

British Philatelic Bulletin

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Economic Summit Conference Stamp Issue

We were unable to give details, in the May edition of the Philatelic Bulletin, of the colours and cylinders used for the printing of the 'London Economic Summit' stamp. We are pleased to do so now.

Colours: Silver, yellow, ochre, black, red, blue, purple. Cylinder Numbers: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g.

Editorial

To many collectors, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), is a rather vague organisation which is occasionally commemorated on special stamps. In practice, however, this is far from the truth. Since it was founded in 1874, the UPU has contributed to and helped establish worldwide standards of postal and philatelic services which have survived two World Wars.

This month, as well as continuing all the regular features, the Bulletin has a distinct UPU flavour. The first half of an extremely interesting article by Peter Worsfold examines the colour changes made in British definitive stamps in 1950/51. This occurred as the direct result of UPU regulations, and is a particularly relevant example of the role the UPU plays in establishing agreed international standards. The second part of the article will appear in the July edition of the Bulletin.

June also sees the 19th UPU Congress which is being held in Hamburg. This will also be celebrated in the National Postal Museum by a special exhibition on a UPU theme which will run from 5 June to 27 July. For those collectors able to come to London, this will be well worth the visit.

We are also including in this issue the news that the British Thematic Association will be a constituent part of the British Philatelic Federation. During recent years thematic collecting has greatly increased in popularity, and it can only be for the good that it is now being recognised as a serious collecting area. However, without wishing to dampen enthusiasm for this, we hope that the UPU Congress continues to discourage the production of dubious stamps — of little or no postal value — which are printed solely for this market. To do otherwise would only damage the integrity of all involved with philately — Postal administrations, the trade, and most importantly, collectors themselves.

CHARLES GOWEN

The Unique “Prince Consort Essay”

Henry Archer, an impractical Irishman with an idea ahead of its time — stamp sheet perforations — may be considered to have been an unwitting tool of De La Rue & Co in their struggle to wrest the printing of British stamps from the exclusive hands of Bacon & Petch.

His efforts to provide stamps in perforated sheets threw up what is commonly called the ‘Prince Consort Essay’ — an essay unique in philatelic annals.

In 1847 stamps were printed in imperforate sheets and for use a stamp had to be cut apart from its neighbours. Henry Archer hit upon, or was provided with, the idea of rendering stamps easily separable from one another by weakening the paper between the impressions.

In October 1847 the postal authorities enthusiastically stated that they thought that his ‘machine appears to be a very clever and useful invention’. What they had seen, probably, was the result of using a roulette and, perhaps, a drawing of a machine for producing slits in the paper. They could not have seen a perforating machine because one had not then been constructed. Henry Archer’s provisional patent for perforation is dated 23 November 1848.

He met with enormous troubles over registration — that is, securing that the holes fell in the gutters between stamps. He thought that Bacon & Petch were putting difficulties in his way. In fact they were

doing nothing of the kind. If anything, they were trying to assist.

Until he had floated his idea of ‘separations’ — a useful transatlantic term which embraces both roulettes and perforations — there was no need for particular spacing precision in impressing the 240 stamp designs on any of the printing plates. Distances between the various impressions varied, the rows and columns were not specially well aligned, and the overall areas varied between plates.

Moreover, printing took place on paper that was dampened so as to make it more easily forced into the recesses which held the ink on the printing plate. Paper expands when dampened and shrinks unevenly when it dries. When the printed sheets dried, the unevenness of the rows and columns increased.

Furthermore, after printing, the sheets were gummed. That again resulted in repeated expansion and additional unevenness in drying. The end result was irregular spacing on sheets of different sizes.

Not appreciating these inevitable factors, the impractical and irascible Archer berated the printers for being obstructive and he alienated them. When he eventually learnt the reason for his registration difficulties, he fell in with a suggestion to eliminate them. The suggestion was that none of those difficulties would arise if printing were to be carried out on dry paper by a process in which dampened paper was not essential and great care was exercised



to adjust the subjects evenly in rows and columns on the printing plate.

The printing process to be used was the antithesis of recess printing, namely, relief printing or printing from non-recessed portions of the printing surface. This method is often termed letterpress printing and misnamed 'typography' and 'surface printing'.

Henry Archer enlisted the help of, and entered into an agreement with, a printer named Robert Edward Branston. An engraver, Samuel William Reynolds, was engaged to produce a stamp which had three objects: first, to establish that relief-printed stamps could be produced at considerably less expense than recess printed stamps: 4½ pence as contrasted with 7½ pence — in pre-1971 currency — a thousand; second, that the plates could be more regularly constructed than those for recess printing, and so provide more regular gutters for easier perforation; and third, the intention was, to print on dry paper to avoid irregular shrinkage and ensure size uniformity of the printed sheets.

In setting about to achieve their objectives the 'essayists' at once fell foul of the law. They faithfully copied the Penny Black design — the original design was still in use although the one penny stamps had been printed in red since before 1841 — even to the extent of including the head of Queen Victoria.

"We were ordered to destroy all the impressions, and therefore they have been destroyed," said Branston as recorded on page 46 of the *Report from the Select Committee on Postage Label Stamps* (1852).

"I cautioned him as soon as I knew what he was about", said Edwin Hill, Inspector of Postage Stamps and brother of Rowland Hill (page 76).

So, instead of Queen Victoria's head, the 'essayists' substituted the head of prince Albert, the Prince Consort, all other details being the same, including letters in the lower corner squares.

Those letters, invariably, are 'F — J'. That led to the suggestion that the engraving of the head was carried out by Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté. He engraved many of the head dies used by De La Rue & Co for letterpress printed stamps of Great Britain, British Colonies and foreign countries. That, also, may be the origin, at least in part, of the suggestion that Archer was an unwitting tool of De La Rue & Co in their attempts to take stamp printing contracts away from Bacon & Petch.

There is no doubt that Archer was in communication with De La Rue & Co, as witness his statement recorded on page 8 of the 1852 *Report* that, after his machine had clogged during a trial in the Bacon & Petch establishment, 'Mr De La Rue ... was then referred to, and he declared that ... he

considered that the gum would materially improve the perforation ... and therefore inferred that the sheets must have been put in wet.'

The Prince Consort Essay exists in several forms and various colours and states.

In an unfinished state the essay has a blank tablet at the top and another at the foot where the words 'POSTAGE' and 'ONE PENNY' respectively appear on the finished design. In that state the Prince Consort Essay is known printed in blue and imperforate.

When its existence was first recorded in 1948 in *The British Philatelist* vol. 39 p. 55, the suggestion was made that that state of the essay was a step in the production of a Two Pence value and that strength was lent to the surmise by the fact that the colour is deep blue. It was in a block of nine with sheet margins at the left and the foot. A horizontal pair is in the Reginald M Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum.

The completed Prince Consort Essay, printed in two distinct shades of blue, was not recorded until 1947. Then its discovery was announced in *The British Philatelist* vol. 38 p. 69. Two examples are perf. 16.

