

British Philatelic Bulletin

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New Type of Royal Mail Stamp

On 22 August the Royal Mail will issue non-value indicator stamps for use on basic rate first and second class mail. Details of the stamps and first day cover facilities are given on page 291.

In order to simplify the process of changes in postal rates the Royal Mail is introducing these new non-value stamps in stamp books only. Sales will initially be only from post offices and subsequently the books will go on sale at retail outlets.

This is the first time the Royal Mail has issued adhesive postage stamps without a specific face value although similar indicators have been used on postal stationery for a number of years. This began with the issue of the Postnote (now withdrawn) in April 1982, followed by first and second class envelopes in June 1983, standard aerogrammes in June 1986 and registered envelopes in September 1986.

The colours of the two non-value indicator stamps will be black (first class) and light blue – chosen as part of the build-up to the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black and Twopence Blue in 1990.



Late News

The £1.40 stamp (window) book with revised bar code (100104 instead of 200101) containing 14p stamps printed by Harrison on the Jumelle press went on sale at the Bureau and philatelic counters in early July. The cylinder used was B31.

On 3 July The Post Office announced that postal rates will be increased from 2 October; the basic first and second rates will be 20p and 15p respectively. Overseas rates will also be increased. Details of new definitive stamps and machine-vended books will be given in next month's *Bulletin*.

The books containing these new stamps have been designated Mark IV; they differ from the earlier Mark I, II and III window books in not having a Recommended Retail Price printed on the cover and have a different crown (including the Cap of Maintenance) as used on the Greetings book issued in January. It should be noted that Royal Mail books are now designated: **Stamp Books** – currently 56p, 76p, £1.08, £1.40 and £1.90 values sold at post offices and retail outlets (previously referred to as window books), **Machine-vended Books** – currently 50p and £1 denominations; **Greetings Books** and **Prestige Books**. These terms will be used in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

Microscopes

5 September 1989

Four stamps featuring subjects as seen through a microscope will be issued on 5 September to mark the 150th anniversary of the Royal Microscopical Society, founded in 1839 as the Microscopical Society of London.

The **19p** stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate) features a 10-times enlargement of a Snowflake; the **27p** stamp (airmail postcards) features a 5-times enlargement of a Blue Fly; the **32p** value (airmail Zone B) shows blood cells at an enlargement of 500 times and the **35p** denomination (airmail Zone C) a microchip, shown at 600-times enlargement.

The use of the microscope took hold of the public imagination in 1665 when Robert Hooke (1635-1703) published his *Micrographia* which illustrated tiny creatures (whose existence no one had suspected) at enlarged size. Hooke's superb drawings revealed a complex world –



people were amazed at the illustrations of the flea and louse and of the blue fly as shown on the 27p stamp. The microscope revealed that cork contains patterns of tiny holes which Hooke called cells – the term now used to describe the basic units of life of which all living things consist; Hooke's "cells" were the empty spaces where living cells had been.

Microscopy made relatively little advance for a century after Hooke's *Micrographia*, mostly as a consequence of the poor quality of lenses available. Whilst microscopes became popular with amateurs who wanted to see for themselves the "little animals", the more serious scientists re-

mained somewhat sceptical of the instrument. In 1830 Joseph Jackson Lister (1786-1869, father of the surgeon Lord Lister) perfected the achromatic objective, a lens without the defects that bedevilled earlier lenses. As a result the microscope became accepted in scientific circles. The



32p stamp shows blood cells as revealed through a microscope of 1839 when Lister and others formed the Microscopical Society of London. The Society set about standardising the size of the glass slide on which specimens are fixed for observation and determined some of the dimensions of the instrument. In 1866 the Society was granted the prefix Royal and adopted as its emblem the Snowflake as shown on the 19p stamp.



By the end of the Victorian age the development of photography had aided microscopists, instruments could be produced which allowed

for magnification of about 1,000 times. In 1931 the electron microscope was invented in Germany, this permitted magnification of 1 million times. The scanning electron microscope, developed in Britain in 1951, provides for views of whole objects or surfaces rather than the slices that had previously been used. The 35p stamp shows such a view of a microchip.



Microscopes are today vital in industry; metals, plastics and ceramics may fail if faults are contained in their internal structures – such faults can be detected by microscopes. Lasers are being applied to microscopes to extend their capabilities. The Scanning tunnelling microscope uses a new principle to achieve magnifications of 100 million times and picture individual atoms.



Microscope by J J Lister, 1826 (Science Museum)

Technical Details

Designed by Keith Bassford, the four stamps have been printed by lithography by The House of Questa Limited. They are of “nearly square” format, 35 x 37mm, printed in sheets of 100 on phosphor-coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation is 14 x 14¼.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards (formerly referred to as PHQ cards) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 21 August, price 16p each. They are numbered 120A-D.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No 201) will cost £1.35 and was designed by Keith Bassford with text by Neil Ardley. It was printed by Litho-Tech colour printers. The illustrations include early and modern microscopes.

First Day Cover

The first day cover will be available from 21 August, price 17p, from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one for the Bureau (microscope eyepiece), the other for Oxford (microscope slide).

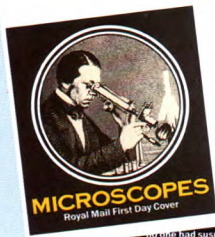
A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark – charges £1.62 UK (including VAT), £1.41 overseas (no VAT). Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 5 September.

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

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

Oxford Special Postmark Duty
Customer Services Mails Branch
Oxford LDO
Becket Street
OXFORD OX1 1PR

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial “First Day of Issue” handstamps. In addition pictorial First Day handstamps are available at the London Chief Office (arms of the City of London) and Durham (Cathedral). Covers for reposting should be sent to: Special



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

no one had suspected. The reason was that the creatures were tiny. The views were those seen through a microscope.



Hooke's *Micrographia* was the first great work devoted to microscopical observations, and it revealed an unknown and fascinating world—the world in miniature. Hooke's superb drawings portrayed a world as complex and detailed as the one we see around us. People gasped at his fearsome portraits of the flea and louse, as well as the blue fly shown on the second stamp in this issue.

Micrographia contained one vital discovery, although Hooke was not aware of its significance. The microscope revealed that cork contains patterns of tiny holes, which Hooke called cells. We now use the term to describe the basic units of life, of which all living things consist: Hooke's 'cells' were the empty spaces where living cells had been.



Cork cells from Hooke

Although Hooke's *Micr* such a powerful impact hardly advanced for mo century afterwards. The poor quality of lense seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Amateurs too microscope with enthus wanting to see the 'little' miniature world—how they appeared. But more investigators were highly the instrument. To them, it little more than a toy. Its bl images were capable of m interpretation, yet provided tant glimpses of a whole new w knowledge just waiting to be

JJ Lister with his achromatic microscope made by Tully from Lister's design in 1826.

