'Free Trade' was a policy which permitted the free competition of foreign goods with home goods in the home markets, and the sequel is illustrated in a well-known painting by T B Kennington found on postcards – it shows a craftsman sitting dejectedly with his heart-broken family in a bare kitchen, he having just lost his job through foreign competition. It was a prominent Liberal, Joseph Chamberlain, who began the Tariff Reform Movement in 1903, advocating preferential treatment to colonial imports and protection for home producers, but didn't live to see the scheme carried out by his sons. Chamberlain's fiscal policies were satirised by numerous postcard artists, notably Harry Furniss and Anthony Ludovici. The subject of postcard 'politicals' is, as the auctioneers say, 'well worth close inspection'!

MALCOLM JAMES

New Illustrated Stamp Books

Number 4 in the third series of stamp books with illustrated covers will be available from 6 May 1982 – National Stamp Day – the contents of which will be in line with the new postal rates.

The 50p book with cover designed by Richard Downer, illustrating the Temple of the Winds, Mount Stewart, Northern Ireland, contains 1 x 1/2p, 4 x 3p and 3 x 12 1/2p stamps. The £1.25 book contains 10 x 12 1/2p stamps – the new second class rate with cover designed by Ronald Maddox showing the National Museum of Wales. 'Period Costumes'

(1850-1860) appear on the £1.55 book designed by Eric Stemp. The contents are 10 x 15 1/2p stamps – the new first class rate.

Number 4 of the 'Postal History' series, price £1.43 – devoted to Edmund Dulac features his 1/- Olympic Games stamp of 1948, and the 5/- KGVI high value definitive stamp. The book will also include the National Stamp Day logo, and the contents are 6 x 15 1/2p and 4 x 12 1/2p stamps.

All four books will be on sale at philatelic counters, and from the Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT. The £1.25, £1.43 and £1.55 books will generally be on sale from post offices, and the 50p book from vending machines as current stocks become exhausted.

Technical Details

The stamps are printed photogravure by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd on the Chambon press, and the covers on the Libra book-making machine.

The stamps in the 50p book are printed set-tenant: the 3p and 1/2p stamps have two side phosphor bars while the 12 1/2p stamps have a single side phosphor bar.

The 15 1/2p stamps in the £1.55 book are printed on phosphor coated paper while the 12 1/2p stamps in the £1.25 book bear a single side phosphor bar.

The 15 1/2p stamps in 'Postal History' book will have two phosphor bars, while the 12 1/2p stamps will have a single side phosphor bar. The lay-out will be 5 x 15 1/2p stamps above 1 x 15 1/2p and 4 x 12 1/2p stamps.

Regional Postcards

South West Postal Region

Exeter Head Post Office will issue a new postcard on Tuesday 20 April 1982 in the South West Postal Region Series, number SWPR 16. It will illustrate a horse drawn mail van – last used in the 1940's – outside the post office at Broadhembury, Nr Honiton, Devon.

The cost of the card is 13p from philatelic counters, and for orders by post there is a charge of 17p per order under £18, and £1.17 for orders in excess of £18.

A special pictorial first day of sale handstamp will be applied to the cards posted at the Exeter head post office on 20 April.

For collectors unable to call at the head post office, fully serviced postcards, including special handstamping and postage will be available at

41p each. Orders should be sent to the: Philatelic Counter, Head Post Office, Bedford Street, EXETER, EX1 1AA, to arrive not later than 20 April. Remittances should be sent preferably by direct Giro transfer to account number 2047012 or by postal order.

South East Postal Region

The second set, of 3 postcards, featuring Post Office Historical Transport will go on sale on Monday 19 April 1982.

Orders for serviced cards, including the cost of the card, first class postage and handling charge, bearing a special first day of sale handstamp should be sent to the Philatelic Counter, 51 Ship Street, Brighton, BN1 1AA, where normal reposting facilities will apply.

The cost is £1.23 per set or 41p singly.

Mint cards, either in sets price 39p, or singly, price 13p can be obtained from the Philatelic Counter, Brighton, and most philatelic counters in the UK. Remittances should be sent, if possible, by postal order or Giro Transfer (Account No 3140210).

Bulk orders for mint cards only are obtainable from: The Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT where normal discount facilities and handling charges will apply.

Readers who would like regular information about SEPR postcards should write to: Philatelic Marketing, SEPR Headquarters, 39 Churchill Square, BRIGHTON, BN1 2EQ, who will add their names to a mailing list.