The One Penny value exists in black, brown, red-brown and red, perf. and imperf. and an example in red is recorded rouletted. As recorded in *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised catalogue* vol. 1, the One Penny essay was printed in sheets of 252 (21 panes of 12), 240, and 36 (three horizontal rows of 12).

Many references to the Prince Consort Essay are to be found in the pages of the British philatelic periodical press of the 1860s and 1870s. However, as a postscript, it is worth recording that the Crawford Library housed in the British Library has a copy of the 1852 *Report* which bears a signed annotation in the handwriting of Pearson Hill. Rowland Hill, handed a copy of the Prince Consort Essay and asked if it was a respectable forgery of a postage stamp, is recorded on page 98 as answering: "No, it is not a respectable forgery; in the first place, it is not an imitation of the stamp; it is the head of Prince Albert".

On 22 February 1888, Pearson Hill noted at the foot of that page: "Note. These stamps are still to be met with. They are the bogus 'Prince Consort Essays' which some collectors affect. They are not Government essays in the least, but merely labels made by Mr Archer in the very Irish attempt to prove that the true postage stamp could be easily imitated by making a stamp which did not resemble it at all!"

L. N. WILLIAMS

The Definitives Colour Changes 1950/1951

An unnecessary issue?

Part 1

During the hard winter of 1947/48 Britain was beginning to settle down to post war life albeit a life of rather austere and at times 'utility' quality. The General Post Office too was piecing together the pattern of work that the hostilities had broken. Thoughts were being given to the re-establishment of pre-war standards. For example, one matter to which attention was given in February 1948 was Detailed Regulation No. 161 of the Universal Postal Union concerning the colour of postage stamps.

This provided that stamps representing the three basic international postage rates of the Union should be printed in certain specific colours, namely—

in green — the stamp representing the postage on an unregistered single-rate printed paper.

in red — the stamp representing the postage on an unregistered postcard.

in blue — the stamp representing the postage on an unregistered single-rate letter.

A Post Office note dated 3rd February 1948 pointed out that to conform with this provision —

the 1d stamp (then red) should be changed to green

the 2d stamp (then orange) should be changed to red

and the 3d stamp (then violet) should be changed to blue

Prior to the War, in general, British stamps had been in line with the Regulation but following changes in postal rates imposed on 1st May 1940 they became out of order in certain respects.

The note went on to say that, as a consequence of

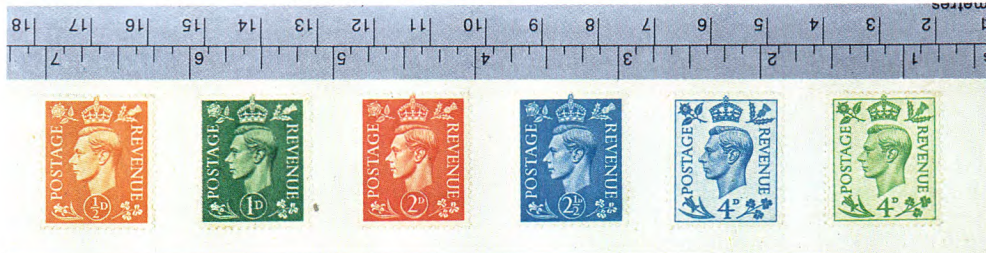
the changes called for under the Regulation, other values of stamps would be affected and therefore the ½d stamp (then green) should be changed to violet or orange and the 2½d stamp (then blue) should be changed to orange or violet.

A preliminary survey of the problems was to be undertaken and a target date of 1st July was fixed for possible implementation. In fact some considerable delay occurred as the next reference to the colour changes that appears in the Post Office records is dated 16th June 1949, some sixteen months later. This note referred to recent changes in postage rates for books, printed matter etc. and went on to say that these "helped to clear away some of the difficulties which have to be surmounted" before the changes could be effected.

Another difficulty referred to was the fact that whilst the U.P.U colour for overseas letter mail was blue, the G.P.O. had two rates falling under this heading, that for British Commonwealth, Egypt and U.S.A. which was 2½d and that for the rest of the world which was 3d — two blue stamps were called for! (This point had not been picked up at the time the initial considerations were being developed in 1948).

Although these two values were of the same basic design, a possible solution was thought to be two very distinct shades of blue and Harrisons, the stamp printers, were asked to go ahead to prepare essays accordingly.

At a meeting on 21st July, essays of the then current 2½d, 3d and 4d designs printed in various shades of blue were examined. It had become clear



that even with the widest variation of shades, the similarity in design made the 2½d and 3d stamps difficult to distinguish in average lighting conditions.

Therefore, the possibility of printing the 3d value in the format of the 4d — 6d designs (dark head — light background) had had to be considered seriously. Essays in seven shades of blue of the 4d stamps had been produced, together with five shades of the 2½d. These were in unperforated blocks of six.

After a detailed examination of these essays by the officials one shade was selected for further consideration for the 3d stamp. This was described as '2½d blue reduced'. There was however some feeling that this blue used in the dark head light background format could be confused with the 4d green in artificial light and it was decided therefore that essays should be obtained of the 4d stamp printed in a deeper tone of green.

If the change in the 3d value was approved by the Post Master General it was pointed out that the only other changes necessary would be

½d Green to Orange

1d Red to Green

2d Orange to Red

It was decided to order essays in these colours and values from Harrisons.

The change in the 3d stamp (and possibly the 4d) could be effected first to be followed later by the other values. On 11th August a firm date of 6th May 1950 (opening day of the London International Stamp Exhibition) was proposed for the 3d/4d changes and a date in July to be agreed was suggested for the others.

At a Post Office meeting held almost exactly a month later (19th August) essays of the current 4d stamp in three shades of green were examined, these were designated

light green

light green concentrated

and 4d green plus black

In lighting conditions similar to those that might be expected on Post Office counters it was felt that the essays in light green were the most distinctive in comparison with the proposed 3d blue.

The previously ordered essays of the ½d, 1d and 2d stamps in the possible changed colours were also examined. Again all these essays were in unperforated blocks of six. Whilst it was agreed that the ½d and 1d stamps were satisfactory, a problem was seen in respect of the 2d stamp in red. This was described as 'heavy owing to the deeper etch'. The deeper etch in this value had been effected following views expressed by King George VI in 1940 when he

was asked to approve the original change of the 2d value to pale orange. At that time because of the weaker hue the King had felt that the effigy of the head did not stand out clearly enough against the background. Harrisons were therefore required to alter the balance of the etch for this value, compared with all the others, to correct this weakness. Now that the stamp was to be printed in red this difference in balance became clear. It was therefore agreed that for this value new cylinders would have to be prepared.

A paper was to be written to put before the Post Office Board which was due to meet on 23rd September. If the Board endorsed the proposals for change the next step would be to seek the approval of the King.

Cards were prepared for examination by Board members which shewed single (perforated) examples of the stamps in the current shades and in the proposed new colours —

½d orange, 1d green, 2d red, 2½d blue (existing colour) a 4d essay in blue (representing the 3d value) and a 4d in light green.

The Board paper itself was a meticulous presentation of the points that had to be taken into account.