In 1830, JJ Lister (father of the famous surgeon) perfected the achromatic objective, a lens without the defects that hindered a clearer view of the miniature world. Using this lens, the microscope rapidly became a thoroughgoing scientific instrument. The third stamp with its illustration of blood cells shows what was revealed by microscopy in 1830, when Lister and others formed the Microscopical Society of London to promote the development and use of the microscope in science. One of its first acts was to standardise the size of the glass slide on which specimens are fixed for observation. The Society, which became the Royal Microscopical Society in 1866, also determined such important factors as the dimensions of screw threads and eyepieces in microscopes. Its endeavours truly led the way to the instruments we use today.

Below: A standard 3 inch x 1 inch (7.6 cm x 2.5 cm) Victorian glass slide.



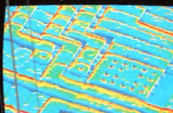
Above: The Society's emblem from 1866

microchip.



Above: A scientist operating a scanning transmission electron microscope.

Below: Computer-enhanced false-colour scanning electron micrograph of part of the same microchip on the fourth stamp.



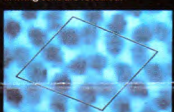
Everything that exists is made up of smaller parts. By knowing the parts, we better understand the whole. In revealing the parts within ourselves, as well as in animals and plants, the microscope enables us to understand life and how during illness it may fail.

Modern medicine makes great use of microscopes. Chromosomes in cells can be examined for genetic counselling, and 'test-tube babies' actually begin life under a microscope as fertilisation is carried out. The use of microscopes in the examination of tissues helps to identify and prevent disease, while their use in surgery enables tiny parts far too delicate for normal repair work to be mended.

Light micrograph showing serious weakening in a brazed T-joint in an aircraft component.

In another vital way, we are becoming increasingly dependent on the miniature world. The computers that control machines and help us in so many ways are able to perform their amazing tasks because they contain many thousands of miniature components packed together in their microchips. Microscopes enable engineers to inspect and check these devices, while machines developed from electron microscopes use electron beams to manufacture chips of ever greater complexity and power.

The members of the Royal Microscopical Society have not been slow to take advantage of new developments elsewhere in science. Computers now aid microscopists in their work by analysing and improving images: to detect chromosome abnormalities, for example. Lasers are being applied to microscopes, extending the capabilities of light microscopy. For, by allowing parts at different levels inside a live specimen to be seen selectively, the structures in living cells are revealed.



False-colour scanning electron micrograph of a microchip



MICROSCOPES
Royal Mail Mint Stamps



2015.9.89

Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA and Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 5 September – full details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



Thury's five-body microscope (Science Museum)

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from philatelic counters from 6 September, price 17p. This can be used to obtain relevant Microscope postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.

1990 Special Issues

The subjects for the 1990 programme were announced in the February *Bulletin*. The proposed dates of issue are as follows:

23 January	RSPCA
6 March	Europa (Buildings)
10 April	Queen's Awards
3 May	Penny Black Miniature Sheet
5 June	Trees
10 July	Gallantry
11 September	Thomas Hardy
16 October	Astronomy
13 November	Christmas

Collectors should note that these dates are provisional, any changes will be notified in the *Bulletin*. The "special definitives" for the 150th anniversary of Penny Post will be issued on 9 January.

Posting Boxes

No.102. Shown here is a George VI lamp box at Glenfinnan in Scotland, near to the famous monument erected to commemorate the rising of the clans in support of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) for the 1745 Rebellion. The monument featured on the 14p stamp in the National Trusts set of June 1981



(SG 1155) and the Prince was shown on the Scottish aerogramme marking the centenary of the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland issued on 4 April 1989 (see April *Bulletin*, page 207).



The illustration was sent in by Angus Mathieson of Bedfordshire who commented "I think it is interesting because The Post Office has left a G.R. post box at the very spot where it was hoped to displace a previous George from the throne ...".

This particular type of lamp box was introduced in 1935 and continued to be manufactured until 1949 when a revised design was introduced. Many are to be found today in rural areas.

Cylinder News

The 14p definitive has recently been printed from cylinder 11 (phosphor 41), the 19p from cylinder 3, the 28p from cylinder 4 and the 1p sideways roll (code SC) from cylinder R39. The £1 Castle stamp has been printed from plate 1E.

Non Value-Indicator Definitives

On 22 August Royal Mail Stamps & Philately will issue four new stamp books containing non-value indicator stamps for the first and second class inland rates. The stamps, printed in black and light blue respectively, will bear the Machin portrait of The Queen and the inscription 1ST or 2ND in place of the value. The first class stamps will be in the 76p and £1.90 stamp books, the second class in the 56p and £1.40 books.

The stamps in the 56p and 76p books (panes of four) have been printed in lithography by Walsall Security Printers, the second class stamps have a single phosphor band, the first class stamps two phosphor bands. The top, bottom and side edges of the panes have straight edges.

The stamps in the £1.40 and £1.90 books (panes of 10) have been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, the second class stamps have one phosphor band, the first class stamps are on advanced coated paper. The top and bottom edges of the panes have straight edges.

The bar codes used are as follows: 56p 10014 2; 76p 10012 8; £1.40 10015 9 and £1.90 10013 5.

The books will be available from 22 August from the British Philatelic Bureau; philatelic counters and main post offices.

First Day Postmarks and Cover

The "First Day of Issue" handstamps for this issue will be applied in red ink. This includes the standard First Day handstamps used at most main post offices as well as the pictorial postmarks for the Bureau and Windsor (see below).

A Royal Mail first day cover will be produced and will be available from the Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices, price 17p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one for the Bureau and one for Windsor.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the two stamps cancelled with either postmark. Covers serviced by the Bureau will bear single

first and second class stamps from the top row of the panes of 10; i.e. photogravure stamps with straight edge at top. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 22 August.

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

British Philatelic Bureau	20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT
Windsor	Special Postmark Duty Windsor Post Office Peascod Street WINDSOR Berks SL4 1AA

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Lord Mayor's Show First Day Cover and Special Cachet

On 11 November the traditional Lord Mayor's Show will take place in London with a procession from the City to the Law Courts. Included in this year's procession will be Royal Mail Stamps & Philately's Royal Mail Coach. Arrangements have been made to carry a limited number of Royal Mail first day covers on this coach. Each cover will be addressed and bear the five Lord Mayor's Show special stamps cancelled with the British Philatelic Bureau First Day of Issue pictorial postmark (17 October) and will have a special cachet denoting that the cover has been carried in the Lord Mayor's Procession. The cost of the cover will be £3. Collectors wishing to order covers should write to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT. The closing date for applications is 16 October. The issue is limited and orders will be taken on a "first come first served basis". The covers will be despatched as soon after 11 November as possible.

Royal Mail Stamps & Philately will have a stand in Paternoster Square (near St Paul's Cathedral) on the day of the Lord Mayor's show. The Lord Mayor stamps and other Royal Mail stamps will be on sale.