New Postal Stationery

A new first class inland letter form – to be known as a 'Postnote' – will be available from post offices on 21 April 1982. The address side of the form will bear an impression of the Machin head above the words 'Royal Mail, figure 1, and First Class Post Paid'.

Printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd, the colours are brown and gold on Cranston Laid Cream Vellum paper. The letter form has two phosphor bars – one on either side of the Queen's profile. The price is 21p each, or 5 in a sealed transparent wallet for £1.

The size of the opened form is 297mm x 210mm – including the flaps, and 175mm x 95mm when closed ready for posting.

No special cancelling facilities are offered.

New Scottish Pictorial Aerogramme

A new Scottish pictorial aerogramme, printed on white paper, will be issued on 28 April 1982, price 27½p, (24p of which is for postage). The aerogramme, illustrating a Polaris submarine in the River Clyde; minesweeping operations getting under way on the sweepdeck of a minesweeper; a vessel of the Royal Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron passing under the Forth Bridge, will be on sale from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters, and post offices throughout Scotland.

The 24p stamp impression will have two phosphor bars. The aerogramme is designed by Ruari McLean of Ruari McLean Associates Ltd and printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd.

Posting Boxes



No 35: Our illustration this month is of an Edward VII posting box. Such boxes are by no means rare or unusual, but are rarely seen mounted in a wall. It is situated in the tiny village of Friday Street, Leith Hill, Nr Dorking, Surrey.

We are indebted to Mr R D Lamdin of Bexhill-on-Sea for sending us the photograph.

National Telephone Company Stamps

The National Telephone Company was a private concern which operated under licence from the Post Office towards the end of the nineteenth century. It first issued stamps in December 1884, and these were printed by Maclure, MacDonald & Co of Glasgow. The stamps were engraved, printed by collotype in sheets of twelve on thin to medium wove toned paper, and perforated 12. The design featured the portrait of Colonel Robert Raynsford-Jackson (1833-1898), the chairman of the company. The issue of stamps caused controversy, and although an official protest was made, no action was in fact taken against the firm. The stamps were eventually withdrawn at the request of the Postmaster General in 1891, although large quantities had been used on telephone forms as well as sold to collectors at the International

Exhibitions at Edinburgh in 1886 and 1890.

The original purpose for the issue of the stamps was to provide a means of payment for the casual telephone user (ie non-subscribers). In 1884 there were no automatic coin boxes, and until their eventual introduction, the call office placed stamps to the appropriate value on forms provided for all calls made by casual customers. These telephone stamps are normally labelled as 'cinderallas' and can still be obtained by collectors today. (One of the stalls at BPE in 1981 was in fact offering some for sale.) The complete range of these telephone stamps, from one penny to one shilling, (frames vary with each value), can be seen in volume XLIV/4 of the Reginald M Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum. Two examples are illustrated above/below.



Glittering Historical Playbill

Britain's glittering, sequined, gaudy and lavish theatrical history has mirrored the tastes and fashions of audiences ever since London's first theatre was opened in 1576.

Four hundred years of stage history have passed since with entertainment of every kind – from Shakespeare to ballet; from opera to pantomime.

Historical events is the theme chosen by the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations for the 1982 'Europa' stamps, and the Post Office has chosen to reflect Britain's rich theatrical art-forms.

Drama was developed by the Greeks about 500 BC out of religious ceremonies; the Romans carried on the tradition with water ballet, farce and mime. As Rome and drama decayed, humble jugglers, actors, animal trainers and dancers carried its germ across Europe. The Italian Commedia dell'Arte had an incalculable effect on British drama – it supplied Harlequin, Punch and Judy and Pierrot. Religion, too, played its part contributing the English passion and mystery plays of the middle ages.

But the golden, shining age of British drama was the time of Shakespeare – not that he knew much about it. He was seldom esteemed, looked down upon as a hack writer who had not been to university 'An upstart crow' said one of his contemporaries, Richard Greene, who is famous only for this quote. And, it was only after his death that Shakespeare's works were gathered together. This year, the story of Shakespearian drama continues as the Royal Shakespeare Company move to their new home in London's Barbican Centre.

Like theatre, ballet has been heavily influenced by other cultures, other countries.

It was not until 1930 that a distinctive British form of ballet emerged and that was due mainly to Dame Marie Rambert (Polish) and Dame Ninette de Valois (Irish). They in turn had been influenced by the great Russian dancers and choreographers. But in the last decades, English dancers have gained an international standing and Sadler's Wells Ballet became the Royal Ballet in 1956.