Starting with a reiteration of the relevant U.P.U. regulations, the paper goes on to discuss the consequent changes necessary, the problems arising from having two blue stamps, the proposed timing of the alterations and the fact that the opening of the London International Stamp Exhibition in May 1950 was an appropriate date for the issue of the new 3d stamp to the public.

One paragraph mentions the uncertainty over changes in postage rates during the war years and afterwards which was said to have delayed any previous move. The paper then goes on to say —

'with the most recent changes in postal rates which came into force in May last, it now seems appropriate to deal with this problem: It is reasonably safe to assume that, at least for some years to come the overseas rate for single letters will remain at 3d' A bold assertion.

On 18th September 1949 the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, announced the shattering news that the pound sterling had been devalued, and when the Board met five days later the words quoted above must have had a somewhat hollow ring. As could be expected, the whole carefully considered plan was shelved until matters financial became clearer.

Decimal Booklet Pane Printings

Technical Details

by L. Newbury

Section V — Printing of multi value panes for Folded Machine Stamp Booklets (*continued*)

Booklet Number	Pane Content	Cylinders Ink Phos Bars	Printing Press	Perforator	Coating/ Adhesive	Printing Dates	Registration Sheet Date	Remarks and N.P.M. Photo Number	
DP38D/ 38E	3x 2p 2 x 10p 2 x 12p + label (postcode)	B17 B31 B14 B6	Two 1 bar L or R Two	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	13.5.80	10 Dec 1980	5685
DP45/45A	1 x 1/2p 1 x 1p 1 x 14p 3 x 11 1/2p 1 x 1/2p 1 x 1p 1 x 14p 3 x 11 1/2p 1 x 1/2p 1 x 1p 1 x 14p 3 x 11 1/2p	B31 B37 B22 B7 B2 B31 B37 B22 B8 B2 B31 B37 B22 B10 B2	Two Two Two 1 bar L or R Two Two Two 1 bar L or R Two Two 1 bar L or R Two	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	10.12.80	1 May 1981	5684
DP49/49A	2 x 4p 3 x 2 1/2p 3 x 11 1/2p	B2 B40 B30 B11	Two Two 1 bar L or R	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	22.7.81	23 July 1981	5691
DP51/51A	1 x 1/2p 3 x 12 1/2p 4 x 3p 1 x 1/2p 3 x 12 1/2p 4 x 3p 1 x 1/2p 3 x 12 1/2p 4 x 3p 1 x 1/2p 3 x 12 1/2p 4 x 3p 1 x 1/2p 3 x 12 1/2p 4 x 3p 1 x 1/2p 3 x 12 1/2p	B34 B42 B9 B40 B34 B9 B39 B34 B42 B11 B39 B33 B9 B39 B34 B42 B17 B39	Two 1 bar L or R Two Two 1 bar L or R Two Two 1 bar L or R Two Two 1 bar L or R Two Two 1 bar L or R	Chambon	Chambon	FCP/ PVA1/ Dex	30.11.81	31 Dec 1981	
							21.12.81		
							15.1.82		
							16.6.82		
							13.7.82		

Postal Reform – Rowland Hill

The fiery speeches of the Greenock MP Robert Wallace, in the 1830s demanding improvements to the postal service brought the problem to the attention of the agile mind of Rowland Hill, who was at that time the Secretary to the South Australian Commission. He wrote to Wallace asking if he might borrow some of the books and papers on which his speeches had been based, and armed with these he started his investigations.

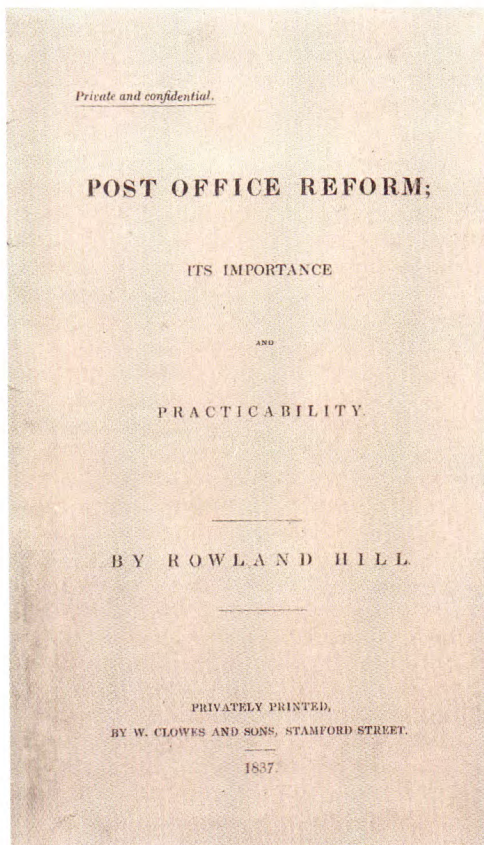
He tried in vain to get admission into the London Post Office, so as to study its working; in fact he was never inside any Post Office until his scheme had been adopted. He had to seek most of his information in the blue books, especially in the 'Eighteenth Report of the Commissioners of Revenue Inquiry'. Provided with over half a hundredweight of this new material, he began that systematic study, analysis and comparison which after months of labour brought out the facts on which his scheme was based and published in his pamphlet entitled 'Post Office Reform, its Importance and Practicability'. The scheme had at its core four parts:

- 1 A uniform and low rate of postage.
- 2 Increased speed in the delivery of letters.
- 3 Greater facilities for their despatch.
- 4 Simplification in the operations of the Post Office with the object of reducing the cost of the establishment to a minimum.

For in essence what Hill's painstaking researches had revealed was that on one hand the high cost of postage put its use out of the financial reach of the vast majority of the population, encouraging the use of illegal cheaper 'posts', to the detriment of letter traffic. Indeed perusal of the previous few years figures showed beyond any doubt that as postage rates were raised, traffic, and therefore gross revenue, fell.

On the other hand the high cost of postage was caused by four factors:

- 1 The high level of privilege 'free' post by Members of Parliament and the Aristocracy.
- 2 The 'tax' levelled by the Government.
- 3 The high cost of collecting the postage by the letter carriers from the addressee.
- 4 The high cost of accountancy caused by the administrative work involved in a system of



multi postage rates based on the number of sheets posted and the distance carried (not geographically but dependent on the method of circulation; ie geographically the distance might be twenty miles, but calculated on the method of circulation the distance might be eighty miles). Indeed Hill calculated that the costs caused by factors other than those listed above amounted to less than a ¼d per item.

Hill's solution in the light of these facts was a scheme that was brilliantly simple and bold in its concept, A uniform low postage rate, prepared by the sender and delivery via a household letter box.

The rate to be payable by all users including those who had previously enjoyed the privilege of 'free' postage. Thus at a stroke Hill's scheme would bring the cost of postage within the financial range of the majority of the population to encourage increased traffic and at the same time reduce the enormous cost of administration and collection of postage. He had also casually 'invented' the front door letter box.