Student Stamp Designs

Each year the Royal Society of Arts organises a Design Bursaries Competition for students at colleges of art; the competition is sponsored by leading companies and organisations including Royal Mail Stamps. Record sponsorship of £276,500 was raised towards the funding of this year's Competition which covered 15 different areas of design and offered competitors a choice of 32 different design briefs. The Competition

The Postage Stamp section, sponsored by Royal Mail Stamps; the British Museum; Harrison & Sons Limited and The House of Questa Limited, attracted 244 entries from 40 design colleges. Awards totalling £5,550 were made. Royal Mail Stamps sponsored the Fox Talbot Commemorative Award of £1,000 for a set of stamps presenting the most effective photographic approach commemorating the 150th



attracted 2,316 entries from 99 education centres. Attachment Awards and Travel Bursaries with a total value of approximately £115,000 were awarded.

The RSA Competition is the major annual competition for design students in the UK. Established in 1924, its aims are to identify and encourage young designers of outstanding promise and to bring their talents to the attention of industry.

Awards take the form of Travel Bursaries, enabling the winners to undertake travel/study tours abroad, or Attachment Awards – short periods of work experience with a host company.

anniversary of the announcement by W H Fox Talbot of his invention of the negative-positive process of photography.

An alternative design brief for a set of "Museums Year" stamps – promoting either the British Museum, another national or local museum or museums in general. This attracted a substantial number of entries. The British Museum Award, worth £1,000, was awarded in this section.

The awards were presented by fashion designer Jeff Banks at a ceremony at the RSA headquarters on 4 May. An exhibition of the students' work was on show until the end of May and goes on tour in October (dates below).

Awards were made to the following students for "Museum Year" designs: Louise Bull, age 22 of Middlesex Polytechnic; Jacqueline Griffiths, 21 of Humberside College of Higher Education; Louisa Klein, 21 of Bristol Polytechnic; Sophie Allsopp, 21 of Bath College of Higher Education; Sara Stevens, 19 of Stourbridge College of Technology & Art, Neil Gaught, 25 of London College of Printing and Mary Walsh, 23 of Middlesex Polytechnic. Maria Abreu, age 25, of the London College of Printing, was awarded for her Fox Talbot designs.

Readers interested in seeing the RSA Touring Exhibition are advised that its itinerary will be: 3-25 October – Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee; 6-17 November – Sheffield Design Exchange; 1-14 December – Newcastle College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; 15-27 January – Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston; 20 February-7 March – South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Cardiff and 12-24 March – College of St Mark & St John, Plymouth.

Shown here are designs for Museum Year stamps by Louisa Klein of Bristol Polytechnic. It should be noted that these designs are not being used for postage stamps. Further designs from the RSA Competition will be illustrated in the *Bulletin* later.

Bristol Annual Convention

The Annual Convention of the Bristol & District Federation of Philatelic Societies will be held in the Somerset Hall, Portishead near Bristol on 12 & 13 August. Several specialist societies will be holding local meetings at the Convention and a Post Office stand will be provided. There will be a "Childrens' Corner" where cheap stamps will be on sale and a competition will be held; Stamp Bug will be on hand to meet young collectors. Some 40 stamp and postcard dealers will be present. Hours of opening 10am to 6pm. Further information available from: John Tovey, 36 Northville Road, BRISTOL BS7 0RG.

BBF Publicity Pack and Themescene

The British Philatelic Federation has recently produced a publicity pack prepared for distribution to societies and regional federations for use at stamp fairs, stamp days and local exhibitions in order to promote the benefits of membership of the Federation. The pack comprises issues of the BPF's monthly journal *Stamp Mail*, information brochures about the BPF and its British

Thematic Association and leaflets summarising benefits of membership and subscription rates. The packs can be obtained from the BPF office (address below), postage would be appreciated.

The British Thematic Association has recently published the fifteenth issue of its journal *Themescene* which contains much useful reading matter for thematic collectors – both specifically (articles on Postal Mechanisation as a theme and recent South African Fish stamps) and generally – with discussions on the state of thematics in the UK. Ian Baillie supplies a controversially-headed comment "Is Philately the Enemy of Thematics?"

Membership of the BTA is through the British Philatelic Federation; details of membership of both organisations can be obtained from the BPF office at 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

Philatelic Congress Souvenir Labels

The Cinderella Stamp Club has produced a souvenir for the British Philatelic Federation 71st Congress based on the 1932 Brighton Congress label showing the Royal Pavilion. The sheet of 12 labels have been printed in three colours – blue, red or black. All proceeds from



the sale of these sheets are being donated to the British Philatelic Federation's Melville & Youth Fund. Postage inclusive prices are: red and blue sheets – 75p the pair, limited edition black sheet – £1. Orders, with remittances payable to "BPF Melville Fund", should be sent to: Cinderella Stamp Club, Hunters Lodge, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell, OAKHAM, Leics, LE15 7LJ.

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

No.30 Newspaper Stamps

Seldom can there have been stamps considered so important to the nation's revenues that to forge them could, on conviction, incur the penalty of "death without the benefit of clergy". Such was the case with the imprinted newspaper tax stamps introduced in 1712 and compulsorily printed on sheets of paper *before* going to press to produce newspapers. The publishers naturally protested that the impost was "a tax on knowledge" – the cry that would go up if VAT is ever applied to newspapers, magazines or books – but it remained in force until 1855.



Typical tax stamp (no name of publication)

The tax was not entirely a fiscal matter. Its implementation enabled the government to take action against any publisher failing to have his stock of paper "stamped" before using it to print the newspaper. This hold over the publishers gave the authorities a better chance of controlling the many flourishing anti-government newsheets. Robson Lowe states that in 1760 there were 700 prosecutions for evasion of the newspaper tax with over 500 publishers being jailed for various terms, an effective way of suppressing political opposition.

The one bright spot for the publishers was that all properly-taxed journals were allowed to pass through the post free of charge, as a courtesy rather than a right. These newspaper stamp tax postal "franks" were generally impressed alongside the title on the front page where it was easily visible. Although accepted as postage stamps, these impressed tax stamps are



A "named" tax stamp of 1836 classified as fiscals by philatelists.

Apart from the newspaper tax there was an advertisement tax. The Stamp Office was empowered to withhold stamped paper from any publisher who had not paid the advertisement tax in advance of publication. To prevent the passing of taxed paper from one publisher to another in an attempt to evade the advertisement tax, the name of the publication was added to the newspaper tax stamp from 1837 until 1855 when the tax was abolished.

In 1853, the Inland Revenue agreed to *The Times*, under supervision, printing the tax stamp during the print run, instead of having to submit the paper stocks for stamping at the Stamp Office in advance. It did mean, however, that the tax stamp was in black instead of the



Examples of the three impressed newspaper tax stamps in black, printed simultaneously with the printing run

standard red. Similar facilities were granted to the *Stamford Mercury* (from 1859) and the *Illustrated London News* (from 1858).

Two years later, in 1855, the newspaper stamp tax was abolished, but *The Times* and the



A typical provincial newspaper "named" stamp *Stamford Mercury* continued to impress the stamp, which had become a *postage stamp*, on all copies sent to postal subscribers (about 40 per cent of the total circulation so far as *The Times* was concerned). As postage stamps, the printed device needed cancelling to accord with postal requirements and this was achieved by a printed cancellation, creating an early example of a pre-cancelled stamp.