Traditionally, the English preferred spoken drama and tended to under rate their own music in

preference to that of other countries.

In 1711, Joseph Addison complained that 'our English musick is quite rooted out.' He was disturbed by the influence of Italian opera. As the English were unable to compete with the Italians on their level they took revenge by creating the ballad-opera which thoroughly ridiculed the Italians and originated a national form of comic-opera. The best-known is the Beggar's Opera written by John Gay and first performed in 1728. The language is low and racy and its characters are pickpockets, bawds and convicts and it was a vigorous gesture against foreign musical domination.

Today, Britain's opera is of a mighty calibre with the Royal Opera at Covent Garden and English National, Welsh and Scottish opera companies.

A truly British and bizarre form of entertainment is the pantomime. Its finest hours were in 1806 when comic genius Joseph Grimaldi popularised the clown in the Harlequinade. Pantomimes were criticised for their utter escapism coupled with vitriolic satire on the tastes and fashions of the day. Grimaldi lampooned everything – the poor, the peelers, Napoleon. But theatre managers would recoup their losses from showing Shakespeare to half-filled theatres because whilst everyone criticized the pantomime everyone went to see it. George III adored it; Byron condemned it, but, sure enough, he was in the audience and hung around the stage door to chat to artists. And when Grimaldi fell ill in 1823 and retired from the bills, the *Times* wrote: 'We hope that Mr. Grimaldi's secession will not be final. Grimaldi belongs to Covent Garden Theatre as completely as St Paul's belongs to Ludgate Hill . . . everyone pooh-poohs the pantomime but everybody goes to see it.'

Grimaldi aged before his time and the advice from a doctor was 'Go and cheer yourself up. See Grimaldi.' By 1840, the principal boy appeared when theatre laws relaxed enough to allow a woman to don mens' clothing on stage. Today, pantomime is regarded as a harmless, seasonal, childrens' treat: but some of its characters – the Dame, the inevitable heroine, the wicked uncle – reflect pantomime's heyday with Grimaldi.

MARGARET McDONAGH

The set of four stamps which incorporate the CEPT symbol were designed by Adrian George, they illustrate: Ballet (15½p), Harlequin (19½p), Drama (26p), Opera (29p), and are printed by Harrison and Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd, photo-gravure on phosphor coated unwatermarked paper. Vertical in format the individual size of the stamps is 30mm × 41mm and there are a hundred to a sheet. The perforations are 14 × 15 and PVA dextrin is the adhesive.

Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, No 134, containing all four stamps will be available from 28 April 1982, price £1.10. The pack was designed by Keith Bassford with illustrations by Adrian George.

Values and Colours

- 15½p Greenish yellow, Rose carmine, Greenish blue, dull green, grey black, silver (6)
19½p Greenish yellow, Rosine, New blue, Ultra marine, grey, silver (6)
26p Greenish yellow, Rose red, Carmine, bright blue, black, red brown, silver (7)
29p Greenish yellow, bright rose red, bright blue, grey, silver (5)

Cylinders used

- 15½p 1a, 1b, 2c, 1d, 1e, 1f
19½p 1a, 1b, 2c, 2d, 1e, 1f
26p 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g
29p 2a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e.

Postcard

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be on sale from April 1982, price 13p each.

The Designer

The much-praised Adrian George is one of Britain's most renowned artists. It is the first time he has designed a set of stamps and he has used his favourite medium, pastels.

Born in Cirencester in 1944, he was educated at Harrow School of Art and the Royal College of Art. Since 1967, Mr George has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Britain, France, Germany, Japan and the USA. He has also contributed widely to newspapers and magazines.

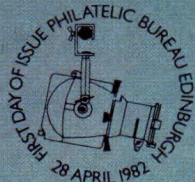
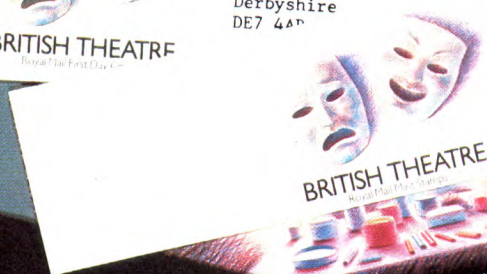
His fifth one-man exhibition is due to go on show in London in May and it includes a pastel of a clown inspired by the 19½p stamp in the British Theatre series.