When Hill was invited to give evidence at the 'Post Office Commission of Inquiry' headed by Lord Duncannon in 1837, he proposed a postage rate of one penny per half ounce. He also 'invented' the adhesive postage stamp with this simple description given to the Committee, 'A bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash which the user might, by applying a little moisture, attach to the back of the letter.'

The R M Phillips Collection housed in the National Postal Museum contains Rowland Hill's historic document 'Post Office Reform, its Importance and Practicability' marked Private and Confidential which he published privately in January 1837.

JOHN MEMMOTT
ASSISTANT CURATOR

National Postal Museum News

The British Post Office and the Universal Postal Union

From the point of view of the Postal Historian and the Student of the History of the Post Office, the establishment of the General Postal Union (later the Universal Postal Union) in 1874 had perhaps the most significant effect on Postal Operations of any reform since 1840.

The changes that this entailed for the British Post Office will be shown in an exhibition at the National Postal Museum which will be open from 5 June-27 July 1984. This display is aimed to commemorate the XIXth UPU Congress in Hamburg and the 75th Anniversary of the unveiling of the UPU Monument in Berne in 1904.

The items on display will trace the decisions taken by the Congresses of the UPU and how these have been reflected in British Stamps, services offered by the British Post Offices and the introduction of completely new ideas. Each display section will also show the special stamps and cancellations provided

at the Congresses and will include some detailed papers on the changes which were introduced.

Part of the exhibition will be moved to Hamburg in June to be on view for the delegates to the Congress. During this period, the display items will be replaced with facsimiles.

To commemorate this exhibition, a postcard and postmark will be introduced at the National Postal Museum. They will both show the Berne Monument and the card will reproduce the 3d value issued in 1949 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the UPU.

Royal Mail Stamps Issue 31 July 1984

Commemorating the bicentenary of the introduction of the mail coach service in 1784, the Post Office will issue five 16p se-tenant stamps illustrating mail coaches in the work for which they were used.

First Day Cover Services

The following services for first day covers will be provided. Two pictorial handstamps will be available, 'Bristol' and 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh'.

SERVICE 'A'

The service consists of the official first day cover — price 14p — addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing all five stamps. The cover will be cancelled, 'Bristol' or 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', 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'	£1.21	£1.05
Deposit account customers	£1.15	£1.00
Service 'B'	£1.07	93p

The first day issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at Head Post Offices should be returned not later than 20 July 1984.

Greenwich Meridian Stamps

Issue 26 June 1984



Before the days of worldwide communications and travel there was little need for universal time; each country, and often different parts of each country, used their own local time. In Britain the railways ran to a national time scale, which became known as railway time, but it was not until 1880 that Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) became the legal standard. There were similar standards in other countries. As with time, so with longitude; each country had its own system based on its national observatory.

In 1884 delegates from 25 countries met in Washington DC to decide on a single worldwide system of time and longitude. There was naturally some international rivalry, but Britain had two special claims for the site of the prime meridian and with it the base for universal time. First and foremost, the Royal Observatory at Greenwich had been for over a century the source of the British Nautical Almanac, which was almost universally used for navigation at sea. Second, the Greenwich meridian had already been adopted in the USA and Canada as the origin for the division into standard time zones used by the railroads. From 1884 onwards all countries adopted the Greenwich meridian as the zero of longitude, as can be seen by comparing maps made before and after that date.

The subjects and denominations are as follows:
Astronomy (The World from Space) 16p;
Navigation (Chart of the English Channel) 20½p;

The Observatory 28p; Time (Airy's Transit Telescope) 31p.

Printing Details

The set of stamps was designed by Sedley Place Design and were printed by the offset lithography process by The House Of Questa Ltd. The format is vertical measuring 30mm x 41mm with 15 x 14 perforations on unwatermarked, phosphor coated paper. There are 100 stamps per sheet and the adhesive is PVA Dextrin.

Postcards

Postcard size reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from 12 June 1984, price 13p each.

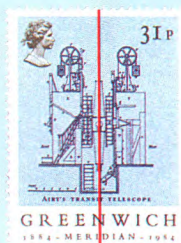
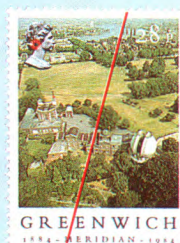
Presentation Pack

A presentation pack, number 154, and the first day cover were designed by Sedley Place Design. The pack will cost £1.15.

Souvenir Covers

Souvenir covers — price 14p each — designed by Sedley Place Design, will go on sale on the day after the stamp issue, 27 June 1984.

For those customers who wish to send their own stamped and fully addressed covers for cancellation with the 'London SE10' postmark, should enclose them in an outer envelope, fully addressed and stamped, and send them to: The Philatelic Duty, SEDO, 239 Borough High Street, LONDON, SE11AA.



1000

[illegible]

165

Formation of the British Thematic Association

On Wednesday 7th March 1984 an event took place at Stampex which may well have an enormous influence on the direction of thematic collecting in Great Britain in the years to come.

Mr Ronald A G Lee, the President of the British Philatelic Federation and for many years the Chairman of the national exhibition juries, called a meeting of interested parties to discuss the question of thematic collecting and to try to find a way to improve collecting standards in this country.

Mr Lee said that it had been felt for some years that Britain was falling behind the Continent in this particular discipline of our hobby, mainly because we did not understand what is meant by 'thematic collecting' in its broadest sense.

Those present at the meeting unanimously agreed that an association should be formed to help thematic collectors gain greater enjoyment from their hobby. Although ideally, the Association would help collectors through thematic groups, it was realised that not all thematic collectors belonged to a group, nor was it always practical to form such a group. It was therefore agreed that, although the Association would encourage group membership, individual members would be accepted if no group existed.

It is proposed that the British Thematic Association will be a constituent part of the British Philatelic Federation. No membership fees will be payable to join the Association either by groups or individuals but both must be fully paid up members of B.P.F.

It was felt that the Association could give a great deal of constructive help by encouraging inter-society activity, compiling a directory of world-wide thematic groups and by holding nationwide seminars at which experienced thematic collectors could give guidance on which the newer collector could build. It was also hoped that the Association would become a focal point for information, a body to whom collectors could turn for assistance and an introductory service to others with similar interests.

The meeting was attended by nearly fifty collectors, many of whom were the representatives of existing thematic groups. A small number of members of the philatelic trade were also present.

Those who attended the meeting elected the first Committee members as

Chairman Mrs Franceska Rapkin.
Secretary Mrs Margaret Morris.
Assist. Secretary Mrs Brian Sole.
F.I.P. Delegate Mrs Alma Lee.
P.R.O. Mr Tony Field.

The Committee of the newly-formed Association will shortly be holding their first meeting, when it is hoped that a full programme can be planned for the year. Any group or individual collector interested in becoming a member of the Association should write for further information to the Secretary: Mrs Margaret Morris, 76 Switchback Road, Bearsden, GLASGOW, G61 1AF.