The first "Times" postage stamp, issued in 1870 and pre-cancelled to prevent mis-use (Note "70" is not the year date but the St Martin's-le-Grand office number)



Pre-cancelled "Stamford Mercury" postage stamp (1870)

Finally, the introduction of a 1/2d postage rate for newspapers in 1870 brought about the general use of adhesive stamps by newspaper publishers. Exceptions were, once again, *The Times* and the *Stamford Mercury*, both of which continued to use a pre-cancelled frank of their own designing.

Competition



Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning a Royal Mail Post Card Album containing all the Royal Mail Stamp Cards (PHQ cards) and National Postal Museum cards on sale on 1 August. Answer the six questions below, the answers to which will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: August Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 29 September.

The senders of the first two all-correct entries drawn will be sent the Post Card Album and cards. The senders of the next four correct entries drawn will receive the NPM cards. Answers and winners' names will be published in the November *Bulletin*.

1. What creature features on the 27p Microscopes stamp?
2. Who designed the Microscopes stamps?
3. The Scottish Aerogramme issued on 8 August commemorates which famous architect?
4. When did the "Mailsort" service become fully operational?
5. Which prominent politician recently visited Walsall Security Printers?
6. Who produced the marbled paper design for the Edward Lear miniature sheet?

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

The winners of the May competition were: G Bean of Gloucester (first prize), S Martin of Cornwall, C Beet of Humberside, C Reich of Australia, P Hockings of Denmark and M Wilkins of Norfolk.

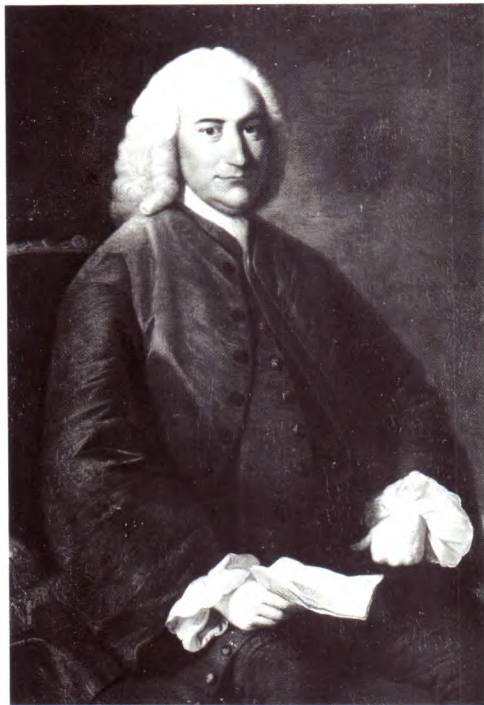
The answers were: 1. Royal Scots, 2. Holmfirth, 3. Philip Sutton, 4. British Bechuanaland, 5. Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs, 6. Eric Gill.

Our thanks to all who entered.

National Postal Museum News

Three more cards in the Museum's series depicting important people in the history of the post will be issued on 17 October 1989. These are numbered NPM/SWL90/4-6 and feature paintings of Ralph Allen, John Palmer and Sir Francis Freeling. The paintings used for this set are owned by The Post Office.

Ralph Allen, 1693-1746, as a young man assisted his grandmother, the postmistress of St Columb in Cornwall. He later became Postmaster of Bath and revolutionised the postal service, in 1719, by "setting cross posts" be-



tween the major post roads. This gave a direct link between provincial towns. Up to this time all post roads passed through London.

John Palmer, 1742-1818. Up to 1784 mail was carried on the great post roads by postboys on horseback. John Palmer, a theatre manager of Bath, suggested a scheme for carrying the mail in fast light coaches running to a strict timetable. A trial took place on 1 August 1784 between Bristol and London which proved so successful that within a few years a Mail Coach network covered the country.

Sir Francis Freeling, 1764-1836, began his career in the Post Office at Bristol where he was

spotted by John Palmer who took Freeling into his "Post Plan Office". Freeling was later to become principal and resident surveyor of the Post Office. He was then promoted to joint Secretary to the Post Office. He was later to become the sole holder of the post, 1786-1836, and was to be one of the Post Office's greatest administrators.

The cards cost 20p each and will be available by mail order, minimum order 60p, plus handling charge of 19p for orders up to £18, £1.59 for orders over £18 (sent by registered post). Orders should be sent to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

A one-day handstamp will be used on 17 October 1989 - worded NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM - SWL90 - CITY OF LONDON EC. The centre illustration will show a mail coach. Items for handstamping should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA.

This set of cards coincides with the Lord Mayor's Show special stamp issue. Further sets of cards in this series will be issued in January and May; details will be published in the *Bulletin* nearer the time of issue.

Post Office Uniforms Exhibition

This exhibition opened in the Museum's Main Gallery early in May and will continue until the end of the year. On display are four early uniforms, four replica letter boxes and various interesting artefacts such as postmen's caps and badges and mail coach pistols.

The uniforms shown are those for the London "Twopenny Post" Letter Carrier, 1837-55; Letter Carrier of 1855-61; a "Military Tunic" pattern uniform of 1868-1910 and the London "River Postman" uniform as worn by George Thomas Evans from 1845-72. On display is poster artwork showing Herbert Evans, the last of the Thames river postmen who took over from his father in 1914 and for 40 years collected the mail from the Customs House jetty for delivery to ships moored in the Pool of London. The Evans family were involved in this duty from 1810 until the service terminated in 1952.

The four letter boxes displayed are replicas of the famous Penfold box of c.1872-79; the "Liverpool Special" of 1863; the "First National Standard" of 1859-66 and the elaborate "Science & Art" box designed for use in London, Edinburgh, Dublin and other major cities in 1857-59. Mounted along side the uniforms and boxes are

reproductions of old prints of the postal service and unadopted designs for the 1985 350th Anniversary of Public Postal Service issue showing postal uniforms.

In two display cabinets are shown Post Office firearms and hats and badges. The firearms include a pistol made by John Harding of Southwark engraved on the muzzle "His Majesty's Mail Coaches". Harding supplied firearms to the Post Office from 1816 to 1840 when supply was switched to the Royal Ordnance. A well-preserved powder horn is engraved "John Davis Royal Mail 1815" and bears an attractive mail coach and horses design. A River Postman badge, in silver, is exhibited – this was worn to protect the postman from the Press Gangs which roamed the riverside forcing men to serve with the Navy. A portrait of James Moses Nobbs (1817-97), the last of the mail coach guards, reminds us of the risks taken by

postal staff in the first half of the 19th century.

The display of hats includes a beaver top hat for the General Post Letter Carriers, 1793; an experimental straw cap for summer wear, 1932 and a recently found experimental cover for the single peak shako, 1896. This cover is reminiscent of the headgear of the Foreign Legion; it was not brought into regular use. Hats worn by ratings and officers on the cable ship *Monarch* in the 1940s are shown as are badges worn by postal staff at the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

Further information on postal uniforms can be found in an article in the May *Bulletin*, page 224. Three Museum postcards issued on 5 May show Post Office Uniforms – General Post Letter Carrier 1793-1855; London Post Letter Carrier 1837-55 and Letter Carrier's uniform of 1855-60. Details of these cards were given in the April *Bulletin*, page 211.