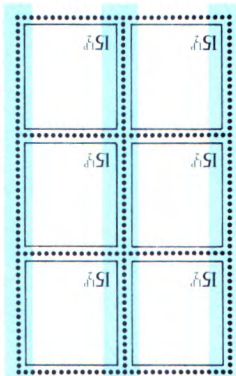
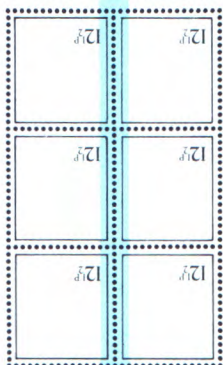
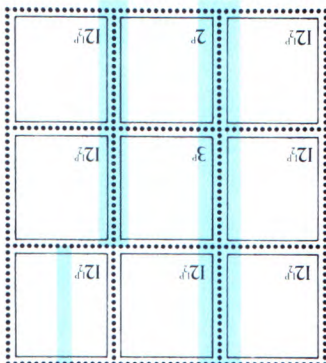
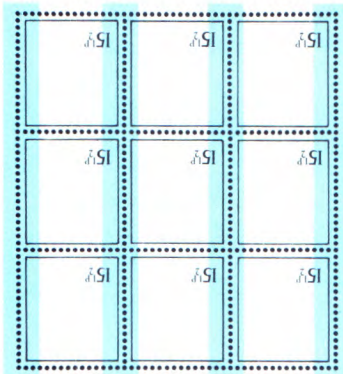
'At first, I was in two minds about designing the series,' says Mr George. 'The size worried me and modern stamp design seemed so different from my work. But the Post Office gave me a free hand and the job seemed rather exciting.'

'My work is symbolic rather than pictorial and I think the stamps have reflected this. Anyway, the colours came out well thanks to the printing process. I am particularly happy with the clown as clowns interest me deeply.'

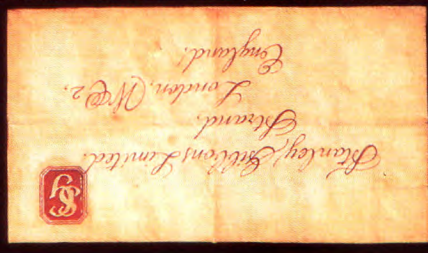
A large part of Mr George's next exhibition will feature clowns – at work, at play, at rest.







A BOOK OF STAMPS and STORY of STANLEY GIBBONS



Mr Gibbons has a collection of early
American stamps arranged in the
New York Library under the
name of the United States
Library and is now
in the
process of
arranging
them
in the
order of
issue.

Advancing towards the
New York Library and the
United States Library

THE PENNY BACK



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER



A BOOK OF STAMPS
and STORY of
STANLEY GIBBONS

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Book

The Post Office will issue on 19 May 1982 a special book of stamps, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons International Ltd, containing an interesting account of the history and development of the company, as the oldest existing firm of stamp dealers and philatelic publishers in the world.

The cost of the book is £4 and will contain four panes of stamps as follows: pane A: 6 x 15½p; pane B: 6 x 12½p; pane C: 7 x 12½p, 1 x 3p, 1 x 2p; pane D: 9 x 15½p.

Illustrated in colour, the book will be available from all Post Offices, and by post from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

The accompanying line drawings illustrate the make-up of the four panes and the positions of the phosphor bars.

Stamp Printing Details

Designer: Arnold Machin
Printer: Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd
Process: Photogravure
Paper: Fluorescent coated paper
Adhesive: PVA dextrin
Perforation: 14 x 15
Colours: 2p green; 3p dark pink; 12½p light green; 15½p light purple.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided.

Two special pictorial handstamps will be available: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' and 'London WC'.

SERVICE A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all the stamps from pane C (value 92½p).

The cover will be cancelled 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or 'London WC' as requested, and despatched for a charge of £1.33 (overseas customers £1.16). For deposit account customers the charge will be £1.28 (overseas customers £1.11).

SERVICE B

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the

correct postal address, will be given the stamps from pane C, cancelled as requested, and despatched for a charge of £1.19 (overseas customers £1.04) per cover.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the Philatelic Bureau, and at all Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 10 May 1982.

Maritime Heritage Stamps Issue 16 June 1982

As a tribute to Britain's centuries of naval and maritime tradition, 1982 has been designated Maritime England Year by the English Tourist Board. The Post Office will issue on 16 June 1982 five stamps portraying famous Admirals and the ships with which they were associated.

Henry VIII and 'Mary Rose' (15½p): Robert Blake and 'Triumph' (19½p): Lord Nelson and 'Victory' (24p): Baron Fisher and 'Dreadnought' (26p): Viscount Cunningham and 'Warspite' (29p).