TONY FIELD

Melville National Junior Stamp Competition

The Post Office has invited the following ten medal winners from this year's competition to attend a Seminar to be held in the National Postal Museum London, from 14-16 August. The winners will attend lectures, film shows, visit a sorting office, the Post Office Railway, and spend a day with the stamp printer, Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

Stuart Moseley	— Bishop's Stortford P.S.
Philip Ross	— Wimbledon P.S.
David Hewitt	— Chesterfield P.S.
Steven Gillmore	— Harwell P.S.
Richard Wharton	— Portsmouth P.S.
Stuart Lewis	— Wrexham P.S.
Claire Charnley	— Chippenham P.S.
David Carr	— King's School, Macclesfield
Sarah Charnley	— Chippenham P.S.
Derek Armitage	— Bishop's Stortford P.S.

Christian Heritage Stamp Book

A new prestige stamp book, price £4.00, will be issued by the Post Office on 21 August 1984 commemorating Christian Heritage year. Designed by Philip Miles, the book is sponsored by 'Christian Heritage'. Full details including first day cover services will appear in the July edition of the Philatelic Bulletin.

14. Westbury's 'White Horse'

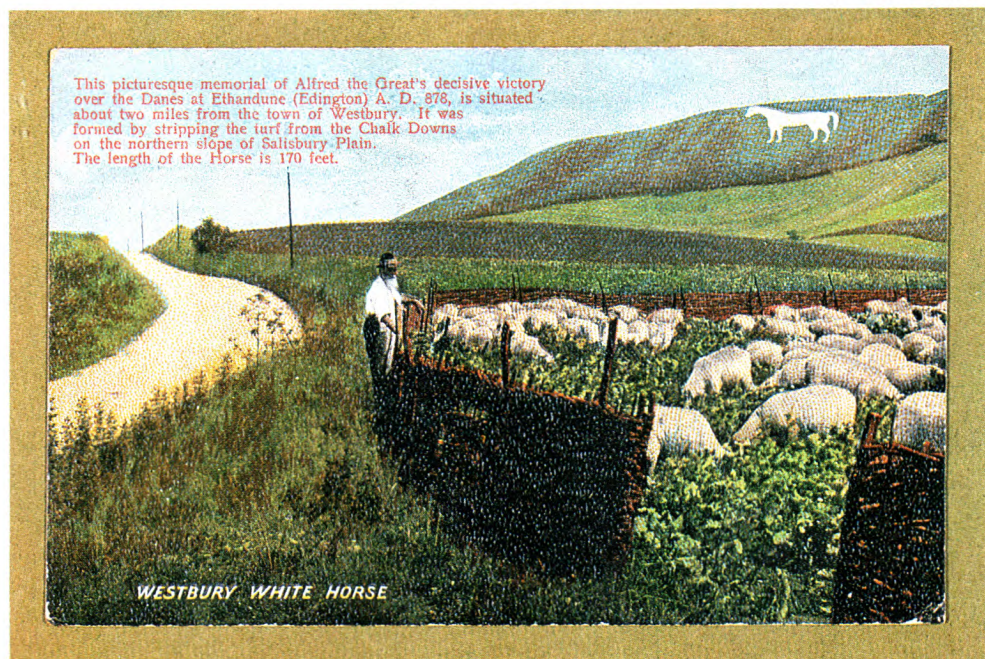
To the inhabitants of Wiltshire — and of Westbury in particular — 'White Horse' means something more than one's favourite beverage. As described on my postcard it is the 'picturesque memorial of Alfred the Great's decisive victory over the Danes at Ethandune (Edington, about four miles distant) A.D.878, situated about two miles from the town of Westbury. It was formed by stripping the turf from the chalk Downs on the northern slope of Salisbury Plain. The length of the Horse is 170 feet.' (Some authorities say 175 feet). It actually stands on Bratton Hill, east of Westbury — Bratton itself is the site of a British Camp, reputed to have been occupied by Romans, Danes and Saxons.

Alfred succeeded to the crown in 871, on the death of his brother, Ethelred (named the 'Unready' for his lack of wisdom), and spent most of his reign contesting the Danes who occupied much of the country. By his victory at Edington, Alfred retained the country south of the Thames and most of Mercia (the Midlands). Westbury's 'White Horse' is the most

famous of several similar horses in Wiltshire and elsewhere, and is best seen from trains running on the old Great Western Railway ('Western Region') line to Taunton and the south-west.

Among the other white horses is one at Cherhill, near Calne, which dates from 1780, and three in the Vale of Pewsey, including one now almost extinct and another of recent date — 1937. Other comparatively modern — and smaller — horses can be seen on the Downs near Marlborough, and at Wootton Bassett, both in Wiltshire. A few horses in the area have vanished for all time — most of them require regular care and maintenance so as not to be overgrown — however there is a monster, 350 feet in length, at Uffington, near Wantage, Berkshire, supposed to commemorate Alfred's accession, where the annual ceremony of 'Scouring the White Horse' was formerly held. The prancing 'White Horse' at Weymouth, Dorset, has a mounted rider. My card was published by R Wilkinson of Trowbridge and is postmarked March 1907.

MALCOLM JAMES



110. Centenary of the Royal National Rose Society, 1976

Kristin Rosenberg, one of Britain's leading painters of wild-flower miniatures, designed the four stamps issued by the Post Office on 30 June 1976 to mark the centenary of the Royal National Rose Society. The stamps showed different varieties of roses, and were Mrs Rosenberg's first venture into stamp design. She produced the original artwork for the stamps in miniature, creating each design in the actual size of the stamps — 8½p 'Elizabeth of Glamis', a salmon-pink floribunda named after the Queen Mother, Patron of the Society; 10p 'Grandpa Dickson', a lemon-yellow Hybrid Tea, introduced from Ireland in 1967 and popular both with amateur rose-growers and for exhibition; 11p 'Rosa Mundi', a crimson-and-white shrub rose reputedly named after Henry II's mistress, the 'Fair Rosamond'; and 13p 'Sweet Briar', the ubiquitous garden rose with single pink flowers on a thorny bush.

The Royal National Rose Society — it became 'Royal' in the mid-1960s — was founded in December 1876 with Dean Reynolds Hole as first

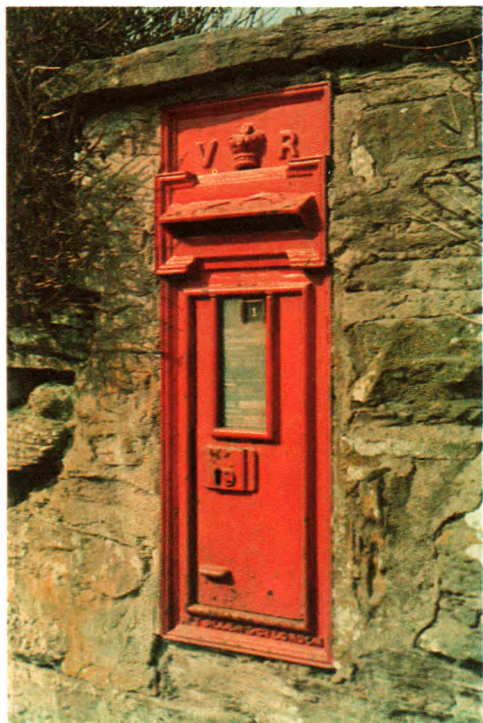
President, and the Reverend Honeywood D'Ombrian as the first Honorary Secretary. The Society has enjoyed royal patronage since 1888 — Queen Alexandra, when Princess of Wales, Queen Mary, the Princess Royal and, since 1965, the Queen Mother. Today it is the world's largest single flower society, upon which many other countries have formed their own rose organisations. Kristin Rosenberg trained at the Bromley Art School, taking a course in commercial art and, after a long break, started painting again in 1967. She is a regular exhibitor at the Royal Horticultural Society shows in London and at the Chelsea Flower Show: she is also a member of the Royal Miniature Society.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 5 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with 'all-over' phosphor. An error of printing — 'value omitted' — on the 13p stamp was discovered before issue and most examples were removed from the sheets before distribution.