Shadow Chancellor Visits Walsall Printers



During May the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. John Smith, QC, MP visited the Royal Mail's newest stamp supplier, Walsall Security Printers Ltd in the West Midlands. Mr Smith was particularly interested to see the service offered by WSP to over 60 postal authorities. During his visit he was shown the production of Royal Mail £1 stamp books and Mark III window books; he was impressed by the extensive stamp book equipment specially developed by WSP for making up books in different formats.

Our illustration shows Mr Smith (right) being presented with a framed first day cover and postcard of the WSP-printed 14p and 19p book stamps (25 April 1989) by Mr A P Aspinall, Managing Director of Walsall Security Printers.

Mark III Window Books

Their Development and Varieties

L F NEWBERY

Since their introduction experimentally on 4 August 1987 the window books have undergone considerable development especially in the current Mark 3 issues.

If there is a change in specification and/or procedure, however small, that produces a variety that is identifiable as being peculiar to the procedure then, in the opinion of the writer, the resultant varieties are worthy of study, recording and collecting. Changes can also occur as a result of on the spot alterations by the engineer or machine minder in order to ensure a smoother and more efficient print run.

The covers are no longer laminated and in place of the "window cutout" there is a facsimile in colour of an imperforate stamp with a short white diagonal security line across the lower right hand corner. The covers are printed in offset litho.

All the books are of a uniform size, irrespective of the size of the stamp pane, reduced to 5.7 x 1.9 inches when opened wide. All the books when issued are sealed by a once only latex closure; for future use closure is by the clasp. The inside short edge of the back cover (that has the clasp cut) is now printed in yellow only.

11 October 1988 – Harrison Books

I deal first with the Mark 3 books comprising the stamps and covers printed by and the book made up by Harrison & Sons Limited. The stamps were photogravure inverted printed and perforated on the Chambon press. In order for the web to be in the correct direction for making up into the books on the Libra book-making machine, the stamps are printed either upright or inverted depending on the number of times that the reel during printing and the various slitting and trimming operations has to be reeled.

The stamp panes are now without the selvedge on the outer edge. This enabled the cylinder to have columns of six panes instead of five. Further every other horizontal row of pins has been omitted from the perforator resulting in the top and bottom edge of the pane being imperforate except for the single vertical perforation on each side of the stamps.

<i>Value of Book</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Cylinder</i>	<i>Column Format</i>
56p	4 x 14p	B26	4 x 6
76p	4 x 19p	B16	4 x 6
£1.08	4 x 27p	B2	4 x 6
£1.40	10 x 14p	B27	2 x 6
£1.90	10 x 19p	B12	2 x 6

This gives six new booklet stamps in their own right all with inverted printing:

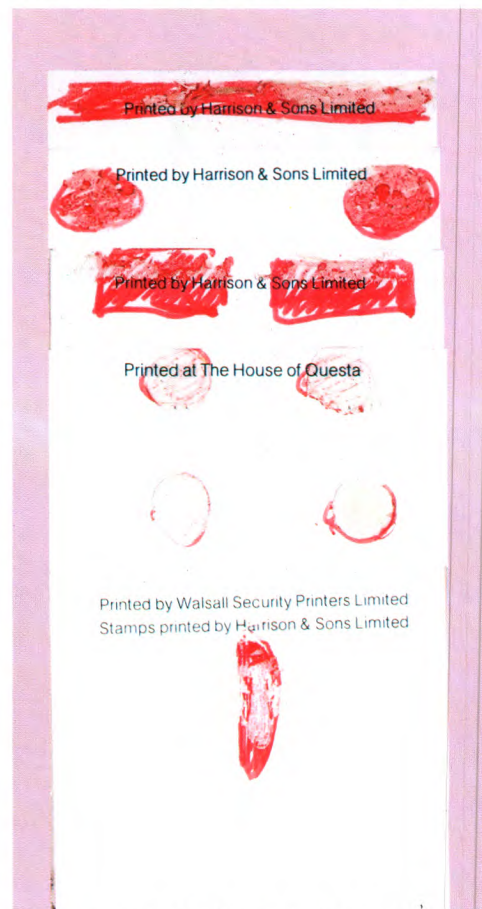
14p straight edge top
14p straight edge bottom
19p straight edge top
19p straight edge bottom
27p straight edge top
27p straight edge bottom



Uncut "gang" (sheet) of six covers for Harrison
£1.90 book

The covers were printed 72 up (6 columns of 12) offset litho in a single pass on a Miller 7 colour press. The cover mass was then varnished on outside and latex seal applied on other machines. The sheets were laid out columns 1 and 2 for 10 first class, columns 3 and 4 for 4 first class, column 5 for 10 second class and column 6 for 4 second class. For the £1.08 book the whole sheet was used for the one setting.

Initially on all five books the latex closure was applied in a single continuous line. This was



Different styles of adhesive sealing on Harrison, Questa and Walsall books

not satisfactory and the closure was changed to two oval spots set close to the outer edges.

A further development took place in which the last pair of stamps of the 10 x 14p and 10 x 19p pane were folded back (gum to gum) so that they would not be fouled by the latex, again the two oval spots. A fresh cylinder B29 was

brought into use and both varieties, folded once and folded twice, were issued. For the 10 x 19p book only cylinder B12 was issued. Obviously as a proof of the extra fold two books must be collected, one sealed and the other opened for display.

A further change was made to the shape of the latex seal used in the 56p, 76p, £1.40 and £1.90 books; this time taking the form of two oblong spots of adhesive. The £1.08 book remained unchanged. The £1.40 and £1.90 reverted to the single fold. The £1.40 book reverted to cylinder B27 and for the £1.90 book a new cylinder was used – B17.

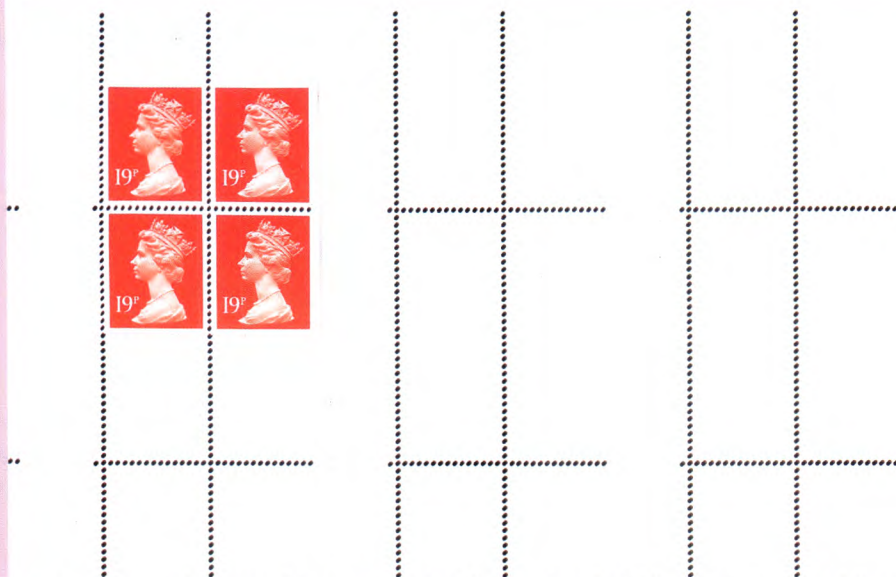
Window book cylinder numbers consist of the number enclosed in a half box thus: B17 . With this cylinder a fresh departure occurred, for column 1 there was a thick bar above the number while in column 2 the normal setting was used (ie no bar).