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two special handstamps will be available: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', and 'Portsmouth'.

SERVICE 'A'

This consists of the official first day cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' or 'Portsmouth', as requested and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers' own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the stamps, cancelled as requested and despatched. The following charges will apply:

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.58	£1.37
Deposit account customers	£1.53	£1.33
Service 'B'	£1.44	£1.25

Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 7 June 1982.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes.

Special Stamps for 1983

Two of Britain's most popular pastimes, gardening and fishing, are among the seven subjects to be featured in a varied programme of special stamp issues for 1983 announced by the Post Office.

First of the issues, which reflect a wide range of aspects of the nation's life, is one on British river fish. It coincides with the 300th Anniversary of the death of Izaak Walton, author of the definitive fishing manual *The Compleat Angler*. The stamps will continue the popular fauna series which has included wildlife and British butterflies.

The second special issue of 1983 will focus on the ideals of the Commonwealth as the Post Office's contribution to a programme sponsored by all the member countries.

That will be followed by a set in which the Post Office will continue its annual participation in the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT) series of Europa stamps. Taking its cue from the theme 'Works of Human Genius', the British Post Office has chosen engineering – giving an opportunity to project both at home and abroad modern British engineering achievements, including the Humber Bridge.

The Royal Scots, the first line regiment, celebrates its 350th Anniversary next year, and for its fourth issue, the Post Office is marking the occasion with a set of stamps reflecting the long tradition of British regiments. This will follow the Naval set to be issued later this year.

Keeping the tradition of reflecting aspects of British life, gardens and gardening, so popular with millions of people, will be the theme of the next set of commemoratives. The issue is also linked with the 200th Anniversary of the death of the gardener Capability Brown, who revived the natural style of landscape gardening and laid out gardens at Kew and Blenheim.

Another aspect of Britain's heritage – fairs and shows – will be highlighted in the sixth issue of the year. For more than a thousand years, fairs and shows have been an important part of the social and commercial life of the nation. Again there is an anniversary link – 1983 is the 850th anniversary of St Bartholomew's Fair, Smithfield, which was a lively centre for commerce, theatre and music. That continuing tradition will be reflected in the set.

The final set of the year will be the traditional Christmas stamps.

Forthcoming Event

South Wales Philatelic Societies

The Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies will hold its 13th annual convention at St Julians Comprehensive School, Heather Road, NEWPORT, Gwent, NP1 7JZ, on 24 April 1982. There will be dealers stands, auction, display by Post Office, winning competition entries, Special Convention Cover. Refreshments will be available, and ample car parking.

Goodmayes Philatelic Society Stamp Fair

A Stamp Fair will take place on Saturday 17 April 1982 in the Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, ILFORD, Essex, IG3 8UA, organised by the Goodmayes Philatelic Society. Hours of opening are 10am-5pm: admission is free.

Midland Philatelic Federation

The Wolverhampton Philatelic Society will host the Midland Philatelic Federation Convention and Stamp Fair to be held on Saturday 8 May 1982. The Convention will take place at Codsall High School, Elliots Lane, Codsall, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV8 1PG from 10am-5pm, admission 25p – juniors 10p. The programme of events will include the AGM, competition awards, a number of philatelic dealers and a Post Office philatelic sales counter.

The Covent Garden Stamp Festival 1982

National Stamp Collecting Week, sponsored by the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council will take place in the Covent Garden Market, London, from 3 May-8 May 1982, 10am-6pm daily. Among the highlights are philatelic displays, dealers' stalls and a mobile sales unit provided by The Post Office.

The SCPC are producing a special souvenir presentation pack containing the full set of the British Theatre stamps. The pack depicts the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and contains 'pop-up' character groups representing ballet, harlequin, drama and opera. Available from 28 April, the packs will cost £2.75 (100 or more for £2.25 each) which includes a contribution of 25p to the arts concerned. Orders by post should be sent to: SCPC, 27 John Adam Street, LONDON, WC2N 6HZ together with an additional 30p for postage and packing.

Further information about the Festival can be obtained from: SCPC Publicity Officer, 30 Oak Road, CATERHAM, Surrey, CR3 5TS.

Welsh Philatelic Society

The Welsh Philatelic Society will hold its 6th annual weekend meeting at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas, Tanybwllch, Maentwrog, between Thursday 17 June and Sunday 20 June 1982. All residential places are booked, but non-resident participants will be welcome.