JAMES WATSON



Posting Boxes



No. 60 Our illustration this month is of a type 'C' wall posting box mounted in a garden wall in Hope Village near Leominster. It was made by W. T. Allen of London between 1881-1904. The box is slightly unusual in that the posting aperture has been modified. It is wider and a little less deep than when originally installed. The modifications were carried out on this type of box between 1956 and 1960. Our thanks are due to Mr Paul Smith of Leominster for sending the photograph to us.

Book Reviews

Collecting Modern First Day Covers

The third edition of this catalogue concentrates on the commemorative issues of GB from the introduction of decimalisation up to the end of 1983. It has comprehensive listings for CDS and slogan

postmarks, an increasingly popular area amongst collectors. This edition is well illustrated including 8 pages in full colour.

The catalogue is an extremely useful handbook for collectors of modern GB FDCs, and is available from stamp dealers, priced at £2.95. However, in case of difficulty, it is available from A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL, at £2.95 + 30p (p&p).

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 3, Queen Elizabeth II Pre-decimal Issues

The 6th Edition of this volume is due to be published by Stanley Gibbons on 29 June 1984, price £10.95. More newly-discovered varieties of the Great Britain 'Wilding' definitives of 1952-67 are included, as well as separate listings for booklet panes on the two papers, cream and white. Prices throughout the catalogue have been up-dated to reflect the latest market conditions. Overall stability is returning, while prices for specialist items, particularly varieties, are showing steady gains.

The catalogue can be obtained from most reputable stamp dealers and bookshops, including Stanley Gibbons. Copies can also be supplied by post, and orders with the appropriate remittance (plus £1 for postage and packing), should be sent to Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

British Postage Stamps, a History by J Lamonby and S Allen

This interesting publication began life as a detachable page issued on the back of Lamonby and Allen's price list over the last four years. The pages provide background and details of particular GB issues and proved very popular with collectors. Some 20 different aspects are covered including guides on plating 1d blacks and 2d blues. As a result they have been gathered together as a booklet and are now available as a complete unit at a cost of £4.00 from: Lamonby and Allen, 104 Newcome Road, Fratton, PORTSMOUTH, Hants, PO1 5DX.

The British Country Catalogue of Postal History No. 3 London

Orders from Vale Stamps,
21, Tranquil Vale,
LONDON, SE3 0BU
Price £15.00
+ 80p. P&P.

R M Willcocks & B Jay

In the field of G.B. Postal History the names R M Willcocks & B Jay really are something to conjure with. Together they have so far produced six

volumes cataloguing handstamps in use throughout Great Britain from the earliest times up to 1840 or thereabouts.

All are characterised by immense scholarship, meticulous research and scrupulous attention to detail. Some idea of their comprehensiveness may be gathered from the knowledge that this volume deals with the London scene alone.

For those of us who merely dabble in matters philatelic, *Postal History* often seems a fascinating combination of the esoteric and arcane. The amount of diligent enquiry needed to correctly identify some of the less well-known items coupled with the sheer volume of knowledge required to authenticate the rarest of them is a powerful deterrent to the casually minded.

From this, it automatically follows that no one should contemplate a journey into this territory without first securing the services of a first class guide and the further we intend to travel the better the guide must be.

If we can find travelling companions who not only illuminate our path but also identify, classify and indicate the relative scarcity of the specimens we study, we have got ourselves into membership of a very distinguished club.

When our mentors are Messrs. Willcocks & Jay and their guidebook is as well produced and lucidly written as this one, we have certainly justified the not inconsiderable entrance fee.

In a single sentence: If your interests lie in G.B. *Postal History*, this book and its companion volumes are mandatory purchases.

The Postal History Annual — 1984

Available by post from the Author Price £5.00
James A Mackay, (post paid UK)
11, Newall Terrace, £6.00 (O'seas)
DUMFRIES DG1 1LN

When Mr Mackay published his first *Postal History Annual* back in 1979 it was primarily intended as a means of up-dating information given in some of his earlier textbooks. As the canny Scots would have it; 'Better buy an up-dated index than a newly revised textbook'. A thoroughly commendable idea too!

Postal historians across the World being the great enthusiasts they are immediately responded by sending masses of new material, greatly to the delight of the author's readers.

The *Postal History Annual*, now in its sixth edition, comprises more than one hundred well illustrated pages chock-full of information gleaned from China to Peru, most of which will be news to Mr Mackay's many readers.

All good stuff and well worth the price. Entertainingly written in a manner which makes *Postal History* quite agreeable to the layman, it will certainly arouse a lot of interest among advanced students and laymen alike.

Postmarks of the Date Impression Books

Post Office Records — Section 2.

Edited by Edward B Proud. Price £8.00

Published by Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd.,

PO Box 74, HEATHFIELD, East Sussex, TN21 8PY

This is the second volume of what will doubtless become a series of important reference books designed to make the identification of date impressions from official records a more speedy process.

Anyone who has taken a quick glance into the P.O. records in the hope of speedily identifying his valued specimens may be forgiven for departing in haste — or at least feeling a bit disheartened. Now the Proud-Bailey organisation has given him no excuse for beating a hasty retreat.

The book covers Vols. 3 & 4 of the official records and it was the original intention that the Director of the National Postal Museum should produce it. That alone should be sufficient recommendation of its quality and accuracy.

The illustrations are beautifully clear and very numerous (I stopped counting at 1250). All are indexed by volume and page numbers and where an impression appears in both volumes a cross reference is given. At the end of the book there is a County/Alphabetical Index which is a model of clarity.

For someone like the reviewer who does not claim to be a 'postmark buff' it is hard to believe that anyone would consult the archives without the help of a work like this. One visit without it will soon send you running to the bookshop.

Invaluable to the dedicated enthusiast and handsomely turned-out in hardback this is definitely one for the library shelf.

Society of Olympic Collectors

A society for collectors of Olympic stamps, postcards and souvenir items has just been formed. Its aims are to encourage exchanges of philatelic and associated items such as Olympic programmes, photographs as well as information about all Olympic sports.

The Society of Olympic Collectors (SOC) has just published the first issue of what will be a quarterly magazine 'The Torchbearer'. The issue includes a philatelic article on the 1936 Olympics, news of 1984 Games, and details of how collectors can obtain Olympic philatelic material.