B17 cylinder numbers (£1.90 book) – with bar above number on column 1 and no bar on column 2

Another limited experimental change took place on the yellow printed inside edge of the 76p and £1.90 covers with the oblong latex seal. Normally this inside edge is unvarnished. A small quantity were produced with the edge varnished.

The Mark 3 Harrison books had different bar codes from those on Walsall and Questa books. It was decided to bring them into line. The second group of numbers in the code began with a 2 whereas that for Walsall and Questa began with a 1. The £1.90 book with code reading 5 014721 100081 in place of 5 014721 200088 went on philatelic sale in May 1989. The



Perforation arrangement for panes of four stamps printed by Harrison for Walsall books (section of sheet)

stamps were printed on the Chambon press, cylinder B17. £1.40 books with code 5 014721 100104 in place of 5 014721 200101 went on sale during June 1989; these two were Chambon printed, cylinder B31. Also issued during June were £1.90 books with the new code, the stamps printed on the Jumelle press using cylinder B19. It is expected that books with 14p stamps printed on the Jumelle press will be issued later; the Chambon press will continue to be used for the 56p, 76p and £1.08 books.

Two errors of assembly occurred, namely £1.90 pane with 76p (pane of four) cover and *vice versa*. Very few of these error books were found.

11 October 1988 – Questa Books

On 11 October 1988 Mark 3 books with stamps and covers printed and made up by The House of Questa went on sale. The covers are now varnished on both sides and the laminated window replaced with a stamp facsimile and security line. The overall size is reduced to 5.7 x 1.9 inches.

The cover is sealed with spots of latex adhesive. This seal has had a number of changes. Initially the books appeared with a single round dark latex spot towards the top edge. Later issues had a single pale latex spot. Later still a fresh seal with two pale spots appeared. There were two forms of this – closer together and wider apart.

The stamps printed by offset litho are from the same printing as those in the Mark 2 books issued in August 1988; they do not provide any new varieties.

No plate numbers are to be found in these books; the bar codes shown are: £1.40 book – 5 014721 100104 and £1.90 – 5 014721 100081. They were printed and perforated in columns of four panes – 12 up for the 14p and 16 up for the 19p. The panes were either torn or cut from the sheet for making up into books.

24 January 1989 – Harrison/Walsall Books

The 56p and 76p books issued on 24 January 1989 contained stamps printed and perforated by Harrison affixed in covers printed and made up by Walsall Security Printers Ltd.

Stamps are now printed sideways in six rows – 2 x 6 (3 unbroken book panes) on the Chambon press. The cylinder numbers are placed wide of the stamps and are trimmed off with the waste during production so that none appear in the issued books. Horizontal and vertical rows of pins have been omitted from the perforator so that the pane in the issued book is imperforate on three sides.

The covers are no longer laminated and in place of the “window cutout” there is a stamp facsimile with security line similar to the covers of the Harrison books. The covers are varnished

on both sides and measure 5.7 x 1.9 inches when fully open. The covers are sealed with a single horizontal dash of latex centrally placed.

The cylinders used were: B28 (14p stamps - 56p book) and B13 (19p stamps - 76p book). The bar codes are 5 014721 100098 and 5 014721 100074 respectively.

For the specialist collector, these two books yielded eight new booklet stamps, sideways printed, as follows:

1. 14p straight edge top
2. 14p straight edge bottom
3. 14p straight edge top and right
4. 14p straight edge bottom and right
5. 19p straight edge top
6. 19p straight edge bottom
7. 19p straight edge top and right
8. 19p straight edge bottom and right

For most collectors the important varieties are numbered 3, 4, 7 and 8 which are entirely new; the stamps with straight edges top and bottom were also found in the Harrison Mark 3 window books issued in October 1988.



Window books are sealed in units of 50, a label enclosed within the packing gives details of face value and price to retailers (Harrison label illustrated)

The Writer: Len Newbery is a leading authority on stamp books, having collected, studied and written about them for over 50 years. Mr Newbery has written extensively in several journals including "Stamp Collecting" and the "Bulletin". With Dr Jean Alexander, he is author of "British Stamp Booklets" being published, in instalments, by the GB Philatelic Society.

Pictorial Aerogrammes

Shown here are two of the six pictorial aerogrammes being issued on 1 August. Details were given in the July *Bulletin*.



Edward Lear Sheet Marbled Paper

In the description of the Edward Lear miniature sheet in the August 1988 *Bulletin* (page 269), it was stated that "the sheet has a surround resembling the marble end-papers found in Victorian books ...". This marbled end-paper design was also used on the first day cover for the Lear stamps (6 September 1988) and the presentation pack. Not stated at the time was the fact that the "marbled effect" used was a piece of hand-marbled paper made by Sarah Amatt of Bristol, a self-taught marbler of five years.



The method of marbling used originated in Turkey over 500 years ago and a description of the process by Sarah Amatt may be of interest to readers.

The method involves using a "size" of seaweed on which water-based inks are sprinkled. The size is made by boiling seaweed with water, so thickening it, allowing it to cool overnight and then straining it several times to produce a consistent size. Two gallons are needed to fill the trough which holds the size and it is made up freshly every day.

French Curl

The inks are mixed with ox-gall to allow the colours to float on the surface of the size by reducing the surface tension. The colours do not mix with each other and remain in spots on the size unless they are combed with rakes and

styluses to form patterns. The marbling for the Lear printing used five different inks on a cream paper which was then combined five times; then the curls were created with a stylus. The pattern is called "French Curl".

The pattern of inks on the size is transferred to the paper, which has previously been treated with a mordant, by the paper being laid down on the size and inks. When the paper is lifted off, the pattern is already fixed to the surface and any excess size is rinsed off the paper. It is then hung up to dry and then pressed under boards for several days.

Hazards in Production

This Turkish marbling is affected by many variables, not least the use of natural materials which constantly vary, and outside factors such as temperature and relative humidity. Dust in the marbling room can also ruin a finely-combed pattern if it falls on the size, creating white "spots" in the combing. Production can thus be drastically reduced to three sheets in a day instead of the average 50 or more.

Paper-marbling is, as readers will have gathered, an extremely difficult craft to master. Each sheet of paper is different from the previous one owing to the random placing of the inks on the size and the several variables. Each paper is, therefore, unique. Marbled paper has mainly been used for the end-papers and covers of books but is currently experiencing a vogue as a patterned paper for lampshades, boxes and stationery products.