The itinerary will include a visit to a slate mine and/or to ride the Ffestiniog railway, the AGM of the Society, a mini-auction, exhibits, talks, and a number of dealers will be in attendance.

For further inquiries please contact: Michael Richards, 'Y Hafan', 9 York Avenue, Marchwiel, WREXHAM, Clwyd (phone 0978 263601).

Scottish Philatelic Congress

The Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies will be held in the Pathfoot Buildings of Stirling University on Saturday 17 April 1982 from 10am until 5pm.

Perth Philatelic Society is the host society and will provide a 60 frame display of stamps and Postal History of Perth. The official opening is at 11am by Mr Robson Lowe.

Dealers with a variety of philatelic material will be there, and the Philatelic Bureau will be represented – also Wood's of Perth, the printers.

A Commemorative Cover depicting the Postal History of Perth will be available. Special one day handstamp will be in use at Congress.

Orders for fully serviced covers, priced at 60p, should be sent to Mr J McLaren, 15 Murray Place, PERTH, PH1 1BP.

New Philatelic Sales Counters

A new philatelic sales counter will be opened in the head post office, Bedford Street, EXETER, EX1 1AA. A special pictorial handstamp bearing the words, 'Post Office Philatelic Counter opened EXETER 14 April 1982' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in the philatelic posting box situated in the office. For customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to call at the office, normal re-posting facilities will be available. Covers should be forwarded to: The Head Post-

master, Head Post Office, Bedford Street, EXETER, EX1 1AA. Hours of business at the new counter will be:– Monday to Friday 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm.

A new philatelic counter will be opened at the Post Office, 38/39 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks, SL4 1AA on Thursday 6 May 1982. The hours of business will be:–

Monday to Friday 0930 to 1700

Saturday 0930 to 1300.

A special handstamp bearing the words 'Official Opening of Philatelic Counter, Windsor, Berks, 6 May 1982' will be applied on the day to mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the Post Office. For customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent to The Postmaster, Philatelic Counter, 38/39 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks, SL4 1AA.

In addition a new postcard (SE28) will go on sale on 6 May 1982 price 13p. For collectors requiring serviced cards the cost will be 41p each which includes first class postage and handling charge. Orders should be sent to the Postmaster, Philatelic Counter, 38/39 Peascod Street, WINDSOR, Berks, SL4 1AA, to arrive by 6 May 1982. Remittances should be made payable to the Post Office preferably by cheque or Giro Transfer (Giro Account No 2049015).

The card will also be available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and all Philatelic Counters.

Forces Covers

Royal Air Force

A philatelic cover (RFDC9) is currently available commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Great Voyage of HMS 'Beagle' the ship used by Charles Darwin. The cover illustrates Marine Iguanas of the Galapagos Islands with HMS 'Beagle' in the background under full sail. Flown in an RAF aircraft from Royal Air Force Valley to the present day 'Beagle' in the Irish Sea, it is signed by the ship's Captain, Commander R E Laverty ARICS RN, and also the crew of the aircraft. The cost of the cover bearing all four 'Darwin' stamps is £2.15 plus 20p postage and packing. Overseas customers should add 55p extra.

Orders with remittances made payable to 'RAF Museum' should be sent to: The Project Officer, Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, LONDON, NW9 5LL.

Royal Navy

To commemorate the 285th anniversary of the birth of Admiral of the Fleet, George, Lord Anson a philatelic cover is now available depicting the battleships, HMS 'Centurion' and HMS 'Anson', their respective badges, and a Buccaneer aircraft. Bearing a 15½p 'Youth Organisations' stamp cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp 'BFPS 1768', the cost of the cover is 75p. In addition the cover with a 26p 'Youth Organisations' stamp affixed, signed by Rear Admiral E R Anson, Flag Officer, Naval Air Command, descendant of Admiral Lord Anson, and Lieut Comdr N J Ward RN Commanding Officer 801 Squadron, will cost £1.95. Alternatively the cover with a 19½p 'Youth Organisations' stamp, signed by Lieut Cmdr Ward only is available price £1.25.

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

Commemorative Covers

'Titanic' 70th Anniversary

The 70th Anniversary of the maiden voyage of RMS 'Titanic' is remembered on 10 April 1982 with the issue of a commemorative cover illustrating a watercolour of the famous liner. The cover will bear a 15p definitive stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting a profile of 'Titanic' and the words '70th Anniversary of the Maiden Voyage RMS 'Titanic' 10 April 1982'.