Collectors and dealers of all levels living in the UK or overseas are welcome to join. There is a membership subscription which is very modest — £4 per year (£2 for juniors). To obtain membership details please write to Mr J Osborne, Secretary, SOC 236 Bexley Lane, SIDCUP, Kent DA14 4JH, England.

Commemorative Covers

London Economic Summit

Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd are producing their usual range of covers for this one stamp issue on 5 June.

There will be two large covers, both with a gold blocked border and 'silk' illustration.

They are sponsoring a special handstamp at London EC, a pictorial postmark in the shape of a 50p piece. This will tie in with the 'silk' illustration of bank notes and coins of various currencies.

The illustration on the second large cover will be a photograph depicting various Heads of State in conference.

Further details can be obtained from Benham (A Buckingham) Limited, 22-28 high Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT.

The Inaugural Service of Britain's First Rail Bus

Britain's first 2-car Diesel Railbus was formally handed over on 19 March by British Rail to West Yorkshire County Council for service with West Yorkshire Transport Executive.

The Railbus is the first in a new generation of lightweight local service trains and its arrival in West Yorkshire is a notable transport 'first' for both the County Council and the Passenger Transport Executive.

The Inaugural Rail Service of this Class 141 Railbus took place on 18 April 1984.

To commemorate this event the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive has granted permission for J & M Arlington Ltd, to produce 1000 commemorative envelopes in full colour depicting the Passenger Transport Executive Logo.

The 'Rocket Train' stamp affixed to each cover will be cancelled on the first day of service with the

Leeds postmark.

The Director General has agreed to sign 100 of these covers the profits of which are to go to the charity MENCAP of Huddersfield.

There will be available 900 unsigned covers at £1.50 each plus 30p for p & p., and 100 signed covers at £3.00 each plus 30p for p & p.

Orders with remittances made payable to: 'J & M Arlington Ltd' should be sent to them at: 45 Lakenheath, LONDON, N14 4RL.

College of Preceptors

To coincide with the issue of the Heraldry stamps on 17 January 1984, a special philatelic postcard has been produced by the College of Preceptors. The front of the postcard depicts the complete achievement of the College of Preceptors Arms in full colour. The postcards are available with a 16p Heraldry stamp affixed either on the obverse or reverse, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp on 17 January 1984. The cost of the postcards is £2.75 per pair (one obverse and one reverse cancellation), including postage. For overseas surface mail 25p should be added, and for airmail £1 extra should be added. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: The College of Preceptors, 7 Ridgmount Street, LONDON WC1E 7AE.

British Astronomical Association

The BAA have arranged for the production of a commemorative cover illustrating in full colour aspects of the BAA. Bearing a single 16p 'Astronomy' stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp the cost of the cover is £2. With the full set of 'Greenwich Meridian' stamps the charge is £3.50. Alternatively, the cover with the full set stamps but signed by Patrick Moore (President of the BAA) or Professor Graham Smith FRS (the Astronomer Royal and Director of Jodrell Bank) the price is £5.75. All prices include return postage and packing in UK (for overseas orders please add £1). Orders with remittances made payable to 'BAA FDC' should be sent to BAA FDC, 202 Somervell Road, HARROW, Middlesex, HA2 8TS.

London Economic Summit

A special commemorative cover is being produced for the London Economic Summit stamp issue on 5 June 1984 by Havering Covers Ltd. Bearing the 31p Economic Summit stamp, the covers will be cancelled with a special illustrated handstamp. The cost of the covers is £1.75 each, or £5.00 for signed covers. (Details available from Havering Covers Ltd). Prices are inclusive of postage and packing.

Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to:—

Havering Covers Ltd, (Dept LH), Bates House, Church Road, Harold Wood, ROMFORD Essex RM3 0JA.

50th Anniversary of the First Inland Airmail Service

The Tankerness House Museum in Kirkwall has produced an illustrated souvenir cover to commemorate the first inland air mail service between Inverness and Kirkwall on 29 May 1934.

Covers bearing 15½p in stamps and cancelled with a special cancellation on 29 May 1984 will be available from the Tankerness House Museum, Broad Street, KIRKWALL, Orkney, KW15 1DH, price 50p (60p if to be sent overseas).

Royal Naval College, Greenwich

A commemorative cover has been commissioned for the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, illustrating the 'classic view' of the College. It will bear a 16p 'Greenwich Meridian' stamp cancelled on 26 June with a special pictorial handstamp. There will also be a limited number of covers available with a full set of 'Greenwich Meridian' stamps affixed, and a further 100 with the full set of stamps, signed by the Commander of the College, and the Civil Secretary. The following prices will apply. Signed covers are £5.75 each, unsigned covers are £3.75 each, and the single stamp covers are £2.25 each.

Orders with remittances and payable to, 'A G Bradbury' should be sent to him at, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

Exeter Maritime Museum

A special commemorative philatelic cover is being produced by the Exeter Maritime Museum to coincide with the issue of the Greenwich Meridian stamps on 26 June 1984. The cover will depict the Hong Kong Junk, an Arab Dhow and Jolie Brise, and there will be a cachet to commemorate the Keying II sailing from Exeter to Greenwich in June 1984. There will be a special Greenwich Meridian Stamp issue exhibition on display at the Museum from 19 June to 31 December 1984. An exhibition of Ships on Stamps, Covers and Envelopes will also run from 10 April to 31 December 1984.

The covers will bear the 20½p stamp from the Greenwich Meridian issue, depicting a Navigational Map, and will be cancelled with the Post Office Greenwich FDOI handstamp. The cost of the covers is £1.50. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to the Exeter Maritime Museum, should be sent to ISCA., The Quay, EXETER, Devon EX2 4AN.

Abbeyfield Charity

Abbeyfield, a registered charity run almost entirely by volunteers, is celebrating 25 years of achievement as a voluntary caring body providing accommodation for over 6,500 elderly people.

To mark this event the charity has commissioned J & M Arlington Ltd to produce a strictly limited edition of 2,500 attractively designed envelopes printed in full colour with a beautiful cachet depicting the beauty and charm of the soft red rose.

A special pictorial handstamp will be used to cancel the 16p 'Gardens' stamp on the 22 May 1984.

These envelopes are available from the Abbeyfield Society 186-192 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, BARNET, Herts EN6 1AB, at £1.50 each including postage & packing.

Captain Cook

A special philatelic cover has been produced to commemorate the 215th anniversary of 'The Transit of Venus' followed by the exploration of New Zealand by Cook in 1769, to coincide with the issue of the Greenwich Meridian stamps on 26 June 1984. The cover depicts the Chart of New Zealand, as explored by Lieutenant J Cook in 1769-70, and will bear the 26p value of the Greenwich Meridian stamp issue. The covers will be cancelled with either the Cleveland Philatelic Counter handstamp (Cook's birthplace) or Plymouth Philatelic Counter handstamp (the point of departure). The cost of the covers is £1.50 each, including postage and packing. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to Stan Muscroft, 43 Farndale Drive, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland TS14 8JJ.