Details of marbled papers designed by Sarah Amatt can be obtained from: Amatt Papers, 6 Upper Street, Totterdown, BRISTOL BS4 1AZ.

Aerogramme Promotion

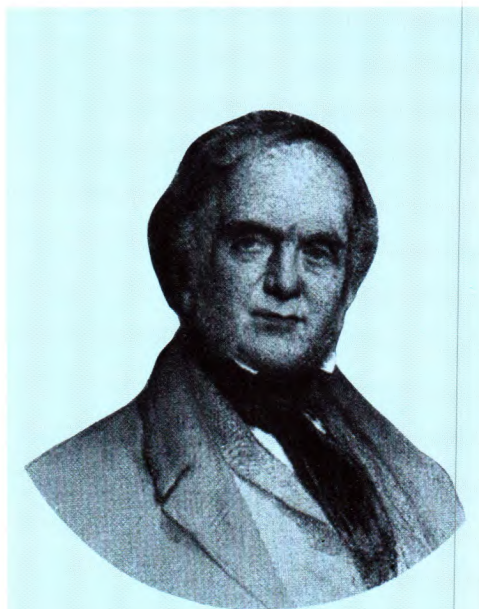
On 1 August new pictorial aerogrammes go on philatelic sale; packs of these aerogrammes will be available at main post offices during August. To increase awareness of these new aerogrammes, promotional packs containing five standard (non-pictorial) aerogrammes and one pictorial aerogramme will go on philatelic and general sale during September. There will be no specific first day of sale. These packs will cost £1.50, the normal price of the pack of six standard aerogrammes.

Oxford Philatelic Counter

We are informed that the Oxford Philatelic Counter has been temporarily closed for redevelopment.

New Scottish Aerogramme

Illustrated here is the new Scottish aerogramme to be issued on 8 August to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of William Playfair, the noted architect, responsible for many public buildings in Edinburgh.



William Playfair – detail from the forthcoming Scottish aerogramme

The aerogramme is available from all post offices in Scotland, the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters, price 32p (includes 27p postage).

Royal Mail "Mailsort" Service

On 1 June the Royal Mail "Mailsort" service for businesses became fully operational. Mailsort offers discounts to customers with large volume mailings who can pre-sort their mail, based on postcodes, to help speed delivery. Mailsort replaces the former service for bulk postings which operated for some 25 years. So far over 1,000 companies have signed contracts to use the Mailsort service. To qualify for Mailsort's benefits, customers pre-sort their mail and handle it to an agreed formula. Discounts range from 13 per cent up to a massive 32 per cent, depending on the level of pre-sorting and the number of

items. The system offers a common sortation plan plus the flexibility of three delivery options: *Mailsort One* with delivery the next working day; *Mailsort Two* with a 3 working day target and *Mailsort Three* offering delivery within 7 working days. Customers can switch between the options to choose the best for their delivery needs for each individual mailing, matching costs and discounts to get the best deal. The pre-sorted mail is taken to key Royal Mail offices where it is fed directly into the local delivery system. Mailsort's flexible system can handle anything from a mailing of millions of post-coded items down to a minimum of 4,000 letters or 1,000 packets.

Businesses interested in Mailsort should contact regional sales centres for more information: Birmingham – 021-633 4827; Bristol – 0272 219739; Leeds – 0943 464910 or London – 01-250 2277.



Collectors interested in this new service should keep a look out for Mailsort printed postage impressions on their mail.

Coated Papers Limited

In the Editorial in the March *Bulletin* and the article on Coated Paper Limited in the May issue, details were given of stamps printed on paper supplied by this firm. The earliest listed were the 13p Country stamps of April 1987. We should point out that the 75p stamp printed by Questa from single colour plates issued 7 October 1986 was in fact printed on CPL paper, the first to be so. The 75p from double colour plates (23 February 1988) was also on CPL paper. We are obliged to Alex. G Spijkerman of the Netherlands for bringing this to our attention and so enabling us to complete the record. To the earlier listings can now be added the 19p Welsh Country stamp issued on 20 June 1989.

Commemorative Covers

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

150th Anniversary of Penny Post. Queen Victoria granted Royal assent to the Uniform Penny Post Act on 17 August 1839, an act which later led to the introduction of the Penny Black. A full colour commemorative cover is being produced to mark the 150th anniversary. The cover will bear a 1979 Rowland Hill stamp cancelled with the National Postal Museum's Maltese Cross handstamp of 17 August. Price £1.80 including inland postage. Orders/enquiries to: G Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.

65th Anniversary of Trenchard-Keyes Agreement. A souvenir cover was produced on 4 July to mark this anniversary; the cover features aircraft and badges relevant to the inter-war Fleet Air Arm and bears a special handstamp, British Forces Postal Service No. 2208. Unsigned covers with 19p Industrial Archaeology stamp cost £1.50, signed by Director FAA Museum or Flag Officer with 27p stamp £2; covers with both signatures and 32p stamp are £3, covers with both signatures and full set of stamps £4. Remittances should be made payable to "FAA Museum" and orders/enquiries sent to: Cdr R G D Williams, RNPO, FAA Museum, YEOVILTON, Somerset, BA22 8HT.

Industrial Archaeology. Benhams sponsored eight special handstamps used on 4 and 25 July, days of issue of the Industrial Archaeology stamps and miniature sheet. A cover for the 19p stamp was produced in conjunction with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and bears a special handstamp featuring a profile of the bridge, worded BIRTHPLACE OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, price £3.99.

Benhams worked with the National Trust on a cover for the St Agnes tin mine shown on the 27p stamp; the cover with special St Agnes handstamp inscribed OUR INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE PRESERVED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST is available, price £3.99. The WATER POWERED MILLS AT NEW LANARK special handstamp was used on the Benham "500 Club 22ct gold cover" produced specifically for the 32p stamp. Details of availability of this cover from Benham (address below). The 35p stamp features the

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct at Llangollen and the special handstamp was used on a limited edition of only 250 Benham official covers, price £5.99.

On 25 July "500 Club gold covers" were serviced with the miniature sheet bearing the Llangollen handstamp and limited edition (250) covers were postmarked at New Lanark. Details of availability from Benham. Sets of four small "silk" covers are available, price £6.99, bearing single stamps from the sheet with Ironbridge; Pool, Redruth, Cornwall; New Lanark and Llangollen handstamps. Two sets of "silk" postcards are also available, price £6.99 per set. Orders/enquiries to: Benham, Benham House, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Institute of Marine Engineers. To mark the centenary of the Institute a souvenir cover was serviced on 18 July with a special handstamp used at London EC3. The cover features the coat of arms of the Institute in full colour and contains an insert card giving information about the Institute and an explanation of the coat of arms. Price £3 including postage & packing. Orders/enquiries to: Commemorative Covers, Institute of Marine Engineers, Memorial Building, 76 Mark Lane, LONDON EC3R 7JN.