The cost of the cover is £1.75 – signed by artist, Laurence Bagley, £2.75 – prices include postage and packing. Overseas customers should add 30p per cover. In addition 750 covers will be available signed by Mr B V Dean rescued from 'Titanic' lifeboat by the crew of RMS 'Carpathia' on 15 April 1912, price £4.95 each.

Orders with remittance should be sent to: Norden Art Company, Exmoor House, Methuen Street, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 0FQ.

Naming Ceremony of Life-boat RNLB 'The Duchess of Kent', South Bank, London

A special handstamp will be used on 27 April to commemorate the Naming Ceremony of the new Arun Class Life-Boat, RNLB 'The Duchess of Kent'. The Life-Boat has been purchased from donations raised by the Freemasons United Grand Lodge of England, whose crest will be incor-

porated in the design of the special cover for the event. Covers bearing a 15½p 'Youth Organisations' stamp will be available from the RNLB Philatelic Agents, 33 St George's Place, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 2XX price £1 each for the standard cover including postage and packing under separate cover. A small number of the covers will be carried on the life-boat and cacheted accordingly and a smaller number (probably 200), will be carried on the life-boat and signed by the Coxswain. Carried covers will be available at £1.60 each and carried/signed covers at £2.30 each. Profits from the sales will be donated to life-boat funds.

Pope John Paul II British Visit 1982

The Pope's tour of Britain will take place between 28 May-3 June 1982, and a series of specially commissioned postcards, bearing appropriate postage stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamp, commemorating the visit, will be available. Full details of this offer may be obtained from: Henry Murray, Arlington Supplies Ltd, PO Box 143, 273 Green Lanes, LONDON, N13 4XN. Telephone 01-886 5821.

Members of our Lady of Grace RC Church, Prestwich, Manchester, in association with the Save the Children Fund, will sponsor a pictorial special handstamp and issue a special cover to commemorate the open-air Papal Mass in Heaton Park, Manchester, on 31 May 1982.

The cover, price £1, will illustrate Heaton Hall. A 15½p definitive stamp will be affixed and cancelled with the special handstamp which will incorporate the British 1982 Visit Insignia. The filler card will give details of both the visit of the Pope to Heaton Park and historical records of the Hall and the Wilton family.

Orders should be sent to: H B Whitfield Esq, 159 Rectory Green, Prestwich, MANCHESTER M25 5BR. Remittances should be made payable to H B Whitfield.

Royal Shakespeare Theatre

The 50th Anniversary of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon, takes place this year, and to mark the event a commemorative cover bearing a full set of 'British Theatre' stamps will be available from 28 April 1982.

The cover will illustrate the famous theatre and the stamps cancelled with a pictorial handstamping depicting the immortal bard. The cost is £2.50. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

Norwich Theatre Royal

Norwich Theatre Royal is celebrating its 225th Anniversary with a commemorative cover bearing all four 'British Theatre' stamps to be issued on 28 April 1982.

The covers will illustrate the original building, constructed in 1757, together with the present one. They will be posted in a special post box at the Theatre and the stamps cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp.

The following charges will apply:-

- 1 Cover with full set of stamps, cancelled with Theatre Royal handstamp. Price £3.
- 2 Cover, as above, signed by Dick Condon, General Manager of the Theatre Royal. Limited edition of 100, each cover individually numbered. Price £7.50 (price includes donation of £5 to charity).

All prices include inland postage and packing.

Applications should include a remittance made payable to 'Theatre Royal FDC' and sent to Theatre Royal FDC, Theatre Street, NORWICH, NR2 1RL. For overseas orders additional postage is required - 25p for Europe, 50p for elsewhere.

Enquiries and requests for further information should be addressed to the Theatre Royal.

Darwin College Cambridge

Darwin College, Cambridge, is featured on a cover currently available in the 'College Series'. The costs are as follows: Bearing a 15½p 'Charles

Darwin' cancelled with a pictorial handstamp - £1; with the full set of stamps - £2.75; Gutter-pairs on two covers, £4 including postage and packing. Orders with remittances made payable to: 'University Covers' should be sent to: Mr A Ling, 54 Fishers Lane, Cherryhinton, CAMBRIDGE, CBI 4HR.

British Broadcasting Corporation

The BBC are producing a special cover to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Natural History Unit. The cover will be issued from their stand at the Royal Bath and West Show with a special handstamp on 2 June 1982. The cover has been designed by the wildlife artist Gordon Beningfield.