The cover is also available bearing a 15½p Commonwealth Day Stamp, and cancelled at Whitby, to commemorate the presentation of a commemorative plaque by the New Zealand High Commissioner. The price of the cover is £1.75 and further details can be obtained on request.

Louth Rotary Club

A special philatelic cover is being produced by the Rotary Club of Louth on 26 June 1984, to coincide with the issue of the Greenwich Meridian stamps. The covers will be cancelled with a special LOUTH handstamp, and will bear the Greenwich Meridian stamps. A special filler card has also been produced, and this gives a brief history of the Greenwich Meridian and also the historic town of Louth through which it passes. The covers will cost £1.95 for those bearing the full set of Greenwich Meridian stamps, or 95p for those bearing only the 16p value. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to The Rotary Club of Louth should be sent to: The

Rotary Club of Louth, c/o Midland Bank plc, Cornmarket, LOUTH, Lincs LN11 9QB, accompanied by a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope.

Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers

A special philatelic cover is being produced for the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, to coincide with the Royal Mail stamp issue on 31 July 1984. Bearing the full set of stamps the covers will cost £3.50 each or £6.00 for those signed by the Master of the Company. Full details can be obtained from Cotswold Covers Ltd, Liege House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts, SN14 8LZ.

Lloyd's List

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of Lloyd's list, a special philatelic cover is being produced. This will be available on 26 June 1984, to coincide with the Greenwich Meridian stamp issue. The covers will bear the full set of stamps and be cancelled with a special Lloyd's list postmark. The price of the cover is £4.00, and orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to Cotswold Covers Client Account, should be sent to: Lloyd's List Covers, Liege House, Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8LZ.

The closing date for orders is 22 June 1984.

Railways

A special series of Railway Covers is being produced to commemorate major railway events. All the covers cost £1.25, are illustrated, and have a special pictorial postmark. Further details of the covers available can be obtained from: The Railway Section, Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Cover Shop, 22-8 High Street, HYTHE, Kent CT21 5AT.

Royal School for the Blind

A special philatelic cover was produced to raise funds for the Royal School for the Blind Building Appeal at Leatherhead, to coincide with the issue of the British Gardens stamps on 24 August 1983. A few of these covers are still available. The covers were carried by Jimmy Wright OBE DFC, when he broke the parakiting altitude record for a disabled person.

The covers are available at £5 each, and have been signed by Jimmy Wright and Andy Cowley, the world parascending champion who accompanied him.

Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to W F Clark, Appeal Manager, Royal School for the Blind, Highlands Road, LEATHERHEAD, Surrey, KT22 8NR. All proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to the RSB Building Appeal.

The British Horological Institute

The Institute has commissioned a special philatelic cover commemorating the centenary of the Worldwide Adoption of the Prime Meridian and Greenwich Mean Time. The covers will bear a full set of 'Greenwich Meridian' stamps cancelled on 26 June, the day of issue, with a pictorial handstamp. The issue will be limited to 1000 covers of which 200 will be signed by the President of BHI, the master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers of the City of London. The covers will be cancelled at Newark, Nottinghamshire the home of the BHI, and the prices per cover are £3.75 unsigned and £5.75 signed. Orders with remittances made payable to, 'A G Bradbury' should be sent to him at: 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER, LE2 6GL.

The Potteries Marathon Weekend 16/17 June 1984

The Potteries Marathon, one of the toughest due to the gradients in and around the City of Stoke-on-Trent, has earned a reputation as the friendly one. Local and national charities benefit from the resultant sponsorships of the marathon participants and this year the organising committee will issue a commemorative cover on 16 June 1984, which includes a full colour reproduction of the marathon course and local landmarks. A 16p 'Heraldry' stamp will be affixed and cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting a bottlekiln.

The covers cost 80p each, and remittances made payable to 'Newcastle Volleyball Commemoratives', should be forwarded with a 9" x 5" stamped addressed envelope to: N.V.C., 59 Sneyd Avenue, NEWCASTLE Staffs ST5 2PZ.

Forces Covers

40th Anniversary of D-Day — 3rd Infantry Division

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June, a special commemorative cover has been produced by the 3rd Armoured Division. The cover will depict in colour a map of the 'Invasion' beaches showing the location of the British and Allied Forces Assault landing, highlighting the 3rd Infantry Division. The covers will bear the 31p Economic Summit stamp being issued on 5 June 1984, and will be cancelled with British Forces Post Office handstamp No 6644 bearing the design 40th Anniversary of D-Day, in

the centre a prominent 'V' and the morse code symbol ··· — .

The cover will be on sale in France at Sword and Utah Beaches and can be posted at the special BFPOs being set up at these locations by 13 Postal and Courier Squadron Royal Engineers from 3rd Armoured Division. The covers will be available after 6 June from the Philatelic officer 3rd Armoured Division. The cost of the covers is £1.50 including postage and packing. A limited number of covers will also be available, signed by a Senior Officer who landed with the 3rd Infantry Division, at £5.00. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, 3rd Armoured Division, BFPO 106. Proceeds from the sale of the covers will be donated to Service charities.

Allied Forces Landing at Normandy — D-Day

A special souvenir cover is being produced to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944. The illustration on the cover depicts an infantry assault from landing craft. The covers will bear a 16p Europa stamp and will be reposted at the Postal & Courier Depot to receive BFPO 6644 handstamp dated 6 June 1984. The cost of the covers is £1 including handling charges. Orders with the appropriate remittance made payable to PCD No 9 A/C, should be sent to the Philatelic Officer, Postal and Courier Depot, R.E., Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, LONDON, NW7 1PX. All proceeds from the sale of the covers will go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

40th Anniversary of D-Day — Airborne Forces

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June 1984, a special philatelic cover has been produced by the Airborne Assault Normandy Trust. The cover depicts an illuminated map of the 'invasion' beaches and shows the location of the British Assault Landings, in particular 6 Airborne Division and 3rd Infantry Division. The covers will bear the 31p Parachute Regiment stamp from the British Army issue, and will be cancelled with British Post Office handstamp No 6644 bearing the design 40th Anniversary of D-Day, in the centre a prominent 'V' and the morse code symbol ··· — . The covers are also available in France at the Pegasus Bridge Museum and the Merville Battery Museum, and may be posted at the special BFPO being set up at these locations on 5 and 6 June 1984. The covers will be available from the Airborne Forces Museum at Aldershot the week following 6 June 1984.

The cost of the cover is £1.50 including postage and packing for all orders by post. A limited edition of covers signed by the four 1944 Brigade Commanders of 6 Airborne Division are available at £7.50 each. Orders with the appropriate remittance should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, 3rd Armoured Division, BFPO 106. Proceeds of the sale will be donated to Airborne charities.

Edinburgh Philatelic Counter

The Philatelic Counter in the Head Post Office, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH, EH1 1AA is now open for business on Saturday mornings from 10 am until 12.30 pm until further notice.

Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Charles Gowen

Assistant Editor Frank Brench

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