Jubilee Sailing Trust. The Trust was established in 1978 with a donation from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund; the aim of the Trust is to restore dignity and self-confidence to physically handicapped people and to integrate them into able-bodied society through sharing with the able-bodied the challenge of crewing a tall ship at sea. On 4 July 1986 Miss Sarah Ferguson named the Trust's ship *Lord Nelson* at a ceremony in Southampton. To commemorate the marriage of Miss Ferguson to Prince Andrew (Patron of the Trust) later that month, the Trust produced a souvenir cover bearing two cachets – a crowned letter A (Andrew) and a profile of the *Lord Nelson*. The cover bears the 12p and 17p Royal Wedding stamps cancelled with the Wedding Day (23 July) handstamp at Southampton PO. Only 1,000 covers were produced and a limited number are still available, price £4 including UK postage, £4.50 overseas. Orders/enquiries to: J A Wilde, CBE, Jubilee Sailing Trust, Test Road, Eastern Docks, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 1GG.

Correction

Gosford Forest Park, location of the International Scout Camp, is in Co Armagh, not Co Antrim, as stated on page 282 of the July *Bulletin*.

British Stamp Booklets: Part 3 – Series 3, Series 4 and Series 5 by Jean Alexander & Leonard F Newbery. Published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society. 40 pages, limp binding. Available from GB Philatelic Publications, 14 Glyndale Grange, Mulgrave Road, SUTTON, Surrey, SM2 6LP. Price £4.50, postage 50p.

This well-researched work covers stamp books issued during the reigns of George V, Edward VIII and George VI. Series 3 consisted of 377 books, the first 18 books were of 3s 6d denomination with the exception of books 12 and 13 which, like the rest of the series were 3s. The first were issued in August 1921, the series continued until 1938. Included were books containing the 1929 Postal Union Congress and 1935 Silver Jubilee commemorative (special) issues.

Series 4 books were all of 2s denomination and stamp-sized advertising labels attached to the stamps were first introduced in this series. The series continued through three reigns from 1924 to May 1940 when it was replaced by Series 7. Special editions included the two commemorative issues mentioned above.

Series 5 consisted of the 5s booklets issued between August 1931 and July 1940, being replaced by Series 8. The first book in the series had a green cover but, due to possible confusion with the 2s book, the remaining books were issued with buff covers. The book gives useful introductions to each of the three series, details of the trial books as well as the issued versions.

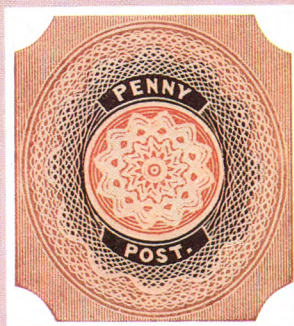
British Philatelic Trust: Trustees Report & Financial Statement 1987-88. 32 pages, limp binding. Copies available free (stamped addressed envelope appreciated) from: The Secretary, British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

A useful publication giving details of the BPT's work in 1987-8 and reproducing the paper "The British Philatelic Trust and the Resourcing of British Philately" presented by the Chairman (Dr Alan Huggins) to the BPF Congress in 1988. The Trust has supported Stampex, the Stamp Publicity Board, the Bath Postal Museum and many other worthy projects.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

166. Treasury Competition

One hundred years ago this month Queen Victoria gave Royal assent to the *Postal Duties Act* which allowed for the introduction of reduced and uniform postage rates. In September 1839 the Treasury invited proposals for the implementing the Penny Post. It is stated that approximately 2,700 proposals were submitted; some of these included designs for what we now know as adhesive postage stamps. Others favoured stamped stationery.



This month we feature one of several essays for adhesive stamps submitted by Robert W Sievier; his essays have been described as "more finished and valuable than the majority of efforts submitted to the Treasury". Sievier intended that the stamp had an embossed subject in the centre, such as the head of Queen Victoria, the Royal Arms or "any other device"; the design surrounding the central embossment was "to be printed in two or more colours, the design or pattern of the stamp being susceptible to any variation". The design shown here exists in six different colour formations. The example in the Phillips Collection is affixed to a cover inscribed "No. 2 embossed with color L.E.W. Sievier", and is sealed with his crest.

Treasury essays can be seen in the Phillips Collection at the National Postal Museum during normal hours: 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm Friday.

August Digest

Issued in August

1 August: "Landscapes of Britain" pictorial aerogrammes – six featuring Coastline; Gardens; Lakes; Landmarks; Mountains; and Rivers. Sold in pack, price £2.85.

Designer: Ronald Maddox.

Printing: House of Questa

8 August: Scottish Aerogramme – Bicentenary of birth of William Playfair, price 32p (includes 27p postage).

21 August: Microscopes Stamp Cards (PHQ cards) (Nos. 120A-D), price 16p each.

22 August: Stamp Books containing Non-Value Indicator First & Second Class Stamps:

56p – 4 x Second Class printed by Walsall, one phosphor band

76p – 4 x First Class printed by Walsall, two phosphor bands

£1.40 – 10 x Second Class printed by Harrison, one phosphor band

£1.90 – 10 x First Class printed by Harrison, Advanced Coated Paper

Note: The 56p and 76p panes have straight edge at top, bottom and right; the £1.40 and £1.90 panes have straight edges top and bottom.

Bureau f.d. alternative handstamp: Windsor

Withdrawn in August

There are no items being withdrawn during August but a large number will go off sale in early September – see below.

Withdrawal of Definitives

A considerable number of items will be withdrawn on 4 September: 13p New Phosphor Ink, 18p, 24p, 26p, 31p and 34p; September 1988 50p, £1, £1.40 and £1.90 machine and counter books; the Mark II window books issued on 23 August 1988 and the following rolls: 1p (Code SC), 13p (KL and SB), 18p (NL) and 13p Mixed Value (3 x 4p, 1 x 1p, both Phosphor Coated and Advanced Coated paper versions). In addition all 13p and 18p Country stamps will be withdrawn from sale.

Stampway to the World

This much-praised exhibition ended its run in Manchester on 24 June and will open at the Museum of Science & Engineering, West Blandford Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 4JA on 24 August and will continue until next

January. The display will occupy a larger area than at Liverpool where the exhibition first opened last September. In addition to the general displays, there will be exhibits of local interest.

New Railway Letter Stamp

The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway issued a new 20p stamp on 22 July to mark the official opening of Ingrow West station. The station buildings were formerly at Foulridge Station on the Midland Railway line from Skipton to Colne and were purchased, dismantled and moved to Ingrow. The stamp is available at face value, plus postage, from the Railway's Postmaster: J Whitham, 6 Hill Street, Quaker Bridge, Brierfield, NELSON, Lancs, BB9 5QJ. First day covers are also available.

Posting Boxes Display

David Harrop of the Stockport Post Office regularly gives displays of posting boxes and other artefacts at rallies during the summer months: his displays can be seen at the Yorkshire Steam Rally, Driffield, N. Yorkshire on 12-13 August and at the Great Dorset Steam Fair, Tarrant Hinton near Blandford Forum, Dorset on 30 August-3 September.

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(I) - Letter to the Editor
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