There will be a limited edition of 5,000 covers signed by Gordon Beningfield, bearing all four of the 'Butterfly' stamps issued in May 1981, price £5.00 each and 2000 signed by Gordon Beningfield and David Attenborough bearing all four 'Butterfly' stamps, price £7.00 each.

An unlimited number of covers bearing the 15½p 'Charles Darwin' stamp will be available at £1.00 each.

Orders for the covers should be sent to: Mr Brian S Roberts, BBC Natural History Unit Silver Jubilee Commemorative Cover, BBC Bristol, BRISTOL, BS8 2LR. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to 'BBC Enterprises Ltd', including 15p for postage and packing for single orders; for multiple orders a price will be quoted.

BBC NATURAL HISTORY UNIT



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

1957-1982

75th Anniversary of Scouting

A commemorative cover is currently available bearing the 'Youth Organisations' stamps issued on 24 March 1982. All four stamps are affixed cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp. The cost is £2.00. Alternatively the cover bearing the 26p stamps only is offered at £1.00.

Orders with remittances made payable to: First Day Cover, The Scout Association, Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, LONDON, SW7 5JS.

Fifty Years of Gang Show

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the first Gang Show produced by Ralph Reader CBE at the Scala Theatre London, on 30 October 1932, the Scouts of Newcastle are producing a commemorative cover to co-incide with their 50th Anniversary Celebratory show at the Theatre Royal on 19 April 1982.

The cover illustrates a traditional theatre proscenium, and the special handstamp to be used to cancel the 26p Scout Stamp of the Youth Organisations Issue, will depict both the Scout and Gang Show Emblems.

The cost of the cover is 75p, and will be sent through normal postal channels unless an additional 25p for each cover is included for return packaging and postage. Orders, with remittances made payable to 'Newcastle Scout Gang Show' should be sent to 'First Day Cover', Newcastle Scout Association, 9 Osborne Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE2 2AE.

New Theatre Hull

1982 marks the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the New Theatre, Hull, and on 28 April 1982 to coincide with the issue of the 'British Theatre' stamps a commemorative cover will be available bearing all four stamps. It will illustrate the New Theatre, and the Assembly rooms in use before the present building. The covers will be posted in a box to be sited in the theatre and cancelled with a special handstamp incorporating the three crowns of Hull and the insignia of the theatre. The cost is £1.95 each. A limited number of covers will be signed by Mr D Sandford, New Theatre Administrator and Councillor Mrs Phyllis Clarke, Lord Mayor of Hull, price £5.00 each including postage and packing.

Orders with remittances made payable to: 'The New Theatre Hull' should be sent to: New Theatre (FDC), Kingston Square, KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU1 3HF.

Mumbles Railway Society

The Mumbles Railway Society has produced a

commemorative cover to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Mumbles Railway, the first passenger carrying railway in the world.

The cover illustrates a horse drawn carriage of the early period. The design was a winning entry in a competition organised by the Society in conjunction with Swansea Head Post Office and the South Wales Evening Post.

The pictorial handstamp used to cancel a 15½p Welsh definitive stamp illustrates one of the earlier steam locomotives with the famous Mumbles coastline in the background. The filler card depicts three types of locomotive used in the period up to 1960 when the Railway closed, and also the route and stations served.

Fully serviced covers with a cancellation date of 25 March 1982 are available at £1.10 including return postage and packing. Orders with remittance payable to: Mumbles Railway Society should be sent to Mr Peter Tremewan, 38 Mumbles Road, Blackpill, SWANSEA, SA3 5AU.

Leicester Drama Society – Diamond Jubilee

As part of their Diamond Jubilee celebrations the Leicester Drama Society are to produce a commemorative cover bearing a 15½p 'British Theatre' stamp, issued on 28 April 1982. The covers (limited to 1,000), cancelled by a pictorial handstamp will cost 95p each, or £2.95 with full set of four stamps. The covers can be ordered from the philatelic agent A G Bradbury, 35 Northdene Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6FJ, to whom all remittances should be made payable.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor John Memmott

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

The Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by the British Post Office, Postal Headquarters, Philatelic Marketing Section, Room 321, 22/25 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1PH where correspondence on editorial matters should be sent.

Annual subscription

Inland, Europe and overseas surface mail	£3.00
Airmail	£5.00
Single copies obtainable by personal callers from philatelic counters	25p

Subscriptions should be sent to the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £2.50.

Printed in Great Britain by Cripplegate Printing Company Ltd for the Post Office.